

Regarding need to Name Coimbatore International Airport in Tamil Nadu as Dr. Kalaignar Karunanidhi International Airport- laid

DR. GANAPATHY RAJKUMAR P. (COIMBATORE): Muthuvel Karunanidhi popularly known as Dr. Kalaignar (Artist), a senior most politician from Tamil Nadu who served the longest Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu with almost two decades of service over five terms between 1969 and 2011. Karunanidhi has the record of never losing an election to the Tamil Nadu Assembly, having won 13 times since his first victory in 1957. Before entering politics, he worked in the Tamil film industry as a screenwriter He also made contributions to Tamil literature, having written stories, plays, novels and a multiple-volume memoir. He entered politics at the age of 14 and in 1965 he participated in Anti Hindi agitations and imprisonment. During his political career, Dr. Kalaignar advocated for increased state autonomy and affirmative action to favour lower castes. He implemented a caste based quota system for Government employment and Government school students, as well as subsidies to the poor. He was also instrumental in erecting a 133-foot-high statue of Thiruvalluvar at Kanyakumari in honour of the scholar and ensuring classical language status to Tamil language Dr. Kalaignar is known for his contributions to Tamil literature. In June 2010, he organised the World Classical Tamil Conference in Coimbatore. Dr. Kalaignar passed away on 7 August 2018 in Chennai after a series of prolonged age-related illnesses. Till his death, he served on his entire life for the development and welfare of Tamil Nadu and the evolution of Tamil language across the state during his tenure as Chief Minister of State, the Tamil Nadu Industry in all sector has achieved/developed very rapidly. Hence I urge upon the Union Government to take an early action to change the name of Coimbatore International Airport into Dr. Kalaignar Karunanidhi International Airport as a mark of befitting respect and tribute to one of the great Tamil popular leaders and longest served Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu.