

## National Award for Shri V. Ganapathi Sthapati



Shri V. Ganapathi epic Silappadhikaram. Sthapati had Those were two State sculptured sponsored projects of the earlier the Government of Tamil Nadu. statues of the The Statue of Saint famous Tamil Savant, the Tiruvalluvar is so gigantic most Venerable Saint besides being artistic, Tiruvalluvar, author of the situated in the heart of the immortal and sacred city of Chennai that it Tirukkural of international attracts a large number of fame and of Satis Kannagi visitors every day. The and Madhavi of the immortal complex itself occupies a very large area. The statues of Satis Kannag Madhavi are installed at Kaverippum-pattinam, a place near Chennai that occupies a pride of place in Tamil history and literature. In recognition of the two outstanding works of art and sculpture of Shri Ganapathi Sthapati, the Government of Tamil Nadu recommended to the Central Government the award of "Master Craftsman" to the Sthapati Unfortunately, the Central Government could not accept the recommendations of the State Government, in that year. In the succeeding year, and however, soon after the carving of the sacred idol of Lord Swaminatha Swami was completed, the Sthapati was conferred the award of "Master Craftsman". One could say that it was, perhaps, the divine wish of the Lord that the well deserved award to the Sthapati, for carving the statues of the famous Savant and the two Satis virtue personified should stand for all time, closely associated and combined with the one for sculpturing the sacred idol of Lord Swaminatha Swami Himself.