RISE AND FALL OF JEYALALITHA
GOVERNMENT

Jeyalalitha was born to Jayaram and Sandhiya on 24th February 1948. Her grand father was Rangaswamy Iyengar. Due to his business, he settled at Nellore. Sandhiya was otherwise called as Vedha. Jeyalalitha was born on a full moon day. Jeyaram did not care for the family and was always engaged in enjoying his life. So the family was looked after by her mother Sandhiya.¹

5.1. EARLY CAREER

Jeyalalitha was the second daughter of Sandhiya. When the family suffered from poverty, Sandhiya decided to settle at Bangalore. But Jeyaram sent Sandhiya and her children to Bangalore and he did not turn there.² With in a short period Jeyaram died and at that time Jeyalalitha was aged only two. So she does not have any rememberance about the face of her father.³ After the death of Jeyaram, Sandhiya

¹. Tamil Arasu, Monthly journal, Govt. of Tamilnadu, January 1992, PP. 2-6.
and her two children went to her father’s house at Bangalore. She worked as an assistant in the income-tax office at Bangalore. This critical situation was a turning point in the life of Sandiya. She got a chance to act in one Tamil film, but due to the opposition of her father she rejected the chance.\textsuperscript{4}

However her sister Ambujam later called as Vidyavathi who worked as an air hostess began to act in films. Vidyavathi always dressed herself in modern dresses. She was very affectionate towards Jeyalalitha. She took her in aeroplane from Bangalore to Madras. She presented a lot of dresses to Jeyalalitha in her childhood days. Thus from the early period onwards Jeyalalitha was much cared by her Mother Sandhiya.\textsuperscript{5}

\section*{5.2 INVITATION FROM CINE FIELD}

Vidyavathi began to shine in the cine field. She first acted in the Tamil cinema named ‘En Veedu’.\textsuperscript{6} After her entry in the cine field the name Ambujam was changed to Vidyavathi. She had a separate house at Madras. For a short time

\begin{itemize}
\item[6.] The film En Veedu was released in 1953.
\end{itemize}
period Sandhiya and her two childrens lived in the house of Vidyavathi. In the mean time Sandhiya got admission for her children in the Angel’s convent. While staying in her sister’s house Sandhiya got the chance of visiting many cine directors and producers Including Kambaraj Ars, a great film Producer. His eyes fell upon Sandhiya and requested her to act as a sub-heroine in various films. She accepted the request to give better education to her children. At the outset she acted as a sub-heroine in the films and she continued it.

But her pretty looking appearance chanced her to become heroine in several films. For the use of her children she bought a car and appointed a driver named Madhava menon. He took care of Sandhiya’s children. While Jeyalalitha was a student in the Holy Angels Convent she wore costly dress and looked more pretty. Photos of her school days are still kept in the front portion of Jeyalalitha’s house.

7. Angels Convent was one of the popular school situated in Madras. The Management of the school was administered by Roman Catholics.

8. Kambaraj ars was one of the famous film producer in the Kannada film. He used to produce many films in Karnataka film world.

9. Jeyalalitha’s house is situated in Boyous Garden street in Chennai. The house was named as Veda Nilayam. It was inaugurated on 15, May 1972.
Sandiya had an ambition to make her daughter Jeyalalitha a dance master and appointed a dance master named Muthuswamy Pillai. As Jeyalalitha did not like him she appointed one lady named Tulasi to teach her dance. When Sandhiya and her sister were busy in the cine field, they had little chance to show love towards her children.

To look after her children in a better way sandhiya sent Jeyalalitha and her brother to Bangalore under her father’s custody. There she joined the Bishop Cotton school in Bangalore at the age of six. Till the age of ten she continued her studies at Bangalore. From the age of ten to sixteen Jeyalalitha studied in the Church Park Convent, Madras. In her school days she was a talented student and won prizes.

Once she got first prize in the elocution competition. The matters which she presented in the competition attracted Sandhiya and she appreciated the performance of her daughter. The birthday of Jeyalalitha was

10 B. Cotton School was one of the popular schools situated in Bangalore. It was administered by the Christian management.

celebrated in a grand manner and her mother presented costly dresses for her. Jeyalalitha showed more attention in general knowledge than her subjects. She cared much about her body and practiced Gymnasium. She was much interested in ‘Bharatha Natayam’, ‘Kuchipudi’ and ‘Kathakali’.\(^{12}\)

For her best performance, she was honoured as the best student and was awarded a champion cup in the convent. She was very much interested in cricket and created a cricket album in her schoolhood days.\(^{13}\) While studying in the Church park convent, she secured the state first mark in the Matriculation exam.\(^{14}\) Her fluency in English language while studying in the church park convent became a source of practice for using it after becoming the Chief-Minister of Tamilnadu. She honoured her teacher Mother Saiylin after her political success in Tamilnadu.\(^{15}\)

\(^{12}\) *Puratchi Thalaivi 54th Birthday Sirappu Malar* [Tamil], Madras, 1992, P.52.

\(^{13}\) *Tamil Arasu*, Monthly Journal [Tamil], Govt. of Tamilnadu, Madras, January 1992, PP.2-6.


\(^{15}\) *Komugi Subramanian, Puratchi Thalaiviyin Pugal Malargal* [Tamil], Chennai, 1992, P.52.
5.3 SUPER STAR ACTRESS IN CINE FIELD

Sandhiya did not like to make her daughter a film actress. She completely restricted her daughter to act in films and encouraged her in the educational field.\(^\text{16}\) Jeyalalitha in her early teens played the heroine in Madras made English cinemas.\(^\text{17}\) Unfortunately Jeyalalitha got a chance to act in films at the age of eight. At first she acted as a child artist in a Kannada film named ‘Sri Saila Mahatmiyam’. But it was severely opposed by her mother Sandhiya. Thus Jeyalalitha started her film career at the age of eight in the cinema world.

After completing her school education she decided to join the Stella Mary’s College for Pre-University course\(^\text{18}\) and remitted her fee also. The college had two months to re-open. At this time to attend the 100\(^\text{th}\) day celebration of the film ‘Kannan’ Sandhiya with her daughter Jeyalalitha went to New Wood Land Hotel organized by P.R.Pandalu. This incident became a turning point in the life of Jeyalalitha.\(^\text{19}\)

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18. Stella Mary’s was one of the famous college situated in Chennai. The management of the college is run by Christians. This college is meant only for ladies.
19. See Appendix IV, List of jeyalalitha acted films.
Panthalu invited Jeyalalitha to act in a Kannada film named ‘Chinnatha Kombae’. The shooting for this film was done in the Brindavan Garden, Mysore. Jeyalalitha acted very well and she won the appreciation of others.

With in a short period, the director Srithar invited her to act in a film named ‘Vennirai Adai’. Sandhiya, out of her economic poverty accepted the offer and allowed her daughter Jeyalalitha to act in the film. Thus at the age of sixteen she decided to act in films.

Jeyalalitha was very bold in several activities. The aim of Jeyalalitha was totally changed by the advise of her mother. Kannadasan wrote songs for the films in which Jeyalalitha acted. The film ‘Vennirai Adai’ raised the position of Jeyalalitha to the top most level. At the same time P.R.Panthalu decided to put Jeyalalitha in the film ‘Ayirathil Oruvan’. It was directed by R.Panthalu and released in 9-7-1965. The chance she got to act with Super star M.G.Ramachandran in the initial stage became a turning point for her success in film career.

5.4 HISTORY CREATED BY CINEMA COUPLE


In 1968, she acted with MGR in eight films. The film she acted ran more than 100 days. Thus the MGR-Jeyalalitha couple acted in many films. MGR got the top most salary and actress Jeyalalitha too got the same. The MGR fans showed much love and respect towards the heroine Jeyalalitha too. The personality of Jeyalalitha was very attractive. Thus MGR-Jeyalalitha couple shined in the cine field. 24

On 15, May 1972 Jeyalalitha opened a new house at Boyous Garden named Veda Nilayam. Several political leaders participated in the house warming function.

Under the leadership of Periyar a dance function was inaugurated and in 1973 Jeyalalitha received Award from the hands of Periyar. In 1972 Jeyalalitha was selected as the best actress in Tamil and Telugu and the ‘Film Fare’ award was also given to her. From 1964 to 1973 Jeyalalitha acted with MGR in 28 films. The last film in which Jeyalalitha acted with MGR was ‘Pattikattu Ponnaiyya’. After that film the cine couple did not join in the films. From 1975 to 1979 Jeyalalitha was kept aside from the cinema.25

### 5.5 ENTRY OF JEYALALITHA INTO POLITICS

In 1982, Jeyalalitha became the member of the AIADMK party. After accepting the principles, she became the member of the party. At the end of the year 1982 she was appointed as the Propoganda secretary of the party.26 and thereby she began to participate in different functions held in the party.27 The conflicts and disputes between party members were settled by Jeyalalitha and this got the chance of making a link with the party members. She acted as a brilliant party worker. When Jeyalalitha appeared at any public meeting only

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26. Ibid., P.25.
one tall chair was placed for her on the dias and the rest stood hand folded. In 1977 MGR became the Chief-Minister and decided to produce a successor in the party and came to the conclusion that Jeyalalitha was the fit person for it. Next to MGR, the mass stood behind Jeyalalitha only when she conducted public meetings. When MGR fell ill he appointed Jeyalalitha as his successor.

5.6 JEYALALITHA TOWARDS THE ENTRY OF DELHI POLITICS

Jeyalalitha settled many matters related to the party since her appointment as the Propoganda secretary of the party. For conducting party public meetings she used to present the script of the speech prepared by the Party script writers for the party. Ten days in a month, she used to speak public meetings at various places. In her meetings lakhs of people participated. The people considered her as the successor of MGR. She was affectionately called by the people as ‘Puratchi Thalaivi’. The speeches which she delivered in various places were printed in the form of booklets. She used to

write short pieces for Tamil magazines.\textsuperscript{31} The domination of Jeyalalitha in the party was not liked by some frontline leaders. But they had no way to show their opposition. The mid-day meal scheme was inspected by Jeyalalitha and she donated one lakh rupees for this scheme.\textsuperscript{32}

Jeyalalitha established a mid-day school in 1991 remembering her mother Sandiya. After the entry of Jeyalalitha in the party the number of the party members increased in AIADMK. The press also highlighted Jeyalalitha. For not attending a public party meeting Jeyalalitha sent a show case notice to Madurai Muthu an activist of the AIADMK party and former mayor of Madurai. This irritated Muthu and he severely criticized the activities of Jeyalalitha, when internal conflict and antagonism arose against the domination of Jeyalalitha. MGR decided to send her to Delhi politics.\textsuperscript{33}

In 1984, she was nominated to the Parliament as one of the Rajya sabha members. She was made as the joint president of the AIADMK party in the Rajya Sabha.

\begin{flushright}
\textsuperscript{31}The Hindu, English daily, Madras, dated 23-12-1987. \\
\textsuperscript{32}Ingrid Wildund, A Vote for MGR, \textit{op.cit.}, P.150. \\
\textsuperscript{33}A.Kausaliakrishnan, Namathu Mudalvar, [Tamil], Salem, 1992, P.8.
\end{flushright}
Her seat number in the Rajya Sabha was 185. It is the place where Annathurai sat in the parliament. She used to speak in simple language and lucid style.

Once the Prime-minister Indira Gandhi appreciated her activities and gave a feast to Jeyalalitha in her house. Whenever foreigners came to India, Indira Gandhi introduced them to Jeyalalitha. She also got a chance to move with Rajiv Gandhi. The AIADMK party paper revealed that Jeyalalitha was hatching a plot with the congress to divide the AIADMK. One side, her fame became very popular and the other side she was criticized by several leaders.

The notable person who criticized Jeyalalitha was S.D.Somasundaram, the Minister in the MGR's cabinet. When Jeyalalitha was criticized by the front line leaders of the AIADMK party, she resigned the propaganda secretary post in 1984 and sent the resignation letter to the party president M.G.Ramachandran. In AIADMK two rival groups emerged namely pro-Jeyalalitha group and anti-Jeyalalitha group. To effect a compromise between them MGR

34.AIAMDK 31st year Malar [Tamil], op.cit., P.25.
called for the party’s executive body and general body. In that meeting, S.D. Somasundaram was removed from the party by MGR. The resignation of Jeyalalitha was also accepted by MGR. S.D. Somasundaram conducted meetings and proposed corruption charges against MGR.}\(^{37}\)

At this critical juncture on October 5, 1984 MGR was admitted in the Appollo Hospital. A famous neurosurgeon came from Japan and gave treatment to MGR. Hearing this news Jeyalalitha went to see MGR in the hospital but she was not allowed to see him. \(^{38}\) Several leaders decided to cut Jeyalalitha’s relationship with MGR. By this time a kidney of MGR failed and the doctors decided to take him to America. \(^{39}\)

The Prime Minister Indira Gandhi came to Appollo hospital to see MGR. She advised Jeyalalitha to keep quiet. MGR went to America for treatment, the administrative charge was given to Navalar Neduncheziyan.\(^{40}\)

\(^{37}\)P.C.Ganesan, *Vetti Selvi Jeyalalitha*, op.cit., P.42.
\(^{38}\)Malai Murasu, Tamil Daily, Madras, dated 26-12-1987.
\(^{40}\)Neduncheziyan was one of the front line leaders of ADMK party. He held the second position in the party. He is honoured with a name as NAVALAR. When MGR went to treatment to America he gave the charge of chief-ministership to Neduncheziyan. After the death of MGR he acted as the interim-chief minister for several days. Later he held the position of president of the ADMK party till his death.
The political rivals of Jeyalaitha severely criticized her. So she consulted with the central ministers for further political prospects. By this time Jeyalalitha was insulted in the Tamilnadu guest house at Delhi. For one night, she was not allowed to stay in the Tamilnadu Guest house. Fortunately she got the support of Venkatraman, the former president of India to stay in a five star hotel.

Thus she met with several oppositions and humiliations. At this time, in 1984, the election for Parliament took place. The AIADMK made an alliance with the congress and the candidates were announced and most of the candidates were rivals of Jeyalalitha. The list of candidates prepared was taken to America and it was published in newspaper.\(^{41}\)

MGR was admitted in the Brookline hospital in America and he had no chance to involve in the election campaign. The election campaign started, when MGR was admitted in hospital. Jeyalaitha was severely engaged in the election campaign and worked for the party candidates.

Kalimuthu\(^{42}\) opposed that Jeyalalitha should not campaign in the election and in a statement he told that Jeyalalitha’s election campaign would not be allowed in his constituency. Jeyalalitha did not take him into consideration and proceeded her election campaign in Kalimuthu’s constituency. In the election, AIADMK got a tremendous victory and they appreciated the contribution of Jeyalalitha. By this time a telex message came from MGR in America that the position given to her as the Parliament Vice-President was dismissed.

On February 12, 1985 MGR returned from America and Jeyalalitha was not allowed to receive MGR from the airport. After his return he kept constant touch with the centre to solve the problems related to the administration of Tamilnadu.\(^{43}\) On September 6, 1985, again Jeyalalitha was appointed as the propaganda secretary of the party. She once again began to work seriously for the party and visited several districts.\(^{44}\) On 13 and 14 July 1986 MGR organized

\(^{42}\)K.Kalimuthu was one of the Front line leader of ADMK party. In the MGR’s cabinet he was appointed as one of the minister. He belonged to Tirunelveli District. In Jeyalalitha’s ministry in 2001 he was appointed as the speaker of the assembly.


\(^{44}\)Dinathanthi, Tamil daily, Madras, dated 7-9-1985
the MGR Mantram conference at Madurai and Jeyalalitha expected that some new matters would be announced in the conference but MGR kept quiet. On October 21, 1986 MGR dismissed ten ministers from his ministry and the notable among them were R.M.Verappan and Kalimuthu.45

5.7 JEYALALITHA AS A LEADER OF THE AIADMK PARTY

On 24th December 1987 MGR expired.46 Hearing this sad news Jeyalalitha decided to see M.G.R.’s body at Ramavaram Thottam. But she was not allowed inside the house. The body of MGR was taken to Rajaji Hall. The public work minister KKSSR.Ramachandran and the social welfare minister R.Soundararajan arrived at Rajaji Hall early in the morning to finalise the arrangements for keeping the body of MGR for public viewing.47

At that time several frontline leaders of the party severely criticized the activities of Jeyalalitha but she faced every criticism softly. In the funeral procession Jeyalalitha entered in the military van but she was pulled down

by the leaders of the party and M.G.R’s relatives. This was telecasted in the Television.\textsuperscript{48} Jeyalalitha felt very sad and went to her house. The insultation which she faced in front of the people severely affected her. After the death of MGR there came a split in the AIADMK party.\textsuperscript{49}

After the demise of MGR, Navalar Neduncheziyan became the interim-Chief-Minister. But it was opposed by another minister of MGR’s cabinet, R.M.Verappan. Majority of the Legislators supported R.M.Verappan.\textsuperscript{50} In this circumstance there arose a problem between R.M.Verappan and Neduncheziyan. Further the struggle between the group led by R.M.Verappan and Jeyalalitha started as early in 1982. R.M.Verappan had the support of the MLA’s and Jeyalalitha had the support of the youth wing of the party and MGR’s fans association.\textsuperscript{51} At last Janagi, wife of M.G.Ramachandran, also decided to contest in the campaign. So R.M.Verappan left the

\textsuperscript{48}\textit{Dina Thanthi}, Tamil Daily, Madras, dated 30-12-1987.
\textsuperscript{49}\textit{A.Kausaliakrishnan, op. cit.}, P.16.
\textsuperscript{50}R.M.Verappan was one of the frontline leader of ADMK party. In MGR’s cabinet he was appointed as minister. In Jeyalalitha’s cabinet also he acted as education minister. After his removal from ADMK party he started a new political party named as MGR mantram.
\textsuperscript{51}\textit{The Hindu}, English Daily, Madras, dated 27-12-1987.
scene and Neduncheziyan supported Jeyalalitha. In this contest 97 MLA’s gave their support to Janagi and the Governor called Janagi to form the ministry. On January 7, 1988 Janagi became the Chief-Minister. In the mean time a problem took place regarding the party’s head office. The members under the leadership of Jeyalalitha told that the party head office was owned by them and they took steps to occupy it, but they were stopped by the police and also Jeyalalitha was attacked by the police.

On January 28, 1988 a No-Confidence Motion was moved in the assembly and was set for voting. The speaker at that time was P.H.Pandian. The congress members did not give their support to Janagi but the supporters of MGR gave their support to Janagi. The speaker P.H.Pandian created confusion by suspending certain members which led to confusion in the assembly.

The Prime minister observed the events of the incident of 28th January, 1988 in the Tamil Nadu Assembly and considerrd as a dark event in Democracy.

congress and the AIADMK members gave a complaint to the Governor Ghuranah. After analyzing the incident the Central Government dismissed Janagi’s ministry. To stabilize her position Janagi required the help of Karunanithi but he refused to support her. Jeyalalitha went to several places and organized public meetings and she started a News paper for the party named ‘Namathu MGR’.

Both Jeyalalitha and Janagi became political rivals. Jeyalalitha was a multi talented personality. She used to deliver speech for many hours and Janagi could not do that and she used to read what was written to be read. But to keep the party intact and effective Janagi spent a lot of money. Under such circumstances the four members of AIADMK namely Thirunavukarasu, Navalar Neduncheziyan, Panduridi Ramachandran and Aranganayagam from Jeyalalitha’s faction started a new party called Four Men’s Party and it did not even prolong for four months. They again came under the leadership

57.Namathu M.G.R was one of the daily newspaper of the ADMK party. It was started by Jeyalalitha. The statements given by the ADMK party members were highlighted in this newspaper.
58.Komigi Subramanian, op.cit, P.56.
of Jeyalalitha. Jeyalalitha made them to remain under her control by acting as a real successor of M.G.Ramachandran. 59

5.8 1989- ELECTION TREND OF JEYALALITHA

On January 21st 1989 the election for the Tamilnadu Legislative assembly took place. There were three groups in the election campaign. Jeyalaitha contested in the Bodi Nayakanooor constituency and Janagi contested in the Andipatty constituency. The Jeyalalitha group contested in 196 constituencies and the DMK contested in 202 places. 60

In the election result, Jeyalalitha won in 27 places. 61 The only candidate passed from the Janagi party was P.H.Pandian. Surprisingly Janagi Ramachandran the former Chief-Minister was defeated in Andipatti constituency. 62 After 13 years of break Karunanidhi came to power. He took over Tamilnadu Government’s administration from the Governor. The swearing ceremony took place on January 27th 1989. 63

61. A.Kausaliakrishnan, op.cit, P.11.
After this elections, Janagi left from politics. She decided to merge her party with the leadership of Jeyalalitha and the double leaf symbol was given to the Jeyalalitha’s party. After that, the Bye-election took place for two constituencies namely Madurai north and Marungapuri and the AIADMK got victory. A resignation letter of Jeyalalitha from the party was given to the press and after analyzing it the speaker Tamilkudi magan noted that it was a forgery letter.

5.9 POLITICAL ERA IN THE ASSEMBLY

On 25, March, 1989 a dark incident occurred in the assembly When the Chief-Minister Karunanidhi was reading the budget. Jeyalalitha created trouble in the house by asking questions related to her resignation letter. So Karunanidhi openly criticized her activities. Suddenly confusion confronted in the assembly. Jeyalalitha was admitted in the hospital. Janagi went to see her in the hospital.

66.Ibid., dated 26-3-1989.
because it was stated that Jeyalalitha was physically attacked by the ruling party member. Kalimuthu and R.M.Verappan recognized Jeyalalitha as their leader of the party. They were appointed in high posts in the party wings and she refused to include Panduridi Ramachandran in the party.

Jeyalalitha, by organizing public meeting, told the illegal activities inflicted on her. This created a sympathy among the people. Karunanidhi gave a complaint to the election commission related to Jeyalalitha’s election in Bodi constituency. After a long period she went to the Bodi constituency for thanking the people. On that day she presented a lot of things to the poor people and created a sympathy among the people. At this time a problem arose in Devaram region and Jeyalalitha went there and settled in peace. Jeyalalitha always used to criticize Karunanidhi and created a mass for her. Karunanidhi also showed more attention in giving problem to Jeyalalitha and reduced her popularity.

70.A.Kausaliakrishnan, op.cit., P.18.
5.10 DMK RULE AND JEYALALITHA

In 1989 November, the election for parliament took place. In this election she decided to make an alliance with the congress party. She went to Delhi and met Rajiv Gandhi and made an alliance with the Congress party. After the assembly election the Tamilnadu congress president G.K.Moopanar resigned his post and Vazhapadi Ramamoorthy was appointed as the president of the Congress party. He maintained good relations with the AIADMK party. From October 1989, both the parties were engaged in organizing rallies and fasting against DMK.

Jeyalalitha started her election campaign and organized public meetings in various places. On 8th November, 1989 the then Prime-Minister Rajiv Gandhi and Jeyalalitha jointly held a public meeting at Merina beach in Madras. In the election the Congress swept the polls. The congress contested in 29 constituencies and won in 28.

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74. P.C.Ganesan, Vetti Selvi Jeyalalitha, op.cit., P.73.
constituencies and the AIADMK won in 11 constituencies.\textsuperscript{75} In Peranamallur constituency also AIADMK got the victory. After that to create a mass among the people Karunanidhi organized a rally and a public meeting under the leadership of the Janatha Dal president V. P Singh and criticized the activities of Jeyalalitha.

In the mean time the election for the Lok sabha took place and all the DMK candidates failed. So Jeyalalitha insisted for the resignation of the DMK ministry. In 1989, Jeyalalitha resigned the membership of the assembly. So S.R.Radha was appointed as the opposition leader. On 18, December, 1989 Jeyalalitha withdrew from politics due to her illness. So the AIADMK party members crowded infront of the house of Jeyalalitha and insisted her to withdraw her resignation.\textsuperscript{76} Some of the members began to commit suicide and when the situation became cruel Jeyalalitha withdrew her resignation and deeply involved in politics.

On January 24, 1990 the Congress president Rajiv Gandhi came to Madras and Jeyalalitha organized

\textsuperscript{75}The Hindu, English Daily, Madras, dated 07-03-1991.

\textsuperscript{76}Saali Umar, Porkaalam Padaitha Puratchi Thalaivi, [Tamil], Madras, 1995, P.105.
a meeting in the Merina beach. After that the alliance in Pondicherry was formed. On 23rd February, 1990 when Jeyalalitha was returning from Pondicherry after completing election campaign her car met with a terrible accident and Jeyalalitha was rescued from that. On 25th February Rajiv Gandhi went to hospital and met Jeyalalitha.

After becoming the Chief-Minister, Karunanidhi was more interested in giving troubles to Jeyalalitha. But Jeyalalitha made corruption charges against the DMK Government in purchasing rice from Andhra Pradesh. So the Agricultural Minister Arcot Veeraswamy was shifted to another portfolio. But with in a short period he resigned from the ministry. In the state LTTE matter Karunanidhi’s attitude was against that of Jeyalalitha. The latter emerged as a potential source of opposing and criticizing Karunanidhi’s policies and function of his government.

5.11JEYALALITHA AND DRAVIDIAN PARTIES

Jeyalalitha did not involve in the Dravidian parties in her early days. The Dravidian principles were totally against Brahminism. Annathurai also told that the party was

77. The Hindu, English Daily, Madras, dated 24-02-1990.
not against the Brahmins but against Brahminism. So to give an explanation to Brahminism Annathurai wrote a drama named ‘Velaikkari’. When the Dravidian parties belonged to low caste, a question was raised as to how could a Brahmin become the leader of a Dravidian party, the AIADMK party. In the past politics too no Brahmins were involved in the DMK party.

Though Jeyalalitha was a Brahmin she never attacked or acted against any caste. She had the ability to tackle any situation tactfully. She insisted for the reservation of 50% for the backward classes. She was very much eager for the involvement of women in the politics. In the 1991 assembly election, she insisted many ladies to contest in the assembly election. Even though she was a Brahmin, she was not against the Dravidian principle.

5.12 A TURNING POINT IN TAMILNADU POLITICS

S.D.Somasundaram, the Joint Secretary announced that Jeyalalitha would involve in active politics. The people of Tamilnadu were very much eager to know about

80.Ingrid Wildund, Paths to power and Patterns of Influence, Madras, 2000, P.60.
Jeyalalitha. The AIADMK party legislative members Thirunavukarasu and KKSSR Ramachandran did not involve actively in the political discussion in the Assembly. When the house of MGR at Thiagaraja nagar was renovated and changed as his memorable place, Janagi came for the function but Jeyalalitha was absent. After that she deeply involved into the political affairs. She suspended KKSSR Ramachandran and Thirunavukarasu from the party.

When the Prime Minister Chandrasekhar came to Madras he did not meet the Chief-Minister Karunanidhi but he directly went to the house of Jeyalalitha. It was an important event and it led to the formation of an alliance between the AIADMK and the congress. The AIADMK and Congress were preparing the ground for the dismissal of the

82. KKSSR Ramachandran is one of the frontline leader of ADMK party. He worked as the public work Department minister in the MGR cabinet. He belonged to Sattur constituency. After the removal of him from the ADMK party he joined in DMK party. Now he is acting as the minister in the DMK ministry.

83. Thirunavukarasu was one of the frontline leaders of ADMK party. He belonged to Arantangi constituency. During the ruling period of MGR he acted as minister in the cabinet. After Jeyalalitha became the party president he was suspended from the ADMK party. He also acted as the central minister during the BJP rule. Now he is the member of BJP party.
DMK govt on charges of aiding and abetting the LTTE activity.\textsuperscript{84} After meeting the Prime Minister Chandrasekhar, Jeyalalitha met the President Venkatraman. After that in January 1991, she went to Delhi and submitted a petition against the DMK ministry to the Prime-Minister and the president. They were closely preparing the ground for the dismissal of the DMK government on the charges of aiding and abetting the LTTE activity.\textsuperscript{85}

On January 2\textsuperscript{nd} the Chief-Minister Karunanidhi went to Delhi to meet the Prime Minister but on January 31\textsuperscript{st} the DMK ministry was dismissed.\textsuperscript{86} After that Jeyalalitha, in a statement, told that if AIADMK came to power an enquiry commission would be constituted to enquire the relations between Karunanidhi and the LTTE. To condemn the attitudes of the Prime-Minister Chandrasekhar, a bandh was organized in Tamilnadu by the DMK party. During the President rule in Tamilnadu Karunanidhi acted against Jeyalalitha.\textsuperscript{87} Then Jeyalalitha went to Delhi and made an

\textsuperscript{84}\textit{The Hindu}, English Daily, Madras, dated 29-12-1989.
\textsuperscript{85}\textit{Ibid.}, dated 25-12-1989.
\textsuperscript{86}\textit{Dinamani}, Tamil Daily, Madras, dated 1-2-1989.
\textsuperscript{87}P.C.Ganesan, \textit{Vetti Selvi Jeyalalitha}, \textit{op.cit.}, P.88.
alliance with the Congress to face the elections. At this critical Juncture, the Tamilnadu Governor Surjith Singh Barnala resigned the post. It was told that without the consultation of the Governor, the DMK ministry was dismissed by using the clause of the constitution 356.

After the resignation of Surjith Singh Barnala, Bhisma Narayan Singh was appointed as the Governor of Tamilnadu. It was guessed that the Congress-AIADMK alliance would sweep the polls. In the mean time, there was a rift between the Congress and Chandresekhar cropped up and he resigned the Prime-Minister ship. The election commission announced the date for the parliament and the Assembly elections.

5.13 JEYALALITHA AS A CHIEF-MINISTER OF TAMILNADU

The 1989 election created a turning point to the AIADMK party. The Assembly election was a do or die battle for both Jeyalalitha and Karunanidhi. In the election

89.Saali Umar, op.cit., P.111.
campaign, Karunanidhi severely criticized Jeyalalitha. In Patna a National front and an alliance meeting took place and Karunanidhi criticized Jeyalalitha as the lady-love of Rajiv Gandhi. It was condemned by several women’s organization. Jeyalalitha made alliance with the Congress party in the Loksabha election also. In the election the AIADMK got a massive victory. 92

The DMK party mostly used the video films which criticized Jeyalalitha. In the election manifesto Jeyalalitha stated that if the AIADMK came to power, the condition of the women would be uplifted. The press reports also stated that the congress AIADMK would win in the election. Jeyalaitha contested in two constituencies namely Bargur and Kankeyam. The DMK candidate in the Bargur constituency withdrew. The film actor and director T.Rajenthar also opposed Jeyalalitha. 93 In the elections she won in the two constituencies and resigned the membership in

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93. T.Rajenthar was one of the popular activist of the DMK party. He acted as the propaganda secretary of the DMK party. During the DMK rule he was the MLA. Due to the difference of opinion of the party he was removed from the DMK party and started a new party called Thayaga Marumalarchi Kazhagam [TMK]. After a short period he annexed the party with DMK. Now he has started a political party named Latchiya Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam.
Kankeyam constituency and after that R.M. Verappan became MLA in that constituency. On 19th May 1991, Jeyalalitha started her election campaign and gave the statement that if AIADMK came to power the arrack shops which attracted the people would be closed. The storm was behind Jeyalalitha and the people guessed that Jeyalalitha would be the next Chief-Minister.

At this time a terrible incident took place when she was at Krishnagiri. Rajiv Gandhi was assassinated at Sriperumbudur.94 So the election date was changed from May 24, 1991 to June 15, 1991. Jeyalalitha went to Delhi and paid homage to the body of Rajiv Gandhi. The enquiry for the murder took place and it was identified that the LTTE was involved in this massacre.95

Hearing the death of Rajiv Gandhi, the houses of the DMK party members were attacked. The Murasoli office was attacked by the AIADMK party men. To condemn these activities a rally was organized.96 In various places

95. LTTE is expanded as Liberation Tigers Of Tamil Eelam. It is one of the important Tamil supporters organization. The founder of this organization is Prabharan. They criticize the attitudes of Srilanka.
the DMK party men attacked congress and AIADMK men. Karunanidhi asked the Government to conduct an enquiry on the assassination of Rajiv Gandhi with the help of a commission.

Jeyalalitha did not involve in the election campaign. She was offered with tight security in her house by the Chandressekar government. Karunanidhi was deeply involved in the election campaign.

On July 15, 1991 the election took place and the AIADMK got victory by securing 163 seats and Jeyalalitha became the Chief-Minister of Tamilnadu. 97 In the DMK front, karunanidhi alone won in Harbour Constituency but Karunanidhi resigned the MLA post. 98 Elaborate arrangements were made for the swearing in of the new ministry at the Madras University centenary auditorium. The people expressed their hope for the good start made by Jeyalalitha as the Chief-Minister. 99

5.14 ADMINISTRATION

The victory of Jeyalalitha in the 1991 election proved to be quite novel. In her inaugural speech she assured the people that she would fulfill the election promises and run the government by following the foot steps of Annathurai and MGR. She was very careful in choosing her cabinet ministers. She selected ten new ministers. She selected ten new faces from the party cadre including a woman. In selecting her cabinet, she followed the examples of her mentor MGR. She was keen on giving representation to the Backward class area. 100

After her assuming of office as the Chief-Minister Jeyalalitha took serious steps to restore law and order. The law and order problem was identified with the activities of the Srilankan militants in Tamilnadu. They were allowed to operate from here during the beginning of 1980 when Indira Gandhi was the Prime Minister of India. MGR was also close to the LTTE and gave financial assistance to the leaders. 101 Jeyalalitha was the first Chief-Minister to declare

100 Indian Express, English Daily, Madras, dated 1-10-1991.
war against Terrorism. She disapproved the activities of the LTTE in the state. The massive patrolling on the Tamilnadu coast was arranged. The navy, the coast guard with central Reserve Police (CRPF) and the Tamilnadu police launched a massive operation along the Tamilnadu coast from point Calimere to Dhanushkodi to plug all escape routes of the LTTE.102 The issue of prohibition in Tamilnadu has evaded different views of governments from being taken any firm decision.

Jeyalalitha made vow to introduce total prohibition. Her object and message were unambiguous. The loss of revenue to the government during 1991-1992 on the abolition of cheap liquor scheme was estimated to be Rs.322 crores. She revived the prohibition enforcement wing with a large contingent of about 1800 police men. The government had constituted a state level prohibition committee under the chairmanship of the chief-minister with twenty two members to suggest measures for propagating the message of prohibition.103 Jeyalalitha assumed the office of the

Chief-Minister of Tamilnadu on 24, July 1991. The next day the interim order was promulgated by the Cauvery dispute tribunal. It created an acute problem for amicable centre-state and inter-state relations.

In 1892, the first agreement was signed between the two. Accordingly it was agreed that the Mysore government should obtain permission from the Madras presidency before construction of any reservoir across the river Cauvery. Tamilnadu Government filed a case in the supreme court which directed the Tribunal to grant an interim order on 25, June 1991.

The interim order was promulgated by the tribunal. It directed the Karnataka state to release 205 TMC feet of water to Tamilnadu. The quantity of water allotted by the tribunal was very little when compared to the needs of Tamilnadu. Karnataka was not happy over this interim award. The stand taken by Jeyalalitha was soft in the beginning over this interim award. To put an end to the crisis, the centre decided to refer the matter to the supreme court. Jeyalalitha

made some reforms in the Temple administration. In India, secularism emerged as a concept of political philosophy and constitutional doctrine. It emerged to avoid any conflict between the state and the religious authority.  

5.15 WELFARE SCHEMES OF JEYALALITHA

5.15.1 INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT

During the ruling period of Jeyalalitha she established Tamilnadu Development Corporation for Industrial Infrastructural Development, the Tamilnadu Guidance and Export Promotion Bureau, a Foreign Investment Promotion, Co-Ordination cell, an Export promotion cell, an Apex level Advisory Board, A standing Advisory committee, policy planning group, a sale tax reform committee, Labour Rehabilitation Fund, A technology Development Fund, Empowered Committees and Minorities Committees. There was 58 public sector undertakings of the state government with a total paid up capital of Rs.470.71 crores as on 31-03-1991. Sufficient encouragement was given to private sector in Industrial policy.  


5.15.2 TEMPLE RENOVATION SCHEME

To augment and reform the administration of Temples, new amendments in the act were brought forth and the Temple Administration Boards were set up at state levels and District board were instituted in District level. To renovate the temples a Renovation scheme was formulated. Donations were collected and given to temples for which Jeyalalitha donated a sum of 1 lakh as a fore runner. Such committees comprised of eminent scholars as members and through such committees temple renovations were carried out under their supervision. ¹⁰⁸

5.15.3 PURATCHI THALAIIVI  DR. J.JEYALALITHA MARUTHUVA NALATHITTAM

This welfare scheme was started on 18-1-1992. and implemented in municipal sanitary centres and in the sub-sanitary centres in villages. A sanitation campaign was organized and conducted by a team of doctors. Till 28-01-1992 as many as 9226 campaigns were successfully conducted and

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apart from treating the patients, a mental awareness was created. As a result sanitary conditions improved in the state.  

### 5.15.4 ARIVOLI IYAKKAM

Jeyalalitha introduced the ‘Arivoli Iyakkam’ which aimed at bringing about 100 percent literacy in Tamilnadu by 1995. For this purpose committees headed by District Collectors were set up in each district. This scheme was divided into three phases. In 1991-1992 the scheme was successfully implemented in 7 districts. In 1992-1993, 10 districts were on the verge of completion. In 1993-1994, 5 districts were covered under this scheme. A post literacy programme was introduced to provide feed back to the people benefitted by this scheme. Priority was given to Pudukottai and Pasumpon Muthuramalinga Thevar district.

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5.15.5 PURATCHI THALAIVI Dr.J.JEYALALITHA NAGAR IN ALL DISTRICT HEAD QUARTERS

The government ordered the establishment of a model village scheme in every district head quarters. This served the basic needs of the masses. This scheme was initiated on 21-8-1991 at Bargur in Dharmapuri district at a cost of Rs.3 crores by Jeyalalitha to eradicate Poverty and other disparity in caste and creed.111

5.15.6 MADRAS VISION- 2000

Jeyalalitha government brought out a scheme to beautify the Madras city over five years at a cost of Rs.1250 crores. During the first years a sum of Rs.250 crores was spent. In another 4 years the Chennai City was improvised on par with modern cities abroad with the basic infrastructure needed for economic development.112

5.15.7 NUTRITIOUS MEAL SCHEME

This was brought by Dr.M.G.R for the people below the poverty line. Jeyalalitha government made some

favourable changes in this scheme. The responsibility was
given to the Director of Social welfare and care was taken to
avoid any corruption. The poor profited by this scheme.113

5.15.8 Dr.PURATCHI THALAIVI FEMALE CHILDREN
PROTECTION SCHEME

As part of this scheme Jeyalalitha assured
that the Government will undertake to venture and bring up
the female unwanted and destitute children. This scheme was
introduced to strictly prohibit the evil practice of aborting the
female foetus in the world. Through this scheme 5 children
were brought to Chennai in the Government children’s
cradles.114

5.15.9 ABOLITION OF LIQUOR

For the upliftment of the poor people she
abolished liquor. So the Government got a loss of 391 crores.
She banned liquor shops on 16-7-1991 115 and organized a
committee to make awareness regarding the evils of liquor. To
create awareness among the people she allotted two lakhs for

the preparation of a drama named 'Velicham' under the direction of R.S.Manohar. For preparing a film related to the evils of drunkenness she allotted Rs. 85 Lakhs. The name of the film was 'Neenka Nalla Irukkanum'. 116

5.15.10 EDUCATION FOR ALL SECTION OF PEOPLE

For the improvement of education she introduced some schemes. 117 To rehabilitate the panchayat schools in 1991-1992 she allotted Rs.4 crores. She also introduced ‘MGR sathunavu thittam’, ‘Free books scheme’, ‘Free uniforms’ and ‘Free bus pass’ by which 62.09 lakhs students were benefited. 118 For the upliftment of the female students from 1st standard to 5th standard she appointed only lady teachers. On 13-1-1992, 27 primary schools were uplifted to middle schools.

By the central Government scheme an amount of 70 lakhs by which 6222 schools were provided with radio and electronic instruments. In the third stage, the central

116.It was produced by G.V.films. It was released on 26-11-1992 and was showed throughout Tamilnadu as tax free.
118.Ibid., P.25.
government sanctioned one crore by which ten thousand schools were benefited.\textsuperscript{119} From 1991-1992, 21 high schools were uplifted to Higher secondary level and 20 middle schools were uplifted to High schools. In Dharmapuri district 7 high schools were newly established. To maintain minority institution a new order was passed on 28-4-1992, to bring 100\% education.\textsuperscript{120} This scheme was introduced in seven districts as an experimental measure.\textsuperscript{121}

\textbf{5.15.11 SCHOLARSHIP FOR BACKWARD CLASS STUDENTS}

To uplift the condition of backward class students the Government sanctioned many schemes and allotted funds. By this the students are much benefited. The Government was running 285 schools for BC students. The government organized 771 hostels by which 43,358 students benefitted. It also gave training for Back ward class students.\textsuperscript{122}

\begin{itemize}
\item \textsuperscript{119} The Hindu, English Daily, Madras, dated 14-1-1992.
\item \textsuperscript{120} Ibid., dated 30-4-1992.
\item \textsuperscript{121} Tamil Arasu, Monthly Journal [Tamil], Govt of Tamilnadu, Madras, May 1992, P.12.
\item \textsuperscript{122} Administrative Report, Govt. Of Tamilnadu, Madras, 2001, P.15.
\end{itemize}
5.15.12 MAINTAINING LADY CHILDREN

To safeguard the female children from female infanticides Jeyalalitha introduced a new system called ‘Cradle Baby system, by which the Government took care of the small orphan children. This incident happened in Usilampatti region. By her involvement several female children were saved from female infanticide.\textsuperscript{123}

As Jeyalalitha remained a staunch advocate of social justice, she announced a reservation of 18 percent of the total seats in the vedic institutions for the SC, ST. But there was no reservation policy adopted in the appointment of temple priests.\textsuperscript{124} She had to face several problems when she assumed office. She initiated several bold steps to restore law and order and to revive the economy of the state.

In order to control the rise of prices of essential commodities and to help the poor, the price of rice under Public Distribution system was reduced.\textsuperscript{125} She also laid

\textsuperscript{123} Administrative Report, Govt. of Tamilnadu, Madras, 2001, P.23.

\textsuperscript{124} Tamil Mani, Puratchi Thalaivi Porkala Atchi [Tamil], Madras, 1992, P.10.

\textsuperscript{125} Tamilnadu State Legislative Assembly Debate, Official Report, Vol.III, No.3, 13\textsuperscript{th} july, 1992, P.263.
foundation for 1791 group houses, 19 school buildings, 76 panchayat office building and 23 nutritious meal centres at an estimated cost of 3.94 crores. Loans to the tune of 24.35 lakhs were disbursed for 1000 people under integrated Rural Development programme. Tamilnadu has the fair price shop to serve the need of people. To monitor its function in each district, a civil supply intelligence unit and an inspector of police were entrusted to look after their functioning.

During 1991-1992, 641 raids were conducted and 213 persons were arrested. For providing houses to each family ten lakh houses were planned to be build by the various governmental agencies such as Tamilnadu Housing Board, Tamilnadu Slum Clearance Board and Adi Dravidar Welfare Department.

House Upgradation Scheme was introduced with the support of H.U.D.C.O. High priority was accorded for water supply. A new programme was drawn at an estimate

cost of Rs.400 crores to provide water supply to all parts of Tamilnadu within a period of five years. Rural development was also given priority. The panchayat utilized this money to implement various schemes such as rural water supply, roads, street lightings, primary school building and renovation of irrigation tanks.\textsuperscript{129}

Jeyalalitha introduced welfare schemes for the Handloom weavers and the textile sector. Family pension of Rs.250 per month for the families of handloom weavers who died in harness was announced. Insurance amount was increased.\textsuperscript{130}

The government introduced an innovative scheme to help women. Up to 5\textsuperscript{th} standard in schools women teachers were recruited. A new integrated development programme was also launched to sustain self-employment to one –lakh women.\textsuperscript{131}

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\textsuperscript{130}Tamil Arasu, Monthly Journal[Tamil], Govt of Tamilnadu, Madras, September, 1992,P.17.
\textsuperscript{131}Ibid., PP. 25-26.
\end{flushright}
5.16 JEYALALITHA’S CONTRIBUTION TO SPORTS IN TAMILNADU

Jeyalalitha was interested in sports. She was fond of playing cricket and watching cricket matches. She had a photo album of the cricket stars which was collected from news media. When she was studying in the Church Park Convent she witnessed one day cricket match played by film stars for flood relief. She was interested to witness all the cricket matches organized in the Nehru stadium along with her aunt.¹³²

Like her mother Jeyalalitha was an able swimmer in her youth and also proficient in sports and games. She had an immense interest in horse riding, chess, tennis, basketball and athletics.¹³³ As soon as Jeyalalitha assumed office as the Chief-Minister she formed the ‘Sports Development Authority Council of Tamilnadu’. This showed her keen interest in the development of sports. She issued orders for the opening of rural sports centers in all the 388 panchayat unions.

in Tamilnadu. She introduced many schemes and plans for promotion of sports in Tamilnadu.\(^{134}\)

She was the first woman to become an independent member of the Tamilnadu Cricket Association in 1975. She acted as the president of 36 members sports development authority of Tamilnadu. She acted as the president of the Organising committee of International Football Invitation Tournament held in Madras 1993. She acted as the president of the Superintendent committee of the South Asian federation Games in 1995. Under her leadership, sports got a big boost in the state.\(^{135}\)

The marriage celebration of her foster son Sudhakaran not only cost more than 100 crores of rupees but also caused the decline of her administration. All political leaders attended the marriage and her power of mobilizing the political leaders for future political action was revealed through the marriage.\(^{136}\) But the marriage became one of the causes for her downfall and failure in the 1996 Assembly election.

\(^{134}\)Jeyalalitha's Speech on 46\(^{th}\) Birth Day celebration and felicitated Function of school children at Nehru stadium on 24-02-1994 at Madras.

5.17 CINEMA FIELD AND JEYALALITHA

Jeyalalitha was highly interested in the cine field. During her period of administration she did marvellous things for the development of the cine field. She honoured many film personalities for their achievement in the cine field and imitating the Hollywood she established JJ cinema city in 86 hectors of land at Madras. The persons who made remarkable achievement were honoured with awards like Dr.MGR Award, Bharathidhasan Award, Aringnar Anna award, Kalaivanar Award and Sivaji Ganesan award. For constructing houses for the persons who belonged to the cine field she donated 85 hectors of land at Pallikaranai in Velacheri. She also gave pension for Rs.300 for persons above the age of 60. Jeyalalitha had no political experience. In 1982 it was MGR who introduced her in politics. After

becoming the propaganda secretary, she was much interested in politics and the party. By her speech she attracted the people. She had the ability and experiences in all matters.\textsuperscript{140} Under certain circumstances she displayed her tension but adjusted with her tactfulness. She developed a capacity to solve the several troubles given to her by the opposite group leaders.\textsuperscript{141} In certain matters she ridiculed some political leaders which made the one tune supporters of Janagi to identify her as the successor of MGR.

In the 1991 election the AIADMK party got a tremendous victory and she acted as a good administrator.\textsuperscript{142} She stated that the opposition party must identify the attitudes of the government. She gave due respect to the press and the Newspaper. She invited all reporters and arranged feasts for them. When she became the Chief-Minister of Tamilnadu in 1991, she constituted the ministry consisting of 18 ministers in her cabinet. Seven ministers were from MGR’s cabinet.\textsuperscript{143}

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\textsuperscript{140}A.Kausali Krishnan, \textit{Namathu Mudalvar, op.cit.}, P.8.
\textsuperscript{141}R.Ravichandar, \textit{Muthiladam Noki, op.cit.}, P.18.
\textsuperscript{143} Administrative Report Of Govt. of Tamilnadu, Madras, 1991, P.23.
\end{flushright}
During her rule she took steps to maintain law and order and gave more attention in crushing the attitudes of the LTTE in Tamilnadu.\textsuperscript{144}

After becoming the Chief-Minister she enforced an order that the Srilankan refugee who came and stayed in Tamilnadu must present their bio-data to the nearest police station. Nearly 30,000 refugees gave it. The central minister Sharad Pawar told that the Central Govt would provide whatever support they needed regarding the security of the state.

The first signature that she gave after becoming the Chief-Minister was banning of liquor. She severely took steps to control the sales of illicit liquor. After the death of Rajiv Gandhi, she was in the hit list of the LTTE. She was provided with tight security.\textsuperscript{145}

\textsuperscript{144}Saali Umar, \textit{op.cit.}, P.37.
\textsuperscript{145}Dina Thanthi, Tamil Daily, Madras, dated 22-7-1991.
In short Jeyalalitha a film star became the Chief-minister of Tamilnadu in 1991 ruled the state for two terms [1991-1996] and [2001-2006]. Her administrative efficiency saved the state from LTTE menace as she boldly took some measures to suppress terrorism. Her superior complex and over domination paved the way for her failure in the 2006 general elections to the advantage of its allies. Yet politics is a game and one’s success in the same is to be decided by the time.