

Kumaraguru Institutions celebrate Founder's Birth Centenary

A Direct Blessing from Arutchelvar

David Karunakaran
The Covai Mail

"Arutchelvar was a very important man in my life, and a man of great standing," said Venu Srinivasan, Chairman, TVS Motor Company, recently. Although there was 30 years of difference in age between N.Mahalingam and Venu Srinivasan, they shared a great friendship which is based on respect and admiration. "I consider this (award) as a direct blessing from him," expressed Venu after getting honored with Arutchelvar Dr. N. Mahalingam Award for his phenomenal contributions to Industry and Society.

B.K. Krishnaraj Vanavarayar, Chairman, Kumaraguru Institutions presented the award

at the 100th Birth Anniversary celebration of N.Mahalingam. Vijay Mohan, Founder, Pricol Ltd. and K. Ramasamy, Chairman, Roots Group of Companies offered felicitations. M.Manickam, Vice Chairman, Bala Subramaniam, Correspondent and Shankar Vanavarayar, Joint Correspondent, KCT were present at the event.

His contribution to Tamil Nadu and to the Nation is innumerable and in recognition of that he was conferred with the Padma Bhushan Award in 2007 and it was presented by Dr.Abdul Kalam.

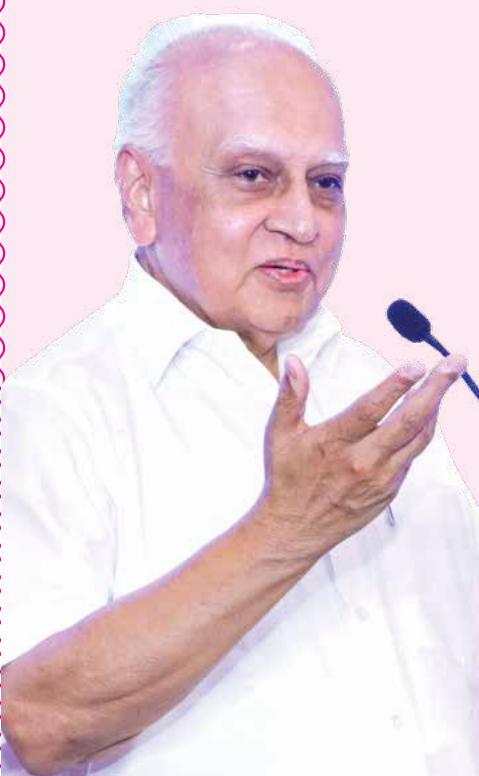
In his memory, Kumaraguru Institutions instituted the Arutchelvar Dr.N.Mahalingam Award to recognize the accomplishments of eminent people who have contributed either in social-cultural or industrial aspects.



From Left: Shankar Vanavarayar, K. Ramasamy, Bala Subramaniam, Krishnaraj Vanavarayar, Venu Srinivasan, M. Manickam and Vijay Mohan.

Arutchelvar recognized, appreciated & nurtured Talents

- Krishnaraj Vanavarayar



"Personally Arutchelvar had long association with Venu Srinivasan and both had great regard for each other. Had Arutchelvar been alive today he would be the happiest person to confer this award on Venu Srinivasan," Vanavarayar opined.

He expressed that the kind of work Venu has been doing in the social space through Srinivasan Services Trust for the past 25 years is extraordinary. The Trust has desilted 276 tanks, repaired 8800 school buildings, 100 health care centers, 900 anganwadi buildings, 350 community buildings, enabled the forming of 5000+ Self Help Group, connecting 60,000 women, planted 6.4 lac trees and made 14000 acres into green forest.

Vanavarayar commended Venu Srinivasan for the works he has done to spirituality. "Venu Srinivasan is to be revered as the Leader of Sri Rangam, the Head of all the Divyadesams".

He then shared an incident that speaks about the magnanimity and humility of Venu. Arutchelvar once wanted Venu Srinivasan to contribute to the Gandhi Museum in Madurai. But before he could see Venu make his donation to the museum, he passed away. Only the two spoke about this, and none outside knew of this request.

When Venu came to pay tribute to Arutchelvar at Bharatiya Vidya Bhavan, he did not want to publicize but shared only with Vanavarayar that he would be making Rs.50 lakh as donation to the Museum. He did not want to announce that as his own donation, and kept it under wraps. In a week's time the cheque was sent to the museum.

"Arutchelvar will bless you from where he is, I firmly believe that he will be somewhere here in this auditorium looking at this incredible moment," Vanavarayar expressed with a small tear-drop sparkling at the corner of his eyes.

"Arutchelvar was a legend with multi-faceted personality who had made distinct accomplishments as an industrialist, legislator, educationist philanthropist, social activist and many more. Above all he was a visionary statesman," Krishnaraj Vanavarayar said.

"As we deliberate his extraordinary, life he was a true leader who recognised greatness in people around him. He was among the first to recognize, appreciate and nurture talents in the field of education, sports, entrepreneurship to name a few. It was his wish and has been our endeavor to honor people who had lived by great ideals and created immense impact."

An Impactful Leader of our times!

- Ramaswamy

Leadership, especially at a time like this what has helped the world, particularly India, emerge from the pandemic and the impact of the virus.

"A leader such as Mr.Venu Srinivasan stands as a shining example of exactly the kind of leadership that the world needs," Ramaswamy said.

Whether it is his contributions to industry, economy of the nation, or uplifting the community, Venu has done both with equal emphasis, with the same commitment passion and visionary Outlook, he added.

He appreciated Venu's ability to complement vision with execution. He recalled that in 1980, TVS 50 moped was launched. It became the best friend of traders, farmers and the general public. It also became the connecting point of the rural India and the urban India.

While it was not the first moped in India, Ramaswamy said that it certainly had caused the moped



revolution. "TVS 50 carried a large part of the rural India's economy on its robust frame. This ability to visualize the market and then match it 100% perfection is not easy. Mr.Venu Srinivasan made it look effortless," Ramaswamy said.

He shared that following the TVS - Suzuki break up, the competition was extremely fierce and TVS did not have a four stroke engine at that time. The industry analysts remarked that TVS eroded its brand equity very badly and competitors also openly commented the TVS will lose its motorcycle and scooter market in India.

Venu took such a bold decision because he was completely confident of his abilities, and the skills of his own team to ride the tough challenges. It is an attribute that has won him the admiration of everyone in the automotive industry.

At the occasion, Ramaswamy expressed his personal admiration towards TVS when he conveyed that while he was in college he did an internship at TVS Workshop in Coimbatore between the years 1966 and 67. He shared that he learned well about the systematic approach to automobile diagnosis and servicing.

He then briefed about the pioneering program introduced by TVS in Engineering colleges. They identify students with potential, train them, imbibe them with TVS' values, then absorb them into TVS. While many in the sector talk about industry institute partnership now, Ramaswamy said Venu had implemented it so many years back.

Arutchelvar was a Karmayogi!

- Venu Srinivasan

At the event, Venu recalled two important personalities in his life, Arutchelvar N.Mahalingam and T.S.Soundaram.

He shared that in the 1960s there were social



turbulence in the State. The British had divided and ruled us, and that led to continuation of poverty and inequality. The people remained separated by caste and economic strata. There was also attack on Spirituality and Religion.

He said Arutchelvar was among the few to pave way for social reformation. The Sakthi Group he created aided farmers, provided jobs, granted youth from the villages the opportunity to get educated, and supported spirituality and culture immensely. If not for people like Arutchelvar, Tamil

Nadu would not be what it is today, he said.

He also recollects the innumerable services his aunt TS Soundaram (Daughter of T.V.Sundaram Iyengar) did to society. She played a pivotal role in setting up Gandhigram in 1947. Venu said she gave away the wealth she inherited from her father to Gandhigram, and she established the Gandhigram Rural Institute.

Venu expressed that it was because of his relationship with these two people that he didn't stay as a mere industrialist. He credited Arutchelvar and T.S.Soundaram for making

him realize that service to man is service to the Almighty. Quoting John Milton "They also serve who only stand and wait," he said God has millions to serve him and the best thing we could do is to serve the poor.

Addressing the students in the audience, he said technology is changing rapidly and one has to keep himself updated and refreshed. He appreciated the Teachers for their sacrifices, and he wanted the students to never forget them, for they (The teachers) could have went on to pursue something bigger but chose to be Gurus and guide students.

Venu made TVS world class!

- Vijay Mohan

Vijay Mohan briefed the gathering about the concept of Total Quality Management (TQM) (which is demonstrated on a grand scale by Japanese industry through the intervention of W. Edwards Deming), and how Venu Srinivasan and his companies championed in that.

The ramifications of total quality management in a company is tremendous," Vijay Mohan said. Adhering to this concept can help a company reduce its costs & errors significantly and increase its products and services' quality greatly.

He said Venu Srinivasan very early recognized the value of TQM and pioneered it in India. Venu, his colleagues & associates worked hard to implement the TQM Principles at Sundaram-Clayton and TVS Motor Company since 1989.

The Japanese Union of Scientists and Engineers (JUSE) recognizes Business organizations across the globe that have excelled in applying TQM with the prestigious Deming Prize.

In approximately 10 years following the implementation, Sundaram-Clayton became the first company in India to be conferred with Deming Prize in 1998. In 2002, TVS Motor Company was conferred with Deming Prize for TQM. It must be mentioned that TVS was the first vehicle manufacturing company in India to get Deming Prize.

Vijay Mohan pointed out that many companies started to follow TQM principles after Venu's successful implementation.

He then highlighted how Venu made TVS Motors an independent and indigenous company catering to the needs of the people here, and to the aspirations of India, following the break up with Suzuki Motor Corporation in 2001.

While many doubted whether it was a wise move, Venu was clear at what TVS can achieve. He set up a strong R&D to enable the company to be self-reliant, develop and bring out new two-wheeler models at fast pace. Soon TVS became world class, and today a sizeable portion of their production is exported across the world, which is truly a commendable thing, Vijay Mohan expressed.

"Now Chinese companies have flooded the Indian market with lot of medical electronics, mobile phones, other things etc. But do you see a Chinese motorcycle manufacturer in India? No! Thanks to people like Venu..." Vijay Mohan said.

He then laid emphasis on how TVS treats their suppliers as equal partners, and

values the relationship. "Many years later after Pricol was established in 1974, in early 80's when there was a recession in automotive industry, we went through a cash flow problem. We had to invest in critical machinery for which we did not have enough of reserves within the company and approached nationalized banks then for a loan" as no private banks existed at that time "none of them came forward taking look at Pricol's balance sheet then," Vijay Mohan said.

"My father knew Mr.Santhanam (Venu Srinivasan's uncle), and purely because of relationship Sundaram Finance which was headed by Mr. S. Santanam extended the loans; that is how we could expand and be what we are today."

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An Astonishing Personality

- M.Manickam



The relationship between TVS Group and ABT Group goes back almost 100 years; it is a very old connection," expressed M.Manickam while welcoming the gathering.

ABT and TVS Group were in Transport sector earlier. The social development works they have done in Tamil Nadu is phenomenal, and it is a known fact that both families have done much to art, industry, spirituality and culture. Speaking about Venu

Srinivasan, Manickam said that the kind of services that Venu does through Srinivasan Services Trust would astonish anyone who takes a look at them. It was indeed astonishing to learn that The Trust is working in more than 2500 villages, touching the lives of 16 lakh people.

Venu Srinivasan has made a big change in the livelihood of people he has touched. He has given them a goal to aim for, and also empowered them to increase their contribution to country within their own surroundings, he said.

Photos : Sathis Babu

PSG IAS transfers indigenous wound care technology to Ardor Biomed



L. Gopalakrishnan handing over the technology along with its exclusive rights and license to Vivekanand (left). Also seen are representatives of both entities.

The Covai Mail

PSG Institute of Advanced studies (PSGIAS), Coimbatore transferred an innovative technology for advanced wound care applications to Ardor Biomed India Pvt. Ltd. Pollachi, recently.

An official statement said L. Gopalakrishnan, Managing Trustee, PSG

Institutions, handed over the technology along with its exclusive rights and license to Vivekanand, CEO, Ardor Biomed, in the presence of J. Kanchana, R. Selvakumar, K. K. Venkataraman and S. P. Suriyaraj.

The technology on "Antimicrobial cum wound care cocktail solution" is an indigenous wound care product developed

by R. Selvakumar, Associate Professor and Head, Department of Nanobiotechnology, PSG IAS.

The technology helps in the development of multipurpose wound care products involving natural ingredients like curcumin, Aloe vera and active biomolecules to promote wound healing.

DJAME's 'CXO Connect' Reimagining Industrial Relations

The Covai Mail

D.J. Academy for Managerial Excellence (DJAME) organized its 'CXO Connect', an Interaction Initiative with Corporate Leaders recently.

R. Venkatanarayanan, President - HR, IT & CSR, Rane Group, Chennai spoke on 'Reimagining Industrial Relations'.

The Resource Person started the session by throwing a light on the Labour Disputes Act and the Labour Codes to be enacted by the Government. He then discussed about the changes happening in the business ecosystem like the opening of new avenues, change in business needs, decrease in response time of business due to digitalization, profile



AGV Narayanan, Director, DJAME (left) interacting with the Resource Person

expectations & aspirations, work requirement lifestyle and changing aspirations of workforce.

He explained Industrial relations as a process dealing with people from different sets and insisted the importance and scope of the industrial relations. He dealt in detail about the various challenges in Industrial Relations like, workforce profile, preference of the workforce, stakeholders

of industrial relations, perspective of stakeholders, lack of employable workforce, trade unions, culture of changing organisation, compliance & non-compliance to the labour laws, shortage of HR professionals in the industry etc.

He also shared his views on the challenges ahead for HR professionals as evolving a value system based on trust and transparency, embedding

the HR in line leadership, sensitisation to human needs, enhancing engagement, promoting total employee involvement and the digital transformation of HR.

The session was followed by Q&A session. Students, Faculty members of DJAME and Industry professionals from LMW Group of companies took part in this interaction initiative.

Doctor advises frequent breaks from screens!



The Covai Mail

In this gadgets-filled world, the chances of getting our vision affected has increased much.

Billabong High International School, Coimbatore organized an Eye Screening Camp recently for its students and staff.

Dr. Devdutt Thomas, Senior Ophthalmologist of Siloam Thomas Eye Hospital, Coimbatore and his team screened their eyes at the camp.

He then spoke on the importance of eye care, the benefits of eating healthy food and taking frequent breaks from screens and devices.

Amway pledges to empower Women Entrepreneurs

The Covai Mail

In line with the International Women's Day 2022 theme - #BreakTheBias, Amway India, one of the country's leading FMCG direct selling companies continued its commitment to an equal future for all.

Across India, the company is undertaking a slew of women-centric programs leading to the IWD celebrations across the country. The campaign aims to provide an inclusive platform to women Amway Direct Selling Partners (ADS Partners) and potential women entrepreneurs. Amway conducted sessions with the young women entrepreneurs.

Furthermore, exclusive training sessions for women were conducted to improve their business and branding skills in an increasingly social and digitally connected world. To emphasize the need to build an ecosystem to support women entrepreneurs, Amway conducted sessions with the young women entrepreneurs.

ISUZU rolls-out Pre-Summer Service Camp

The Covai Mail

Isuzu Motors India is conducting a nation-wide 'ISUZU I-Care Pre-Summer Service Camp' for its range of ISUZU D-MAX Pick-ups and SUVs.

This service camp is aimed at offering customers exciting benefits and preventive maintenance checks for a

hassle-free driving experience during the season across the country.

An initiative of 'ISUZU Care', the Pre-Summer service camp is being organized across all ISUZU authorized dealer service outlets, between March 21st to 30th March, 2022 till

(During this period, customers can also avail special offers & benefits for their vehicles.

Summer's Dream shopping event from April 2

The Covai Mail

The Grand Regent Hotel is getting ready to launch its 'Summer's Dream' shopping event in the city between April 2 and 3.

Sarita, Director and Ramesh General Manager, Grand Regent Hotel said that this shopping program is meant to provide an opportunity for young entrepreneurs in Coimbatore.

Food, home appliances, clothing, natural foods, beauty products are sold. The event, which takes place on April 2 and 3 from 10 a.m. to 9 p.m., features art shows and competitions. The organizers said that they intend to donate a portion of the proceedings to charities.

Tyre that resists upto 6mm wide punctures!

The Covai Mail

Revolutionizing India's tyre market, the pioneer of Radial technology and leading tyre manufacturer, JK Tyre & Industries Ltd., has launched India's first Puncture Guard Tyres for four-wheelers.

The Puncture Guard tyre technology, with specially

engineered self-healing elastomer inner coat, applied inside the tyres through an automated process, heals the punctures.

Tyres with this technology can self-repair the multiple punctures in the tread area, due to nails or other sharp objects up to 6.0 mm diameter instantly. Puncture Guard tyre offers hassle free ride throughout the

life of the tyre without air loss.

To ensure safe rides, the advanced Puncture Guard tyre has been tested across all Indian on-road, as well as off-road conditions. The tyres are secure, unique and designed for optimal performance, drastically improving road safety while mitigating any potential accidents.

Vi's new superfast internet device

The Covai Mail

Vi, one of India's leading telecom brands, has launched Vi MiFi for its customers on Vi Family Plans and Individual Postpaid Plans. Vi MiFi is a pocket-sized 4G router that delivers reliable,

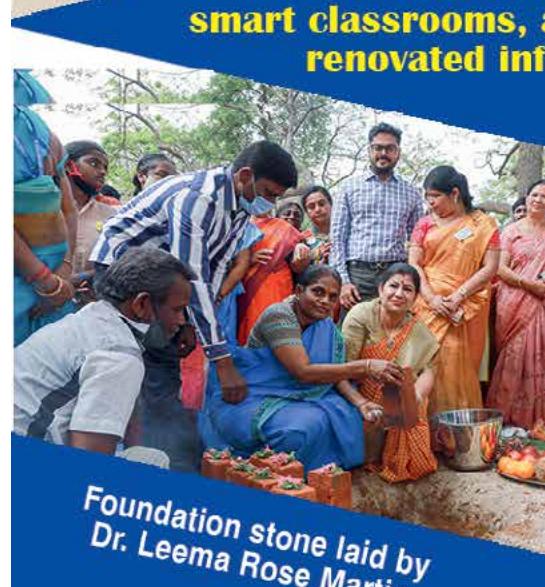
high speed and secure connectivity for multiple devices, while also being ideal for individuals wanting to stay connected on the go.

Vi MiFi supports superfast speeds of up to 150 Mbps and enables users to securely connect up to 10 WiFi-enabled devices such

as mobiles, smart TVs, laptops, tablets, CCTVs, smart speakers and more.

Sleek and lightweight, Vi MiFi comes with an inbuilt 2700 mAh rechargeable battery that can provide uninterrupted connectivity for up to 5 hours on a single charge.

Martin Group adopts Koundampalayam Government School for ₹3 Crores



Foundation stone laid by Dr. Leema Rose Martin



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RNI Reg. No. TNBIL/2014/55455. Postal Registration No: CB/123/2021-23. Owned, Published and Printed by K.C.Srinivasan and published from #2-F, Trishank Apartment, G.K.D Nagar, Nethaji Road, Papanaikenpalayam, Coimbatore - 641 037 and Printed at Newsman Associates Limited, #1, Sidco Industrial Estate, Kurichi, Coimbatore - 641 021. Editor: C.Srinivasan



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