



Tamilnadu Economy in News (TEN) is a carefully chosen list of news items spotlighting the state's economy published in the recent press. A monthly issue of the Madras Institute of Development Studies (MIDS), TEN brings forth notable current economic affairs of the State for wider attention of economists, researchers and policymakers.

Contents

Economy	1
Agriculture	14
Industry and Infrastructure	16
Employment	39
Education	47
Health	63
Environment	73
Social and Economic Services	88
Tamil Newspapers	105

Edited by

MIDS
79, 2nd Main Road,
Gandhi Nagar, Adyar,
Chennai 600020

044-2441 2589 / 9771

TEN

from

3 Madras
I Institute of
D Development
S Studies

Tamilnadu Economy in News

An MIDS Briefing

Volume 1 Issue 3 July 2024

Tamil Nadu secures the third spot in SDG index

The Hindu Bureau

CHENNAI

Tamil Nadu has emerged as a frontrunner in the latest SDG (Sustainable Development Goals) India Index 2023-2024, unveiled by NITI Aayog on Friday. The State, which has increased its composite score from 66 in 2018 to 78 in the latest edition, is in the third spot in the index.

The upward trajectory places the State among the top performers across the nation, underscoring its commitment to social equity, economic growth and environmental sustainability, according to a Press Information Bureau release.

It said that the State had shown progress in a number of goals. In the SDG of 'Decent Work and Economic Growth', the State had sustained its leadership in trade and industrial sectors, implementing effective policies that enhanced economic opportunities and promoted sustainable livelihoods. The Tamil Nadu government had initiated various skill development programmes, fostering entrepreneurship and supporting job creation.

In the SDG of 'Good Health and Well Being', the State's health initiatives had shown substantial results, with a reported institutional delivery rate of 97.18% in 2023-2024. This was due to enhanced healthcare infrastructure and community health programmes prioritising maternal and child health, ensuring access to quality healthcare for all citizens, the release said.

The 'Life on Land' goal was another key highlight for the State. It had prioritised environmental sustainability, with nearly 25% of its geographical area designated as forest cover. It not only contributed to biodiversity conservation, but also played a vital role in combating climate change through carbon sequestration and promoting ecological balance, the release added.

Source: *The Hindu*, 13 July 2024

T.N. emerges as 'front runner' in 13 Sustainable Development Goals

SDG India Index 2023-24 analysed the performance of States and Union Territories in achieving the goals on the basis of 70 targets and 113 indicators. Tamil Nadu stands third with a composite score of 78, surpassing national average of 71

N. Sai Charan
CHENNAI

Tamil Nadu has been classified a 'front runner' in 13 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) of the United Nations, according to the latest SDG India Index 2023-24, released by the Union government's think-tank NITI Aayog.

The recently released fourth edition of the SDG Index analysed the performance of the States and the Union Territories in achieving the goals on the basis of 70 targets and 113 indicators.

The report categorises the performance of the States based on their scores as 'aspirant' (0-49), 'performer' (50-64), 'front runner' (65-99), and 'achiever' (100). According to the report, Tamil Nadu took the third spot with a composite score of 78, surpassing the national average of 71. The State also retained its position as a front runner. The composite score of Tamil Nadu was 74 in the previous report released in 2020-21.

Achiever in energy

The State has been placed as a front runner in 13 SDGs in the latest report. It continues to be placed in the achiever category for fulfilling the target of affordable and clean energy. Gender equality and life below water are the goals in which the State is in the

Status report

Tamil Nadu's score in eleven sustainable development goals, according to a NITI Aayog report (2023-24), has been higher than the national average. For two of the goals, the State's indicators have been on a par with the national average



Goal No.	Sustainable Development Goals	Tamil Nadu (out of 100)	National Average (out of 100)
1	No poverty	92	72
2	Zero hunger	75	52
3	Good health and well being	77	77
4	Quality education	76	61
5	Gender equality	53	49
6	Clean water and sanitation	90	89
7	Affordable and clean energy	100	96
8	Decent work and economic growth	81	68
9	Industry, Innovation and Infrastructure	67	61
10	Reduced Inequalities	76	65
11	Sustainable cities and communities	81	83
12	Responsible consumption and production	78	78
13	Climate action	81	67
14	Life below water	61	*
15	Life on land	72	75
16	Peace justice, and strong institutions	78	74

Note: The Index does not measure indicators of SDG 17 - 'Partnership for the Goals' owing to unavailability of suitable data at the State/Union Territory level.

* Only coastal States are considered

'performer' category. Tamil Nadu is below the national average in two goals:

sustainable cities and communities and life on land.

According to the report,

Tamil Nadu tops in the goal of eradicating poverty, compared with the other States and the Union Territories.

The Head Count Ratio, according to the Multidimensional Poverty Index, stands at 2.2%, as against the national average of 14.96%. The report says 22% and 25% of the children aged below five in the State are underweight and stunted respectively.

Well within the target

The Maternal Mortality Ratio for one lakh live births and Under-five Mortality Rate for 1,000 live births stood at 54 and 13 respectively for the State, well within the target and lesser than the national average. The rate of deaths in road accidents per one-lakh population was 23.31, one of the highest in the country, the report says.

The gross enrolment ratio of students in higher secondary and higher education was 81.5% and 47% respectively, against the national average of 57.6% and 28.4%. Further, the report noted that 81.87% of the rural households in Tamil Nadu are getting safe and adequate piped drinking water.

The unemployment rate and labour force participation rate in the State in the age group of 15-59 were 4.8% and 62.3% respectively.

Nearly 92.8% of the households own at least one

mobile phone. The percentage of the population covered by Aadhaar is 97.94, the report notes.

Constant investment

Tamil Nadu has been performing consistently well in achieving SDGs, especially with respect to social indicators, owing to the State's constant investment in social capital, says R. Sujatha, senior SDG consultant, Planning and Development Department.

"The unemployment rate has come down from 7.2% to 4.8%, compared with the previous report, and the labour force participation rate has increased by two percentage points. These are good signs. With respect to the goal of gender equality, the sex ratio at birth was taken from the National Family Health Survey-5, which is a sample survey. The actual sex ratio would come out only if the Civil Registration System (CRS) was taken as an indicator," she says.

Vital schemes

After the COVID-19 pandemic, Tamil Nadu has built back in a much better manner without slipping in many of the indicators, Ms. Sujatha says, adding, "Schemes such as Naan Mudhalvan, Pudhumai Penn, and the Chief Minister's Thayumanavar Scheme to tackle poverty have been playing a crucial role in the social and educational sectors."

Source: *The Hindu*, 18 July 2024

TN only State among peers to grow share of exports in FY24

Sindhu Hariharan
Chennai

In a year of global trade turmoil, Gujarat's loss is Tamil Nadu's gain. Even as Gujarat and Maharashtra retained top spots in the share of India's merchandise exports in FY24, their contribution to the country's exports dipped, while Tamil Nadu and Andhra Pradesh gained ground. For Maharashtra, this is also the third consecutive year of decline in share since FY21.

DATA FOCUS.

Per Commerce Ministry data, Gujarat, with \$134 billion, held 30.7 per cent share of India's \$437 billion merchandise exports in 2023-24, but this was a decline from 32.7 per cent it held in FY23. However, Gujarat has grown its share from 20.7 per cent in FY21. Maharashtra's share was at 15.4 per cent in FY24, down from 16.2 per cent in FY23, 17.4 per cent in FY22 and 20 per cent in FY21.

In contrast, Tamil Nadu (TN) was the only State among the top five to grow its share in the last three fiscals, thanks to a diversified basket and smartphone exports boom. TN grew its share from 8.4 per cent in FY22 to 9.1 per cent in FY23 and almost 10 per cent in FY24.

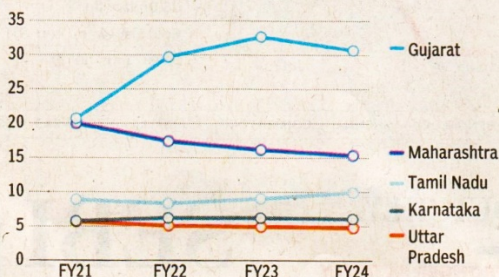
In terms of absolute values, TN was the only State in the top five that saw a rise in exports in a year of subdued global trade in FY24. This was due to a 77 per cent year-on-year rise in electronics exports from FY23 to FY24 at \$9.6 billion. Haryana, Telangana and Odisha were other States in the top 10 that grew their exports in FY24.

Total exports stood at \$776 billion for FY24, almost flat from last year. While merchandise exports fell, services helped push overall trade up. State-wise split of services trade is not available. However, given that software and business services, offered by global capability centres, dominate services exports, analysts note that Karnataka, TN and

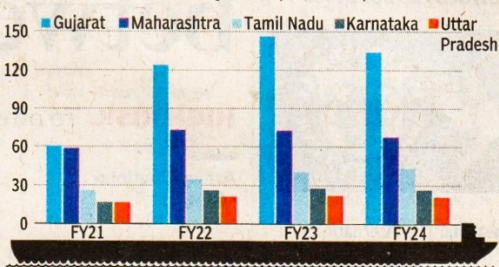
Healthy competition

Share of Gujarat, Maharashtra, Karnataka, UP dips; TN grows in FY24

Share of merchandise exports of top States (in %)



State-wise value of exports (in \$ billion)



Top products exported in FY24

Gujarat Petroleum products, Engineering goods, Organic and inorganic chemicals	Maharashtra Engineering goods, Gems and Jewellery, Organic and inorganic chemicals	Tamil Nadu Engineering goods, Electronic goods, Ready-made garments of all textiles
Karnataka Engineering goods, Electronic goods, Petroleum products	Uttar Pradesh Electronic goods, Engineering goods, Meat, Dairy and Poultry products	

Source: Ministry of Commerce NIRYAT portal

Telangana are top three in services.

PRODUCT-WISE SHARE

A majority of Gujarat's exports are those of petroleum products, followed by precious metals, gems and stones — both impacted by a volatile macro environment. Primary exports of Maharashtra include engineering goods and drugs and formulations, whereas TN exports are split between electronic goods, textiles, leather and non-leather goods and automotive.

"The focus of States on creating an investment base through a favourable investment climate along with better targeting of policies with an eye on the region's

strengths has created a larger impact in exports over time," Rishi Shah, Partner, Grant Thornton, said.

Vishnu V, MD and CEO of TN's investment promotion agency Guidance TN, says the State's export profile is more diversified and relatively better protected from external economic shocks. "Besides electronics, the State has a strong exports footprint of non-leather footwear, textiles, automotive among others. It is also among the top States in services exports," he adds.

Analysts also caution that State-wise data is based on export document declarations and in some cases may reflect headquarters rather than place of production.

Source: Business Line, 17 July 2024, page 2

Tamil Nadu is one of four states to have seen a year-on-year jump in foreign direct investments and industry experts, the state can do more by focusing on sector-s

FDI RISING

Nandini.Sengupta@timesofindia.com

It's the FDI sweepstakes and Tamil Nadu is firmly in the game. The state is one of India's top six foreign direct investment destinations and one of just four to see year-on-year FDI tally increase in FY24. As per the latest data from Department for Promotion of Industry & Internal Trade (under Union ministry of commerce and industry), TN is sixth among India's highest FDI states in FY24 at \$2.44 billion, up 12% from \$2.17 billion the year before (see table). The others that saw Y-o-Y uptick were Gujarat up 55%, Telangana up 132.5% and Maharashtra up 2%.

Although TN's FDI tally is lower than the top states – Maharashtra totted up \$15.11 billion, Gujarat \$7.3 billion, Karnataka \$6.6 billion and Delhi \$6.5 billion – it has managed to stay in the growth lane, unlike Delhi that has seen an 13.4% slump and Karnataka that has seen a 37% drop. Even states just outside the top six such as Haryana (down 27%) and Rajasthan (down 71%) have seen sharp drops. TN has always been among the top six FDI states though its ranking has moved up or down a place or two depending on the project-wise fund inflows.

Experts say TN's ability to show FDI growth is thanks to its aggressive investment hunt in sectors such as electronics, EVs and green energy. Much of the state's FY24 performance, for example, is due to the fresh investments in Foxconn and Pegatron. Experts say that FDI trends need to be seen over a longer period as inflows are project specific, showing a sharp spurt the year the funds come in. For example, big investments by Amazon and others have boosted Telangana's performance in FY24.

For the state govt, there is reason for cheer given that FDI has never been the top criteria for measuring the state's economic performance. "GDP and exports are better measures because the investments in the state are mostly domestic investments," says a top govt official.

"It is heartening to note that Tamil Nadu is among the few states in India to see year-on-year growth in FDI in FY24," says state industries minister T R B Rajaa. "However, it is important to acknowledge that FDI

alone does not fully capture Tamil Nadu's impressive growth over the years," he says. The state is "experiencing tremendous growth in investments, with foreign investor confidence at its highest in decades," adds Rajaa. This success, he says, "is a testament to Tamil Nadu's strong fundamentals. Our state offers foreign investors an unparalleled value proposition with policy continuity, a robust business ecosystem, and an unmatched talent pool."

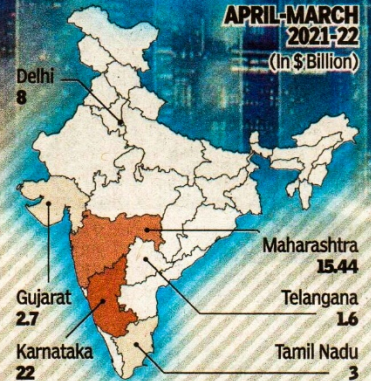
Economists say TN's tally has historically been lower than states such as Gujarat because of sectoral skews. "Gujarat's tally is thanks mostly due to hydrocarbon, semiconductor and inflows to the Gift City project, whereas Tamil Nadu has been focusing more on manufacturing. With manufacturing momentum slowing down, it's showing up in the state's FDI tally," says Sankhanath Bandyopadhyay, economist, Infomeric Ratings. The good news though is that TN's inflows have been range bound unlike Karnataka, which has seen a sharp 37% drop due to the cooling of startup funding appetite.

TN Inc feels the state can further increase its share of the FDI pie. "The share of the top five states in terms of FDI inflow in 2023-24 was – Maharashtra (30%), Karnataka (22%), Gujarat (17%), Delhi (13%), and Tamil Nadu (5%)." Though Karnataka and Delhi showed a decline, in absolute terms their share is still high so TN needs to focus on skill development in areas where the potential for investments is high and land cost, which is considered one of the highest in the country," says T Kesavan, president, Madras Chamber of Commerce and Industry. Building state-of-the-art industrial parks in line with the best in Asia as well as social infrastructure such as residential clusters along with educational and health facilities near industrial hubs are also critical, he adds.

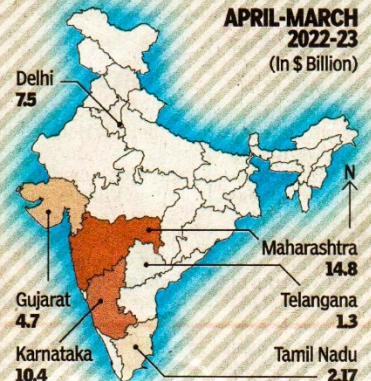
Industry experts also believe TN can do more to up its share of green power to attract more FDI. "The share of renewable power in TN's power supply has hovered at 20% to 25% for the past couple of decades," says Kesavan. "This needs to increase significantly to attract new age companies that are particular about clean power," he adds.

TOP 6 STATES IN TERMS OF FDI INFLOWS

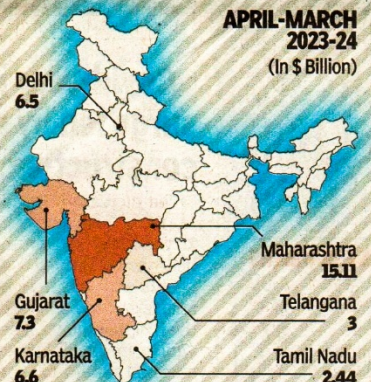
APRIL-MARCH 2021-22
(In \$ Billion)



APRIL-MARCH 2022-23
(In \$ Billion)



APRIL-MARCH 2023-24
(In \$ Billion)



Source: Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade, Union ministry of commerce & industry

Source: The Times of India, 15 July 2024, page 2

Sector-specific policies have boosted industrial growth across Tamil Nadu and the govt is planning many more in emerging areas

POLICY AS GROWTH CATALYST

D.Govardan@timesofindia.com

Tamil Nadu's industrial base is one of the most diverse in India – from automobiles and automotive components, machinery, textiles, leather, electronics, to IT and ITeS, and everything in between. Progressive policies have aided this growth across sectors and the state keeps revisiting them or drawing up new ones to address emerging needs.

Tamil Nadu's industrial sector delivered impressive numbers in 2023-24 as well, contributing 11.46% of India's Industrial Gross Value Addition (GVA) and 13.12% of India's manufacturing GVA. Within the state, the manufacturing sector contributed 18.33% of GDP, generating a GVA of ₹4.9 lakh crore, according to the industries department's policy note.

In a continuation of this approach, Tamil Nadu govt last month announced it will come out with policies for more sectors including space tech, circular economy and toy industry, besides a roadmap for the creative economy.

"By analysing the areas with significant investment promise, we have created targeted policies with a sharper focus and specific outcomes," says industries minister T R B Rajaa.

The upcoming space tech industrial policy will, he says, aim to leverage the state's existing talent pool and the strides being made by companies such as Agnikul. This policy will build on the solid foundation already established.

Srinath Ravindran, Agnikul's CEO, says that with the establishment of Kulasekarapatnam launch pad, Tamil Nadu could well become the space hub of Asia. "Tamil Nadu should reach out to companies such as InSpace to work on both national and international space missions. We are geographically well positioned and close to the Equator. We should drive this advantage to emerge as a major player by being as friendly as we were to the automobile industry. The next four-five years are crucial and we should encourage space technology manufacturing through higher subsidies and better inter-industry coordination," he says.

The state is already the green energy leader and EV capital of India, says Raja, adding that the next step is embracing circularity. The circular economy investment promotion policy

knowledge transfer and reinforce the state's leadership in sustainable development.

"The industry expects the new policy to be a catalyst, driving investments and generating employment by championing the reuse, recycling, renewal and refurbishment of value-added products," says Mahesh Ramachandran, CEO, Commonwealth Inclusive Growth Services Ltd; founder, Tech Innovations; and General Partner, Pontaq Cross Border Investment Fund.

In the case of toys, the ₹600-crore industry is set for a big jump thanks to the expanding domestic potential, with the ban on Chinese products, and opportunities for export. So, the state will soon have a toy manufacturing policy to boost local production and create jobs too.

"The toy market in Tamil Nadu is growing rapidly and I wholeheartedly welcome the state govt's move to come out with an exclusive policy for the toy industry," says R Jeswant, CEO of toy manufacturer Funskool India. "With this policy, more manufacturers will be keen to invest in Tamil Nadu. I expect the policy to address warehousing needs and also have provisions for export of toys," he adds.

The roadmap for the creative economy will harness the immense potential of the entertainment industry, which is larger than the IT sector globally. By supporting arts, culture and creative enterprises, the govt aims to transform Tamil Nadu into a vibrant hub for creativity and innovation, leveraging its world class technical talent in the entertainment sector.

"All these initiatives reflect our dedication to fostering a diverse, inclusive and sustainable economy. We look forward to collaborating with all stakeholders to bring these visionary policies to life and drive Tamil Nadu towards a prosperous future," says Rajaa.

“By analysing the areas with significant investment promise, we have created targeted policies with a sharper focus and specific outcomes”

T R B RAJAA,
INDUSTRIES MINISTER



Source: The Times of India, 8 July 2024, page 2

T.N. has not used RBI's short-term borrowing facility in recent years

It is an indication that the State has adequate liquidity, say analysts. RBI recently increased the Ways and Means Advances limit for Tamil Nadu

Sanjay Vijayakumar
CHENNAI

The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) recently increased the Ways and Means Advances (WMA) limit for Tamil Nadu from ₹3,601 crore to ₹4,582 crore. In recent years, Tamil Nadu has not utilised the short-term borrowing facility, which analysts say is an indication that the State has adequate liquidity.

The RBI provides short-term financial assistance to States in the form of WMA. This helps States overcome temporary mismatches in the cash flow of their receipts and payments.

Such financial assistance is intended to aid the States in carrying out essential activities and normal financial operations, according to the RBI.

In addition, States could utilise the Special Drawing Facility (SDF) by providing government securities as collateral. If a State exceeds its WMA and SDF limits, it could also avail itself of the overdraft (OD) facility from the RBI.

States have to pay interest for availing themselves of SDF, WMA and OD, which are linked to the repo rate.

Tamil Nadu manages its



The RBI provides short-term financial assistance to States in the form of WMA. This helps States overcome temporary mismatches in the cash flow of their receipts and payments.

Tamil Nadu has preferred borrowing from the market through the issue of bonds known as State Development Loans

liquidity well, and has not used ways and means advances well, analysts at CRISIL Ratings said in its recent report on the Tamil Nadu Generation and Distribution Corporation Ltd (Tangedco).

The State government did not avail itself of WMA and OD from the RBI during FY2016 to FY2024 (till December 2023). In addition, the State government had an investment of

₹1,400 crore in auction treasury bills at the end of December 2023. The liquidity position of the State government can be inferred to be adequate in recent years, said analysts at ICRA Ltd, another ratings firm, in its report on Tangedco.

At the end of April 2024, the State government had an investment of ₹3,964 crore in auction treasury bills, as per data from the RBI.

Tamil Nadu has preferred borrowing from the market through the issue of bonds known as State Development Loans, which helps in spacing out the debt repayment obligations over a longer period of time.

State's share of Central taxes may be revised upwards

Sanjay Vijayakumar
CHENNAI

The amount Tamil Nadu receives as its share of Central taxes is likely to be revised upwards in the Union Budget for 2024-25, which would be presented on Tuesday.

Tamil Nadu's share of Central taxes was estimated at ₹49,754.95 crore in the interim Union Budget for 2024-25.

Ratings firm ICRA Ltd. estimates that the tax devolution to the States would be increased by about ₹20,000 crore in the full Union Budget from the ₹12,19,783 crore estimated in the interim Budget.

Rise in collections

The share of Central taxes had increased to ₹45,053 crore in the Revised Estimates 2023-24, when compared to ₹41,665 crore in the Budget Estimates. The increase in the Revised Estimates was due to a rise in tax collections estimated by the Union government, Tamil Nadu Finance Minister Thangam Thennarasu said in his Budget speech for 2024-25.

Amid higher tax collections, though there has been an increase in the amount of devolution from the Centre, the DMK government has pointed out that it has been getting a much lower share.

Earlier this year, Mr. Thennarasu pointed out that while Tamil Nadu accounted for 6.124% of the country's population, its share of the total divisible pool of Central taxes had decreased from 5.305% under the 12th Finance Commission to 4.079% under the 15th Finance Commission.

(Above) Source: *The Hindu*, 8 July 2024

(Right) Source: *The Hindu*, 23 July 2024

Minister urges NABARD to help in achieving CM's goal of \$1 trillion economy by 2030

The Hindu Bureau
CHENNAI

Tamil Nadu Minister for Co-Operatives K.R. Periyakaruppan has requested the National Bank For Agriculture And Rural Development (NABARD) to collaborate with the State government to help achieve Chief Minister M.K. Stalin's goal of a \$1 trillion economy by 2030 through models of sustainability, technological innovation, e-commerce, and capacity building.

The Minister also requested NABARD to mull opportunities for enabling upgradation of infrastructure in the districts of Ta-



Minister for Co-Operatives K.R. Periyakaruppan taking part in the 43rd Foundation Day celebrations of the NABARD Tamil Nadu Regional Office in Chennai.

mil Nadu, which would help achieve the long-term vision of reducing congestion in Chennai.

"I appreciate the role played by NABARD in

computerisation of Primary Agricultural Co-operative Credit Societies (PACCS). Around 4,532 PACCS are being computerised at a cost of ₹195

crore, and it is expected to enhance their functioning and upgrade customer service," the Minister said, while speaking at the 43rd Foundation Day of NABARD Tamil Nadu Regional Office. The Minister also lauded NABARD's role in addressing the vulnerabilities of marginal farmers and rural areas amid changing economic and climatic conditions.

R. Anand, Chief General Manager, NABARD Tamil Nadu, highlighted the bank's role in infrastructure development, including the construction of roads, bridges, warehouses, schools, and irrigation systems in Tamil Nadu.

Budget a mixed bag for State

There were no specific announcements, while broader measures such as the employment incentive scheme are likely to benefit the State. It had no mention of the funds sought for Chennai Metro Rail Phase 2 and flood relief

The Hindu Bureau
CHENNAI

The Union Budget 2024-25 was a mixed bag for Tamil Nadu with no specific announcements, while broader measures such as the employment incentive scheme are likely to benefit the State.

Ahead of the Budget, Chief Minister M.K. Stalin presented a wish

list of projects for Tamil Nadu, including funds for the Chennai Metro Rail Phase 2, and an elevated expressway between Tambaram and Chengalpattu. At a pre-Budget meeting, State Finance Minister Thangam Thennarasu had

sought funds for flood relief. None of these found a mention in the Budget speech.

Tamil Nadu's share of Central taxes is 4.079%, as recommended by the 15th Finance Commission. The amount has

been revised upwards from ₹49,754.95 crore to ₹50,873.76 crore in the Union Budget.

Share of Central taxes

The DMK government has pointed out that the State has been getting a much lower share of Central taxes due to the levy of cesses and surcharges. The State government has requested the Union government to merge the cesses and surcharges into the basic rates of taxation, saying the move would ensure that the States receive their legitimate share in devolution.

The announcement of five schemes and initiatives to facilitate employment, skilling and other opportunities and support MSMEs would benefit Tamil Nadu, which is a highly industrialised State and has the highest number of factories.

Tamil Nadu is a top market for education

loans, and the announcement of financial support for loans of up to ₹10 lakh for higher education in domestic institutions is likely to benefit the State.

The announcement that the Centre will encourage States that charge a high stamp duty to moderate the rates for all, and also consider lowering the duties for properties purchased by women, if implemented, would benefit homebuyers in Tamil Nadu.

Tamil Nadu is also among the top States in terms of Mudra loans, and the announcement that the limit of the loans will be increased from ₹10 lakh to ₹20 lakh for entrepreneurs who have availed themselves of, and successfully repaid, previous loans under the 'Tarun' category would also benefit the State.

The reduced customs duties on gold and silver are also likely to benefit customers in the State.

Fulfil 5 major demands in budget: CM to centre

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @ Chennai

AHEAD of the union budget on July 23, Chief Minister MK Stalin outlined five key demands for the state on Sunday, which include the release of funds for Chennai Metro Rail project which has been pending for three years, approval for a flyover expressway between Tambaram and Chengalpattu and reduction in income tax burden of middle-class households.

In a post on X, Stalin called for approval of the Coimbatore and Madurai Metro Rail projects, expediting announced railway projects in Tamil Nadu and increase in expenditure limits for houses constructed under rural and urban housing schemes.

Responding to Stalin's demands on X, BJP

state president K Annamalai said over the last 10 years, the centre has provided schemes worth ₹10.76 lakh crore to the state, which amounts to double the direct tax contribution of Tamil Nadu. He criticised Stalin for posting a message written 'without understanding' the roles of the central and state governments.

Annamalai said the centre has been funding projects like the expansion of East Coast Road and the Maduravoyal-Port elevated corridor amounting to ₹9,386 crore and ₹5,800 crore respectively. He also said the centre has allocated ₹2 lakh crore for NH projects in Tamil Nadu over the last 10 years and ₹6,331 crore for railway projects against the ₹800 crore allocated for railway projects during 2009-2014 by the UPA government.



ILLUSTRATION: SOUMYADIP SINHA

(Clockwise) Sources: The Hindu, 24 July 2024; The Hindu, 19 July 2024; The New Indian Express, 22 July 2024, Page 4

Need to address historical gap in data collection around women, says Sathya Sriram

The Hindu Bureau
CHENNAI

There is a need to address the historical gap in data collection around women and collect much more women-centric data, said Sathya Sriram, Chief Executive Officer, Preventive Health, Apollo Hospitals.

In a conversation on “Is the burden of disease more feminine?” at *The Hindu Tamil Nadu Women’s Summit 2024* on Tuesday, Ms. Sriram, while talking about harnessing artificial intelligence (AI) to address women’s concerns much better, said, “To build good AI, we need to have coherent data...The challenge that we have to address is the big gap, a historical gap in data collection around women.”

“If we start to take cognisance of that now and build the datasets in a manner that allows us to build models specific for women, that is our chance to ensure that the right models are set up. At Apollo Hospitals, we are studying databases of mammogram over the last few years, and we are trying to build an algorithm by looking at those images to see if we can find a way to predict breast cancer even earlier or the risk of it that allows you then a very different protocol of screening for someone else who has a lower risk,” she said.



Sathya Sriram, CEO, Preventive Health, Apollo Hospitals, during the conversation on “Is the burden of disease more feminine?” at the summit. AKHILA EASWARAN

On whether the burden of disease is more feminine, she said the answer is a resounding yes.

“Biologically and physiologically, women are different. There is reproductive and hormonal health that sets us apart, and that for many of us is a bane on a monthly basis. On the flip side, it is also a boon because it protects women from cardiac diseases much more until menopause. Women with diabetes have the exact same risk as men with diabetes for heart disease,” she said. The burden of disease is much more on women as there are far less diagnoses of many conditions, she added.

On access to healthcare, she said, citing data from Apollo Hospitals’ preventive health checks, that only 35% of the health checks are done by women.

“We are almost precluding ourselves from being

proactive about our own health,” she said.

She noted that every eight minutes, one woman was lost to breast cancer in India. According to research, among Indian women, the age of diagnosis of breast cancer is a full decade younger than Caucasian women.

“It is really important for us to be aware of the underlying risk factors of breast cancers. How many of us know that the age of attaining menarche and the age at which you have your first child impacts your breast cancer risk. This is one of the most curable cancers when detected early,” she added.

“In general, women do not prioritise themselves. Therefore, my appeal is to prioritise another woman who is close to you. Let’s be there for one another. Let the men prioritise a woman close to you,” she said.



V. Sriram, Aishwarya Manivannan, Savitha Kesav Jagadeesan, Janaka Pushpanathan, and Janaki Sabesh during the *The Hindu Tamil Nadu Women’s Summit 2024* in Chennai on Tuesday. AKHILA EASWARAN

‘No structured policy to protect creative economy in State’

The Hindu Bureau
CHENNAI

While the United Kingdom has creative clusters to promote and create jobs, the creative economy in southern States in the country, particularly Tamil Nadu does not have any creative economy policy, said Janaka Pushpanathan, South India Director of British Council, while participating in the panel discussion on Tamil Nadu Women’s Summit organised by *The Hindu* at the ITC Grand Chola, Guindy, on Tuesday.

Speaking in the panel discussion on ‘Driving Inclusion and Diversity through creative economy’, she talked about the Durga Puja festival creating a business value of ₹32,370 crore, in West Bengal.

The value was 2.58% of the Gross Domestic Product of West Bengal, she said.

Rules not enough

The diversity and inclusivity of women could be created only through ethos of an organisation and not by just having rules, said Savitha Kesav Jagadeesan, senior resident partner of Kochar and Co.

In the session moderat-

Creative economy is present in all fields but is not structured in the organised economy, said Founder of Maisha Studio Aishwarya Manivannan

ed by historian V. Sriram, she also explained about the poor intellectual property protection rights for the flourishing of a creative economy – though a lot of awareness is available, it lacks in enforcement.

Citing her experience of learning ‘silambam’ where she was the only woman in a batch of 40 male students, Aishwarya Manivannan, Founder and Creative Director of Maisha Studio, said diversity and inclusivity is like nature which embraces one and all. She said creative economy is present in all fields but is not structured in the organised economy.

Storyteller and author Janaki Sabesh said monetisation is a tough task in creative economy, but the presence of various social media has helped to monetise creative works as there is a large audience to listen to a good story.

(Above & Right) Source: *The Hindu*, 31 July 2024

Price rise: TN may rejig PDS of tur dal, oil

B ANBUSELVAN @Chennai

TAMIL Nadu government is considering a major overhaul of the distribution of tur dal and palmolein oil through the special PDS as the subsidy for the two products accounts for a massive ₹3,800 crore for 2024-25. Reliable sources told *TNIE* that the finance department has advised the state government against continuing the supply at highly subsidised rates. These products are bought by 1.6 to 1.9 crore cardholders each month.

According to highly placed sources, the government is likely to adopt a combination of strate-

gies, including the reduction of subsidies by increasing the sale prices, partial discontinuation of edible oil distribution and introduction of eligibility criteria. The special PDS was introduced by former chief minister M Karunanidhi on April 14, 2007, with the aim of controlling the prices of essential commodities in the open market, and is fully funded by the state government.

While officials from the Tamil Nadu Civil Supplies Corporation (TNCSC) and the Civil Supplies Commissionerate did not respond to *TNIE*'s request for comment, a

senior official said the government's subsidy for these two items has more than doubled from ₹1,800 crore spent in 2014-15.

"When the scheme was launched in 2007, the procurement price of tur dal was ₹50 per kg and oil was ₹45 per litre, and these items were sold at ₹30 per kg and ₹25 per litre respectively. Since then, the procurement prices have increased manifold but the sale prices have remained the same," he said.

In January 2023, the TNCSC purchased dal at an average price of ₹100 to ₹105 per kg. This in-

creased to ₹120-₹125 from January 2024 due to a price rise in the open market. Last month, the TNCSC reportedly procured dal at ₹150 to ₹155 per kg due to higher market prices, incurring several crores of rupees in additional expenses.

Similarly, the average procurement price of edible oil increased from ₹80 in February last year to ₹90 in March this year. Consequently, the subsidy (difference between the procurement price and the sale price) provided by the government for tur dal has increased from ₹20 per kg in 2007 to ₹120 per kg in June 2024.

CONTINUED ON P7



This month, price of ordinary tur dal increased from ₹170 to ₹180 per kg

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

RANGE OF PROCUREMENT PRICE OF DAL, EDIBLE OIL		
MONTH	Procurement price (in ₹)	
	Dal (per kg)	Edible oil (per litre)
April 2007	50	45
January 2023	100-105	80-85
January 2024	115-120	90
May 2024	120-125	90
June 2024	150-155	95

SALE PRICE SINCE APRIL 14, 2007:
Tur dal: ₹30 per kg
Edible oil: ₹25 per litre

Annual subsidy for dal and oil stands at ₹3,800 crore and is expected to grow further

Of the 2.21 crore ration cards in the state, on an average, 1.85-1.9 crore purchase dal and 1.5-1.6 crore purchase oil every month

SIMILARLY, the subsidy for edible oil has increased from ₹20 per litre in 2007 to ₹65 per litre in June 2024. This July the market price of ordinary tur dal has further increased to around ₹170 to ₹180 per kg, while branded dal is sold at ₹210 to 220 per kg.

The state government has not issued orders yet to procure and supply these two items for August through the PDS. Confirming this, the senior official said, "Given the state's financial position, continuing the supply of these two items to two crore ration cards at the current price may not be possible. The matter has been taken up with the government and the decision on this issue is expected soon".

Currently, the state government spends nearly ₹400 to ₹420 crores per month to procure two crore kgs (20,000 MT) of tur dal and two crore litres of cooking oil. However, it collects only ₹100 to ₹110 crores through sale. Within the last one year, the monthly subsidy which stood at ₹260 crores till December 2023 rose to ₹310 crores in May 2024 and is expected to increase further from August onwards due to the rise in market prices.

The union government supplies rice, wheat, and kerosene for over 1.12 crore priority household (PHH) cards issued to BPL families, including beneficiaries of various social security pension schemes. The rice for 1.12 crore non-priority household (NPHH) cardholders is fully funded by the state.

Source: *The New Indian Express*, 16 July 2024, Pages 1 & 7

Licence fee hike could rake in ₹100cr

More Than 200 Businesses Will Be Hit

Omjasvin.MD@timesofindia.com

Chennai: In a bid to bolster revenue, Greater Chennai Corporation (GCC) has increased the licence fee for almost all trades, businesses, service sector and industrial units across the board, taking its annual revenue from these sources to ₹100 crore from the current ₹20 crore.

Among the 200 businesses facing the hike are the hospitality sector, grooming services, and equipment sales face. A resolution to this effect was adopted at the GCC council meeting on Tuesday.

The hospitality sector sees significant changes: guest houses, service apartments, mansions, and resorts will now pay ₹25,000 for 5000 sqft, up from ₹20,000 for 5000 sqft, up from ₹15,000 for 5000 sqft, up from ₹10,000 for 5000 sqft, up from ₹5,000 for 5000 sqft.



ALL EARS : Mayor R Priya at GCC council meet

ro-fee so far. Spaces upto 1,000 sqft will pay ₹5,000 a year. Marriage halls will see fee jump from ₹4,000 per year to ₹30,000 for spaces above 5000 sqft.

Small-scale tea stalls, coffee shops, and meals hotels, categorised under 'eating houses,' will now pay ₹5,000 for upto 1,000 sqft. The fee was just ₹2,500 until now. For spaces above 5,000sqft, the revised fee will be ₹15,000, up from ₹10,000. Restaurants will now pay ₹15,000 for spaces between 1,001 and 5,000 sqft, and ₹15,000 for spaces above 5,000 sqft.

Industry sources, maintain-

GCC REVENUE

Property tax: ₹1,750cr | State finance commission: ₹980cr | Stamp duty: ₹300cr | Miscellaneous income: ₹884cr | Professional tax: ₹550cr | Trade license: ₹20cr | Expected revenue: ₹4,464 cr

We need a hike in taxes to ensure GCC is self-sustaining. Councillors demand a lot of projects on roads and drains. We cannot rely on others for funding

— J Kumaragurubaran, GCC commissioner

ning that the hike won't adversely affect the customers, wanted better benefits from the corporation. "The hike is annual, and we won't pass it on to consumers. We still source our own water for restaurants and don't get supply from metrowater. They could have made the fees triennial to collect bulk payments and reduce annual hassle," said M Ravi, owner of a major hotel chain and president of the Chennai Hotels Association.

GCC has introduced a vehicle parking license fee ranging from ₹5,000 for up to 1,000 sqft to

₹20,000 for spaces above 1,000 sqft. "We expected the cancellation of the NOC requirement from police for hotel parking as it is a hassle, but that's not mentioned in rules," added Ravi.

In the grooming sector, spas now face a ₹25,000 license fee, while salons see an increase ranging from ₹200 to ₹10,000. The hike for beauty parlours range from ₹500 to ₹6,000. "The hike is welcome, but we need clearer rules on spa definitions. We only provide hair spa but the terminology of spa is broad. We still face police harassment due to misunders-

tandings," said C K Kumara-vel, CEO of Natural Salons.

GCC has classified businesses into micro, small, medium, and large categories based on turnover or land area. Small-scale shops, including mobile shops and photo studios, now face a minimum annual license fee of ₹3,000. Deputy commissioner (Revenue and Finance) R Laitha emphasised the enforcement of 75,000 bills as a good revenue source and assured follow-ups on renewals.

The GCC has also released rules for hotels, bakeries, cinema theatres, lodging, laundries, and markets, among other businesses. The commissioner has been bestowed with the power to approve and cancel licenses.

K R Shanmugam of Madras School of Economics said the hike is not dramatic compared to the inflation. "For businesses, this is manageable. We need to study the consumer impact," he said.

GCC to use data analytics for revenue augmentation

It has already collected a lot of data through drone surveys for this purpose. Councillors have demanded that the civic body resolve issues in the assessment and collection of property tax

The Hindu Bureau
CHENNAI

The Greater Chennai Corporation (GCC) and other civic agencies will start using data analytics and geographic information system (GIS) for revenue augmentation, as part of the Tamil Nadu government's initiative pertaining to increasing revenue through property tax, professional tax, property registration, Goods and Services Tax, and commercial connections in the Tamil Nadu Generation and Distribution Corporation (Tangedco).

The GCC has already collected a lot of data through drone surveys and GIS for property tax augmentation.

The data collected in the drone survey showed that 3.1 lakh buildings were reportedly bigger than what was shown in the records.

Even after the reassess-



Discrepancies spotted: The data collected in the drone survey showed that 3.1 lakh buildings were reportedly bigger than what was shown in the records. M. VEDHAN

ment of the buildings was taken up in several wards, councillors demanded that the civic body resolve issues in the assessment and collection of property tax.

Rate disparities

Chidambara Perumal Jayavarapu of Padi Kuppam Road said there was disparity among residents paying property tax in the same apartment complex.

"Some residents in housing board apartment complexes are paying less than ₹100 as property tax while others with the same area are paying more than ₹1,000 as tax. We expect data analytics to make the tax calculation and collection more accurate," he said.

G.V. Nagavalli, councillor of ward 88, said residents had flagged the issue

of disparity in property tax between developed parts of Anna Nagar and Ambattur.

"In the past few years, councillors have been discussing in the Council the high property tax rates in Ambattur, which is an added area, while property tax assesses in Anna Nagar pay less tax," she said.

S. Kumararaja, a resident of Velachery, said the GCC had already sent teams a few years ago to visit houses and take measurements for reassessment. "Some houses were reportedly bigger in area as per the drone survey. Some residents objected. Others paid the revised tax. These initiatives should be implemented without scaring residents," he demanded.

Experts from various agencies are expected to discuss the issues in revenue augmentation this week.

(Above) Source: *The Times of India*, 31 July 2024, Page 2

(Left) Source: *The Hindu*, 22 July 2024

City corpn wants to revise upper limit of professional tax

Under provisions available now, it proposes 25%-35% hike in tax on income below ₹60k

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
@ Chennai

GREATER Chennai Corporation has sought the revision of the upper limit for professional tax, which is now fixed at ₹2,500 per annum per person, under Article 276 of the Constitution. The proposal for this will be sent through the state government to the centre, so as to enable the city corporation to increase the professional tax levied on the higher income brackets with a half yearly income of ₹60,000 and above.

Under the provisions available now, the civic body has proposed a 25%-35% hike in professional taxes for those with a half yearly income of ₹21,000-₹30,000, ₹30,000-₹45,000 and ₹45,000 to ₹60,000.

In order to increase the tax for those with a half yearly income of ₹60,001-₹75,000 and upwards of ₹75,000 brackets, the upper limit of ₹2,500 under article 276 of the Constitution needs to be revised. These brackets are now taxed ₹1,025 and ₹1,250 per half year. The city corporation is unable to revise this since further increase would exceed the higher limit of ₹2,500 per annum.

Article 276 of the Constitution empowers states to levy taxes on professions, trades, callings, and employments. The tax rates are increased once in five years and the taxes were last revised from the first half year of 2018-2019 and is now due for revision under the

NEW BRACKETS		
Half yearly income range	Existing half yearly tax	Proposed half yearly tax
Upto ₹21,000	Nil	Nil
₹21,000 to ₹30,000	₹135	₹170-₹180
₹30,000 to ₹45,000	₹315	₹390-₹430
₹45,000 to ₹60,000	₹690	₹860-₹930
₹60,000 to ₹75,000	₹1,025	NA
₹75,000 and upwards	₹1,250	NA



This is being done to improve the corporation's source of revenue. We are now collecting around ₹20 crore in trade license fee and the proposed revisions are expected to increase our revenue by ₹15 crore

A corporation official

Tamil Nadu Urban Local Body Rules 2023.

"This is only a proposal and the state government will take a call on the matter. By the proposed revisions, the increase in revenue is expected to be meagre but it will help our overall operations," said a senior corporation official.

Along with the professional tax, the civic body has also proposed to increase the trade license fee.

"This is being done to improve the corporation's own

source of revenue which will help improve our performance as a whole. We are now collecting around ₹20 crore in trade license fee and the proposed revisions are expected to increase our revenue by another ₹15 crore," said an official.

Under the existing license fees, bakeries for instance, are levied ₹500 a year for under 500 square feet, ₹750 for 501 to 1,000 square feet and ₹3,000 for above 1,000 square feet. This has been revised to ₹2,000 for up to 1,000 square feet, ₹5,000 for 1,001 to 5,000 square feet and ₹10,000 above 5,000 square feet.

The proposed trade licence for various shops range from a minimum of ₹1,000 to a maximum of ₹30,000 depending on the size and category.

Meanwhile, the CPM councilors staged a walkout from the meeting to express their opposition to resolution number 37. The resolution, passed during

the meeting, involves increasing the professional tax rate for salaries ranging from ₹21,001 to ₹60,000. Councillor of Ward 4, Jayaraman, criticised the decision, arguing that while taxes for those earning above ₹21,001 were increased, those earning above ₹60,000 were not subjected to higher taxes. Further, opposing the Union budget, the MDMK and Congress councilors tore up the copies of the budget in the council hall.

Source: The New Indian Express, 31 July 2024, Page 3

Corporation Council approves 35% increase in profession tax

The Greater Chennai Corporation Council passed the resolution amid opposition from councillors of Left parties, AMMK, and BJP. The civic body cannot rely on external borrowings, must function self-sufficiently, says GCC Commissioner

The Hindu Bureau
CHENNAI

The Greater Chennai Corporation Council passed a resolution that proposed a 35% increase in biannual profession tax for salaried individuals at the general council meeting on Tuesday, amid opposition from councillors of Left parties, the Amma Makkal Munnetra Kazhagam (AMMK), and the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP).

In his first general council meeting as GCC Commissioner, J. Kumaragurubaran mentioned that funds were needed to carry out infrastructure works, including storm-water drains.

He said the civic body cannot rely on external borrowings and must function self-sufficiently.

Therefore, the hike was required.

The revised rates are determined by the provisions of the Tamil Nadu Urban Local Bodies Act, 1998, and the Tamil Nadu Urban Local Bodies Rules, 2023.

The resolution will also

Hike on the cards

The proposal mentions revised tax slab options ranging from 25% to 35% in order to enhance the own source revenue of the Greater Chennai Corporation

Average Half-Yearly Income (₹)		Half-yearly profession tax up to March 31, 2018	Half-yearly profession tax with effect from April 1, 2018	Proposed 35% increase as per new ULB Act (half-yearly at ₹0)
Up to 21,000	---	NIL	NIL	Nil
21,001	30,000	100/-	135/-	180
30,001	45,000	235/-	315/-	430
45,001	60,000	510/-	690/-	930
60,001	75,000	760/-	1025/-	1025
Above	75,001	1095/-	1250/-	1250

propose to change the maximum rate is capped at ₹2,500 under Section 117 (B) (13) of the Act.

Further, the section allows the council to revise professional tax rates every five years, with an adjustment range of 25% to 35%, as mentioned in the resolution.

The proposal in resolution 37 includes four revised profession tax slab options ranging from a 25%-35% to increase "own source revenue" of the Corporation.

The Standing Committee (Taxation and Finance) to establish a uniform tax rate across Tamil Nadu to facilitate trade will suggest

that the State approve the highest increment in charges, which is a 35% hike.

Profession tax is paid every six months to the government by deducting the amount corresponding to the monthly salary or average salary in six months - between March 31 and September 1, and September 1 and March 31.

The suggested half-yearly tax for those earning a monthly salary between ₹21,001 and ₹30,000 per month will increase from ₹135 to ₹180 if the State approves.

Similarly, for those earning between ₹30,001 and ₹45,000 per month,

the tax would be increased from ₹315 to ₹430; it would be ₹930 for those earning between ₹45,001 and ₹60,000 per month.

Notably, for those earning between ₹60,001 and ₹75,000 per month, the slab remains at ₹1,025. For income above ₹75,000 per month, the half-yearly tax would stay at ₹1,250.

Ward 4 Councillor R. Jayaraman of the Communist Party of India (Marxist) recommended increasing the slab for those earning above ₹60,001 instead, and not for those earning over ₹30,001.

Ward 123 Councillor M. Saraswathi and Ward 42 Councillor M. Renuka also



Mayor R. Priya

expressed their opposition. They staged a walkout.

In a post on X (formerly Twitter), AMMK general secretary T.T.V. Dhinakaran said, "The action of the Greater Chennai Corporation, which has passed a resolution to increase the profession tax up to 35 per cent, is strongly condemned - the Tamil Nadu government should not accept the decision of the Chennai Corporation, which will affect individuals and private companies... I urge the Tamil Nadu government to reject the resolution passed in the Chennai Corporation Council meeting."

Source: *The Hindu*, 31 July 2024

KEYWORD

How can state capacity be measured?

Prashanth Perumal

State capacity refers to the ability of any state to successfully deliver what are generally considered to be public goods and services to its citizens. State capacity is considered by many public policy experts to be the major factor that explains why some countries are rich or developed while other countries remain underdeveloped.

The most common way in which the capacity of a state to deliver on its commitments is measured is by the way of its ability to collect a sufficient amount of tax revenues. This is because any state requires tax revenues to deliver public goods and services. By this measure, countries with a higher tax to GDP ratio, which typically turn out to be rich countries, may be considered to possess greater state capacity than other countries with lower ability to generate tax revenues. Many also urge developing countries like India to boost their tax to GDP ratio so as to build state capacity.

Power in numbers

Public policy experts may also look into other indicators such as the number of people employed by a certain state to measure its capacity. So, for example, the number of police officials per capita could be seen as an indicator of the capacity of the state to maintain law and order. States with a very low number of police officials per capita, it is believed, may be unable to establish monopoly of violence in their territory, leading to instability that adversely affects their economy. Similarly, the number of courts and judges per capita can be seen as an indicator of how well a state can deliver justice to citizens.

Some critics, however, caution against the definition of state capacity in terms of the ability of a certain state to collect tax revenues or the number of staff it can hire to deliver essential public goods and services to its citizens. This is because more efficient states may be able to deliver essential public goods with lower taxes and fewer staff than less efficient ones. Critics, therefore, argue that the number of people employed by a certain state and the amount of taxes collected by it only reflect its size and not the state's effectiveness in delivering essential public goods and services.

Critics such as U.S. economist Bryan Caplan also point out that state capacity, as defined by the size of the state, is claimed by public policy experts to be the reason behind the success of certain countries without establishing the necessary causal link between the two. In other words, they argue that the success of rich countries is tautologically attributed to strong state capacity the same way that the failure of poor countries is attributed to weak state capacity. They point out that it could well be that strong economic growth allowed developed countries to fund states that are large in size; in that case, the economic success of the developed world cannot really be attributed to a larger state. A better way to measure state capacity, critics believe, is to gauge the ability of a certain state, regardless of its size as measured by its tax collections or headcount, to uphold the rule of law by delivering efficient justice to citizens.

(Above) Source: *The Hindu*, 3 July 2024

(Right) Source: *The Times of India*, 12 July 2024, page 4

Roadside paani puri vendors get lessons in food safety

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

Chennai: Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI) licences are mandatory for all paani puri vendors, just like other food vendors, food safety department stated here today.

Food handlers and vendors must be free of infectious diseases and must cook in a hygienic environment with safe ingredients, designated food safety officer (Chennai) Dr P Sathheesh Kumar said on Thursday during a special camp. He issued licences to more than 627 food vendors after a medical screening in association with the health department of GCC. "We organised a special camp for all paani puri vendors. They were informed that an FSSAI licence was mandatory," Dr Sathheesh said. "We advised them not to use unsafe chaat masala or food colors. We asked them to ensure that the water they used was boiled and safe," he added.

Last week, a day after Karnataka officials reported the presence of cancer-causing chemicals mixed with paani puri, food safety officials here

took samples from nearly 60 roadside eateries, including a dozen from the Marina. Officials said hygiene was the biggest problem in most shops. "We saw vendors breaking puris with their nails, using unsafe colors on masalas, and dipping their bare hands into paani pots. That's when we decided to give them a course on food safety," Dr Kumar said.

The results of the analysis from govt food labs are yet to arrive, but officials say they suspect a high amount of ethylene oxide in chaat masalas used by vendors. They use apple-green dye to make paani look bright green, he said. "We told them such practices could cause cancer," he said.

Health screening showed that six vendors suffered from infectious diseases. "We advised them not to actively engage with customers or handle food without obtaining a fitness certificate after treatment," he said. At least 18 vendors with eye defects were advised to get glasses and other treatments. "In addition, 22 people with blood pressure and 25 others with diabetes were referred for further treatment," he added.

CM issues orders for farmers, potters to take silt, clay from waterbodies free of cost

The Hindu Bureau
CHENNAI

Chief Minister M.K. Stalin on Monday launched the distribution of permission letters to farmers and potters to take clay and silt free of cost from waterbodies under the control of various departments.

As the storage capacity of the waterbodies in the State has considerably reduced due to silting over a period of time, allowing farmers and potters to take silt from these waterbodies free of cost is expected to help in the restoration of the waterbodies.



Chief Minister M.K. Stalin distributing orders for free collection of silt and clay, at the Secretariat in Chennai on Monday.

pected to help in the restoration of the waterbodies.

Last month, the Natural Resources Department issued orders to simplify the process by delegating the powers vested with the Collectors to the Tahsil

sued orders to simplify the process by delegating the powers vested with the Collectors to the Tahsil

The move is expected to help in the restoration of the waterbodies

dars of the jurisdictions concerned to grant a longer period, i.e., 30 days, for the removal of clay and silt.

Minister for Water Resources, Duraimurugan, Chief Secretary Shiv Das Meena and senior officials were present during the event held at the Secretariat in Chennai.

(Above) Source: *The Hindu*, 9 July 2024; (Below) Source: *Business Line*, 13 July 2024, page 8

'Flat bulk storage can be an option for storing foodgrains'

Subramani Ra Mancombu
Chennai

Flat bulk storage (FBS) can be a good option for the Indian government, particularly the Ministry of Cooperation, which has embarked on setting up 70 million tonnes food-grain storage, an expert in post-harvest management and foodgrain handling has said.

In February, the Ministry of Cooperation said the Centre has approved the "World's Largest Grain Storage Plan in the Cooperative Sector", which has been rolled out as a pilot project in different States/UTs of the country. "Further, an MoU has been signed between the Ministry of Cooperation, Department of Food and Public Distribution, Food Corporation of India (FCI) and National Cooperative Development Corporation to ensure full capacity utilisation of the stor-



INEFFICIENT PRACTICE. Gunny bags are used by 40-42% of the farmers for storing foodgrains

age capacity being created at primary agricultural cooperative society (PACS) level under the pilot project," it said.

Munishwar Vasudeva, the expert and managing director of Lotus Harvestec Pvt Ltd, told *businessline* that FBS has the versatility of multi commodity storage and is a solution for backward and forward integration.

According to him, the Ministry of Cooperation is investing in warehouses in all produ-

cing areas across the country and FCI will conceptualise them as industrial silos on a hub and spoke basis, where producing and consuming States are clearly defined.

WAREHOUSE RECEIPTS

The setting of these warehouses is crucial since it will help farmers to get "warehouse receipts" that can help them to avail of loans instead of selling their produce under financial stress. "The capital

expenditure for FBS is the same as warehouse but an additional 25 per cent is required for equipment. However, 80 per cent more capacity utilisation will offset the additional cost," he said.

Vasudeva, who worked with Adani Logistics to set up a few silos across the country, said 170-180 million tonnes of foodgrain is handled and stored at the farm level. Gunny bags are used by 40-42 per cent of the farmers, while 15-20 per cent use bulk storage in rooms without proper modern scientific interventions. Another 10-15 per cent use metallic bins and the remaining grains are stored in traditional structures made up of local materials.

These storages depend on manual handling with recurring costs for procurement and distribution of bags. Automation of these is difficult, while grains stored in bags lose quality and weight too. Aera-

tion and fumigation are improved, while operations are inefficient due to lack of automation, he said.

The national policy should be to reduce storage and transit losses at the farm level, where about 70 per cent of the foodgrains production is retained and consumed. It should encourage farmers to adopt scientific storage methods. The Centre could opt for integration of modernised mechanical handling systems through FBS. This will help ease fumigation and have modular compartments to store multiple commodities. It can help in short and long term storage and roofs with solar panels can make operations self-sustainable.

The projects can be implemented quickly, while capacity utilisation will be higher with more flexibility in storage use, said Vasudeva, who has executed various green field and brown field storage projects.

Groundwater in over 30% of firkas in state over-exploited: WRD report

Check dams to be built at 10 places on Cauvery, Vaigai basins to improve groundwater level

S GURUVANMIKATHAN @ Chennai

A total of 57% of the 1,202 firkas surveyed by the Water Resources Department for groundwater use have been classified as over-exploited (395, nearly 30%), semi-critical (227) or critical (64). Firkas (or revenue blocks) are a group of revenue villages.

According to WRD's assessment report for the year 2023-24 accessed by TNIE, firkas are classified as over-exploited if the stage of groundwater extraction (SoE), a measure of annual ground water extraction over annual extractable ground water resource, is 100% or more. It means that the extraction is more than the capacity to recharge. The firkas are classified as semi-critical if the SoE is 70% to 90% and critical when it is 90% to 100%.

Expressing concern over 395 firkas being classified as over-exploited, farmers have requested that the state government take measures to prevent groundwater exploitation, considering the future requirements.

KV Elankeeran, president, Federation of Cauvery Delta Farmers Association, told TNIE, "Historically, the state has had numerous tanks, lakes, and linkage channels and canals. Excess rainwater would naturally flow into nearby lakes and tanks during the rainy season through designated channels.

How to categorise groundwater assessment?

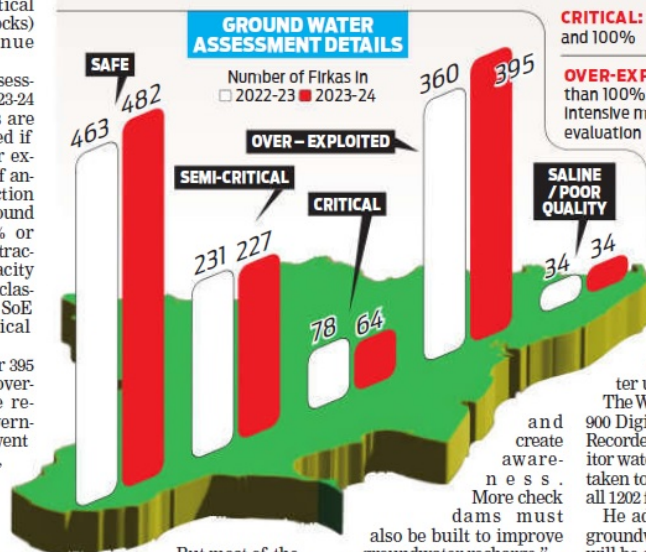
SAFE: Stage of groundwater Extraction (SoE) is less than 70%. Wells in safe units are expected to function well and have good yields

SEMI-CRITICAL: SoE is between 70% and 90%. Cautious groundwater development is recommended in these areas

CRITICAL: SoE is between 90% and 100%

OVER-EXPLOITED: SoE is more than 100%. These areas require intensive monitoring and evaluation

SALINE: Groundwater resources are entirely saline



But most of the waterbodies and their surrounding areas are occupied nowadays. There is no way for water to flow logically".

"To avoid groundwater exploitation, the state should increase rainwater harvesting

and create awareness. More check dams must also be built to improve groundwater recharge."

K Subramanian, state general secretary, Tamil Nadu Farmers Association, urged the state to identify channels that have disappeared and restore them.

A senior WRD official told TNIE, "The 1202 firkas are categorised into five types: overex-

ploited, critical, semi-critical, safe, and saline or poor quality, based on groundwater level, rainfall, and groundwater usage."

The WRD has installed around 900 Digital Groundwater Level Recorders to continuously monitor water levels. Steps are being taken to install these devices in all 1202 firkas, he said.

He added, "To improve the groundwater level, check dams will be constructed at 10 places in the Cauvery and Vaigai basins, while the WRD plans to build subsurface dykes in the tail-end areas of the Cauvery basin. This will also prevent sea water intrusion. Once the government issues orders, work will start."

(Left) Source: The New Indian Express, 10 July 2024;

(Below) Source: The New Indian Express, 8 July 2024, pages 1&5.

Lab fish on frying pan: TN researchers develop cultivated meat of 4 varieties

SV KRISHNA CHAITANYA @ Chennai

RESEARCHERS from Tamil Nadu have found early success in bringing lab-grown fish meat to the plates of consumers, for the first time in the country. Using cells from popular varieties such as milkfish, grouper, red snapper and tilapia, a team from Sathyabama Institute of Science and Technology, has managed to develop lab-grown meat and is in process of applying for a patent for the same. The Chennai-based private university has obtained an authentication certificate from National Bureau of Fish Genetic Resources, an

organisation working under the aegis of Indian Council of Agricultural Research.

In many countries across the world, there is an increasing demand for cultivated fish meat, which replicate the variety's original flavour, texture, and nutritional qualities. As the wild fish population is on decline due



Singapore, Japan and France are some of the countries that are aggressively investing and promoting lab-grown fish meat

Inbakandan D, Sathyabama University

to factors like overfishing, climate change and pollution, the lab-grown meat is seen as a viable alternative to reduce the stress on the biodiversity. Singapore, Japan and France are some of the countries that are aggressively investing and promoting it, said Inbakandan D, professor and head of Centre for Ocean Research, Sathyabama University.

Hygiene is another reason for the increased interest in cultivated fish meat. Since it is grown in a sterile environment, there is no chance for the presence of parasites, heavy metals or microplastics.

P5

Singapore firm to partner with Sathyabama university

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

SHEELA Rani, director (Research), Sathyabama University, told TNIE, "Considering the initial success, Singapore-based Umami Bioworks has expressed willingness to partner with us and set-up a full-fledged facility at the campus to develop more cultures and push for commercial scale production."

Kathick V, assistant professor (Research), Centre for Ocean Research, said, "What we have done is a technology demonstration. We managed to culture even the most difficult heart muscles of the fish which give the original texture. The National Bureau of Fish Genetic Resources authentication meant our lab-grown meat has

no recombinant DNA. Now, we have to get statutory approvals from National Biodiversity Authority, Union environment ministry, and FSSAI. For commercial scale production, we also need huge investment for setting-up large bioreactors. But, it's a promising start."

Besides Sathyabama, the ICAR-Central Marine Fisheries Research Institute (CMFRI) has also taken-up the task of developing lab-grown fish meat.

Initially, the institute will focus on developing cell-based meat of high-value marine fishes such as kingfish, pomfret, and seer fish. CMFRI has partnered with Neat Meatt Biotech, a start-up working on cultivating meat, in a public-private partnership.

'T.N. is the State of opportunities for industries, MSMEs'

The Hindu Bureau
CHENNAI

Tamil Nadu is the State of opportunities for industries and Micro, Small, and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs), Ashutosh Choudhury, executive director of Indian Bank, has said. He was addressing industrialists at the BFSI conference 2024, organised by the Tamil Nadu State Council of the Indian Chamber of Commerce (ICC), with the theme 'TN-Towards the 5th Industrial Revolution'.

The State is the second largest economy in India, accounting for a significant 8.8% of the national

Gross Domestic Product, and it translates to \$320 billion for 2022-23, he further said. Pointing out that the State government has been taking constant steps towards sustainability and human-centric development, Mr. Choudhury said that the State has also been attracting Foreign Direct Investment, as per its industrial policy of 2021.

M.S. Sundara Rajan, former chairman and managing director of Indian Bank – corporate independent director, said that Tamil Nadu has the highest number of factories and about 60% of the State was urbanised.

(Above) Source: *The Hindu*, 21 July 2024;

(Right) Source: *The Hindu*, 7 July 2024

'Important to ensure India produces more chip components'

MeitY Secretary Krishnan says ₹70,000 cr. has already been committed out of ₹76,000-cr. program for semiconductor ecosystem development

The Hindu Bureau
CHENNAI

Stressing the need for India to deepen the value chain in the semiconductor sector, Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY) Secretary S. Krishnan said the Centre had already committed about ₹70,000 crore under a ₹76,000-crore incentive program for the development of sustainable semiconductor and display ecosystem.

"India's incentive program is one of the most generous initiatives in the world. In addition to the 50% incentive from the Centre, States such as Tamil Nadu have provided a top-up incentive through their respective policies. Therefore, 75% of the cost of setting up a unit is subsidised," he said on Saturday at the launch of IVP Semi, a fabless semiconductor start-up company.

Stating that the remaining sum [from the ₹76,000 crore] would be committed under the India Semiconductor Mission program announced in 2021, Mr. Krishnan said, "We may have to seek more funds from the Union Finance Ministry".

Out of India's total electronics export of \$110 billion, there was about 18-



Deepen value chain: There is a risk that if we don't, it may move to another country offering cheaper labour, says Krishnan. BIJOY GHOSH

20% value addition, owing to assembly and labour factors, he pointed out. "This is significant for India as it provides many jobs to many people. However, mostly, it is an assembly exercise building on the arbitrage in terms of labour cost. While this provides employment, there is a risk if we do not deepen the value chain... this may move to another country that offers cheaper labour," he added.

Mr. Krishnan further said that to make India a major player in the sector, it was important to ensure that the country manufactured more components. This is where the Centre, the MeitY and the State governments needed to work together, he said, adding that on the design of semiconductors, India had

been successful with an estimated 20-25% of the global design workforce being based out of the country.

'All about precision'

"However, it is a different scenario when it comes to manufacturing. Semiconductor is all about precision manufacturing, zero error and getting everything down to the atomic level to achieve precision. That is something we need to learn from Taiwan, Korea and Japan," he noted.

"We need more fabs, and all other suppliers and equipment manufacturers. There are nearly 300 vendors who supply equipment, and necessary chemicals. We will need to support all of that ecosystem, and that is what we intend to do," the MeitY Secretary emphasised.

T.N. releases draft Tamil Nadu Space Industrial Policy 2024

The Hindu Bureau
CHENNAI

The Tamil Nadu government released the draft Tamil Nadu Space Industrial Policy 2024, which aims to create direct and indirect employment prospects for nearly 10,000 persons in 10 years and also promises a slew of incentives to the players in the sector.

The policy would be applicable for all enterprises engaged in manufacturing and services pertaining to the space sector, the draft policy uploaded on the Tamil Nadu Industrial Development Corporation Limited's (TIDCO) website said.

The State is endowed with the required ecosystem needed to support the space economy - general engineering, electronics, chemicals, human capital backed with a vision towards the space sector, the draft policy said.

Conducive ecosystem

Tamil Nadu Space Industrial Policy 2024 envisages providing the required intervention for ensuring that a conducive ecosystem is created in the State for supporting the growth of industrial players in the space sector, it said.

The policy said the State

Tamil Nadu has been at the forefront of heavy engineering and other required capabilities which are needed for the space industry

would focus on certain sub sectors, such as capabilities relating to space launch vehicle manufacturing, satellites and payload manufacturing, manufacture the chemicals which are needed for propellants, downstream application, space telecom segment among others. Tamil Nadu has been at the forefront of heavy engineering and other required capabilities which are needed for the space industry as well, it said. The State government has already partnered with private industries to establish a common facility at Tiruchi termed as TREAT which has capabilities to support the heavy engineering needs of the space industry.

The government would establish similar facilities in the vicinity of the upcoming space port at Kulasekharapattinam to enhance the supply chain efficiency of the space industrial ecosystem, the draft policy said.

(Above) Source:
The Hindu, 2 July
2024

Defence Ministry signs MoU to set up three testing facilities in T.N.

The MoU was signed to establish three testing facilities under the Tamil Nadu Defence Industrial Corridor – one each in Unmanned Aerial System, Electronic Warfare and Electro Optics domains

The Hindu Bureau
CHENNAI

The Ministry of Defence (MoD) has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) to establish three state-of-the-art testing facilities in Chennai under the Tamil Nadu Defence Industrial Corridor – one each in Unmanned Aerial System (UAS), Electronic Warfare (EW) and Electro Optics (EO) domains. The MoU, under the Defence Testing Infrastructure Scheme (DTIS), was signed by the MoD and Tamil Nadu Industrial Development

To provide impetus to the defence and aerospace sectors, seven testing facilities were approved – four in Tamil Nadu and three in Uttar Pradesh

Corporation (TNIDC) Limited on Tuesday.

With an outlay of ₹400 crore, the DTIS was launched by Union Minister for Defence Rajnath Singh in May 2020 to set up state-of-the-art testing fa-

cilities in collaboration with private industry and Central/State government, promoting indigenous defence production, reducing military equipment imports and enhancing self-reliance.

To provide impetus to the defence and aerospace sectors within the Defence Industrial Corridors, seven testing facilities were approved - four in Tamil Nadu and three in Uttar Pradesh.

The DTIS provides up to 75% government funding as grant-in-aid, with the remaining 25% funded by the Special Purpose Vehicle

(SPVs), comprising Indian private entities and State/Central governments.

For the UAS testing facility, Keltron, a Kerala government undertaking, is the lead SPV member, with some private sector companies being the consortium members. Bharat Electronics Limited (BEL) and India Optel Limited (IOL) are the lead SPV members in the EW and EO testing facilities respectively. When the project is completed, they will provide advanced testing equipment and services to both government and private industry.

(Above) Source: *The Hindu*, 3 July 2024; (Below) Source: *Business Line*, 18 July 2024, p. 2

With £200 m investment, TVS Motor to drive Norton Motorcycles' global expansion

G Balachandrar
Chennai

TVS Motor Company, a leading two-wheeler manufacturer in India, has announced an investment of £200 million to support the global expansion of Norton Motorcycles, the iconic British sporting motorcycle brand it acquired in 2020.

Norton is gearing up for its next growth phase, which includes the introduction of a new range of motorcycles aimed at global markets. The management is optimistic about consistent growth in the premium and super-premium segments, and is preparing a new product portfolio to position Norton as a strong contender.

At the Goodwood Festival of Speed, an annual motorsports event that is held every summer in southern England, members of Norton's senior leadership team – Sudarshan Venu, Managing Director of TVS Motor; Robert Hentschel, Executive Director and CEO of Norton; and Richard Arnold, Executive Director of Norton – shared the vision of the Norton brand and its global expansion, according to a statement.

GLOBAL BRAND

Backed by TVS Motor's capabilities, Norton is being revitalised as a global brand, driven by a dynamic team. The investment will focus on new product development, facilities, research and devel-



Sudarshan Venu, MD,
TVS Motor Company

opment (R&D) and engineering, it stated.

Starting in 2025, Norton plans to launch six models over the next three years, adhering to its philosophy of "Design, Dynamism, and Detail." The brand will initially

target international expansion in the US, Germany, France, Italy and India.

Norton's revitalised R&D has been channelled into its product pipeline through its state-of-the-art facility in Solihull, UK.

Last year, TVS made an investment of ₹88 crore in Norton to enhance the appeal of the brand and introduce innovative products.

The company said 2024 also marks the fulfilment of orders for customers of the erstwhile Norton company, allowing the brand to fully focus on its future.

Norton invested £2.3 million in developing, manufacturing and re-engineering the Commando and V4 platforms to honour these commitments.

Ola to begin commercial EV cell production in TN by early 2025

Avinash Nair
Ahmedabad

Ola Gigafactory, which is conducting trial production of battery cells for electric two-wheelers in Tamil Nadu, is expected to start commercial production by the beginning of next year, Ola Electric Mobility officials visiting Ahmedabad said on Tuesday. These indigenous cells not only carry five times the energy compared to their imported counterparts from South Korea, but are also expected to help Ola scale down on imports.

"Currently, the import of components in our electric two-wheeler is about 35 per cent. The biggest import is the cell which we are buying from South Korea. The cell is one-third the cost of the vehicle. It is the costliest aspect of an EV. To reduce our import percentage, we are producing our own cell, which is not only larger in size, but carries five times the energy of the imported version. It is a cutting edge design and R&D innovation. Once these cells go into our vehicles next year, the import percentage will come down significantly," Bhavish Aggarwal, Chairman and Managing Director, Ola, said while talking about his company's ₹6,100 crore IPO at a press conference.

Harish Abichandani, Chief Financial Officer of the com-



ELECTRIC DREAMS. Under the Cell PLI scheme, the company is required to achieve 20 GWh capacity by 2026

pany, said, the Ola Gigafactory located in Krishnagiri district of Tamil Nadu will begin commercial production of the cells by the beginning of next year.

"Currently, we are conducting trial production of these cells. Once the commercial production starts, we will use these cells in our new products and the percentage of imports, which is about 36 per cent, will go down," Abichandani said.

Ola Electric Mobility Ltd plans to invest ₹1,227 crore from the IPO proceeds to expand the Gigafactory in Phase 2. The company said it has already invested ₹500 crore in constructing the Gigafactory. Phase 1(a) of the factory, having 1.4 GWh capacity, was completed in March 2024, and Phase 1(b), which will take the factory capacity to 5 GWh, is in progress and expected to be completed by February 2025. The company has also received a ₹1,900 crore term

loan from the State Bank of India for funding Phase 1(b) of construction.

"Phase 2 of our plans will take the production capacity from 5 GWh to 6.4 GWh by April 30, 2025," Abichandani added.

DATA USAGE

Under the Cell PLI scheme of the government, the company is required to achieve 20 GWh capacity by 2026. When asked if Ola plans to "monetise" the data it generates, Aggarwal said, "Our strategy is to use the data to improve customer experience and product design. We already use the data to predict potential failures. We do not foresee monetisation of data."

The company also plans to use ₹1,600 crore of the IPO proceeds for funding Research and Development for the next three years. Ola Electric Mobility sold 3.29 lakh electric two-wheelers in the FY24, up from 1.56 lakh units the previous year.

(Left) Source: *Business Line*, 31 July 2024, p. 5

(Below) Source: *Business Line*, 16 July 2024, p. 2

NLC India plans ₹12,000-cr investment in Odisha coal mine

M Ramesh
Chennai

Monday was a golden day for NLC India, as it formally bagged a large coal mine in Odisha — one that has the potential to double the company's lignite-cum-coal production.

The company signed a Coal Mine Development and Production Agreement with its parent ministry, the Ministry of Coal, formally taking over the Machhakata coal mine in the Angul district of Odisha.

NLC India expects to spend around ₹12,000 crore in developing the mine. It was won on a 'revenue sharing' model. Production is likely to commence in 2030.

NLC India won the mine in the eighth round of auc-

tions held by the ministry recently.

Bagging the coal mine is a big deal for NLC India as the mine could yield 30 million tonnes (mt) of coal annually. Last year, the company's total coal and lignite production was 36.32 mt.

NLC SHARES SOAR

The stock market took note of the development. NLC India's share touched ₹302.60 before closing at an all-time high of ₹297.75 (21 times its earnings and 2.42 times its book).

NLC India, which started as a thermal power generator with captive lignite mines, has become more of a coal and lignite producer than electricity.

In 2023-24, the company earned revenues of ₹8,363 crore from power sales and

NLC India



₹7,902 crore from mining, but the latter yielded more profits — ₹1,550 crore (56 per cent of total net profit), compared with ₹907 crore from power.

Net profit from mining is 19.61 per cent of sales from mining operations; for electricity, it is 10.8 per cent.

FUTURE PERFECT

Revenues from coal sales are only set to increase. In a recent chat with *businessline*,

Bagging the coal mine is a big deal for NLC India, as the mine, in which production is likely to commence in 2030, could yield 30 mt of coal annually

NLC India's Chairman and Managing Director, Prasanna Kumar Motupalli, said that coal production from its Talabira mines would increase to 16 mt in the current year, compared with 12.64 mt in 2023-24. The company bagged the North Dhadu coal mine last year, which can yield 4-5 mt of coal a year. Motupalli said that the company would sell

the entire production from the mine in the open market, as opposed to entering into a long-term supply agreement with an offtaker.

NUPPL, the company's joint venture with Uttar Pradesh Rajya Vidyut Utpadan Nigam — in which NLC India has 51 per cent stake — has been allotted the Pachwara South coal block in Jharkhand.

The mine can produce 9-10 mt of coal annually, but the NUPPL's 1,980-MW Ghatampur thermal power plant, set to go on stream in a fortnight, will need only about 5 mt of coal.

The rest of the production can (shall) be sold in the market.

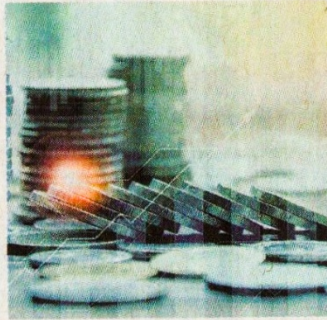
In its corporate plan for 2030, the company has targeted coal and lignite production of 100 mt.

Anicut raising 3rd credit fund of ₹1,500 cr

Balachandrar G
Chennai

Anicut Capital, a multi-asset alternative investment firm, is currently raising its third credit fund with a target corpus of ₹1,300-1,500 crore. The firm is also on the verge of closing its first debt fund under the GIFT City structure.

The 3rd credit fund has so far received ₹800 crore, of which ₹400 crore has been deployed across seven deals. The entire corpus is expected to be deployed by the end of the financial year, said Ashvin Chaddha, Managing Partner and Co-founder, Anicut Capital, while announcing the



launch of its office in Chennai.

Anicut Capital operates three distinct lines of business: seed fund, growth capital and private credit.

In private credit, the firm provides acquisition finance and buyback finance, supporting promoters in various financial activities.

Chaddha said Anicut can handle 8-10 deals to a total size of ₹1,200 crore a year in this space. Anicut has deployed ₹3,200 crore in private credit across mid-sized enterprises.

FUND STRUCTURES

Since obtaining its licence in GIFT City last year, Anicut launched three active fund structures: Category II, Category III, and an Angel.

Additionally, one of the structures is designed to facilitate investments both within and outside India, allowing Anicut to fund a company for its operations in both regions. It is in the final stages of closing its first debt fund with a corpus

of \$10 million under the GIFT structure, expected to be completed in the next couple of weeks, said IAS Balamurugan, Managing Partner & Co-founder of Anicut Capital.

On Friday, the company also announced the close of its maiden late-stage Equity Continuum fund of ₹300 crore. This fund, bolstered by a substantial ₹60 crore investment from HDFC AMC, is designed to support high-potential companies preparing for an IPO within the next 2-4 years.

With this closure, Anicut Capital's total assets under management (AUM) have surpassed ₹3,000 crore across seven alternative funds.

For once, MSMEs are happy with the Union Budget

The Hindu Bureau
CHENNAI

A cross-section of the Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs) in Tamil Nadu has expressed satisfaction with the Union Budget, citing the special attention given to their sector this year.

Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman stated that the Budget provided special attention to MSMEs and manufacturing, particularly labour-intensive manufacturing. "We have formulated a package covering financing, regulatory changes and technology support for MSMEs to help them grow and also compete globally, as mentioned in the Interim Budget," she said.

C.K. Mohan, president of the Tamil Nadu Small and Tiny Industries Association, welcomed the new credit guarantee scheme without collateral

They cited the special attention given to their sector this year

and third-party guarantee for the manufacturing sector. He, however, felt that two points were left out. One was the subsidy for the technology upgradation scheme, which had not been revived to help MSMEs go in for expansion. "We expected a reduction in interest rates for MSME loans, which has not been considered," he added.

V.K. Girish Pandian, president of the Industrial Estate Manufacturer's Association, said that the turnover threshold of buyers onboarding on the TReDS platform, which has been reduced from ₹500 crore to ₹250 crore, will help MSMEs in supplying to these units that had been excluded all these years.



(Above) Source: *Business Line*, 13 July 2024, p. 6

(Left) Source: *The Hindu*, 24 July 2024

(Below) Source: *The Hindu*, 17 July 2024

MSMEs oppose hike in electricity charges

The Hindu Bureau
COIMBATORE/CHENNAI

The Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs) in Coimbatore have flagged concerns over the hike in electricity charges, stating that it would "kill the industries" in the State.

M. Karthikeyan, president of Coimbatore District Small Industries Association (CODISSIA), said power costs constitute 15% of the production cost for engineering industries, and as high as 35% for foundries. "Many small and micro units will quit manufacturing as they are now running the units with their own funds. We are surviving by paying the power costs from internal accruals," he said.

The CODISSIA has called for a meeting of all industrial associations in Coimbatore on Thursday to jointly press for a rollback of fixed charges. "We



Collective plea: The CODISSIA has called for a meeting of all industrial associations in Coimbatore on Thursday to jointly press for a rollback of fixed charges. FILE PHOTO

are not opposing the tariff hike. What we cannot sustain is the hike in fixed charges every year. No other State has such high fixed charges," he said.

The Southern India Engineering Manufacturers Association president, Mithun Ramdas, said Tamil Nadu's MSMEs were facing challenges due to the subsidies given in Gujarat for manufacturing. The hike in power costs will create a

critical situation for the MSMEs, he said.

J. James, coordinator of the Federation of Coimbatore Industrial Associations, said the 430% hike in fixed charges was a huge burden on the micro units.

The Southern India Mills' Association said in a release that while Maharashtra considered shuttleless looms as powerlooms and supplied power at a concessional rate, Tamil

Nadu levied normal/regular tariff, making the powerloom sector uncompetitive.

Meanwhile, the Tamil Nadu Small and Tiny Industries Association (Tanstia) has sought Chief Minister M.K. Stalin's intervention to help the MSMEs. C.K. Mohan, president, Tanstia, said in a statement that Tanstia had been repeatedly requesting to reduce fixed charges for LT and LT III-B industries. "Our Chief Minister had committed to resolving this issue by meeting various organisations and stakeholders after the election. But no such meeting has been held so far," Mr. Mohan said.

Leaders flay hike

AIADMK general secretary Edappadi K. Palaniswami has condemned the DMK regime for the hike in power tariff, and said that the State government could

have followed the Centre's order of absorbing the entire losses of the State power utility, akin to how his party had done when it was in power.

AMMK general secretary T.T. Dhinakaran recalled that in 2022, the quantum of increase in power tariff was 30%, followed by 2.18% the next year, and 4.83% this time. The government's action is burdening the people, he said. ADMK Workers' Rights' Retrieval Committee coordinator O. Panneerselvam said that perhaps, this was for the first time in the State that the tariff hike had been made in such a short time.

BJP State president K. Annamalai said it was shocking that within three years of coming to power, the ruling DMK had effected a manifold increase in property tax, water charges, and electricity charges, among others.

Pricol continues to flex its R&D muscle to retain competitive edge

G Balachandrar
Chennai

Coimbatore-based Pricol Ltd, a leading vehicle dashboard manufacturer, remains one of the largest spenders on research and development (R&D) in the Indian auto component industry, a strategy that has ensured its competitive edge in segments like driver information systems (DIS).

In FY24, Pricol allocated 3.4 per cent of its revenue to R&D, a slight decrease from 4 per cent in FY23. Excluding the Covid-19 years, the company has consistently spent over 3 per cent of its revenue on R&D over the past decade.

"We continue to invest heavily in new product development and process engineering, amounting to

nearly 4.5 per cent of our annual turnover through our engineering and technology group to deliver best-in-class products and services and maintain our market leadership," said Vikram Mohan, Managing Director of Pricol, in the company's FY24 annual report.

MARKET SHARE GAINS

Pricol's sustained R&D focus with higher spend, supported by high vertical integration in product development and manufacturing capabilities, has helped the company gain market share in instrument clusters over the years.

In FY23, the company's market share in two-wheeler (2W) instrument clusters stood at about 50 per cent, making it the second largest player globally after Nippon Seiki. Also,



Vikram Mohan, MD, Pricol

its share in digital clusters for e-2Ws stood at 80 per cent and it maintains a strong presence in commercial vehicles and off-highway vehicles, holding 70 per cent and 90 per cent market share, according to analysts at Emkay Research.

The company is reported to have made strong relative market share gains over the past five years, particularly in 2W instrument clusters

compared with key competitors such as Nippon Seiki and Minda.

Pricol operates two R&D centres approved by the Department of Scientific and Industrial Research, Ministry of Science and Technology.

PATENT FILING

Pricol has filed 20 patents for 15 inventions in India and abroad, with 17 patents already granted. "Innovation remains a key focus across all product development functions to drive growth," the report said.

The ₹2,285 crore company is advancing technology development to meet customer demands over the next three years across all R&D verticals, including driver information and connected vehicle solutions and actuation, control and fluid

management systems. While many Indian auto parts companies have increased their R&D spending due to technological and regulatory demands, the average R&D expenditure in the Indian auto sector remains around 2 per cent, with a few exceptions.

In contrast, global auto parts manufacturers average above 5 per cent in R&D spending.

For instance, German auto parts giant ZF has averaged 7.8 per cent R&D spend over the past three years, and Schaeffler AG, another major German supplier, has consistently spent over 5 per cent of its revenue on R&D in the past five years.

In the OEM sector, Tata Motors and Mahindra have significantly increased their R&D investments in recent years.

(Above) Source: *Business Line*, 16 July 2024, p. 2; (Below) Source: *Business Line*, 17 July 2024, p. 2

CPCL to undertake new projects to expand portfolio, revenue streams

G Balachandrar
Chennai

Chennai Petroleum Corporation Ltd (CPCL) plans to undertake new projects to expand its portfolio and revenue streams, and maintain competitive edge and sustainable growth. It plans to produce pharma-grade hexane in the isomerisation unit at an estimated cost of ₹67.15 crore. The project involves replacing existing conventional column internals with divided wall column (DWC) technology to produce 35,000 mtpa of pharma-grade hexane. This is expected to be completed during this quarter, according to the company's annual report for FY24.

CPCL is conducting a Fluid Catalytic Cracking Unit (FCCU) revamp scoping study to enhance FCCU and maximise propylene production

It also plans to implement a project for the production of Group II/III lube oil base stocks. It received first-stage approval for this project. Preparations, including the basic design and engineering package (BDEP) and detailed feasibility report, are complete, and environmental clearance was obtained in January 2024.

Final investment approval is pending.

CPCL is conducting a Fluid Catalytic Cracking Unit (FCCU) revamp scoping study to enhance FCCU and maximise propylene production. The study, awarded to UOP last year, is in progress, with the final report expected by this month.

It has also taken up a feasibility study for the installation of a new de-oiling unit to produce microcrystalline wax. The job was awarded to Engineering India in March 2024. The study is in progress and the final report is expected to be submitted by September 2024.

WATER PIPELINE

Meanwhile, the company is laying a 22-km-long new 28-

inch desalination water pipeline and a new 10-inch RO reject water pipeline between Manali Refinery and its desalination plant at Ennore, at an estimated cost of ₹205 crore. This project is expected to be completed by September 2025.

In 2010, CPCL inaugurated a 5.8-mgd desalination facility at Kattupalli. By tapping into seawater, CPCL has substantially cut down on its use of freshwater.

Providing an update on its upcoming 9-mtpa Cauvery Basin refinery at Nagapattinam in Tamil Nadu, the company said site-enabling activities are underway. The cost of the project, scheduled to be completed in 39 months following statutory approval, is estimated at ₹36,354 crore.

20-yr-old windmills in TN may get 5-year extension

S GURUVANMIKANATHAN @ Chennai

TANGEDCO CMD Rajesh Lakhoni, along with Tamil Nadu Green Energy Corporation Limited (TNGECL) Managing Director Aneesh Sekhar, has recently proposed a five-year extension for windmills that have completed 20 years. A final decision is likely to be taken soon, official sources said.

Windmills that have not yet completed 20 years are likely to continue operating under existing arrangements. Despite several requests from owners of windmills, Tangedco does not seem to have plans to introduce a repowering policy. With repowering, windmills can increase the height of their hubs and thereby increase generation.

A senior Tangedco official said, "Life extension will be given for the next five years subject to the condition that these windmills achieve 90% of their average power generation in the past three years. For refurbishing projects, a minimum of 25% increase in generation compared to the average generation of the previous three years will have to be achieved to qualify for the banking system."

In the banking system, surplus power generated during high wind seasons will be fed into Tangedco's grid. This banked energy will be supplied back to the wind energy generators during times when wind power genera-



tion is low. The official added that the maximum banking available is 50% of the generation between May and September, which must be consumed from October to March. Any excess banking will be considered lapsed.

Jayakumaran, CEO of Vayaulo Energy in Tirunelveli, said, "It is impossible to achieve a 25% increase in generation for the banking system due to technical issues"

A windmill generator, on condition of anonymity, said, "Instead of implementing the repowering policy, Tangedco plans to execute the life extension policy. We cannot accept these conditions. Moreover, the power utility does not have a clear plan. Once we get detailed guidelines, we will comment on them."

In response, a senior Tangedco official said discussions on introducing a repowering policy are under way.

Source: *The New Indian Express*, 5 July 2024, p. 4

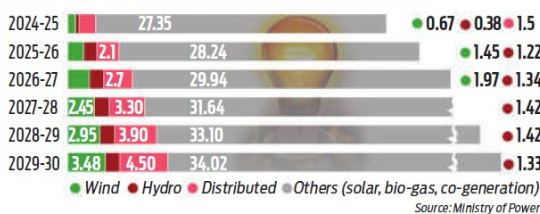
Fine looms, TN rushes to shore up renewable power

S GURUVANMIKANATHAN
@ Chennai

TAMIL NADU has stepped up its efforts to sew up deals to meet the 2024-25 target of 29.91% of power to be derived from renewable energy sources. The state power utility, however, may find it difficult to meet the target set by the union power ministry.

Failure to achieve this renewable purchase obligation (RPO) may cost state power utilities dearly as the ministry has fixed penalties. A senior official of Tamil Nadu Generation and Distribution Corporation (TANGEDCO) told *TNIE* that the utility faces a fine of ₹3.72 for every unit of shortfall if it fails to meet the target by the end of this fiscal (March 31 of 2025).

RPO TARGETS TILL FISCAL 2029-30 (IN %) FIXED BY MINISTRY OF POWER



"The penalty clause has been introduced for the first time," sources said.

The RPO mandates all electricity distribution licensees to produce or procure a minimum quantity of their energy requirement from renewable sources.

To escape the penalty clause,

efforts are on to procure additional solar power in the state. TANGEDCO has signed a deal with Solar Energy Corporation of India to procure 1,000 MW and is expected to enter into another agreement to purchase an additional 1,500 MW.

"We also have 3,750 MW of renewable energy projects in var-

ious stages of completion. This includes 3,100 MW of solar, 350 MW of wind, and 300 MW of rooftop solar," said an official.

Officials, however, believe that it may be impossible to achieve the target of 29.91%.

"In 2023-24, the state consumed 1,28,213 million units (MUs) of energy, with TANGEDCO procuring around 24,000 MUs of green energy. For the current financial year, TANGEDCO needs to procure approximately 39,000 MUs of green energy. Achieving this target is impossible," said a senior official.

TN, known for its wind energy, has an installed capacity of 10,592 MW from wind. It produced 13,500 million units in 2023-24, way below the potential as most windmills are above 20 years old.

'We need to increase solar energy by 5-6% in 2024'

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1: As of March 2024, the state also has got solar plants with an installed capacity of 8,146 MW. During 2023-24, the state harnessed 11,033 million units of solar energy. "We need to increase solar power by at least 5-6% this year. Therefore, we must purchase or produce additional solar power," the official said. "As part of the Paris Agreement, the centre is committed to reduce carbon emission and increase share of non-fossil fuel energy sources to 40% of installed electric power capacity by 2030. To meet this goal, all power distribution companies across the country have been instructed to boost green sources," said another official. ENS

Source: *The New Indian Express*, 6 July 2024, p. 1 & 7

5% of platform economy bikes run on battery, finds report

C SHIVAKUMAR @ Chennai

THE state is eyeing the electrification of the platform economy with around 5% of the two-lakh commercial two-wheelers involved already found to be electric vehicles (EV), according to a report released on Thursday by Guidance TN and OMI foundation. Bike taxis and food delivery services constitute a majority of vehicles in platform economy.

EV adoption in the commercial segment is experiencing rapid growth, particularly where

vehicles are leased and owned by the delivery or fleet operators. This model faces fewer barriers like financing and charging infrastructure. B2B providers like Zypp Electric, etc play a crucial role in this segment by providing EVs and supporting the charging infrastructure, states the report, which provides key insights and strategies for the electrification of commercial two-wheelers in the state.

The report states that drivers

of taxis, rickshaws or delivery vehicles, who hitherto had no record of daily or monthly earnings, now have detailed statements of their past and current earnings and future earning potential, thanks to the digitisation of jobs by the business platforms. This information helps banks,

NBFCs as well as new-age fintech companies to extend credit to the platform workers. Though there is no system of collateral, financial institutions

are extending cash flow-based loans to the new-age workers.

Many platform economy businesses like Zomato, Flipkart, Swiggy and Big Basket have started electrifying their fleets. Other major companies like Ola and Uber have also made announcements of fleet-level electrification, which would also extend to two-wheeler bike taxis.

If half of commercial two-wheelers were to go electric, avoidance of at least 85,410 tonnes of CO₂ could be achieved annually within the state. The

report, while comparing the total cost of ownership of an electric bike model for commercial operations with that of a petrol bike, states that users of electric two-wheelers can save ₹1,15,000 - ₹1,35,000 over three years.

The report states that EV two-wheeler adoption has gained momentum in Tamil Nadu, accounting for 86.18% of total EV sales in the state during the financial year 2022. The report was unveiled by Vishnu Venugopalan, managing director and chief executive officer of Guidance TN.



Source: *The New Indian Express*, 19 July 2024, p. 6

Conquering the skies with flying taxis

IIT-Madras start-up aims to disrupt traditional urban mobility with compact electric drones

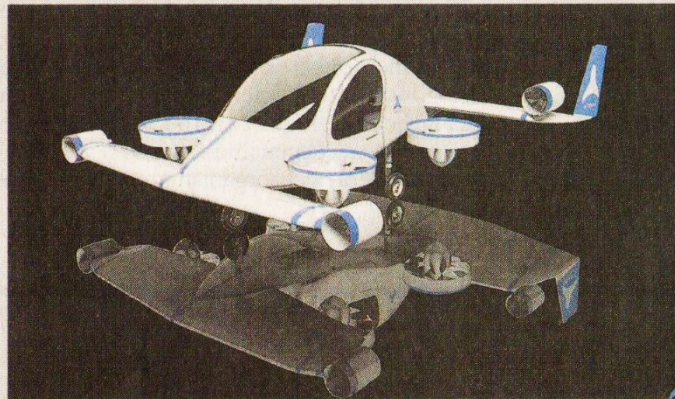
TE Raja Simhan
Chennai

It's a common sight to see small sized drones with a carrying capacity of 5 kg to 10 kg in the sky spraying pesticides or involved in surveillance of critical infrastructure or delivering drugs to remote areas. But the IIT-Madras-incubated ePlane is trying to disrupt the sector with its eVTOLs (electric Vertical Take-off and Landing) — an electric drone that can carry both cargo and passengers. The 3X3 m sized multi-copter drone can carry 35 to 50 kg of cargo, travel at 400 ft and up to 50 km.

ePlane, which got funding of \$5 million for the project, is building India's first and the world's most compact flying electric taxi with a vision to make flying ubiquitous, says Satyanarayanan R Chakravarthy, Professor, Department of Aerospace Engineering, IIT-Madras, and Founder-Director of ePlane.

If a car takes an hour to reach a destination or a helicopter 27 minutes, eVTOL will take just 14 minutes, claims the ePlane team.

eVTOL will serve short haul mobility and urban mobility where there is a traffic congestion problem, says Prof



THE NEXT BIG THING. ePlane's eVTOL promises faster and greener commutes in congested cities SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

Satyanarayanan, adding that electric aviation will disrupt the aviation sector in the foreseeable future.

FROM INDIA, FOR WORLD

"What is good for India is good for the world. India should do it ahead of others. The country has UPI, the Aadhar stack and EVMs, then why not electric aviation," he asks.

The five-year-old deep-tech start-up has developed a subscale prototype that it demonstrated last year. It is now working on a commercial version. "We are on the verge of flying that in the next few weeks, and then we will commercialise it. The subscale version is not meant for pas-

senger travel but for cargo. We will tap logistics players to adopt it. We have to go through a certification process for that as well," he says.

"We are working on the passenger version, getting into the detailed design phase now. We will get into prototyping later this year. By early next year, we should have the first passenger prototype," says Prof Satyanarayanan.

The company has built autonomous flight paths for collision avoidance. It will also set up an autonomous Air Traffic Control with manual override for safe landing at various locations, he says.

The subscale prototype will be governed by drone rules. Although it can go at high alti-

tudes of around 5,000 ft, it can be flown under 400 ft as well. There may not be much hindrance in India as most buildings are 50 m to 100 m tall, he explained.

The 50 kg payload could be the mid-mile segment for clients like logistics players and parcel delivering companies. "We are not going to replace all of the cargo movement. We feel that precious cargo, time critical cargo, medical supplies and organs between hospitals are a few examples where we can come in," he says.

SPREADING WINGS

Drone is a competitive space with different players deploying different sizes and varieties. However, eVTOL flies with wings to cover longer distances. The key is to test the commercial prototype. "We are a few weeks away from its flight test of at least 100 hours. Then we will go through the certification process. We are a few months away from commercialisation," he adds.

Source: *Business Line*, 15 July 2024, p. 6

Tamil Nadu needs to bring together its expertise in various industries by setting up drone clusters and common facilities

TN CAN FLY HIGH WITH DRONES

Vaitheeswaran.B@Timesgroup.com

The skies are clear for TN to be a hub for drone-making in the country. It has expertise in airframes, motors, propellers to electronics components to embedded engineering to software development and data analytics. All that is needed for a drone ecosystem to thrive. Now, experts say, it needs to align its engineering capabilities and talent pool.

More than 40 startups in the state focus on this segment with at least 10 receiving funding, including key players such as Dhaksha Unmanned System, Garuda Aerospace, Yali Aerospace. Tamil Nadu is one of the key players in the drone ecosystem in the country, says Prof Satya Chakravarthy, founder and CEO of ePlane company. It's one of the leading electric vertical take-off and landing (VTOL) drone startups eyeing commercial air taxi service.

More and more domestic firms are getting into making battery packs, motors, propellers, flight controllers, says Chakravarthy. "The state govt should set up a

drone manufacturing hub, providing incentives for export, component design and development, tax holidays for companies for vertical integration," he says. "And a centre of excellence for drones with industry-academia partnership could help make a durable and reliable supply chain in the state," he adds.

The

state govt is getting better at incentivisation and has taken the important step of working on drone-testing facilities, says Prof H S N Murthy, head, aerospace engineering department, IIT Madras. "We must tap the existing defence corridor; connect the nodes to leveraging existing ISRO suppliers, windmill OEMs, automobile ecosystem, ICE engine manufacturing at Coimbatore and electronics components at Chennai and Trichy. We have to enable MSMEs working in these areas, help them market their own products. Somebody has to connect

them all," he says.

"Though drones are touted as advanced technology, we have a whole lot of technical capability and know-how for most of the components," says Murthy. The state govt should take efforts to certify and standardise drone components to promote a reliable supply chain, he adds.

The challenge for MSMEs and startups in making crucial parts lies in the lack of volumes, more than the competition from cheaper imports, says Ramanathan Narayanan, director and chief executive of Dhaksha Unmanned Systems. The prospect of incurring costs of development and injection moulding without volume is hindering growth, he says. "Technology transfers are happening and we can see the development in the next three years," he adds.

"The state govt could provide additional grants, infrastructure, common facilities for medium and small-scale industries, he says and calls TN's plan to provide testing facilities for drone makers a game-changer. In terms of skill, he says, he is taking efforts to bring credit courses for drones and update curriculum reflecting the current trends in UAVs," says Dr K Senthil Kumar, director Dr Kalam Advanced UAV Research Centre, a dedicated drone research

centre at Madras Institute of Technology.

More than incentives, there is a need for a level-playing field for domestic players; the govt should ensure import curbs are strictly enforced, says Sai Pattabiram, managing director of Zuppa Geo Navigation Technologies. Zuppa, which makes flight control units for drones, got selected under PLI for drone components. But, says Pattabiram, drones too should get a PLI scheme like the one for semiconductors.

"Tamil Nadu is on its way to becoming a drone hub, planning the country's first-ever drone testing centre," says Chirag Jain, partner at consultancy Grant Thornton Bharat. He says Google's plans to start drone manufacturing in the state will secure India's place on the global map and forge a path for more investments.

Pic: R Ramesh Shankar



Source: The Times of India, 1 July 2024, p. 2

Aligning R&D focus to market needs and commercialising patented technologies can spur high-value growth in Tamil Nadu

LAB TO MARKET

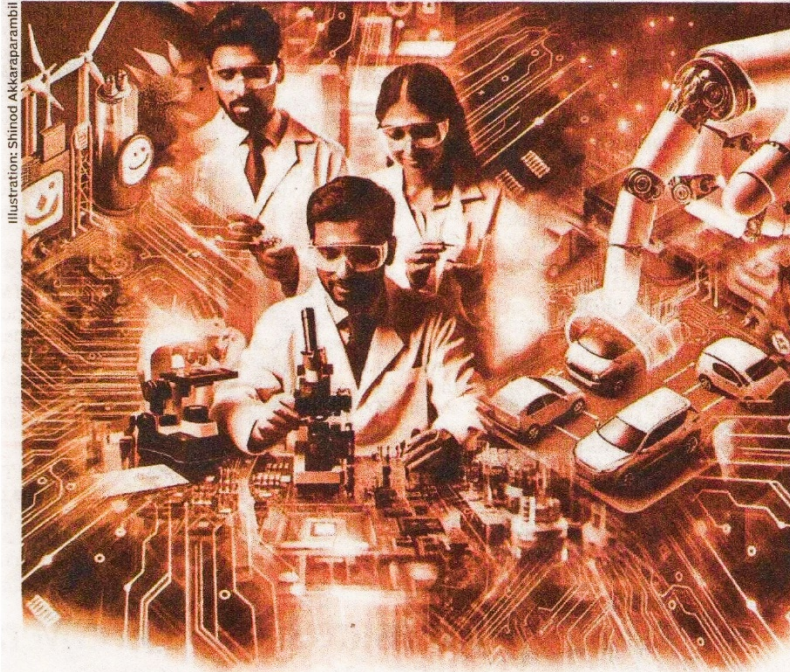


Illustration: Shirod Akkarambil

Vaitheeswaran.b@timesofindia.com

It is difficult to build commercial products in an academic setting, says Prof Prabhu Rajagopal, who is in charge of the office of innovation and entrepreneurship at IIT Madras. "The maturity of the technology required by the market is very high and it's difficult to do that in an academic setting because of funding and other challenges. After a point, the funding body and student lose interest and good developments get stranded," he adds.

"In startups, the product delivery is much more accelerated. What takes years in a research lab can be done in a few months," says Prof Rajagopal. That's his motivation to start his venture.

He's not alone. About 15% or 92 IIT-M professors are into entrepreneurship, probably more than at any institute in the country. Tamil Nadu churns out more patents than any other state, according to Intellectual Property India Annual Report - 2022-23. Tamil Nadu also has around 17%

of the engineers who graduate every year, more than any other state.

With the right environment, resources, talent pool, mentors, investors, the innovator can start an entrepreneurship journey, says Tamaswati Ghosh, chief executive of IIT-M incubation cell. "With commercialisation, one can do a lot more to solve critical issues for industry and by scaling up technology it can have a larger societal impact." Innovation has to be on the business side too, not just in product building," she adds.

One of the advantages of IIT-M-incubated deep-tech startups is expertise brought by faculty members and industry veterans. Ghosh says decades of industry collaboration paved the way for the current ecosystem at the institute. Now, it tries to replicate this model with 'build clubs' in smaller city colleges. "This allows students to experiment. They get experience of project management and eventually may get into entrepreneurship."

Bridging the gap between innovation and market needs is top priority for Vanitha

Venugopal, chief executive of deep-tech incubator iTNT hub. The agency with its Jigsaw platform has a database of 4,300 researchers and connects R&D with market demands. The agency is planning an IP conclave at the year-end to facilitate technology transfers at a global level.

"Institutions should create collaborative ecosystems and funding. Instead of just filing a patent or putting it as a research paper, they should proactively seek collaboration with industries," says Vanitha Venugopal.

Similar tech transfer efforts were taken up by Anna University as well. Its vice-chancellor Dr R Velraj says there's been a significant increase in the number of patents in the last few years. And, there are concerted efforts to commercialise them through the tech transfer office. He says royalty from a particular drone technology is in crores, highlighting the impact of IP licence.

Technical institutions should have an industrial park to expose students to industry trends, says Velraj. "There is huge talent available outside Chennai. More efforts should be made to build incubation and conduct hackathons there," he adds.

Multinationals are key contributors to Tamil Nadu's research landscape. An industry veteran from the state says the huge student talent pool in the state could be tapped to bring products quickly to market; this is not possible by industries alone. "Tamil Nadu needs more research parks, incubation and acceleration centres around major engineering colleges," the veteran adds.

Siva Padmanabhan, managing director of AstraZeneca India, says Chennai has become a mature market able to attract talent from other parts of the country post-COVID. The Anglo-Swedish pharma firm has its largest capability centre in Chennai and helps the parent speed up clinical trials and safety studies.

He says Tamil Nadu needs to develop industry-specific clusters and create three Es - talent that is educated, has exposure and is experienced. "Companies need to provide opportunities to people to transition into the global capability centres from the IT, ITES industry through internship programmes, building exposure. For experience, we need to get more people in industry-relevant roles. None of the states has cracked this, but I think Tamil Nadu can if it selects five to six sectors that we really want to be the best known for," he adds.

TAMIL NADU LEADS IN IP FILING SINCE FY22

Top 5 IP filing states in India	No. of applications 2022-23	No. of applications 2021-22
Tamil Nadu	7,686	5,206
Maharashtra	5,626	4,508
Uttar Pradesh	5,564	3,613
Karnataka	5,408	3,171
Punjab	3,406	2,197

Source: Annual Report- 2021-22 & 2022-23 Intellectual Property India, office of CGPOTM (ministry of commerce & industry)

Source: The Times of India, 29 July 2024, p. 2

Will the Hosur airport become a reality?

What are the challenges and obstacles to the Hosur airport project proposed by the Tamil Nadu government? Why is the project being proposed for Hosur? How can an airport gain clearance from the Civil Aviation Ministry? What is the process to be followed?

EXPLAINER

Sanjay Vijayakumar

The story so far:

Tamil Nadu Chief Minister M.K. Stalin announced in the legislative assembly plans for setting up an international airport on 2,000 acres of land, with the capacity to handle three crore passengers annually, in the industrial town of Hosur, which is 40 kms away from Bengaluru. While the airport has been a long standing demand of the industrialists in the area, one of the hurdles is that the concession agreement signed between the Centre and the Bangalore International Airport Ltd (BIAL), the operator of Kempegowda International Airport Bengaluru, does not allow for new or existing airports (except for Mysore and Hassan airports) within an aerial distance of 150 kms before 2033.

What is the significance of Hosur?

Hosur in Krishnagiri district is located on the border of Tamil Nadu and Karnataka. Hosur is situated at 3,000 metres above sea level and according to a report by online publisher Visual Capitalist in 2021, it was ranked 13 in the world among the list of cities with the fastest population growth with an annual growth rate of 5.38%. Hosur has emerged as a flourishing industrial town with prominent companies such as Tata Electronics, TVS, Ashok Leyland, Titan, and Rolls-Royce (IAMPL) establishing significant operations in the area. It has emerged as a nucleus for auto and electric vehicle manufacturing, advanced manufacturing, logistics and electronics. The industrial town is also strong in traditional sectors like floriculture and horticulture. Estimates suggest that around 3,000 MSMEs are present in the region, engaged in engineering fabrication, tooling, and polishing, among others.

The State Industries Promotion Corporation of Tamil Nadu Limited



ISTOCKPHOTO

(SIPCOT), the State government's nodal agency to promote industrial infrastructure, has established industrial parks in Hosur in two phases spread over 2,093 acres. SIPCOT is currently in the process of acquiring land of 3,382.84 acres for expanding and setting up new industrial parks in the region. Private industrial parks have also come up in the region. To meet the water requirement of the industries located in the Hosur area, SIPCOT is establishing a 20 megalitres per day Tertiary Treatment Reverse Osmosis (TTRO) plant at Kelavarapalli, which is expected to be completed by September.

According to Tamil Nadu Industries Minister T.R.B. Rajaa, the airport project in Hosur will enhance connectivity and stimulate economic growth, benefiting not only Hosur but also neighbouring districts such as Dharmapuri and Salem.

He has also pointed out that the new airport will foster a twin-city ecosystem with Bengaluru, propelling growth in both Tamil Nadu and Karnataka.

What about the previous plan?

Hosur airport is owned by Taneja Aerospace and Aviation Limited. In 2023, replying to a question by Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam (DMK) Rajya Sabha MP P. Wilson, the then Union Minister of State for Civil Aviation General (retired) V.K. Singh said in the first round of bidding under the Regional Connectivity Scheme (RCS) - Ude Desh Ka Aam Nagrik (UDAN), a bid was received for the routes Chennai-Hosur-Chennai and due to the concession agreement with BIAL the route was not awarded and Hosur airport was deleted from UDAN document for future round of bidding.

What does the Union Civil Aviation Ministry's guidelines state?

As per the present guidelines of the Civil Aviation Ministry, the regulator Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) while granting licence to operate a greenfield airport should take into account that no greenfield airport would be allowed within an aerial distance of 150 kms of an existing civilian airport. In case a greenfield airport is proposed to be set up within 150 kms of an existing civilian airport, the impact on the existing airport would be examined and such cases would be decided by the government on a case to case basis. Such an application shall be first considered by the Steering Committee, headed by the Secretary of Civil Aviation. After considering the application, the Steering Committee shall make a suitable recommendation to the Ministry of Civil Aviation. The Ministry shall place the matter before the Union Cabinet for its consideration and the DGCA would grant a licence only after their approval.

In 2017, the Centre granted in-principle approval for a greenfield airport at Jewar in Greater Noida based on the recommendations of the Steering Committee on Greenfield Airports. The Noida International Airport is located 72 kms from the Indra Gandhi International (IGI) Airport, Delhi and 65 kms from the Hindon Air Force station Ghaziabad. The Centre said the airport in Delhi NCR region will help decongest the IGI Airport and will serve the people of Delhi, Noida, Ghaziabad, Aligarh, Agra, and Faridabad.

What next?

Airport projects have a long gestation period to come on stream. Given that the DMK government is part of the Opposition alliance, it has to negotiate hard with the Centre to get the necessary relaxation in norms for setting up the airport, besides other regulatory and environmental clearances. Setting up the necessary supporting infrastructure for the airport is another challenge which needs to be overcome.

THE GIST

Tamil Nadu Chief Minister M.K. Stalin announced plans for setting up an international airport on 2,000 acres of land, with the capacity to handle three crore passengers annually, in the industrial town of Hosur, which is 40 kms away from Bengaluru.

As per the present guidelines of the Civil Aviation Ministry, no greenfield airport would be allowed within an aerial distance of 150 kms of an existing civilian airport.

Given that the DMK government is part of the Opposition alliance, it has to negotiate hard with the Centre to get the necessary relaxation in norms for setting up the airport.

Source: *The Hindu*,
2 July 2024

11,872km of roads in state to be relaid before 2026

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

Chennai: Roads running to a length of 11,872km in Tamil Nadu would be re-laid by 2026, benefitting 20 corporations and more than 100 municipalities.

A total of 9,346km of roads in TN would be re-laid under Tamil Nadu Road Infrastructure Project scheme, Kalaigai Nagarapura Salai Mampattu Thittam scheme, state and central finance commission funds, said a statement from municipal administration and water supply department, quoting announcements made by chief minister M K Stalin in

the state assembly recently.

Another 2,526km of roads would be relaid under a special funding of ₹1,000crore by the state govt. These would be completed by 2026.

About 53 storm water drain projects in Avadi, Tambaram, Mangadu, Kundrathur and Poonamalle areas have been completed at a cost of ₹145 crore.

Further, 56,958 saplings of Naaval, Nelli, Kodukapuli, Badam, Vembu, Tamarind, and Pungai have been planted on 127 acres of reclaimed land legacy landfills in 41 local bodies of Tamil Nadu.

The chief minister appreciated the municipal admin-

istration and water supply department for making Tamil Nadu one of the best states in the country.

The MAWS department is also improving various civic infrastructure projects under Chennai Smart City Scheme at a cost of ₹10,890crore in 11 corporations.

Stalin said six corporations were newly created and further, announcements to upgrade Karaikudi, Pudukottai, Tiruvannamalai, Namakkal municipalities into corporations were made. These places would get the necessary civic development plans too, he said.

Source: *The Times of India*, 11 July 2024, p. 5

'Highway works worth ₹46,617 cr. under way in T.N.'

The Hindu Bureau
CHENNAI

The Union Minister of Road Transport and Highways, Nitin Gadkari, has said a total of 71 highway projects for a length of 1604.48 km and amounting to ₹46,617.5 crore are at the implementation stage in Tamil Nadu.

He made this statement while replying to a query

raised by DMK Lok Sabha Member Dayanidhi Maran last week.

Mr. Maran had sought the details of new road and highway projects being planned or considered for the State.

Mr. Gadkari said the scope of these projects broadly included capacity augmentation, construction of bypasses, bridges, underpasses, road safety

works to enhance Level of Service, and to ensure safety for the road users. Major projects have been undertaken on East Coast Road from Mamallapuram to Pudukcherry, Walajapet to Andhra Pradesh-Tamil Nadu border, Vellakoil to Erode section, on Mettupalayam-Karnataka border section.

Mr. Maran also asked the Union Minister to pro-

vide details of the benefits the said projects will accrue and the measures being taken to ensure minimal disruption to residents and industries during the construction phase.

The Union Minister replied that the benefits would include reduction in traffic congestion, travel time and vehicle operating cost, and generation of employment to the locals.

Source: *The Hindu*, 30 July 2024

State wing takes up 4-laning work of 3 NH routes

Move aims at easing the pressure on NHAI; it is for the first time TN's NH wing is undertaking such massive projects



The three four-laning projects are to be taken up on Thoothukudi-Kanniyakumari NH, Ramanathapuram-Rameswaram-Dhanushkodi route, and Coimbatore-Sathyamangalam route | ASHWIN PRASATH

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @ Chennai

WITH the National Highways Authority of India (NHAI) being burdened with several projects, the four-laning work of three major highways in the state has been transferred to the state government's national highways wing. It is for the first time that the state government's NH wing is set to undertake such massive projects that involve several crores of rupees.

The three four-laning projects are to be taken up on Thoothukudi-Kanniyakumari NH, Ramanathapuram-Rameswaram-Dhanushkodi route, and Coimbatore-Sathyamangalam route with two-lane extension from Sathyamangalam

to Tamil Nadu-Karnataka border. Additionally, several bypass projects, too, have been handed over to the state government's NH wing.

According to official sources, the Ministry of Road Transport and Highways has already approved the widening of 120-km East Coast Road from Thoothukudi to Kanniyakumari via Tiruchendur, with ₹392.33 crore allocated for land acquisition. "The four-laning of ECR from Mamallapuram to Nagapattinam is being carried out by the NHAI. However, the 120-km stretch from Thoothukudi to Kanniyakumari was handed over to the state government last year for widening," an official from the highways department said.

Similarly, the widening of Ramanathapuram-Rameswaram-Dhanushkodi NH from two lanes to four lanes will be taken up by the state national highways wing. Land acquisition is also under way for the widening of Coimbatore-Sathyamangalam-TN/ Karnataka border road, with ₹639.18 crore already been allocated for the project. "A detailed project report is being prepared. Once approved by the centre, construction work will begin," the official added.

Additionally, the state government will undertake the formation of bypass roads for Vellore, Vettavalam and Thiruvaiyaru on behalf of the NHAI with a total of ₹559.17 crore sanctioned for these projects.

Source: *The New Indian Express*, 11 July 2024, p. 4

Operational cost of CNG buses 13% cheaper than diesel vehicles: Study

₹6 lakh spent for converting a diesel bus into CNG vehicle can be recovered in one month

B ANBUSELVAN @ Chennai

THE trial study of government buses running on Compressed Natural Gas (CNG), which is 12% to 13% cheaper than diesel, has yielded encouraging results, reducing average fuel expenses by ₹4 to ₹4.5 per km. Additionally, the CNG buses achieved a mileage of 6 to 6.98 km per litre compared to 5.2 to 5.96 km for diesel buses. The average price of CNG is ₹75 to ₹79 per litre, depending on the supplier, while high-speed diesel is ₹91.5 per litre.

Conducted by Pallavan Transport Consultancy Services, a technical arm of transport department, the study revealed that six buses (two each from Madurai, Salem, and Kumbakonam corporations of TNSTC) run on CNG fuel for more than 50 days are not only cost-effective but also offers better mileage compared to diesel. Moreover, it also showed that the cost of around ₹6 lakh to convert a bus to CNG can be recovered in a month.

Official sources noted that the savings in operational expenses could amount to several crores of rupees with a large-scale migration to CNG. A study on five more CNG buses oper-



PERFORMANCE OF CNG BUSES IN THREE TNSTC DIVISIONS

Parameters	Kumbakonam	Salem	Madurai
Gross run (in km)	4,523	7,825	2,697
Consumption CNG/Diesel (in litre)	744/801	1,121/1,313	437/519
Mileage CNG/Diesel (km)	6.08/5.65	6.98/5.96	6.17/5.2
Cost per km CNG/Diesel (in ₹)	12.34/16.30	11.39/15.34	12.89/17.56
Fuel Cost Savings per km (in ₹)	3.96	3.95	4.67

ated by Coimbatore, Tirunelveli, and Villupuram corporations is under way.

K Phanindra Reddy, secretary of the state transport department, told *TNIE* that the study assessed cost savings from increased mileage, reduced fuel expenses, and the performance of the companies involved in the conversion of buses. "The expenses of ₹5.5 lakh to ₹6 lakh per bus incurred for converting a diesel bus to CNG can be recovered within a month. The CNG buses performed better during daytime operations.

However, minor leaks were reported at night. With these encouraging results, staff will receive more training on the usage and maintenance of CNG buses."

An MTC bus converted to run on a CNG engine caught fire on July 2. An inquiry by a committee from MTC and the private company involved in the conversion revealed a leak in the CNG engine had triggered the accident.

Reddy said the study also evaluated the performance of the companies converting die-

sel buses to CNG. "When the government decides to expand the use of CNG vehicles for public transport, companies that convert the best-performing buses will be given preference," Reddy said.

According to the trial study, a mofussil bus from Madurai consumed 437 litres of CNG, whereas the diesel bus required 519 litres of diesel for covering 2,697 km. The CNG bus recorded a mileage of 6.17 km per litre compared to 5.2 km for the diesel bus. The Madurai transport corporation spent ₹47,361 on diesel, while the cost of CNG was ₹34,755, saving a total of ₹12,606 and registering per km savings of ₹4.67.

Similarly, two buses from the Kumbakonam corporation saved ₹17,913 and ₹19,024, operating for 4,523 km and 4,260 km respectively. The average savings per km were ₹3.96 and ₹4.47.

As per official data, the eight transport corporations run 78.7 lakh km per day, with TNSTC Salem buses alone covering 9.15 lakh km daily. The remaining divisions cover 7.8 lakh to 9.9 lakh km per day.

The state has nearly 10 companies that supply CNG including IOCL, IRM Energy, Torrent Gas, Adani Total Gas and others.

Source: *The New Indian Express*, 18 July 2024, p. 4

State Transport Corporations to outsource drivers, conductors

The Corporations have floated bids for selection of service providers to choose drivers and conductors; all labour laws that are in force will be applicable to the contractors who provide manpower

T. Ramakrishnan
CHENNAI

THE State Transport Corporations, including the Metropolitan Transport Corporation-Chennai, have embarked on the process of outsourcing drivers and conductors.

The Corporations have floated bids for selection of

service providers to choose drivers and conductors for regular bus operation for 11 months, which can be extended by another 11 months.

A total of 700 drivers and 500 conductors are required for MTC-Chennai; 801 driver-cum-conductors for the State Transport Corporation-Kumbakonam; 169 drivers and 260

conductors for Tirunelveli; and 148 drivers and 245 conductors for Coimbatore. In the case of Chennai, the salaries prescribed for a driver and a conductor per month are ₹27,934 and ₹27,597 respectively.

In general, all labour laws that are in force will be applicable to the contractors who provide the manpower.

There are six STCs, namely Villupuram, Salem, Coimbatore, Kumbakonam, Madurai and Tirunelveli, apart from the MTC and the State Express Transport Corporation (SETC). The fleet strength of the eight corporations together is 20,260 buses – 18,728 scheduled buses and 1,532 spare buses.

The buses are run on

10,132 authorised routes. As on March 31, 2024, the staff strength in all the Corporations was 1,11,019 with ridership of about 645.4 crore last year.

"With increasing costs of fuel, employee salaries and interest on loan, STUs [State Transport Undertakings] are now facing a struggle for survival," says the Transport Depart-

ment's Policy Note for 2024-25.

The document says despite the financial crunch, bus fares have been maintained at the same level as January 2018.

The revenue loss, which was ₹5,230.56 crore during 2019-20, went up to ₹8,328.53 crore next year (the pandemic year). In 2023-24, the loss declined

to ₹6,317.49 crore, which was an unaudited figure.

A senior official says others may also outsource "based on necessity." Besides, the Institute of Road Transport is working on a notification for the recruitment of regular staff, which may be out soon.

To a query on the stay granted by the Madras High Court last year on the

process, the official says the court had eventually upheld the State government's right to recruit human resources through outsourcing. Opposition parties and trade unionists have been going on record that the Corporations, at all levels, have vacancies to the tune of 25,000. But the official has refused to comment on this claim.

Source: *The Hindu*, 28 July 2024



Risky passage: At Annanur, the commuters have access to the station only through the subway linked through the railway shed. Some of them crawl under the parked trains to reach the platforms. M. VEDHAN

Rail commuters suffer inadequate amenities in the western section

Thousands of people use the stations at Annanur, Pattabiram, and Thiruninravur, where residential development has happened rapidly. For example, platforms 1 and 2 at Pattabiram, used for operation of the suburban trains, have not been paved for years

CITY MATTERS

R. Srikanth

The suburban train commuters in the western section, from Avadi, Tiruvallur, and beyond, have been affected by delayed train operation every day. To add to their problem is the lack of amenities at several important stations. Southern Railway has initiated renovation of the Ambattur, Avadi, and Tiruvallur stations under the Amrit Bharat Station Scheme. But commuters complain about poor amenities at the other stations.

Social activists allege that unlike the Tambaram-Chennai Beach section, where urban development has stagnated because of clustered residential accommodations, the western section has seen phenomenal residential development along Annanur, Pattabiram, Thiruninravur, Tiruvallur, Veppampattu, and Nemilichery.

Land availability

The residential development has happened because of the availability of vacant land on both sides of the track at Annanur, Pattabiram, and Thiruninravur, and the suburban train services to Chennai Central. And the residents depend primarily on the train services to go to the city as bus transport is limited.

The Pattabiram station, after Avadi, is used by thousands of commuters. But social activists say there are only a few trains and amenities.

K.S. Gopalakrishnan, a former member of the Zonal Railway Users' Consultative Committee, says platforms 1 and 2 at the station, which are used for operation of the suburban trains, are in a poor condition. They have not been paved for years. The problem of rugged surface also plagues the footbridge, where if a commuter could fall down the stairs if he is not cautious.

He says that though a shelter was installed on platform 3, it has been designed in such a manner that commuters will get drenched when it rains. It is useful only in shading the commuters on a hot day. The

More than 60,000 commuters use the Thiruninravur station every day, and they have been requesting for basic amenities

station also suffers from inadequate illumination and absence of fans. Cleanliness on the platforms has gone for a toss as fish vendors are allowed to sell in the evenings.

Long wait for ticket

Mr. Gopalakrishnan says the station is used by commuters who are daily wage labourers and who are forced to waste their time waiting at the crowded ticket counters. Previously, three counters operated at morning and evening peak hours, but only two counters operate now, and only one works in the morning and evening hours. An automated ticket vending machine (ATVM) has been installed, but most of the commuters, of the low income group, cannot afford to buy a smart card.

At the last meeting, Abdul Hameed, a member of the Divisional Railway Users' Consultative Committee (DRUCC), requested the opening of additional counters at Pattabiram.

At Annanur, the commuters live on both sides of the track, but they have access to the station only through the subway linked through the railway shed. It is flooded whenever it rains. The commuters have been seeking a footbridge to access the

platforms of the station. At present, the commuters have to walk through the subway or crawl under the parked trains to reach the platforms.

'No amenities for decades'

Consumer activist T. Sadagopan says the Pattabiram Military Siding station, located before the E-depot station, has no amenities even five decades after the station came up.

He points out that several residential colonies have come up, with retired defence personnel settling in the localities. Railway officials have not taken any action on petitions for a footbridge.

More than 60,000 commuters use the Thiruninravur station, located before Tiruvallur, every day. Under the aegis of the Thiruninravur Rail Passengers' Welfare Association, they have been requesting for basic amenities at the station.

S. Murugaian, secretary of the association, lists the demands: construction of a subway linking the platforms, speeding up of the construction of the overbridge, establishment of a Government Railway Police post, installation of an electronic display board and closed circuit television cameras, the construction of an additional cycle and two-wheeler stand, and laying of a proper access road on the northern and southern sides of the station.

Feasibility study

A senior official of the Chennai Division of Southern Railway says platform shelters have been installed at the Pattabiram station in compliance with the norms, and a feasibility study will be conducted for building new shelters.

As for the demand for opening an additional ticket counter, the official says two counters are in operation; one of them functions round the clock and the other works during the day time. For opening an additional counter, the Railway Board has set the norm of 1,000 tickets a day, but at Pattabiram, the tickets sold daily stand at 935.

Steps will be taken to install drinking water facilities at the Pattabiram, Annanur, and Thiruninravur stations, as demanded at the DRUCC meeting, the official says.



Spotlight on poor access: A commuter wades through water in the Annanur subway. Commuters have been seeking a footbridge to access the platforms. M. VEDHAN

Source: *The Hindu*, 3 July 2024

135 new BS VI buses added to TNSTC fleet in a week

Initiative is part of the state government's decision to introduce 7,682 new buses; plans on to replace 200-250 buses every month

B ANBUSELVAN @Chennai

THE state transport corporations have gradually begun replacing damaged and worn-out government buses with new BS VI buses, as 10 to 25 new vehicles were introduced in each region across the state. A total of 135 new buses were introduced by the Villupuram, Salem, Coimbatore, and Madurai TNSTC divisions between July 11 and 17, bringing the total number of new buses introduced since the DMK assumed office to 1,404. This initiative is part of the state government's plan to introduce 7,682 new buses to enhance public transport accessibility and efficiency. These new buses are in addition to the 850 BS IV buses that were renovated and reintroduced last year.

"Of the 135 buses, 101 have been deployed on mofussil routes, while the rest replaced ordinary buses used for the free travel scheme for women and others. More buses are to be inaugurated in Tirunelveli and other places. We plan to replace 200 to 250 buses every month," a senior official said.

In the past, the transport department would inaugurate large number of buses such as

100, 200 or 500, after being flagged off by the chief minister in Chennai. "Bus manufacturing companies and body-building units only dispatch 15 to 25 buses at a time. Holding buses for inauguration for several days leads to huge financial losses for the corporations. Considering that over 50% of the fleet (nearly 9,800 buses) is overaged, the new buses are being inducted at regional or district-level functions," the official explained.

For town services, the government has placed an order for 552 low-floor buses, of which 352 are earmarked for MTC Chennai, 100 for TNSTC Coimbatore and 100 for TNSTC Madurai. Sources said new low-floor buses for MTC and SETC, recently dispatched by the manufacturers, are being registered at RTOs in Chennai.

"About 30 to 35 MTC and SETC buses have been registered and will be inaugurated soon," said an official. The new services are being introduced in high-demand routes, replacing damaged buses. "We also prioritise reintroducing buses that were stopped during the lockdown," added the official.

The 135 buses were introduced on routes such as Kalpa-

kkam - Bengaluru, Kilambakkam - Tiruchy, and Puducherry/Chennai/Kancheepuram - Tirupati by Villupuram Corporation. The Coimbatore TNSTC inducted these buses to serve commuters travelling to Mysuru from Erode and Coimbatore, from Ooty to Madurai, Palakkad, Kallikottai, and Cannanore, and from Mettupalayam to Tiruchy, among other routes.

The proposed 7,682 new buses include 1,000 vehicles planned for each of the financial years 2022-23 and 2023-24, and 3,000 new buses for 2024-25. Additionally, 16 new buses are slated for procurement under the Special Area Development Programme and 2,666 buses are planned for purchase with funding from KfW, a German-based bank.

The 3,000 buses proposed for 2024-25 include 1,000 low-floor electric buses for MTC funded by the World Bank. Additionally, 500 electric buses will be procured through loans from KfW. In total, the MTC plans to acquire 1,500 electric buses.

The daily patronage of government buses stands at 1.76 crore passengers, including 51.5 lakh women and others who utilise free travel services in 7,179 ordinary buses.

(Left) Source: The New Indian Express, 22 July 2024, p. 4

(Below) Source: The Hindu, 29 July 2024

T.N. sees increase in luxury car registration among the affluent group

Sanjay Vijayakumar
Sangeetha Kandavel
CHENNAI

Tamil Nadu has seen an increase in registration of luxury cars among a growing affluent population.

According to data sourced from the State's Commissionerate of Transport and Safety, there has been an increase in registration of motor cars for which the sale value is over ₹30 lakh. In 2023-24, 8,475 such cars were registered in the State - an increase of about 46.2% from 5,797 cars in 2022-23.

In 2021-22, 3,954 cars were registered, as against 2,816 cars in 2020-21 (which was impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic). In 2019-2020, 4,187 cars were registered. "While there is no standard definition for luxury cars in India, generally they are known by brands such as BMW, Audi, Mercedes-Benz, and ultra luxury brands such as Rolls-Royce," auto industry expert Som Kapoor, Partner at EY Future of Mobility, said.

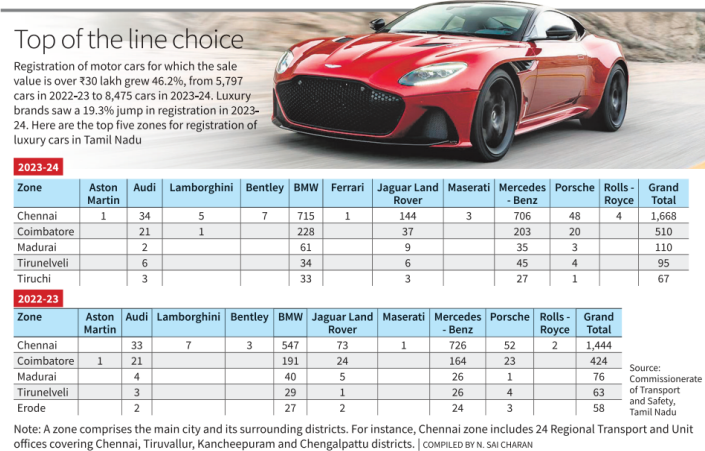
Tamil Nadu has seen an

increase in registration of luxury car brands too. In 2023-24, 2,714 luxury cars were registered - an increase of about 19.3% from 2,275 cars in 2022-23. In 2023-24, the BMW saw the highest registration at 1,192 cars, followed by Mercedes-Benz at 1,122 cars. Other brands include Jaguar Land Rover (217), Porsche (84) and Audi (77).

The State also witnessed registration of ultra-luxury brands such as Rolls-Royce (4), Ferrari (1), Maserati (3), Aston Martin (1), Bentley (7) in the Chennai Zone during 2023-24.

The Chennai Zone saw the highest number of luxury brands registered at 1,668 in 2023-24. It was followed by Coimbatore Zone with 510 cars, Madurai Zone, 110; Tirunelveli Zone, 95; and Tiruchi Zone, 65.

Vikram Pawah, president, BMW Group India, said in terms of sedans vs sports activity vehicles (SAVs), the preference of customers in the State was almost the same towards both. "However, we see an increasing popularity of



SAVs in the region. The most popular sedan is the BMW 3 Series, while popular SAVs include BMW X1, BMW X3, BMW X5 and the flagship model BMW X7," he added.

The luxury class models, BMW 7 Series, BMW X7, BMW i7 and BMW XM, command a sizeable portion of sales, Mr. Pawah said, adding: "The customer base for luxury cars has evolved tremendously in the last decade. Apart from traditionally wealthy families, a new group of achiev-

ers having a global outlook and an eye for luxury products has emerged in India. Young entrepreneurs and leaders are actively shaping the demand for luxury car market. With the rise in disposable income, they are not hesitant to spend on luxury products and services..."

Santosh Iyer, managing director and CEO, Mercedes-Benz India, said there was a strong affinity for top-end luxury sedans such as the S-Class and Long Wheelbase E-Class in

Chennai, and in the State. Customers in the State also love Mercedes-Benz SUVs like the GLA, GLC and GLE, he said, pointing out that Mercedes-Benz outpaced the overall luxury car industry market in Tamil Nadu, growing by 6%, even as the industry grew by 2.5% in January to June 2024.

The customer base for Mercedes-Benz in Tamil Nadu comprises an interesting mix of businesspersons, entrepreneurs, real estate developers, start-up founders, and professional clientele such as doctors, lawyers and salaried corporate professionals, Mr. Iyer said, adding: "Apart from the important hub of Chennai, we are witnessing a rising customer demand for our cars from established markets such as Coimbatore, Tiruchirappalli, Madurai, and Salem; and from emerging markets such as Kancheepuram, Tiruvallur, Erode, and Tiruppur. The trend is encouraging as it underlines the development and potential growth of Tamil Nadu as one of most advanced economies across the country."

Balbir Dhillon, head of Audi India, said that over the past three years, the company observed a notable increase in sales within the region. "It is a market that has an appetite for performance cars. From the very loved Audi Q3 right up to the flagship RS e-tron GT, our sports electric car, (costs upwards of ₹1.9 crore) - we have witnessed good demand. Our RS range specifically has many brand fans and buyers in the region," Mr. Dhillon added.

After COVID-19, many youth and emerging entrepreneurs are purchasing top-end cars. Today, 70% of our customers are aged below 50, he said.

EY's Kapoor said that in the recent years, luxury car sales had seen good traction in metros, Tier-II and Tier-III cities. Yet, they account for only 1% of the overall passenger car market in India. The growth of luxury car sales has been faster than the traditional cars, and the trend is likely to continue, he added.

On increase in electricity tariff in T.N.

Has tariff rise become a constant practice? Why are Micro, Small, and Medium Enterprises protesting the rise in electricity tariffs in Tamil Nadu? Apart from tariff hikes, why was the Tamil Nadu Generation and Distribution Corporation Limited in the limelight recently?

EXPLAINER

T. Ramakrishnan

The story so far:

In July 15, the Tamil Nadu Electricity Regulatory Commission (TNERC) announced an average hike of 4.83% for domestic and all other consumers. The increase came into effect retrospectively from July 1. The Commission waited for the Lok Sabha and Vikravandi Assembly byelection results before announcing the tariff increase, even as it indicated, in its tariff order of September 2022, that the new tariff will come to effect from July 1 every year. Even though the previous increase of 2.18% was made effective from July 1, 2023 for various types of consumers, the State government absorbed the burden of the increase for most of the consumers, including in the domestic category, which accounts for around 2.3 crore consumers.

Why has the tariff been increased?

The genesis for the present revision can be traced back to the TNERC's tariff order of September 2022 when it was decided to adopt a multi-year tariff framework, beginning from FY2022-23 to 2026-27. The Commission had noted that considering the trend in Consumer Price Inflation (CPI) rates which were in the range of 4.9% to 6.3%, between 2018 and 2022, the CPI index seemed to be a convenient fit. At the time, the panel also decided that irrespective of the inflation rate, the actual annual increase would be capped at 6%. Besides, the State government's support to the Tamil Nadu Generation and Distribution Corporation Limited or TANGEDCO (now called Tamil Nadu Power Distribution Corporation Limited or TNPDCCL) has been on the rise for the last few years. For instance, the figures of tariff subsidy and grants, which were at ₹8,876.36 crore and ₹11,671.06 crore (totally ₹20,547.42 crore) during 2021-22, rose to ₹14,976.42 crore and ₹17,127.18



Feeling the heat: AIADMK cadres stages a demonstration condemning the government for the electricity tariff hike in Madurai on July 23. ASHOK. R

crore (₹32,103.6 crore) during 2023-24. An official said the increase would fetch an additional revenue of ₹2,720 crore and that the power utility was still expected to end the year with a loss of ₹12,280 crore assuming that there is no significant increase in demand during the year.

What has been the impact?

The State government asserts that about one crore domestic consumers have been spared of the increase. There is no change in the scheme for free consumption of 100 units bi-monthly for the domestic category or the free power supply scheme for huts and agriculture.

However, Micro, Small, and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs), which are over 25 lakh in number (as per official registration) and provide employment to the local youth, have protested strongly against the increase, saying that it puts a heavy burden on them. According to the segment of open end spinning mills, the higher electricity charges mean ₹25,000 additional outgo a month. The mills would have to shell out ₹0.35 a unit as additional tariff and ₹35 per KVA (Kilo-volt Ampere) as additional maximum demand charges. The power charges went up by ₹75,000 a month last year. Such frequent increase in power cost is making the

textile industry of Tamil Nadu "uncompetitive," G. Arulmozhi, a representative of the industry, complains. Even though many political parties have condemned the tariff increase, the government has remained unfazed.

For what else was the State power utility in the news recently?

Early this month, the Directorate of Vigilance and Anti-Corruption (DVAC) registered a preliminary inquiry into allegations of serious irregularities in the tender conditions and import of coal by the erstwhile TANGEDCO which caused a huge loss to the State exchequer. This followed the government's nod. Arappor Iyakkam, a Chennai-based anti-corruption body, had alleged, in its complaints to the government at different points of time, that there was massive corruption in the import of coal involving TANGEDCO officials, Adani Global Pte Ltd. and others to the tune of ₹6,066 crore between 2012 and 2016. The allegation centred around both the cost and quality of power supplied.

Even though there has been no statement from the government on this score, the policy note of the State Energy Department for 2024-25 states that the Tamil Nadu Power Generation Corporation Limited (TNPGL), an entity formed out of the former TANGEDCO only to handle production from fossil fuel, has their coal quality wing headed by a superintending engineer to monitor the quality of domestic and imported coal. The Quality Council of India and the Central Power Research Institute (CPRI) are being engaged to sample and analyse domestic coal at the mine end and imported coal at the discharge end.

In the middle of this month, there were reports in a section of the media that industrialist Gautam Adani visited Chennai and held meetings with people whose identities have not yet been revealed publicly. The Adani group was said to be keen on implementing the Parandur airport project and expanding the Kattupalli port.

THE GIST

On July 15, the Tamil Nadu Electricity Regulatory Commission (TNERC) announced an average hike of 4.83% for domestic and all other consumers.

Micro, Small, and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs), which are over 25 lakh in number (as per official registration) and provide employment to the local youth, have protested strongly against the increase, saying that it puts a heavy burden on them.

The State government asserts that about one crore domestic consumers have been spared of the increase.

Source: *The Hindu*, 25 July 2024

TNERC announces 4.83% hike in electricity tariff

The Hindu Bureau
CHENNAI

The Tamil Nadu Electricity Regulatory Commission (TNERC) has announced a hike of 4.83% for domestic and other consumers. The hike was effected as per the consumer price inflation (CPI), the organisation said. The new tariff order will take effect from July 1 this year and would be applicable for both energy and fixed charges.

In the tariff determination order, the TNERC clarified that it had hiked the electricity charges based on the CPI.

As per the tariff order, the slabs for domestic consumers have been increased in the range of 20 paise to 55 paise per unit. While the unit cost under the minimum slab of 400 units bi-monthly, is being increased from ₹4.60 per unit to ₹4.80 per unit; the hike in the slab of 401-500 units is from ₹6.15 to ₹6.45; 501-600 units, the cost is being hiked from ₹8.15 to ₹8.55; 601-800 units, it is increased from ₹9.20 to

Rising cost
The new tariff will take effect from July 1

Tariff for domestic consumers

Units	Old rate	New rate
0-400	₹4.60	₹4.80
401-500	₹6.15	₹6.45
501-600	₹8.15	₹8.55
601-800	₹9.20	₹9.65
801-1000	₹10.20	₹10.70
Above 1000	₹11.25	₹11.80

₹9.65; in the slab of 801-1000 units, the hike is from ₹10.20 to ₹10.70 and the highest slab of above 1,000 units, the tariff is being fixed at ₹11.80 against the old rate of ₹11.25.

In the instance of a consumer using 500 units, the new bimonthly charges would be ₹2,565 against the old rate of ₹2,455.

For common facilities in multi-storey apartments, including low tension (LT) of tariff category 1E (apartments with more than three floors without lift), the rate has been increased to ₹8.55 from ₹8.15 per unit and the fixed charges have been revised to ₹107 per ki-

lo watt per month against the old rate of ₹102.

The tariff for other LT category of public lighting, water supply and sewage has been increased from ₹8.15 to ₹8.55 and the fixed charges have been revised from ₹102 to ₹107.

The tariff has also been increased for places of worship, cottage and micro industries, private educational institutions and hostels, and industries and information technology services.

In the high tension categories also, the energy charges along with demand charges, have been increased.

(Left) Source: *The Hindu*, 16 July 2024

(Below) Source: *The New Indian Express*, 13 July 2024, p. 4

Tangedco's trifurcation gets centre's approval

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @ Chennai

THE Union government's Ministry of Corporate Affairs (MCA) has approved the trifurcation of Tangedco to Tamil Nadu Power Distribution Corporation Limited (TNPDC), Tamil Nadu Power Generation Corporation Limited (TNPGL), and Tamil Nadu Green Energy Corporation Limited (TNGECL) on June 27.

The power utility has consequently notified this to all its chief engineers, superintending engineers, and other employees on Friday, directing its employees to use the new name, TNPDC, in all communications. "All contractors, suppliers, customers, and others with contracts, agreements, or bonds with Tangedco should be informed about the trifurcation. TNPDC will now be responsible for all obligations. New purchase orders and work awards should be issued in the name of TNPDC," the utility said.

A senior official told *TNIE*, "TNPGL and TNGECL were incorporated on February 9 and 10 this year. A provisional transfer scheme has been announced to transfer assets, rights, liabilities,

and personnel from Tangedco to TNPGL and TNGECL."

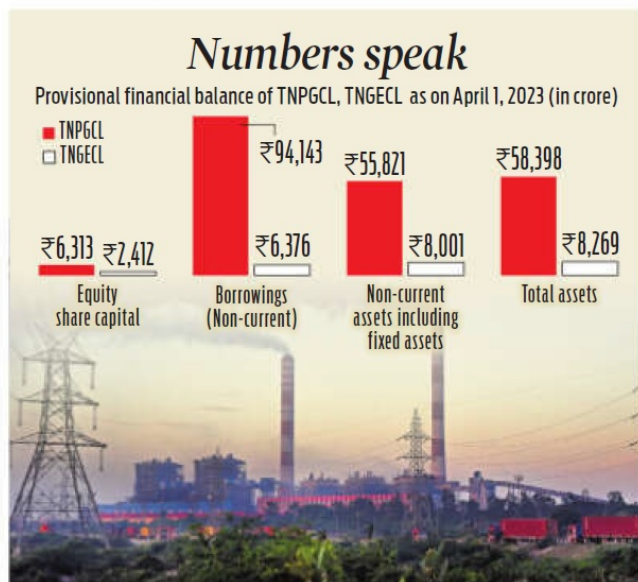
He added, "Discussions are under way about logos for the new companies, staff transfers and other activities. We aim to

complete these tasks by the end of the year."

Highlighting the importance of the new companies, another official said, "The trifurcation aims to improve performance. Separating power generation from distribution will reduce financial losses. The power generation corporation will now compete effectively with private entities."

R Murali Krishnan, former all-India president of BMS (Electricity wing), criticised the lack of discussion with unions about employee transfers, causing misunderstanding between the management and staff. He urged Tangedco to consult unions before transferring employees.

A Sekkizhar, state general secretary of TNEB Employees Federation requested the power utility not to reduce its workforce. He said, "We have opposed the formation of new companies from the start, fearing privatisation. The state government should reconsider this decision."

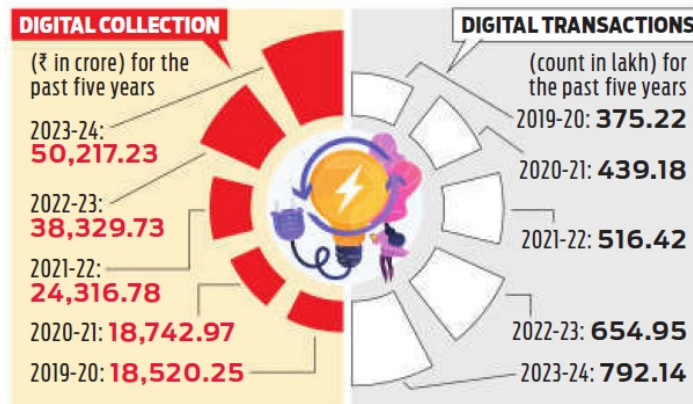


83% electricity bills in TN paid via digital mode

S GURUVANMIKANATHAN @Chennai

DIGITAL payment of power bills has seen a significant uptick with about 83% of payments now being paid through that mode in TN, sources said. "Particularly, all high-tension consumers (industries) across the state make payments only through digital mode," an official said.

In financial year 2023-24, the Tamil Nadu Generation and Distribution Corporation (Tangedco) collected ₹50,217 crore towards power bill payments through digital channels. This is a 31% increase compared to ₹38,329 crore in 2022-23. A senior Tangedco official told *TNIE*, "Digital payments are growing every year. We have made it easy for consumers to pay their bills



through net banking, Bharat Bill Payment System, e-seva centres, post offices, payment gateways, debit/credit cards, bank counters, and much more."

With these facilities being extended to consumers, collection

efficiency has crossed more than 99%, the highest in the country, he said.

Another official highlighted the use of SMS for various notifications. "We send SMS for meter assessment, payment confir-

mation, reminders three days before the due date, and notification of power outages. We send 33 crore messages annually."

Tangedco serves 3.5 crore consumers spread across domestic, commercial, agricultural, and industrial sectors. Tangedco collects charges from 1.3 crore consumers every month.

"As a pilot project, we have introduced QR code facilities in direct collection centres in the north region," the official said.

M Sureshkumar, an IT employee from Villivakkam, Chennai, welcomed Tangedco's digital payment initiative and suggested discounts for those using online platforms. "States like Telangana, Rajasthan, and Uttar Pradesh offer discounts to encourage online payments," he said.

Source: *The New Indian Express*, 18 July 2024, p. 4

Tourism department needs more muscle power to handle massive influx

Vivek Narayanan
@timesgroup.com

Chennai: The state received 28.61 crore domestic tourists and 11.75 lakh foreign tourists in 2023. And, to manage this massive influx, however, there are only 31 tourism security personnel and very few tourist police in the state. Although the state tourism department plans to induct more ex-servicemen, including women, as tourism wardens, industry experts stress the need for at least 20 personnel and tourist police at each destination.

THE GOALS OF TSO

- Providing safety and security to the tourist
- Hassle-free travel
- Provision of proper communication to tourists
- To provide first aid assistance, guide tourists to hospitals
- Look out for them and prevent them from entering dangerous/prohibited area, and provide assistance
- Finding missing tourists or their belongings
- Meeting any unforeseen requirements of a tourist when they're at an unfamiliar location

Since 2010, Tourist Security Organisation (TSO) has operated under Tourism department, ensuring safety and

providing communication support to tourists in their local languages. Currently, TSO personnel, all ex-servicemen,

operate in five tourist centers: Mamallapuram, Ooty, Kodaikanal, Rameswaram, and Kanyakumari, with six person-

nel at each destination. Chief tourist warden captain Divya Prabha, stationed in Chennai, coordinates and monitors the wardens' work.

Despite their low numbers, TSO personnel have prevented 4,951 drownings between 2019 and 2023, primarily in coastal areas or pilgrimage centers such as Rameshwaram, Kanyakumari, and Mamallapuram. "We are equipped with life buoys and trained in rescue," said Prabha. Additionally, the wardens have facilitated 93 instances of first aid and hospitalization, located 345 missing

tourists, and recovered 535 missing belongings.

Wardens ensure tourists' safety and security, manage crowds, facilitate VIP movement, and assist in locating lost tourists. "They are trained in multiple languages, including English, Kannada, Malayalam, Tamil, and Hindi," said Prabha.

But, representatives from the tourism industry said, a lot of improvements need to be made. "The govt should understand the roles, responsibilities, and importance of the wardens. Their visibility should be improved like that

of the city police. They should be on the field always," said Sriharan Balan, chairman, tourism, Southern India Chamber of Commerce and Industry (SICCI).

Meanwhile, the state govt plans to introduce TSO personnel to Madurai, Trichy, Tiruvannamalai, Thanjavur, and Hogenakkal, and expand the existing numbers in Mamallapuram, Ooty, Kodaikanal, Rameswaram, and Kanyakumari. "We are planning to have 20 personnel at each center, including 10 women, under the Nirbhaya fund," a senior official said.

Source: *The Times of India*, 1 July 2024, p. 4

Tamil Nadu's own Stonehenge left to rot with its potential for research

An ancient observatory is found at the State's first astro-archaeological site in Sivaganga. This points to a highly learned group called *Tamil Arivargal* which had resided in the region. This group, which finds a mention in *Tholkaappiyam*, was well versed in astronomy, tracking not only the movement of the sun and the moon but also of the stars

Beulah Rose

About 4000 years ago, a south Indian traveller might have taken advantage of the best navigational season to reach Sumeria. There, to write a letter home, he would have used the stylus and he might have engraved his well-being in cuneiform, the oldest form of writing, on a clay tablet. This would be baked and sent by sea to his homeland, perhaps a village in Tamil Nadu. But this clay tablet did not make its way home, but remained in Sumeria to be unearthed centuries later. In the early 20th Century, it was translated and found that the Sumerian language and the Dravidian language, the early Tamil script, had a genetic linguistic relationship. Though many can vouch for the fact that Tamil Nadu had a flourishing culture 4000 years ago, the remains that are being unearthed, other than rock paintings, only reveal a thriving culture from about 3000 to 3500 years ago. But artefacts from south India that have been unearthed in Mesopotamia point to a civilization of over 4000 years.

The first astronomers

One can assume that the traveller might have taken with him objects like wood and gold to be traded. Along with his business acumen, he would have exchanged his knowledge of the stars and the moons with the Sumerians. History says the Sumerians, or the ancient Mesopotamians, were among the first astronomers, and they had come up with a solar year consisting of 365 days. After gaining new knowledge for a few years, this unnamed traveller might have returned home. It may have been possible that his home was in a village now called Ellanthankarai in Sivaganga.

South India had a flourishing megalithic civilization. Potsherds, beads, and ornaments are still being unearthed from areas around Pudukkottai, Sivaganga, and Ramanathapuram. Residents like Sumathi of Kalayarkoil, which is 8 km from Ellanthankarai, say that each time someone digs up the ground for erecting a building, pieces of black and red pottery keep coming up. This claim is backed by the recent discovery of a huge burial and habitation site by amateur archaeologist Ramesh at Ellanthankarai.



A glorious past: A cylinder pillar still stands at what is believed to be an astronomical observatory ground at Ellanthankarai in Sivaganga district. At right is a potsherd at the megalithic burial site. R. ASHOK

Assuming that the early traveller was from the region, the finding of an ancient observatory at the burial site assumes significance.

K. Balakrishnan, principal, Bharathi Matriculation School, Tiruchi, and a resource person in astro-archaeology, says this is the first astro-archaeological site in Tamil Nadu that reveals a clear observatory ground. This would then lead to a highly learned group called *Tamil Arivargal* who resided in the region. According to Madurai-based archaeologist Ve. Balamurali, the earliest mention of these people is in *The Tholkaappiyam*. These people were well versed in astronomy. They would disseminate what they learnt to others and this form of learning was called *Ainthiram*, the mention of which is also found in *The Tholkaappiyam*.

Today, at Ellanthankarai, opposite the open prison, is a 70-acre land covered with thorny shrubs. Here lies the huge burial site dating back to the megalithic period. A small canal, now called the Nattarkaal, divides the burial site from the habitation sites. This canal may have been once a tributary of the Vaigai or it may have been dug for irrigation. This stream drains into the sea on the Ramanathapuram coast. The habitation sites seem to have been built near lakes and ponds. As the region is characterised by



floodplains, rain-fed agriculture might have been practised here.

Numerous cairn circles

The burial site, filled with brownish granular soil, seems to be on an elevated plain. The burial ground is mostly flat, and might have been treeless, and with not much human disturbance, it would have been the perfect place for the ancient astronomers to observe the night sky. A walk through the site reveals numerous cairn circles signifying the remains of a huge population of early people. The cairn circles are a megalithic burial place. The site is marked by a circular or quasi-circular arrangement of stones with a chamber often containing the remains of the deceased, along with grave goods such as pottery, tools, and beads.

At each turn among brambles, one can glimpse shards of black and red pottery and sometimes thick red ware pottery. Some retain their shape in the dense laterite soil and some are broken, hanging precariously in pits dug by vandals. Many of the stones show signs of heavy erosion and at some places, there are gaps revealing that they have been removed. Some of the stones are fully covered with climbing shrubs.

And in the midst of this burial site, the *Tamil*

Arivargal had an observatory. A cylinder pillar still stands. Here, these men might have hunched down to observe the sun, the moon, and the stars. The site is strewn with menhirs, large upright stones that may signify some sort of ritual or a marker for a calendar. A very distinct menhir, shaped like an anthropomorphic figure, might have represented ancestral worship and played a major role in the celestial study.

Accurate reading of axial tilt

Mr. Balakrishnan says that after making continuous reading at the site, they found that the ancient people had even got the earth's axial tilt precisely, which is about 23.5 degrees. These stones, some roughly hewn into a star shape, some hacked to reveal the first and third quarters of a moon, are in a line straight to the observatory point.

He says this study of celestial movement might have been the precursor to making a calendar. The marking of seasonal changes by observing the stars was needed for the early merchants to travel to Sumeria. It would have also helped to predict the monsoonal season for the early farmers. Even today, if one observes from the pillar, the winter solstice, the summer solstice, and the equinox are perfectly marked with the stones set in the precise location, Mr. Balakrishnan adds.

"What is needed are steps to protect this site that has immense potential for research. The U.K. government has turned a similar astro-archaeological site, the Stonehenge, into a major tourist attraction. At Stonehenge, only 52 of the original sarsen stones remain, but here we have numerous menhirs, a clearly marked station stone, and laterite stones kept in a studied distance with markings reflecting their use in astronomy," Mr. Balamurali laments.

Sources from the Tamil Nadu State Department of Archaeology confirm that Ellanthankarai is a massive burial site and steps are being taken to protect it. As for its importance to astronomy, they say that more research needs to be done. Till then, the *Tamil Arivargal* will remain hidden in the crumbling pages of history and will have to wait for someone to unlock their knowledge of the stars.

Source: *The Hindu*, 26 July 2024

Kumittipathi rock paintings reflecting Kongu history to be developed as tourist spot



Ancient rock paintings at the foothills of Kumittipathi Hills, Coimbatore | EXPRESS

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
@ Coimbatore

ROCK paintings in Kumittipathi Hills, which is situated near Thirumalaiyampalayam in Coimbatore, will soon gain wide exposure as the state archaeology department is all set to develop the place into a tourist destination.

A senior official from the archaeology department said this is part of a statewide programme to preserve and develop 10 historically important

archaeological sites. An announcement regarding the plan was made in the Assembly by Minister for Archaeology Thangam Thennarasu this year.

"A GO announcing ten places as protected sites would be released soon. After this, the government would sanction funds every year for maintenance. Some of the places which can be easily accessed by people would be turned into tourist attractions. Kumittipathi rock paintings is one of the places

on the list," a source said.

As the number of devotees visiting the Murugan temple situated atop the hill is increasing, the department hopes that it will be convenient for people to know about the paintings which reflect the history of the Kongu region.

An officer in the archaeology department of Coimbatore re-

gion said three ancient rock paintings have been identified at Vettaikarammalai near Velarukkampalayam in Thondamuthur region, Alagu Nachiyar Koil at Govanur near Periyanaickenpalayam and the last one is at the foothills of the Kumittipathi. "The first two places are situated inside a reserve forest. Whereas Kumittipathi

can be easily accessed. This is why people damaged the paintings without realising their heritage value," the officer added. The officer said two types of rock paintings have been identified in India - red and white. In Kumittipathi, the paintings are white, believed to be 2,500 years old. The paintings illustrate life style of the pre-Sangam era and the relationship between people and elephants.

The state government has increased fund from ₹2 crore to ₹3 crore, sources added.

EE The first two rock paintings are situated inside a reserve forest. Whereas, Kumittipathi can be easily accessed. This is why people damaged the paintings without realising their heritage value
An officer, Archaeology Department (Coimbatore)

Source: *The New Indian Express*, 12 July 2024, p. 4

Draft report to improve sewer network to be ready soon

The consultant needs to identify affected areas, recommend improvements needed for optimum efficiency of infrastructure. The study will focus on modernising sewage collection system

K. Lakshmi
CHENNAI

The old sewerage infrastructure that often faces recurring complaints in Chennai's core areas may be improved in a few years. The draft report of the study that was commissioned to assess the existing condition of the sewer network is set to be ready by October.

In a bid to improve the sewerage system on par with the rapid growth in the metropolis, Chennai Metrowater had hired Sai Consultants to study the network that is over six decades old in the city, covering 174 sq.km. and spread over zones 4,5,6, 8,9,10 and 13.

The consultant would have to identify the chronically-affected areas and recommend improvements essential for optimum efficiency of the infrastructure. Officials of the Metrowater said the consultant would evaluate the condition of the network in each



Attention sought: Residents often complain of sewage mixing with drinking water on Vedagiri Street in Chintadripet. R. RAGU

zone – from sewage generation to disposal practices and reuse of treated sewage in the zones.

The study would focus on modernising the sewage collection system linked to sewage treatment plants in Perungudi, Koyambedu, Nesapakkam and Kodungaiyur. At present, about 580 million litres of sewage is collected in core parts everyday. With the completion of projects, the network would be able to carry an additional 200 mld of sewage.

Metrowater's sewerage infrastructure comprises pipelines running to a length of nearly 2,879 km, including pumping main lines, 221 pumping stations and 92,378 machine holes. The water agency would take decisions, including on building new pumping stations and increasing the capacity of the sewer lines to suit the projected population in 2060 based on the report of the study.

Residents of various parts of the city, including Chintadripet, noted that the sewer lines needed a

revamp. Sewage mixing in drinking water is a recurring complaint on streets like Vedagiri Street and Mangapathy Street in Chintadripet.

Over ₹1,700 crore

Officials of the Metrowater said the consultant would have to suggest specific solutions to inadequacies in the sewage collection. The interim report has projected the estimated cost to be around ₹1,771 crore for the projects. Nearly 60% of the sewage pumping stations and lines and 28% of the machine holes are likely to be replaced to address issues in chronically-affected areas.

Localities such as Kodungaiyur, Saidapet and K.K.Nagar would largely benefit from the scheme.

The projects would also mean less pollution in the waterways. About 1,000 sewage outfalls in Adyar, Cooum and Buckingham Canal are likely to be plugged apart from arresting sewage overflow into storm-water drains.

(Left) Source: *The Hindu*, 30 July 2024

(Below) Source: *The Hindu*, 5 July 2024

State housing board plans to complete construction of over 3,000 units by 2025

The Hindu Bureau
CHENNAI

The Tamil Nadu Housing Board (TNHB) will complete the construction and development of more than 3,000 residential and commercial units and layouts under various schemes by the end of 2025.

According to the policy note of the Housing and Urban Development Department for the financial year 2024-25, the TNHB is involved in construction as well as area development projects in various places.

Under the Self-Finance Scheme, in which allottees have to pay the cost of the flats in advance, the TNHB is executing eight projects in Chennai, Chengalpattu, and Tiruchi for various in-



The TNHB is involved in construction as well as area development projects at various places. REPRESENTATIVE IMAGE

come groups. A total of 2,385 units are under construction for low-, middle-, and high-income groups at a cost of ₹886 crore. The TNHB is likely to complete six of the eight projects by 2025.

Similarly, 592 units are under construction for residential and commercial purposes at Arumbakkam, Ashok Nagar, K.K. Nagar, and Besant Nagar in Chennai, and in Erode district, at a cost of ₹624.18

The completed projects are handed over to the local bodies for maintenance

crore. Further, under its Area Development Scheme, the housing board has been creating layouts on its land with roads, street lights, water supply and sewers. These residential and commercial plots are sold to members of the public by a draw of lots or through an auction.

The completed projects are handed over to the local bodies for maintenance. The TNHB will complete 779 units in Chennai, Vellore and Thiruvallur districts by next year.

Port expansion in focus as govt begins claim settlement in Pulicat sanctuary

SV KRISHNA CHAITANYA @Chennai

THE state government has initiated the claim settlement process for final notification of Pulicat bird sanctuary. The question remains whether 13 villages, currently falling within the sanctuary limits, will be included or excluded and this will have direct bearing on expansion of industrial projects, especially the contentious Adani-Kattupalli port.

The recent visit by Gautham Adani, chairman of Adani Group, to Chennai, has caused nervousness among the fisherfolk, who believe hurdles may get cleared for the port's expansion by shrinking the sanctuary's boundary.

Tiruvallur collector initiated the claim process by issuing the notification on February 29 and an advertisement was published in a Tamil daily on March 3. People were asked to submit the claims within two months. The deadline was May 29.

Although a group of environmentalists and fishermen leaders submitted a written request to Tiruvallur collector and chief wildlife warden seeking extension, it was not considered.

When contacted, a senior official at the Tiruvallur collectorate told *TNIE* that the office has kept its door open to accept fresh claims even after the deadline ended.

So far, only a handful of individual claims and about three representations from fishermen groups concerning community rights were received, sources said. Apart from this, all the 13 villages sent representations to the collector and forest department requesting



An aerial view of Pulicat bird sanctuary | SV KRISHNA CHAITANYA

Several bird species found outside sanctuary area

TNIE took part in an aerial survey with the support of the local community in April on the eastern coast side of the sanctuary and found over 2,000 painted storks, flamingos and other birds in Thangal Perungulam, Karungali and Ebrahampur revenue villages outside the sanctuary. This indicates extension of vital bird habitats powered by the Pulicat lake's contiguous hydrology outside the existing administrative sanctuary limits. Experts say it would be crucial to include these eastside revenue villages and other revenue villages inhabiting birds into the boundary after a detailed bird survey.

them not to exclude the villages from sanctuary's limits and reduce the boundary. Villages also requested the forest department to allow continuation of their rights.

As per the official records available with *TNIE*, the initial notification for declaration of Pulicat bird sanctuary was issued on September 22, 1980, under section 18 of the Wildlife Protection Act (WPA). The current area of the sanctuary is 15,367 hectares, which includes the areas covered by 13 villages.

As per the Act, the time-limit to complete the settlement of claims and other proceedings is

two years from the date of notification of declaration of sanctuary under section 18. But, it was not done by the state government for 44 years.

Meanwhile, the number of people getting settled in these 13 villages went up manifold. Some have patta for the land and some don't. Section 19 of WPA deals with bar of accrual of rights, which means after the issue of a notification under section 18, no right shall be acquired over the land within the limits of the area specified in such notification, except by succession, testamentary or intestate.

Tiruvallur collectorate officials said this was the trickiest part. "We are holding consultation with the fisheries department and forest department to take a final call on whether to include the 13 villages within the sanctuary or exclude them by marking the village boundary as the sanctuary boundary."

However, activist K Saravanan said the government cannot use this as an excuse to reduce the sanctuary's boundary and indirectly help ports or other industries to expand. "Some of the settlers after 1980 in these 13 villages are people who were sent from Sriharikota by the government. They were not given patta. The Tamil Nadu government wasted 44 years. People can't be held responsible for that. Under section 24(C) of WPA, the government can allow, in consultation with the chief wildlife warden, the continuation of any right of any person in or over any land within the limits of the sanctuary."

M Yuvaraj, Chennai-based environmentalist, said Pulicat is hydrologically and ecologically one with the Ennore creek, backwaters and Kosasthalaiyar river and all these parts of the river basin need utmost protection.

"Migratory and water birds use this entire region as a habitat. Ideally, the whole watershed and the bird habitat should be protected and brought under the conservation plan. Reducing the sanctuary boundary will allow detrimental industrial projects to erode the lagoon sand bar, and wipe out the entire hydrology of Pulicat," he said.

Source: *The New Indian Express*, 15 July 2024, p. 3

This summer, renewable energy generation in T.N. touches an all-time high

Tangedco had renewable energy generation of 24,530 MUs in March, April, May and June, against total energy generation of 48,835 MUs, showing an average of 50% of clean energy composition

The Hindu Bureau
CHENNAI

The renewable energy generation in the State has crossed the 50%-mark with April witnessing the highest – 52%. Renewable energy, also called non-conventional energy, comprises wind, solar, hydro and cogeneration. Tangedco has achieved a historic renewable energy generation this year.

A senior official of Tangedco, talking of the various types of energy generated in the State, said that in March, April and May this year, Tamil Nadu witnessed several highs of energy demands as well as consumption per day.

High energy demand

The highest energy demand recorded being 20,830 mega watt (MW) on



Comfortably placed: This year, wind and solar energy generation hit a peak to help meet the power requirements of the State.

May 2 and highest consumption per day, 454 million units (MUs).

The State electricity utility, had a total renewable energy generation in March, April, May and June at 24,530 MUs against the total energy generation of

48,835 MUs, showing an average of 50% of clean energy composition.

The senior electricity official said that out of the total generation power capacity of 34,700 MW in the State, the renewable generation capacity was 18,300

MW including hydro power (2,300 MW), wind (8,750 MW), solar (6,550 MW) and cogeneration power (700 MW).

Even as the energy demand in the State breached the 20,500 MW touching 20,700 MW with the city recording 4,380 MW on April 30, in the same month the highest renewable energy generation of 6,900 MUs out of a total generation of 12,960 MUs was recorded. In March also the State witnessed renewable energy generation of 6,360 MUs out of the total generation of 12,680 MUs.

The electricity official said normally the State depends heavily on thermal energy, but this year the wind and solar generation have hit a peak and contributed in a substantial way to meet power requirements in the State.

Source: *The Hindu*, 11 July 2024

State govt. finalising Employment Policy

Sangeetha Kandavel
CHENNAI

Tamil Nadu is in the process of finalising its Employment Policy. In addition to this, six more policies are in the pipeline. The State Planning Commission is actively collaborating with various government departments to steer these policies towards development and implementation.

J. Jeyaranjan, Vice-Chairman of the State Planning Commission, said that rapid technological advancements and shifts in the job market underscored the need for an Employment Policy.

A proposal has been submitted to form a committee comprising consultants and field experts to help develop and formulate a Policy on Art & Culture and Tamil Language. Simultaneously, efforts are under way to frame a Policy on Waste Management in Urban and Rural Areas,

and a Policy on Augmenting Water (for agriculture and drinking).

A Policy for Community Dog Management and Regulation is also on the cards. It is learnt that a committee was formed, the draft is ready and the department's suggestions are awaited. The policy aims to create a safe and healthy environment for co-existence of humans and dogs, recognising the significant role dogs play in our communities despite the risks associated with uncontrolled dog populations.

The State Planning Commission is working on a Sustainable Land Use Policy. The draft policy has been finalised and communicated to the Revenue and Disaster Management Department.

Similarly, a Housing Policy tailored for rural and urban Tamil Nadu has reached the final draft stage, and is awaiting review by relevant departments.

Source: *The Hindu*, 26 July 2024

Business heads in T.N. commend job, skilling initiatives announced in the Budget

The Hindu Bureau
CHENNAI

Industrialists and Chambers of Commerce in Tamil Nadu commended the Union government's Budget announcements on improving job opportunities and skilling initiatives.

They also appreciated the government's support for first-time employees through wage and EPFO schemes. However, a section of them said that there was no State-specific initiative. The real estate sector

also raised some concerns.

Arun Alagappan, president of the Southern India Chamber of Commerce and Industry (SICCI), said that the announcement on the development of investment-ready "plug and play" industrial parks in or near 100 cities was a welcome initiative.

Srivats Ram, chairman of the Confederation of Indian Industry (CII) and Managing Director of Wheels India, said that from a Tamil Nadu perspective, the employment incentives

were encouraging. "Tamil Nadu has a large number of MSMEs and the credit guarantee scheme would help them," he added.

Gopal Srinivasan, Chairman and Managing Director of TVS Capital Funds, said that the Budget was the 'Dream Budget' for startup growth capital. "Equally important was the abolition of the Angel Tax in a single line. Introduced in 2012, this tax caused enormous stress amongst early-stage startup investors and found-



Industry and business leaders at a discussion on the Union Budget in Chennai on Tuesday. S.R. RAGHUNATHAN

ders. It sent a message that the government frowned upon startups, despite an administration that was gung-ho about promoting

them," he said.

On the announcement regarding stamp duty, Ajit Kumar Chordia, Managing Director of Olympia Group

India, said: "This is particularly relevant for Tamil Nadu, which still has relatively high stamp duty and registration fees. In contrast, places like Maharashtra have offered benefits such as stamp duty reduction for women and first-time homebuyers."

The Confederation of Real Estate Developers' Associations of India (Credai) Chennai, said: "We appreciate the initiative encouraging States to lower

stamp duties for properties purchased by women or in their names, but we need clarity on how it's getting implemented in the States." Credai said that one of the disappointments was the change in the long-term capital gains tax from 20% with indexation benefit to a flat 12.5% without indexation benefit.

T. R. Kesavan, president of the Madras Chamber, said: "The Chamber appreciates that the Budget is fo-

cused on easing business operations, supporting MSMEs, encouraging entrepreneurship and boosting employment."

Chozha Naachiar Rajasekar, president of the Tamil Chamber of Commerce, said that it was disappointing that there was no proposal or allocation of funds for any infrastructure projects in Tamil Nadu.

Vijay P. Chordia, president of the Hindustan Chamber of Commerce, called it a focused Budget.

Source: *The Hindu*, 24 July 2024



Luxury and flexibility combined: WeWork India, a co-working company that has entered Chennai recently, picked up space at Guindy. Spanning 1,30,000 square feet, this facility houses over 2,000 desks. WeWork will launch its next office at the DLF Cybercity at Porur by December.

The changing face of workplaces

The world changed in many ways during the COVID-19 pandemic. One of the most significant aspects was the introduction of work-from-home, thanks to lockdowns. That, in essence, started a revolution in the way people looked at their workspace. A spillover was the growth of flexible co-working spaces. **Sangeetha Kandavel** writes

The number of seats at co-working spaces in Chennai has been increasing every month, reflecting the growing trend of companies, businesses, and individuals preferring a flexible workplace environment. Smaller towns in Tamil Nadu are also becoming attractive locations for co-working spaces. The demand for flexible office solutions is increasing in cities like Coimbatore, Madurai, Tiruchi, and Salem, too, thanks to the growing entrepreneurial ecosystems and significant investment. The companies in this space are investing in these cities now. Start-ups, micro, small and medium enterprises, information technology and manufacturing companies, Global Capability Centres (GCCs), traditional industries, and even students are choosing co-working spaces. The trend that peaked during COVID-19 thrives even after the pandemic subsided.

The reason is that the entry-level cost is minimal for co-working spaces, requiring no substantial deposits. These workspaces can be picked up for a day or a week. For a day, the charge varies from ₹500 to ₹1,200, depending on the space, location, and the required infrastructure like conference rooms and projectors. The monthly charges work out to ₹6,500-₹15,000 for a seat in a furnished centre with Wi-Fi, air-conditioning, and light refreshments. "The co-working space model allows businesses to adjust their space requirement easily, saving on capital expenses. It facilitates operation across multiple locations rather than at one place," says Sanjay Chugh, city head-Chennai, ANAROCK Group. "When you hire a car, you go from point A to point B and get out. You don't have to buy a car. Much like hiring a car for a trip rather than purchasing one, co-working provides a cost-effective, adaptable solution without long-term commitments," he explains. He also notes that the big tech parks will continue to co-exist with the co-working spaces.

Today, local and pan-Indian co-working players open offices on Old Mahabalipuram Road, in the Tidel Park Area, at Anna Nagar, Adyar and Nungambakkam, and on Anna Salai in Chennai. According to Jerry Kingsley, Head, Strategic Consulting & Value & Risk Advisory, Jones Lang LaSalle (JLL), the co-working culture in Chennai started gaining popularity in the early 2010s. Some of the early players were Workafella, Hive, Regus, and iKeva. Data gathered by JLL show that the total supply in Chennai is over 1.4 lakh seats, spread across 4.7 million square feet, with 28% vacancy. The next major market is Coimbatore, where more than 16,000 seats were absorbed last year. Tiruchi and Tirunelveli are gaining momentum, though they have lower than 1,000 seats. The key players are Smartworks, WorkEZ, WeWork, Coworks, Cactus, Awfis, Symbyont, Table Space, and IndiQube.

Government steps in

Seeing the popularity of co-working spaces, the Chennai Metropolitan Development Authority (CMDA) is preparing to enter this market by establishing facilities at Anna Nagar, CIT Nagar, and Kolathur. These centres will be operational by December 2025. CMDA Member-Secretary Anshul Mishra says, "We are not competing with the private players. We are trying to bridge the gap for the low income groups, those who can't spend much on office space. This will be on a par with any professional co-working space."

There is an unorganised co-working market, too, with smaller operators renting out portions of their office or residential spaces. Builders are including co-working space/office space in their residential projects. "Many developers in other



When you hire a car, you go from point A to point B and get out. You don't have to buy a car. Much like hiring a car for a trip rather than purchasing one, co-working provides a cost-effective, adaptable solution without long-term commitments

SANJAY CHUGH,
city head-Chennai,
ANAROCK Group

parts of India are doing this. And I also saw this design concept in one upcoming project in Chennai," Mr. Chugh says.

Utkarsh Kawatra, co-founder, myHQ by ANAROCK, a co-working platform that helps people find and book workspace, notes that many coffee shops are renting out portions of their unused space for co-working. He says he receives at least 200 bookings a day from individuals seeking space on a daily basis. "Anyone who needs a 10-seater or a 500-seater now sees flex spaces as a good option. For teams of more than 200, it may not lead to direct cost-saving, but the ease of not getting capital locked in infrastructure and not making efforts at managing the spaces far outweigh the 10%-20% premium you may have to pay," he adds.

A risky proposition

Start-ups and clients *The Hindu* spoke to said investing huge capex in buildings while starting a business is always risky. So they pick up a few seats based on demand at flex spaces. Once the business grows, they opt for bigger spaces.

Prithip Kumar Ramakrishnan, director of AdamsBridge, an information-technology-enabled services company which operates out of WorkEZ, says, "Co-working is much easier when it comes to running operations. From maintenance and electricity to security and housekeeping, everything is taken care of. And this helps businesses like us to focus on operations. In terms of pricing, there is not much of a difference when you look at a conventional space and a co-working space." He adds, "Currently, we operate out of Anna Salai and we have taken around 240 seats. But, next week, we will be moving to Velachery (WorkEZ), where we have picked up 500 seats."

Interestingly, most of the co-working spaces are helping companies migrate to bigger spaces like a managed workspace. Managed office space is a flexible workspace solution: a company leases an entire office or a portion of an office that is fully serviced and managed by a third-party provider. Most players in the co-working spaces in Tamil Nadu are also into managed office space. Managed offices cater to businesses that have outgrown co-working space or serviced office spaces but still desire flexibility and convenience, seeking a dedicated space of their own.

An expanding market

In the past three months, major co-working players have entered Chennai, while the existing ones have expanded. One of the recent entrants is WeWork India, which has picked up space at Guindy. Spanning 1,30,000 square feet, this facility houses over 2,000 desks. It is a luxurious workspace. Firms such as Wheelocity Fresh Private Limited, Molex India Pvt Ltd, Dr. Wamser + Batra India Private Limited, and H2O LLC operate from this space. WeWork will launch its next office at the DLF Cybercity at Porur by December this year.

Workafella, which started operations in Chennai from a centre on TTK Road, Alwarpet, in 2016, now has five centres, with 4,600 workstations spanning over 3 lakh square feet. Gurbinder Rathna, founder and managing director, Workafella, says, "We are looking to double our footprint in Chennai in the next year and a half."

"We are currently in an advanced stage of discussions in Coimbatore, and we are targeting over 2,000 workstations this fiscal. Subsequently, we will be looking at Madurai, Tiruchi, and Hosur. We see a potential for adding another 3,000 workstations across Tamil Nadu in coming days," he adds.

The Bengaluru-headquartered Table Space, which entered the Chennai market in 2022, has introduced newer formats and expanded its footprint across Chennai. From around 1,20,000 square feet at KRC Commercezone, it now has approximately 8,00,000 square feet. "We recently added 6,60,000 square feet across two new properties: Mapletree Global Infocity Park and DLF Downtown, Taramani. This expansion represents an approximately ₹500 crore rental commitment over the next five years," says Vaibhav Joshi, Executive Director, Table Space. "Table Space plans for the Chennai market involve addition of 8,00,000-1 million square feet over the next two years," he adds.

Tier 2/3 towns

The co-working space providers are targeting tier 2 and tier 3 towns in Tamil Nadu. After Chennai, Coimbatore is the next major centre. In the past year, the demand for co-working space has



WorkEZ has leased a 1,00,000-square foot office building at Saravanampatti. Coimbatore's information technology hub. The project is under development. It is expected to open by the fourth quarter of 2024

SUNIL REDDY,
co-founder and chairperson, WorkEZ

surged in Madurai and in smaller towns like Tirunelveli. Experts say that as investment flows into the southern districts, the demand for co-working space is set to rise. A real estate player in Madurai notes that some of the major companies which have signed deals with the State government at Global Investors Meet 2024 have settled their teams in co-working spaces. "They will transition from these spaces once their offices are fully established."

Shyam Sundar, founder and CEO, GoFloaters, an aggregator of flexible workspaces, cites an example of how companies first settle for a co-working space and then expand. "A Dubai-based oil and gas company chose Madurai to establish a low-cost back office centre and leverage the local talent pool. It started out with 10 seats, and plans to increase the number to 50 in the next six months," he said.

IndiQube, which has substantial presence in Chennai, is also present in Coimbatore and Madurai. It has three properties in Coimbatore, on Avinashi Road and at Saravanampatti. Together, they amount to over 2.3 lakh square feet. In Madurai, it has one property of 35,000 square feet. The company is planning to increase its presence in these cities.

Harsh Lambah, Country Manager-India, IWG, says, "We are aggressively expanding in Coimbatore. We are also looking at Madurai and other places. Because tier 2 is a big opportunity for us and a great success story, especially after the pandemic."

WorkEZ, one of the biggest players in the co-working space in Chennai, is eyeing the Coimbatore market. Sunil Reddy, its co-founder and chairperson, says, "WorkEZ has leased a 1,00,000-square foot office building at Saravanampatti, Coimbatore's information technology hub. The project is under development. It is expected to open by the fourth quarter of 2024."

Another real estate player says some regional players are betting on the concept in the Hosur and Salem regions. "These smaller players have repurposed office spaces or large buildings into co-working spaces, believing that they can monetise these assets by turning them into workspaces rather than leaving them vacant," he says.

"Hosur is home to numerous manufacturing and ancillary units. With Ola setting up a large plant in the area, suppliers and vendors needing proximity to the factory are opting for these workspaces," Mr. Chugh adds. Mr. Sundar, of GoFloaters, says the trend has gathered pace in Salem and Tiruchi, with local players offering co-working spaces. "We also have players like Mikro Grafeio that work with the Global Capability Centres to set up their workspaces in tier 2 and 3 cities. They already have centres in Tiruchi, Madurai, Salem, and Tirunelveli," he says, adding that the pandemic has brought many experienced professionals back to their home towns, and they are turning entrepreneurs.



Wide reach: The co-working space providers are targeting tier 2 and tier 3 towns. A co-working space operated by IWG in Coimbatore.

Source: *The Hindu*, 28 July 2024

Skilling ecosystem is missing crucial industry links: TNSDC MD

The Hindu Bureau
CHENNAI

The one challenge that exists today is the missing industry linkage in the skilling ecosystem, said J. Innocent Divya, Managing Director (MD), Tamil Nadu Skill Development Corporation (TNSDC), on Tuesday.

Speaking at *The Hindu's* Tamil Nadu Women's Summit 2024, she said: "The main challenge in a massive skilling initiative is the upgradation of hardware facilities that exist in colleges. Currently, 31 government engineering colleges will get skill and placement centres with access to state-of-the-art systems with internet connectivity. In the second phase, we have already given a tender for 100 skill and placement centres in government arts and science colleges too. We also plan to have language and coding labs exclusively for women."



J. Innocent Divya, Managing Director, Tamil Nadu Skill Development Corporation, speaking at the summit. AKHILA EASWARAN

In a discussion on WISE: Women in Skills and Entrepreneurship, she said: "For the Tamil Nadu Women Employment and Safety Programme (WE-SAFE), the government has allotted ₹1,500 crore from World Bank funds this year, in order to ensure safe areas for work, workplaces, and upskilling for women."

Generative AI

Ms. Divya also said: "Now, we are also planning to partner with companies, along with Anna University, to give generative artificial intelligence only for

women students. They have set a target of reaching 5 lakh women."

Stating that the government is also focusing on women who might have dropped out of school or are not confident to pursue careers, she said, "They will be addressed through the Tamil Nadu Skill Finishing Schools. Here we are empanelling industries to give training. We have signed up with more than 20 hospitals which require skilling in geriatric care and other areas. These would be part of the T.N. Skill Finishing School Programme," she said.

Source: *The Hindu*, 31 July 2024

State govt.'s skill development training helps unemployed tribal youths secure jobs

N. Sai Charan

CHENNAI

Under its Comprehensive Tribal Development Programme (CTDP), the Adi Dravidar and Tribal Welfare Department has conducted soft skills training programmes for 146 youths of the Scheduled Tribes and helped them land jobs in the customer relationship management (CRM) and computer numerical control (CNC) domains of various firms.

The department chalked out a plan to conduct training for Scheduled Tribe youths who have come down from ITIs or completed diplomas or degrees and remain unemployed or underemployed. A door-to-door survey conducted by the teachers of Government Tribal Residential Schools in various districts identified 450 unemployed youths, said G. Laxmi Priya, Secretary of the department.

Of them, 146 were selected for the soft skills training programme in Bengaluru, conducted by Nettur Technical Training Foundation, an empa-



Scripting success: Youths participating in a skill training session organised by the Nettur Technical Training Foundation.

nelled institute of the Tamil Nadu Skill Development Corporation. After they completed the three-month programme, the department arranged placements for all of them, she said. Chief Minister M.K. Stalin recently handed over the training completion certificates and job offer letters to the beneficiaries.

Speaking to *The Hindu*, K. Poongodi, a beneficiary, who has a postgraduate degree in Tamil, said, "The CRM training programme was very helpful. We were trained in soft skills, how to interact with customers, and spoken English." Ms. Poongodi, who was underemployed as a labourer at

Melapappampadi near Gingee, has got three job offers from financial services and motor companies.

M. Manikandan, a beneficiary from Jayankondam in Ariyalur district, said, "The training programme was an eye-opener as I got an opportunity to interact with and learn from peers from various parts of the State." He got a job offer from an aluminium casting company.

S. Annadurai, Director, Department of Tribal Welfare, said that following the success of the pilot project, the department was planning to expand it by training more unemployed and underemployed ST youths.

Source: *The Hindu*, 11 July 2024

ICT Academy signs ₹88-crore MoUs to train 90K students

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
@ Chennai

Aimed at training over 90,000 students across the state, the Information and Communication Technology Academy has signed multiple memorandums of understanding (MoUs) worth a total of ₹88 crore with corporate companies, government departments and product-specific companies. The focus will be to train students, especially women, from government colleges and help at least 70% of those land jobs.

The students will be trained in various areas including information technology, cybersecurity, soft skills like communication, banking, financial services and insurance (BFSI) skills, business processing outsourcing (BPO), and retail sector skills among others

In an event held in Chennai where the MoUs were exchanged, Information Technology and Digital Services Minister Palanivel Thiaga Rajan said it is important to guide parents of government school students so that they choose fields that have employability, and also help educational institutions shape their curriculum based on industry needs. "We can also expect changes in the way the ICT Academy functions, to leverage AI into the training process," he said.

As part of the MoUs, Infosys will train 48,000 underprivileged students in IT, and non-IT skills over the next three years at a cost of ₹33 crore. Six agreements with corporate companies, including Capgemini and Microsoft, were signed.

(Left) Source: *The New Indian Express*, 31 July 2024, p. 7

(Below) Source: *The Times of India*, 3 July 2024, p. 5

TN-RISE to aid women-led startups

It'll Eliminate Obstacles For Rural Women: Udhayanidhi

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

Chennai: To promote more women-led startups in rural pockets of the state, the Tamil Nadu govt has launched TN-RISE (Tamil Nadu Rural Incubator and Start-Up Enabler). An initiative of the state-owned Tamil Nadu Women Development Corporation, the special platform will operate with financial assistance from the World Bank.



BIZ BUZZ: TN-RISE CEO P Uma Maheswari exchanges an MoU with Flipkart vice president Dhiraj Kapur at the launch of TN-RISE in Chennai on Tuesday. Minister Udhayanidhi Stalin and senior bureaucrats Gagandeep Singh Bedi S Divyadharshini are present

Launching TN-RISE here on Tuesday, minister for youth welfare and special programme implementation Udhayanidhi Stalin said, the

state is home to 13.5% of firms led by women in India. "Women entrepreneurs face numerous challenges in advancing their business ideas,

as well as in accessing finance, and marketing opportunities. TN-RISE aims to eliminate these obstacles by offering customised market linkages, financing and operational advice. Also, it will provide high-end business incubation services to women-led rural enterprises."

A total of 126 women entrepreneurs and 80 women enterprise groups will receive guidance through this initiative now.

Seeking the support of industries and entrepreneurs, Udhayanidhi said, TN-RISE has signed MoUs with multinational companies including Flipkart and HP to provide guidance and training for budding women entrepreneurs.

Gagandeep Singh Bedi,

additional chief secretary, rural development, panchayats and panchayat union said, the vision of the govt of Tamil Nadu is to ensure that the maximum number of startups come up within the shortest possible time.

"It is an ambitious project of the state govt. Guidance such as govt subsidies and schemes and availing capital from financial institutions would be offered," Bedi said.

Samik Sundar Das, task team leader, World Bank said, "We are sure that knowing the track record of Tamil Nadu, this will sustain and present outcomes that will be seen in the world as example. As Tamil Nadu delivers, we all know India learns. So, I think this is a forum India will learn again from."

Start-ups run by women set to be mentored under TN-RISE initiative

Sangeetha Kandavel

CHENNAI

From August 2024, around 130 enterprises and start-ups led by women entrepreneurs across Tamil Nadu will get mentored under the Tamil Nadu Rural Incubator and Start-up Enabler (TN-RISE) initiative.

“From January to June this year, we conducted 31 district boot camps, attracting approximately 2,500 enterprises. This was followed by one-on-one interviews and pitching sessions, and 130 enterprises were shortlisted,” said Uma Maheswari, Chief Executive Officer, TN-RISE.

The firms shortlisted are from a range of sectors such as food processing, manufacturing, handicrafts/handloom/textiles, and agriculture, and in the regions, including Cuddalore, Krishnagiri, Chengalpattu, Salem, and Thoothukudi.

Providing guidance

TN-RISE operates as a special purpose vehicle under the Tamil Nadu Rural Transformation Project (TNRTP) and supports emerging enterprises with guidance and financial backing.

“As the World Bank-assisted TNRTP is nearing its

conclusion within a year, TN-RISE is poised to transition into a self-sustaining entity and continue its operations independently under the Department of Rural Development and Panchayat Raj,” Ms. Maheswari said, adding that the initiative would enable rural women to access government schemes, among others.

More enterprises

Over the next year, TN-RISE intends to onboard more enterprises for cohort-based initiatives (pre-incubation, incubation, and acceleration programmes).

Source: *The Hindu*, 21 July 2024

TN-RISE takes wings, to help rural women soar in business

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @ Chennai

MINISTER for Youth Welfare, Sports Development and Special Programme Implementation Udhayanidhi Stalin on Tuesday launched the Tamil Nadu Rural Incubator and Start-Up Enabler (TN-RISE), a special platform to bring more women entrepreneurs from the rural areas of TN. The project is being implemented by the Tamil Nadu Women Development Corporation with the assistance of the World Bank. The minister also released the logo for TN-RISE and launched the portal - www.tnrtse.co.in.

Speaking on the occasion, the minister said women entrepreneurs face numerous challenges in advancing their business ideas as well as in accessing finance, credit, and marketing opportunities. "TN RISE aims to eliminate these obstacles by offering customised market linkages, financing, and operational advice. Also, it will provide high-end business incubation services to women-led rural enterprises," he added.

The minister also expressed happiness about TN-RISE signing MoUs with various multinational companies like Flipkart,



Minister Udhayanidhi Stalin launching TN-RISE on Tuesday | EXPRESS

How it'll help

The Mission of TN-RISE include providing support to all aspiring and existing women entrepreneurs at business facilitation services related to the enterprise, connecting with service providers and partners in the eco-system who can help them grow, developing business models for scale-up, helping to obtain market linkages for growth, etc

and HP to provide guidance and training for budding women entrepreneurs.

"There are organisations like The World Bank working to liberate women in the material domain. Likewise, our Dravidian

movement strives hard to liberate women from enslavement in the cultural domain. Now, our Dravidian Model government is proud to join hands with the World Bank in empowering women in the material domain as well," the minister said.

Udhayanidhi also pointed out that a whopping 13.5% of the industries run by women entrepreneurs across the country are located in Tamil Nadu due to proactive initiatives taken by the state government.

Officials said with the TN-RISE, women entrepreneurs would have access to vital resources and guidance to navigate the complexities of business ownership, fostering growth and success in their ventures.

Source: *The New Indian Express*, 3 July 2024, p. 4

Global Start-Up Entrepreneurs' Meet to be held in February next year

The Hindu Bureau

TIRUNELVELI

The Tamil Nadu government will host the Global Start-Up Entrepreneurs' Meet in February next year to showcase the State's strengths and investor-friendly climate.

Addressing the media in Tirunelveli on Friday, Minister for Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises T.M. Anbarasan said that while over 55,230 entrepreneurs had started businesses in the State during the AIADMK's 10-year rule, the DMK government, led by Chief Minister M.K. Stalin, had created 30,324 entrepreneurs in only three years with its investor-friendly policies. They had been given subsidised loans to the tune of ₹2,818.24 crore, with ₹961.58 crore in grants, for starting manufacturing units. "Hence, Tamil Nadu, which ranks third in India

in industrial development, also stands first in establishing start-ups," he said. "To firm up this position, the Global Start-up Entrepreneurs' Meet will be held in February," he added.

He said that priority would be given to entrepreneurs planning to set up manufacturing units in the southern districts for fabricating products for rocket launch, as the Indian Space Research Organisation was establishing its second spaceport at Kulasekarapattinam in Thoothukudi district.

Earlier, Mr. Anbarasan inspected the site for the SIDCO industrial estate at Muththur and the construction of apartments at Reddiarpatti under the Tamil Nadu Urban Livelihoods Mission.

Mr. Anbarasan and Speaker M. Appavu handed over loans to the tune of ₹47.20 crore to 123 people for starting businesses.

Source: *The Hindu*, 27 July 2024

Committee recommends against conduct of entrance exams, banning coaching classes

The Justice D. Murugesan Committee, constituted to draft a distinct State Education Policy, also suggests regulation of deemed-to-be universities, autonomous colleges, foreign universities, and self-funding institutions. It favours more investment by the government in higher education

Dennis S. Jesudasan
CHENNAI

The Justice D. Murugesan Committee, constituted to draft a distinct State Education Policy (SEP), has in its report to the Tamil Nadu government, recommended against conducting entrance examination of any kind for admission to all higher education courses, according to informed sources.

It has said the consolidated marks obtained both in Class XI and Class XII board examinations should be the basis for admission to all courses in higher education. The Tamil Nadu government may take appropriate measures to ensure that the subject 'Education' was brought back in List II (State List) of Schedule 7 of the Constitution of India, the panel recommended.

Justice Murugesan, along with other committee members, submitted the report to Chief Minister M.K. Stalin at the Secretariat here on Monday. The government has not made the report or its salient features public.

Sources told *The Hindu* that the need to regulate deemed-to-be universities, autonomous colleges, foreign universities, and self-funding institutions, "banning" coaching classes,

Strengthening institutions

The Committee, headed by former Chief Justice of the Delhi High Court D. Murugesan and comprising a broad spectrum of experts in academics, sports, and music, was established in April 2022



Comprehensive report: Justice D. Murugesan handing over the report to Chief Minister M.K. Stalin at the Secretariat on Monday. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

- Anna University can be made an exclusive technological university for research and postgraduate courses in specialised fields
- Best performing government medical colleges, such as Madras Medical College, Stanley Medical College, and Kilpauk Medical College, should be upgraded to research centres
- Government should consider other State-run medical colleges attached with hospitals for upgradation
- Creation of a regulatory authority for all paramedical sciences, including physiotherapy
- Upgrading The Tamil Nadu Dr. M.G.R. Medical University into a Centre of Excellence in Research; can be made a full-fledged varsity
- The Tamil Nadu Dr. M.G.R. Medical University should have its own super-specialty hospital and college
- Tamil Nadu Siddha Medical University has to be established at the earliest

more State investment into education, were among the key suggestions that figured in the report. The panel recommended "banning" coaching centres run parallelly to schools/colleges by individuals/corporate companies in Tamil Nadu either physically and virtually, including private tuition centres. Since coaching centres and private institutions advertised treating education as a commodity, "schools and colleges may become re-

dundant, if proper action is not taken against such nefarious practices."

As these coaching centres do not come under the purview of any regulatory body of the government, "this is for immediate attention for the government to act on by creating a regulatory body with appropriate powers," it said. The Committee has recommended strict implementation of the provisions of the Tamil Nadu Educational Institutions

(Prohibition of Collection of Capitation Fee) Act, 1992 to ban the collection of capitation fee by private educational institutions.

"Insufficient funding by the State to public institutions is one of the main reasons for the mushrooming of private institutions, both in school education and higher education. Necessary funding by the State to public institutions should be provided," it said.

It has recommended the

qualified teacher-student ratio to be 1:15 for postgraduate (PG) and 1:25 for undergraduate (UG) programmes. While it recommended the continuation of three-year UG and two-year PG programmes, it has suggested an additional option of a four-year bachelor's (Honours with research) course. The panel was for amending the Tamil Nadu Private Universities Act, 2019, to declare the academic standards in terms of curriculum design, admission process, filing of annual returns, among others. The Act should have a provision to regulate proposed foreign universities in Tamil Nadu, it said.

Regulations could aim at "stalling" instituting of foreign universities in the State, it said, and pointed to exchange programmes of State universities and colleges with foreign ones. It also called for enacting a comprehensive legislation to regulate all private colleges of all streams of education in the light of the Tamil Nadu Private Colleges (Regulation) Act, 1976.

"There is a need to bring all private higher educational institutions under the ambit of a single Act irrespective of discipline. This will help institute a single process of regulation for all higher

educational institutions," it said.

The panel also called for amendments in the 1976 Act to streamline the collection of fees for arts and science courses run by private management. "The State shall evolve a method to curtail corporates and other non-educational bodies offering courses and awarding degrees,"

Noting that government participation in higher education was waning while private participation was increasing in professional courses such as engineering, technical, and medicine, the panel said it needed "to be controlled" in order to promote students hailing from underprivileged communities. Education was meant for all sections of society, as per the policy of the government on social justice.

The panel also favoured more investment in higher education by the government and the establishment of new comprehensive institutions throughout the State. "Self-funded institutions should be strictly regulated on the issues related to student fee, admissions, following rule of reservation, fund mobilisation, granting, endowment funds, financial management, and financial monitoring, so that private higher education is made affordable."

Source: *The Hindu*, 2 July 2024

SEP wants new regulatory body for deemed varsities

'Private universities must adhere to Tamil Nadu's reservation policy'

OTHER KEY RECOMMENDATIONS

- Medium of education should be Tamil from primary education to university. A dedicated research wing on teaching and learning Tamil should be set up
- Curriculum should focus on linking education to daily life and should promote autonomous learning
- As far as pedagogy is concerned, instruction should be sensitive to prior and current learning needs of learners, which may diverge from expected grade-level outcomes
- Art should be integrated into school learning and not just treated as extracurricular
- Availability of playgrounds at schools should become a non-negotiable norm for any new facility
- To encourage technology in education, the state should consider setting up the following frameworks and institutions: a state digital education content framework, state cloud platform for schools and colleges, state online hub for resource sharing and an advanced institute for information and communication technology
- Schools should democratise their spaces to foster critical thinking
- Adult literacy centres with online and offline resources should be set up in every panchayat
- A convergent task force should ensure educational opportunities and social support for children with special needs (CWSN), integrating early disability identification and rehabilitation into the education system. Inclusive infrastructure should be mandated in schools
- Gender equality should be integrated into the curriculum and also teacher education

BINITA JAISWAL @Chennai

THE State Education Policy (SEP) focuses strongly on controlling the privatisation and commercialisation of higher education and has recommended the state government several measures to the effect.

Contrary to the National Education Policy (NEP) which provides private and public educational institutions equal footing, the SEP recommends the state government to take strict measures to control and streamline private higher educational institutions (HEIs). The SEP is also against any form of entrance tests for admissions into higher education courses, and bats for class 11 and 12 board exams marks to be made the basis for enrolment.

The SEP has also proposed that a regulatory body for 'deemed to be universities' should be put in place. It should have the power to regulate the admission procedure, including the admission of a fixed percentage of the total intake of students from Tamil Nadu, fee structure that may be determined by the fee committee, emolument structures for teaching and non-teaching staff as decided by the state. Importantly, it has recommended that deemed to be universities should also be made to adopt the reservation policy of the state.

Government participation in higher education is less compared to private participation, the SEP notes. As such, to stop privatisation and commercialisation of higher education, the government should invest more and establish new comprehensive institutions throughout TN, it adds.

The SEP has said that complete autonomy shall not be granted to institutions on administrative and financial mat-

- Each school should appoint a trained member, such as an SMC member, teacher, or social worker, to oversee substance abuse prevention and cessation
- Extend benefits such as free bicycles to students from class 9 to 12



EXPRESS ILLUSTRATION

ters until they attain a reasonable level of integrity, attitude, maturity and capacity

Stating that the current three-year UG and two-year PG programmes should continue, the SEP has also allowed for a four-year bachelor's programme (honours with research) for research purposes. It also opposes the multiple entry, multiple exit option of UGC and its idea of opening foreign universities in the state.

Moreover, the SEP also speaks on reforms to the examination and assessment process, and highlights the need to make amendments in the Tamil Nadu State Council for Higher Education Act and strengthen it as a consortium of universities in the state.

The SEP has further proposed that upgrading the Tamil Nadu Dr M G R Medical University to a Centre of Excellence (CoE) must be given utmost priority. It also urges for revamping the existing scheme of vocational education.

- Aided schools must be treated on par with government schools and a study must be conducted to assess various problems faced by them, including posting of excess teachers, unregulated fee collection and fake portrayal of students' strength

'Institutions should focus on improving quality of education'

52 students joined MIT through the 7.5% reservation for government school students introduced by Tamil Nadu in 2021, says Minister



Continuing excellence: Minister K. Ponmudy and other dignitaries near the platinum jubilee monument unveiled at the Madras Institute of Technology on Saturday. B. VELANKANNI RAJ

The Hindu Bureau
CHENNAI

Minister for Higher Education K. Ponmudy unveiled the platinum jubilee monument as part of the 75th anniversary celebration of the Madras Institute of Technology (MIT) in Chromepet here on Saturday. The monument, built at a cost of ₹20 lakh, was funded by the institute's alumni.

Hailing MIT as one of the leaders in technical education, Mr. Ponmudy said institutions should not only focus on improving the enrolment but also the quality of education being provided.

He also said the number of colleges and universities had grown in the State over

the years. "Periyar's ideology was that people of all castes and religions must be treated as equals, and that became the Dravidian Model

K. PONMUDY
Minister for Higher Education

the years. "Periyar's ideology was that people of all castes and religions must be treated as equals, and that became the Dravidian Model," he said.

Listing the schemes the government had implemented, such as the *Moolalur Ramamirtham Ammaiyar Puthumai Penn Scheme* and *Naan Mudhalvan*, Mr. Ponmudy said 52

students had joined the institution through the 7.5% reservation for government school students introduced by the State government in 2021.

Request for expansion

On former MIT Director S. Sathikh's request for the expansion of the institute's campus, Mr. Ponmudy said this could be done with funds donated by the alumni.

R. Velraj, Vice-Chancellor of Anna University, and B. Senthilnathan, president of MIT Alumni Association, spoke.

J. Prakash, Registrar of Anna University, K. Ravichandran, Dean, MIT, and T. Sankar, secretary, MIT Alumni Association, released the platinum jubilee celebrations report.

(Above) Source: *The New Indian Express*, 2 July 2024, p. 2

(Right) Source: *The Hindu*, 21 July 2024

2-year course in special education

The Hindu Bureau
CHENNAI

Vidya Sagar, a 38-year-old Chennai-based organisation working with persons with disabilities, will offer a two-year full-time course – B.Ed in Special Education (Multiple Disabilities) for 2024-26.

Upon completion of the course, the candidate can

work in a mainstream school or a special school, start a rehab centre, take up Teacher Eligibility Test for government jobs or can also pursue higher studies for research.

The course is affiliated to the Tamil Nadu Teacher Education University and has the equivalence of B.Ed General Education and is recognised by the

Rehabilitation Council of India. The organisation has been running teacher training courses in special education for the past 29 years and has trained special educators to equip them with the skills and expertise to work with persons with special needs.

To know more, contact 9840035203 or mail hrd@vidyasagar.co.in.

(Above) Source: *The Hindu*,
30 July 2024

(Right) Source: *The Times of India*, 5 July 2024, p. 6

Breakfast scheme to extend to aided schools from July 15



SOLIDARITY: Advocates of various bar associations, led by Rajya Sabha MP P Wilson, thanked chief minister M K Stalin for writing to home minister Amit Shah to put the new criminal laws on hold. AIADMK's advocates' wing has announced protest on July 5

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

Chennai: Chief minister M K Stalin on Thursday announced that the function to extend the free breakfast scheme to all the govt primary aided schools in the state will be held in Dharmapuri on July 15. The extension will benefit 2.5 lakh more students.

The scheme is extended on the birth anniversary of former chief minister K Kamaraj.

Similarly, the Makkaludan Mudhalvar' scheme is also extended across the state following its success. More than 8 lakh petitions have been solved so far. The function for the extension of the 'Makkaludan Mudhalvar' scheme will be held at Tiruvallur on July 11.

The chief minister wrote a letter to all MLAs and MPs asking them to participate in the functions to be conducted in their respective districts.

T.N. govt. expands scope of Tamil Pudhalvan scheme

It will cover students who studied in Tamil medium in government-aided schools. Over 3.28 lakh boys are expected to benefit from the scheme, which provides a monthly aid of ₹1,000, in 2024-25.

The Hindu Bureau
CHENNAI

The Tamil Nadu government has expanded the scope of the Tamil Pudhalvan scheme to cover students who studied in Tamil medium in government-aided schools.

Over 3.28 lakh boys are expected to benefit from the scheme during 2024-25.

A government order issued in this regard sanctioned ₹360 crore for the Tamil Pudhalvan scheme. It is similar to the Pudhumai Penn scheme that provides a monthly assistance of ₹1,000 to girls who studied Classes VI-XII in State government schools and are pursuing higher education.

The Pudhumai Penn



Better coverage: The State government has sanctioned ₹360 crore for the Tamil Pudhalvan scheme. REPRESENTATIONAL IMAGE

scheme was also initially meant for girls who studied in government schools, but was eventually extended to girls who studied in Tamil medium in government-aided schools.

In his Budget speech in the Assembly in February, Finance Minister Thangam

Thenarasu had announced the Tamil Pudhalvan scheme providing a monthly assistance of ₹1,000 to boys who studied in government schools from Classes VI to XII. However, a G.O. issued recently expanded the scope of the scheme to cover boys who studied in the Tamil

The assistance is aimed at enabling students to purchase textbooks, general knowledge books and magazines to improve their performance

medium in government-aided schools as well.

When asked whether the outlay of the scheme would be increased to facilitate its expansion, a senior official said, "If needed, a higher fund allocation can be considered." The assistance to boys under the Tamil Pudhalvan scheme is aimed at enabling them to purchase textbooks, general knowledge books and magazines to improve their academic performance.

(Clockwise from left bottom) Sources:

The New Indian Express, 26 July 2024, p. 6

The Hindu, 26 July 2024

The Hindu, 20 July 2024

₹360 cr allocated for Tamil Pudhalvan, 3.28L to benefit

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE

@ Chennai

THE state government has allocated ₹360 crore for implementing the Tamil Pudhalvan Scheme during the current financial year. CM MK Stalin will be launching the scheme in August. The scheme aims to provide financial assistance of ₹1,000 per month to boys pursuing higher studies, provided they studied in Tamil medium in government schools or government-aided schools in the state from classes 6 to 12.

Originally, the scheme was announced to cover only government school students and now, the scope has been expanded. Along with the allocation of funds, the government also issued detailed guidelines for its implementation.

The G.O. issued in this regard

said 3.28 lakh students are expected to benefit from this scheme. There will be no cap on the number of students from a family who can apply for the scheme. The assistance will be given to all students in a family if they are eligible. The students who receive this assistance should pursue their higher studies in educational institutions in Tamil Nadu and the subjects they study should be recognised by the government. Those who study through correspondence and in educational institutions that are not recognised by the government cannot avail the scheme.

The state government has already been implementing the Pudhumai Penn scheme to provide ₹1,000 per month to girls pursuing higher education after studying classes 6 to 12 in government and government-aided schools.



The Hindu Bureau

CHENNAI

Chief Minister M.K. Stalin on Friday virtually inaugurated 956 school classrooms, 12 science laboratories and new buildings for the School Education Department in various locations across the State at a total cost of ₹264.15 crore.

While 515 classrooms have been constructed in 106 State-run high and higher secondary schools across 26 districts, 441 classrooms have been constructed in 176 State-run primary schools in 25 districts, an official press release said.

At another event, Mr. Stalin handed over laptops to students of schools run by the Adi Dravidar and Tribal Welfare Depart-

ment who had secured admission to pursue higher education in prestigious institutions.

The students had secured admission to the Indian Institute of Technology-Madras, the National Institute of Technology in Tiruchi, the Tamil Nadu National Law University and the National Institute of Fashion Technology.

The Chief Minister also virtually inaugurated new buildings constructed for the Prison and Correctional Services Department in Chengalpattu and Villupuram districts at a total cost of ₹9.45 crore.

Ministers S. Regupathy, Anbil Mahesh Poyyamozhi and N. Kayalvizhi Selvaraj, Chief Secretary Shiv Das Meena and other senior officials were present on the occasion.

Chief Minister inaugurates over 950 classrooms, science laboratories

'State-aided schools should be treated on a par with government schools'

The Hindu Bureau
CHENNAI

The State Education Policy (SEP) drafted by the Justice D. Murugesan Committee is learnt to have observed that formal schooling must begin only at Class I in all institutions on "completion of five years" as on July 31 of an academic year. It may be noted that the National Education Policy (NEP) favours children completing six years to enter formal school education.

Informed sources told *The Hindu* that the committee has recommended that no centralised examination should be held until students take the board examinations in Class X. The NEP favours public exams in Classes III, V, and VIII.

While the NEP favoured a '5+3+3+4 system', the SEP in Tamil Nadu supported the '5+3+2+2'. "The stages of schooling are to be understood as 5+3+2+2, forming respectively, the primary stage, the upper primary stage, secondary stage, and higher secondary stage."

The panel said the State-aided schools must be treated on a par with government schools and follow all regulations and requirements applicable to the latter. "While aided schools are a boon for the public education system, many discrepancies and issues regarding their functioning have surfaced, such as posting of excess teachers, unregulated fee collection, and fake portrayal of student strength.

Hence, all aided institutions across the State should be assessed and analysed through a specific study."

As for teachers selected in schools, the panel said that the Teacher Eligibility Test (TET) should test not only book learning but also include assessment of teachers on understanding of democratic principles, social divides, language and culture, and local knowledge. A comprehensive regulation shall be framed for monitoring the functioning of play schools/pre-primary schools/nurseries/kindergarten etc., run by the private managements, it said. The State needed to ensure that every habitation with a minimum population, as determined by the govern-

ment, should have a primary school within 1 km, it said. Any habitation beyond 5 km reach of a school should have access to residential schools. The panel recommended a revision of key regulations including the Tamil Nadu Private Colleges (Regulation) Act, 1976 and The Tamil Nadu Private Schools (Regulation) Act, 2018.

It called for steps to enable students belonging to the religious and linguistic minorities to learn their mother tongue such as Urdu, Malayalam, Kannada, Telugu, and Saurashtra. It also called for ensuring the education of children of refugees born in Tamil Nadu, migrant labourers, urban poor in resettlement tenements, and those who have lost both their parents.

(Above) Source:
The Hindu, 2 July 2024;

(Right) Source:
The Hindu, 19 July 2024

Over 6 lakh illiterate people to undergo literacy training in T.N.

Meghna M.
CHENNAI

The School Education Department has identified over six lakh illiterate people, aged over 15, across Tamil Nadu and has begun classes to provide them with basic literacy this year under the New India Literacy Programme or *Puthiya Bharatha Ezhutharivu Thittam* 2022-27.

In March, the department started a literacy survey across the State. It was expected to conclude by July-end, an official of the department said. Krishnagiri district has recorded the maximum number of illiterate people (61,622).

Five-year programme

The five-year programme is expected to benefit over 30 lakh people across the State. During 2022-23, a to-

Leading the pack

	District	Learners	Volunteers
The top five districts with the highest enrolment in the literacy programme	Krishnagiri	61,622	2,574
	Salem	50,671	2,149
	Tiruvannamalai	37,971	2,538
	Madurai	28,472	2,112
	Erode	26,020	1,147

tal of 5,28,411 people benefited from the initiative, and 4,80,331 people were identified for the programme last year.

"So far, 6,07,771 people have been identified with the help of volunteers of *Illam Thedi Kalvi* and other schemes. They can attend the classes at the learning centres," said a senior official of the department.

This year, the department has introduced two exams – one in November and another in March – so that people can take the test at their convenience. "The two batches of learners

will begin the course in July and November. This will help the learners who could not attend the course regularly or are slow in learning," the official said.

The official said that almost 95% of the learners were women. "The learners can attend the classes at their convenience as most of them would be working. While they can go to the centres, workers such as those employed under the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme can opt for the teachers to

visit their home or place of work. At their workplace, they would be taught for 30-45 minutes during the lunch break," said the official, adding that the Union government had disbursed the first instalment of ₹4.60 crore to Tamil Nadu this year.

Full literacy

About 95% of the teachers are *Illam Thedi Kalvi* volunteers, while the others are Nehru Yuva Kendra volunteers. The teacher-learner ratio stands at 1:20. "There are cases in which another family member in a household would volunteer to teach them. In that case, the books would be supplied to them," the official said.

The department plans to take steps to achieve full literacy in districts with a literacy rate of over 90%.

DCE releases academic schedule for all arts & science colleges in state

SUBASHINI VIJAYA KUMAR
@ Chennai

THE Directorate of Collegiate Education (DCE) has released a tentative academic schedule to be uniformly followed by all the arts and science colleges in the state for the academic year 2024-2025.

At present, the colleges, through their affiliated universities, follow different schedules. State-run universities conduct semester examinations on different dates. This inconsistency poses difficulties in organising extracurricular activities and events for students, both within and outside the colleges, stated the order. Further, undergraduate courses like BSc and BA are conducted at different intervals affecting students seeking admission to postgraduate courses and hindering their ability to apply for job opportunities on time, it added.

To prepare the schedule, the DCE formed a committee of educationalists and received

inputs from regional joint directors, principals of selected government, government-aided, and autonomous colleges, and considerations for events related to Nan Mudhalvan, NCC, sports events, and graduation ceremonies. The director has instructed examination departments and college administrations to adhere to the schedule that has been sent to the registrars of various universities, all regional joint directors and principals of government, government-aided and self-financing colleges.

A university professor said, "This is the first time the department has released a complete schedule for the entire academic year. Generally, only the reopening dates are announced. While this might help PG admissions, it would affect the autonomy of the universities and autonomous colleges. The colleges follow different syllabi and might require different time frames to complete them."

Engg students to get access to e-resources from Aug

Ragu.Raman
@timesofindia.com

Chennai: All five lakh students studying in engineering colleges in Tamil Nadu will get access to 20,000 e-books and 3,000 e-journals from Aug under a new initiative of Anna University.

This will come as a fillip to several students who study in engineering colleges in rural areas too.

Under the Anna University e-resource consortium model, engineering students can access the vast e-resources for an annual subscription fee of ₹500. They can access interactive e-books and explanatory videos from their mobiles, laptops and desktops.

"Students in any rural engineering colleges will now be able to access the same number of e-books and e-journals as their counterparts in College of Engineering, Guindy (CEG)," Anna University vice-chancellor R Velraj said.

Students will get access to international engineering books, some of which that

Under the Anna University e-resource consortium model, engineering students can access the vast e-resources for an annual subscription fee of ₹500. They can access interactive e-books and explanatory videos from their mobiles, laptops and desktops

may have gone out of print as well.

More than 70,000 faculty members from engineering colleges will have free access to these e-resources.

"It will help the engineering colleges to improve their research publications, NBA, NAAC accreditations and NIRF rankings," Velraj said.

Publishers are also likely to train faculty members in publishing research papers.

"In Anna University campuses, the use of library books has increased by 60% in the last one year after we gave access to e-resources on mobile phones. We expect the same increase in usage of books for all colleges," said D Arivudainambi, director, university library.

Further, the consortium model subscription will

bring down the cost that each college is spending towards libraries. "While the cost will reduce by 50% for each college, their access to e-resources will increase by ten-fold this year," he added.

The ME, MTech students will have a subscription fee of ₹1,500 and PhD scholars may have to pay ₹3,000 as annual subscription fee.

Research scholars and students can also check their research papers and thesis in a anti-plagiarism software 'Turnitin', before publishing them.

The university says the number of e-books to be available under the initiative will increase in the coming years.

The Union govt is following the consortium based subscription model for IITs and NITs.

(Clockwise from left top)
Sources:

The New Indian Express, 1
July 2024, p. 2

The Times of India, 18 July
2024, p. 3

The Times of India, 18 July
2024, p. 5

Over 22,000 engg seats added to computer-related courses

Total Seats
Increased To
2.3L From 2.1L

Ragu.Raman@timesofindia.com

Chennai: More students are likely to get admission in top engineering colleges this year as these colleges have added 22,248 seats in computer-related courses for 2024-25. Overall, the total number of seats in engineering colleges has increased from 2.1lakh last year to 2.3lakh this year.

But, intake in core branches such as mechanical and civil engineering has been cut by 3,000 seats this year.

"Only performing colleges with good infrastructure and faculty members were allowed to increase their intake. This would enable more students to join good colleges," Anna University vice-chancellor, R Velraj, said.

SEAT DIFFERENCES

Engineering seats in different streams for 2024-25

Branches	Increase/decrease in intake	Total seats for 2024-25
CSE and allied branches	22,248	1,19,229
EEE, ECE, E&I	1,147	53,940
Civil, mechanical and other branches	-2,965	57,467
Architecture	-390	1,740

Source: Anna University

As a positive sign, engineering colleges have started adding seats in electrical and electronics engineering, electronics and communication engineering and electronics and instrumentation engineering. Tamil Nadu colleges have added 1,147 seats to these courses. "The state is giving a lot of importance to chip making and manufacturing. Expecting more jobs in these sectors, colleges have increased seats," he added.

Of 476 colleges that applied for affiliation with Anna University for 2024-25,

the university conducted physical inspection of 223 colleges. For 50 colleges, the inspection was conducted online.

"We have decided to give conditional approval to colleges that lack infrastructure. These colleges will be inspected again to check if they fulfilled the conditions," Velraj said.

Anna University is also permitting colleges to start BE electrical and computer engineering, BE electronics and computer engineering and Bachelor of Design courses from 2024-25.

Top colleges said they have increased the intake up to 15% in computer-related courses.

"Due to the cap in previous years, we were able to enrol only 10% of students who have shown interest in our college. This year, we have increased our intake by around 15% in computer-related branches," said Abhay Meganathan, vice-chairman of Rajalakshmi Group of Institutions.

Colleges are also planning to rope in industry experts to teach students.

"There are more job opportunities for students in these sectors. But we need to make students ready for the industry," said P Deiva Sundari, principal of SRM Easwari Engineering College.

Nearly after a decade, All India Council for Technical Education (AICTE) has removed the cap on maximum number of seats in single department for 2024-25. Till last year, colleges could enrol a maximum of 240 students in a branch.

Over 25,000 polytechnic students get jobs through Naan Mudhalvan scheme

Ola Electric is recruiting polytechnic students for electric vehicle plants; T.N. Skill Development Corporation data show that salary packages range from ₹2 lakh per annum to ₹8 lakh per annum

Sangeetha Kandavel
CHENNAI

A total of 25,888 students from polytechnic colleges across Tamil Nadu have landed jobs in various sectors through the State government's *Naan Mudhalvan* scheme, as on June 18, 2024.

Under the scheme, the government is helping students from polytechnic colleges secure lucrative jobs in domestic and multinational firms. About 252 colleges have participated in the job drives so far. Officials said the placements were still under way, and around 58,000 students were in the final year of their course.

This year, Ola Electric is recruiting polytechnic students for its electric vehicle (EV) plants. According to the Tamil Nadu Skill Development Corporation (TNSDC), the firm plans to recruit fresh candidates for its plants. At present, pooled campus placements are under way and as of now, around 120-odd candidates have been selected to be deployed in assembly lines, logistics, operations, and stores, among others, in entry-level positions.

Firms, including Accenture, Amazon, Ashok Leyland, BOSCH, Caterpillar India, Daikin, Delphi TVS, Eicher, Ford, HCL Tech

Helping hand

The Tamil Nadu government's flagship *Naan Mudhalvan* scheme has been helping students from polytechnic colleges secure jobs in domestic and international firms. A look at the number of students who were placed and their salary range



STUDENTS WHO WERE PLACED IN VARIOUS SECTORS

Sectors	Students placed	Sectors	Students placed
Agriculture	157	Iron and Steel	597
Apparel	177	IT-ITeS	632
Automotive	16,619	Leather	73
Beauty and Wellness	44	Logistics	112
BFSI	27	Media & Entertainment	112
Capital Goods	377	Mining	13
Construction	882	Plumbing	141
Electronics & Hardware	3,509	Power	453
Food Processing	88	Retail	86
Gems and Jewellery	18	Rubber	129
Green Jobs	66	Telecom	358
Healthcare	140	Textiles & Handlooms	187
Infrastructure Equipment	193	Tourism & Hospitality	6
Instrumentation	692	Grand Total	25,888

■ About 252 colleges have participated in the job drive so far. Officials say placements are still under way, and around 58,000 students are in the final year of their course

PAY SCALE

Salary range	No. of students
< 2 Lakh	18,250
2 to 3 Lakh	7,259
2 to 4 Lakh	88
3 to 4 Lakh	229
4 to 5 Lakh	42
5 to 6 Lakh	8
6 to 8 Lakh	12
Grand Total	25,888

and L&T, too, hired polytechnic students. A few overseas placements were recorded too.

The data from TNSDC show that the salary packages for these students range from ₹2 lakh per annum to ₹8 lakh per annum. The highest pay, ₹8 lakh per annum, was offered by Nokia. J. Innocent Divya, MD, TNSDC, said: "Industries want students from

polytechnic colleges with shop floor expertise." One of the companies, which participated in the recruitment drive, told *The Hindu*: "This year, we reduced our hiring at engineering colleges, and went for more polytechnic students. These students undergo more practical sessions, and can be deployed on the work floor from the first day. This helps in re-

ducing training costs..."

Under the scheme, students from polytechnic colleges are trained in digital skills (virtual), building information modelling, industrial metaverse using AR and VR, industry 4.0, and printed circuit board (PCB) design, among others. Those pursuing education through Industrial Training Institutes are also being trained.

Source: *The Hindu*, 1 July 2024

MIT turns 75: TN allocates ₹75cr for infrastructure development

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

Chennai: Alumni from around the world and professors shared stories of their college days, took photos and strolled around the Madras Institute of Technology (MIT) campus in Chromepet on the institution's 75th anniversary on Saturday.

During the valediction ceremony, TN minister of higher education K Ponmudy interacted with alumni and students. "MIT has grown from its modest beginnings to a premier institution known for its cutting-edge programmes, interdisciplinary research, and strong industry-academia collaborations. We should focus on empowering women to pursue higher education," he said.

The institute, which opened on July 18, 1949, with 96 students, now has more than 4,000 students enrolled in nine undergraduate and 15 postgraduate programmes. "We planted 75 saplings and



ON THE DAIS: K Ponmudy, TN minister for higher education, with MIT faculty for its 75th valediction ceremony

held an open house exhibition as part of the July 18 celebration," said K Ravichandran, dean of MIT.

The state govt has allocated ₹75 crore for the construction of an auditorium and classroom complex on the MIT campus, and the construction is now in progress. Additionally, alumni have also contributed to enhancing the campus learning environment.

President of the MIT Alumni Association B Senthilnathan announced that a proposal

has been submitted to Anna University to renovate the alumni house into a training centre for students. New automation labs, built at a cost of ₹35 lakh, will benefit students of the new academic year. "We have also allocated ₹18 lakh for year-round college activities and donated ₹8 lakh for scholarships," he added.

Earlier, Anna University vice-chancellor R Velraj emphasised the importance of encouraging women to pursue higher education.

Source: *The Times of India*, 21 July 2024, p. 4

TN WALKS ITS OWN PATH ON EDUCATION

Ragu.Raman@timesgroup.com

The State Education Policy (SEP) looks set to have several student-friendly provisions – from only play at pre-primary schools to open book assessment to no common exams till Class X. A 550-page set of recommendations on the SEP was submitted by a 14-member panel headed by Justice D Murugesan, retired chief justice of Delhi high court, to chief minister M K Stalin on Monday.

The Murugesan panel report runs counter to the National Education Policy (NEP). It favours continuing with the existing school education system instead of the 5+3+3+4 system proposed by NEP. It recommends five years as entry age for Class I against six years by NEP. UG admissions should be based on Class XI and XII board exam marks and not an entrance test as proposed by NEP. There are to be no multiple entry and exits in degree programmes. The panel also proposed a two-language formula against the three-language formula suggested by NEP.

"Tamil Nadu has been following five years as a school entry for several years and it served the state well. We have recommended regulations to make school entry age uniform for all types of schools in the state," Justice Murugesan told TOI.

The report also recommends steps to check commercialisation of education, a ban on coaching and tuition centres parallel to schools and colleges, longer periods for physical education, and a special mission to improve quality of higher education.

"Conducting common exams at early classes such as Class III and V or VIII will add stress to students. So, we have recommended board exams only in Class X," Murugesan said.

The panel proposed a regulatory body for deemed-to-be universities for admissions, fee structures and minimum salary for faculty. It recommended extending oversight by the state board fee committee to schools that fol-

low CBSE and other boards too.

Revamping teacher selection and education, setting up regional structures for affiliating engineering colleges and establishing super speciality hospitals and college under Tamil Nadu Dr MGR Medical University were other recommendations.

It proposes RTE admission reimbursement only in private schools located in remote areas, hills, where there are no govt schools. It says funds being spent for RTE admissions can be used for developing govt schools.

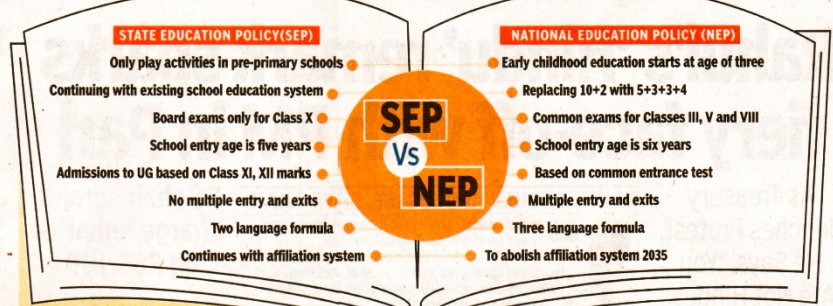
"The present structure offers seamless transition from school to college to students. NEP may disrupt the transition as it mandates a common entrance test and introduces a new school education system. In hindsight, the recommendations seem to protect the interests of people of TN and educational infrastructure in the state," said education activist P B Prince Gajendrababu.

Madras University former vice-chancellor P Duraisamy said multiple entry and exits in degree programmes will offer flexibility to students.

“If the govt adopts our recommendations, it will bring positive change in education, future of students – JUSTICE D Murugesan



File photo



KEY RECOMMENDATIONS OF SEP

- State govt may take appropriate measures to ensure the subject 'education' is brought back in State list of Schedule 7 of the Constitution
- Tamil should be taught as the first language in schools
- Anganwadi centres should be named "Mother-Child Care Centres"; pre-primary, play schools as child development centres
- No writing, only play activities to be encouraged
- Common age for pre-schools: 3 years

SCHOOL EDUCATION

- Entry age in Class I: 5 years
- There will be four stages - primary, upper primary, secondary and higher secondary stage (5+3+2+2)
- Either open book assessment or closed book assessment with information sheets to eliminate memorization
- Physical education periods should be expanded from two to four periods a week
- Appointing physical education teachers at primary level
- Govt may consider 1% reservation in higher education for children who have lost both parents
- Govt may consider banning all coaching centres including private tuition centres
- No entrance test or screening for admission to schools

HIGHER EDUCATION

- A state higher education mission should be set up
- Marks obtained in Class XI, XII should be the basis for admissions to higher studies. No entrance exams.
- The present three-year UG and two-year PG degree shall continue
- Academic Bank of Credit proposed by UGC shall not be implemented in state universities till the system matures
- Break and rejoining courses shall be allowed under special circumstances
- The use of open book and open-notes assessments should be extensive, eliminating the need for memorization
- Strengthening existing institutions rather than allowing foreign universities
- Only tie-ups with foreign universities by state universities and colleges allowed

No immediate legal conflict in sight

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

Tamil Nadu has opened one more battle front against the Union govt by becoming the first state in the country to have its own education policy for institutions under its control, say jurists.

A legal confrontation, however, will not unfold anytime soon, as the National Education Policy (NEP) is not a legislation, but only an intended academic direction. In contrast, the state has the Tamil Nadu Private Schools (Regulation) Act, 2018, which will be bolstered when the State Education Policy (SEP) penned by Justice D Murugesan is implemented.

The friction point will be the conflicting clauses concerning higher education, because the Union govt has a law in place and it is implemented through its agencies such as the University Grants Commission (UGC).

By an Emergency-era amendment in 1976, education was moved to the Concurrent List from the State List. It means, both the state and

the Union govt can make new laws or amend the existing ones. While school education is driven by state laws, Union govt has supremacy in higher education. In case the state makes or amends a law and gets Presidential assent, then it is as good as a central law.

"Today there is no central law in school education, which has always been with the state," said designated senior advocate and former additional solicitor-general of India P Wilson, DMK's Rajya Sabha member as well. "A state is the best judge to decide what is good for its students. Even in higher education-related matters, the Union govt can prescribe and determine only the standard, he added.

Justice K Chandru, former judge of Madras high court, said TN govt had already laid out its most contentious issues with the Centre. They are: one, a state amendment seeking TN's exemption from NEET. Two, another law to make the chief minister Chancellor of state universities replacing the governor; and three, the 68% reservation for SC/ST and OBC communities in education. While the first two are awaiting Presidential assent, the third issue is in the Supreme Court.

The justice D Murugesan commission report will be a part of the policy decision, the senior jurist said, pointing out that the state's Samacheer Kalvi scheme had been upheld by Madras high court, and appeals against it were dismissed by the Supreme Court. Asked about the varying duration of under-graduate degrees, as prescribed by the SEP and the NEP, Justice Chandru said a basic law degree is obtained in five years as well as six years. "While the three-year law degree after graduation entails six years of collegiate education, post-matric law degree is a five-year programme," he said.

Legally, there is no immediate threat for SEP, but over a period the higher education part of it could pitch TN against the Union govt.



File photo

Source: The Times of India, 2 July 2024, p. 2

Student-tutor ratio in aided schools: Assn asks TN govt not to transfer 8K teachers

SUBASHINI VIJAYAKUMAR @Chennai

TEACHERS in government-aided schools have urged the state to drop any move to transfer around 8,000 teachers, who were identified as teachers in excess of the stipulated student-teacher ratio. The school education department on June 29 released a G.O. stating that the surplus teachers should be appointed to other aided schools that have vacancies.

However, the teachers say the government did not consider the entire number of English-medium students in these schools, while identifying surplus teachers. If this detail is also factored in, the surplus teachers will fall by 90%, they said. Around 80,000 teachers work in 8,400 aided schools that cater to over 25 lakh students in the state.

In 2018, through a G.O., the aided schools were allowed to convert 50% of student strength in each section to English medium. In case of high demand, the schools could have a higher



Aided school teachers have claimed if the total number of English-medium students is taken into account, the number of surplus teachers will be fall by 90% | FILE PIC

percentage of English-medium students, but the government would provide resources for students only till the 50% mark. Hence, the teachers catering to the English-medium students above the fixed cut-off, are also considered as surplus teachers by the government.

Other factors that contribute to the high number of 'surplus'

teachers in aided schools are the increase in student-teacher ratio from 20:1 to 30-40:1, and the decrease in student enrolment because the government is yet to extend schemes like Chief Minister's Breakfast Scheme, 7.5% reservation, and the Tamil Puthalvan scheme to all aided schools.

Representing the Tamil Nadu

Aided Schools Teaching and Non-Teaching Staff Federation, T Kanagaraj said the main reason behind the government identifying as many as 8,000 teachers as surplus, is the partial consideration of English-medium students during staff fixation. "We demand the government to consider the entire English-medium student strength while deploying teachers. This would reduce the surplus figure by 90%," he said.

The surplus number is particularly high in Kanniyakumari district, where English-medium students constitute the majority in all aided schools. "In this district alone, there are 624 surplus teachers in high and higher secondary schools. This number would be reduced by more than half if the entire strength of English-medium students is considered. The remaining teachers could then be deployed to aided schools that have vacancies," said R Ajin, Secretary of the Tamil Nadu Postgraduate Teachers Association.

Source: *The New Indian Express*, 15 July 2024, p. 2

(Facing page, clockwise from left top)
Sources:

The New Indian Express, 20 July 2024, p. 4

The Hindu, 1 July 2024

The New Indian Express, 26 July 2024, p. 4

Stalin opens new school structures built at ₹264.15 crore

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @ Chennai

CHIEF Minister MK Stalin inaugurated new buildings constructed for the school education department at a cost of ₹264.15 crore across Tamil Nadu via video conference from the secretariat on Friday.

The buildings, housing 515 classrooms, 12 laboratories, in 106 government high and higher secondary schools across 26 districts were constructed by the school education department under the 'Perasiriyar Anbazhagan Palli Membattu Thittam'.

Additionally, 441 classrooms in 176 elementary schools in 25 districts and renovated buildings in 28 schools of excellence in 28 districts have been completed. An education campus along with a CEO office has been constructed in Tiruvannamalai. The event was attended by Minister for School Education Anbil Mahesh Poyyamozhi and Chief Secretary Shiv Das Meena.

Stalin also inaugurated two new prison buildings valued at ₹9.45 crore. These include a new sub-jail at Tindivanam in Vilupuram district and an additional building at Chengalpattu district prison.

Govt. schools face lack of counsellors for students

Experts say teachers need to be trained to handle behavioural problems among children



Cause for concern: According to a child psychologist, behavioural problems in children are on the rise. FILE PHOTO

Meghna M.
CHENNAI

K. Preethi*, a Class IX government school student, was repeatedly disrupting class, her teacher Uma* recounted. After speaking to her, the teacher and student managed to establish a relationship of trust and Preethi started messaging her teacher even late into the night.

"She is a brilliant student. She had lost both her parents and stayed with her grandmother. She grows extremely attached if attention is shown," Ms. Uma says.

The teacher soon found out that she had begun a relationship with a daily-wage labourer. In an effort to protect her, Ms. Uma advised her against it. "That very day she sent me lewd, intimate pictures to show her defiance," says Ms. Uma.

Though the school arranges for a counsellor for the students, there is a need for a more permanent presence in the school. "I don't know how to proceed in such a situation apart from giving more advice. I am not trained for this," she says.

Though the State government had introduced an initiative in 2017 to have a counsellor available at the block-level for the schools under it, the programme soon fizzled out. "Only once in a while the counsellor would visit. Moreover, the children are not comfortable when a stranger prods them. We find it easier to deal with the children ourselves and advise them," says a government school teacher from Ramana-thapuram district.

Stating that mental illness among children starts at the age of 15, child psychologist Jayanthini says: "Behavioural problems in children are on the rise. Every school should have an educational psychologist who visits for a few hours a day to consult. Early help goes a long way in preventing problems."

The report of the one-man committee to avoid caste-based violence in schools, headed by retired High Court Justice K. Chandru, also suggested that trained counsellors be appointed for each block.

However, educationist and former Vice-Chancellor Vasanthi Devi points out that there is a dearth of psychologists, and it will not help manage the current problem.

"Teachers are with the students more. They need to be extensively trained to be empathetic and lend an ear to guide the students in times of trouble."

Policy needed

A child rights activist, A. Devaneyam, states that there must be a protection of school children policy for a holistic and safe environment. "Violence against children and by children are on the rise. As a long-term solution, counsellors are good, but right now, the teachers need to be trained. A policy on child protection will be able to address this," he says.

Some experts also point out that the presence of a social worker will be of more help in schools.

"When a child needs a safe place, where will they go? The role of a teacher comes with a position of power, whereas a social worker will be able to notice and identify when there is a rise in bullying or child sexual abuse. They will also help in crisis intervention and help the children express their trauma," says J. Damen Queen, assistant professor at Madras School of Social Work.

"A school social worker is necessary as they will look at the larger canvas of a student's life. A child may be vaccinated, have food, shelter, family, clothes, and can still be abused, and be abusive," said Vidya Reddy, founder and director of Tulir-Centre for the Prevention and Healing of Child Sexual Abuse.

**names changed to protect identity.*

Edu centre shut 3 yrs ago, schooling now a dream for 20 Vellore tribal kids

RAJALAKSHMI SAMPATH @ Vellore

AROUND 20 school-aged children in the tribal village of Periyathattankuttal have neither been in a classroom nor received any formal education for three years — after the closure of a non-residential school teaching centre (NRSTC) in the region. Officials alleged it was the non-cooperation of students that led to the shutdown.

Nestled in the picturesque Jawadhu Hills, the village is home to more than 300 people of 60 families, all belonging to the Malayali community (scheduled tribe). As many children of older age groups are enrolled in residential government-run schools in nearby



The kids spend their time helping parents in the fields, and playing | SINDHESH

towns, the absence of an educational facility in the village primarily affects children aged between five and 12. The nearest school is located 7 km away in Naganadhi, accessible only through a forest route, and another one is 12 km away in Peenjammandhai, which also

lacks proper road connectivity.

The village used to have an NRSTC within 200 m with a temporary teacher from outside the village. However, it was shut down three years ago, sources said. During *TNIE*'s visit to the area, 13-year-old M Prasanth said, "I studied up to

Class 3 at the NRSTC. When it was shut down, I discontinued my studies as it's difficult to reach other schools."

As most parents in the region often go to neighbouring states like Kerala for work, kids don't have an adult to accompany them to schools through the forest paths. Thus, they discontinue studies. Ramya (11) said, "I went to school until Class 2 but dropped out as my parents started to travel to other states for work. Now, me and my siblings spend time helping parents at the fields and playing."

R Samandhi, a resident, said, "My son is six years old and I am yet to enrol him in school. I don't want to send him to Naganadhi as the path is notori-

ous for snakes. It'd be better if there was a school in the village."

According to sources, there are six kids in the village who are yet to start Class 1. Also, after the closure of NRSTC, three have dropped out of Class 2, two from Class 3, one from Class 4, two from Class 5 and six others from different classes.

The village also used to have a *Katral Matyram* (learning centre), which was run by a group of volunteers. However it didn't sustain, sources said. "Most kids are interested in studies. However, due to the nature of their parents' jobs and the hardship of reaching the nearby schools alone, they remain at home. It'd be better if the dis-

trict administration could start an elementary school in the village with midday meals," said K Jayanthi, a resident.

Anaicut block education officer N Kumar told *TNIE*, "Though we arranged an NRSTC in the village, it was discontinued as students didn't cooperate. However, we are proposing an elementary school."

S Shanthi, supervisor (in-charge) for Anaicut block, said, "The possibility of starting an elementary school in the hills is slim due to location constraints. If students are interested, we are ready to restart the NRSTC." A senior school education official also said the NRSTC will be restarted after identifying a spot for it.

BIS revises code to ensure food hygiene in schools

K. Lakshmi
CHENNAI

With more public and private schools in the State serving food to children, the Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS) recently revised IS 6541: 2024, a code that recommends the hygienic conditions required for the preparation of food/meals in schools.

BIS would soon approach the State government to discuss the revised code and seek coordination on implementation of the standard in Tamil Nadu. The code was published in 1972 to prescribe a basic standard for maintaining hygienic conditions in kitchens and food transport vehicles, and covered only noon meal programmes, officials of BIS said.

After five decades, the

code was modified last month, taking into account the current requirements for school kitchens and centralised kitchens in government, government-aided and private schools, said U.S.P. Yadav, Deputy Director General, BIS (southern region).

The code, finalised by the Food and Agricultural Division Council, BIS, had covered the broad contours of food safety and hygiene measures to be adopted at various levels of schools, including crèches. It had excluded facilities for infants aged up to 22 months for now, the official said.

The comprehensive standard has a broader scope now, with a growing number of kitchens involved in food preparation, handling and supply in schools. In a bid to ensure



Keeping it clean: The code specifies food safety measures and hygiene to be adopted right from the stage of procurement, storage and preparation to serving food to children. FILE PHOTO

the safety of food consumed by children and improve nutrition, the BIS has listed separate standards for school kitchens and centralised kitchens to maintain hygiene.

The code has specified food safety measures and hygiene to be adopted right from the stage of procurement, storage and preparation to serving food to children. It has also

covered the basic infrastructure and equipment needed in school and centralised kitchens.

G. Bhavani, Director and Head, BIS, Chennai branch, said that there were specifications on where to procure raw materials, how to store each food item, the order of usage to avoid expiry and wastage, and cooking methods to be adopted for food safety. Separate sections elaborate on cleaning of utensils, pest control and personal hygiene of food handlers.

"Every minute detail such as the ideal temperature for serving a meal to children has been included in the code. It has also recommended testing of meals once in six months for different parameters, including e-coli and salmonella," she said.

The Tamil Nadu government has already implemented the Chief Minister's Breakfast Scheme in 31,008 government schools and expanded it to more government-aided schools. Similarly, students in nearly 43,131 centres across the State are provided nutritious food under the Puratchi Thalaivar M.G.R. Nutritious Meal Programme with an elaborate quality monitoring mechanism, according to the 2024-25 policy note of the Social Welfare and Women Empowerment Department.

"We will initiate the next step of BIS certification for kitchens depending on the requirement of the State government agencies. In six months, BIS will prepare a checklist that needs to be followed for certification," Mr. Yadav said.

Source: *The Hindu*, 20 July 2024

Free from bondage, these tribal students' civil service dream now gets wings

BINITA JAISWAL @ Chennai

THE lives and dreams of B Mallesh (24) from Krishnagiri and S Santhosh (17) from Tiruvannamalai are similar at many levels. Both of them, hailing from marginalised communities, recently got enrolled at Madras Christian College (MCC) to pursue their dream courses and aspire to become civil service officers. Though there is nothing extraordinary about their

career choice, the reason behind them picking this competitive field is worth knowing.

Mallesh was a bonded labourer for five years. On the other hand, Santhosh's parents were rescued from bonded labour when he was two years old. Both of them wish to get into civil service so that they can take measures to ensure no one goes through similar plight.

At the age of eight, one of Mallesh's relatives sent him for



B Mallesh and S Santhosh got enrolled at Madras Christian College in Chennai

work at a rose farm in Karnataka by taking ₹30,000 from the land owner. For five long years, Mallesh worked as a bonded labourer from 6 am to 8 pm. He used to pluck flowers, clean them, and tie into bundles. Not just the hands but the little one's heart too was wounded from the hard labour as he had to undergo beatings and verbal abuse of the owner on a daily basis.

In 2014, Mallesh's ordeal came to an end as he was rescued by

the government with the help of social workers. He was handed over to a child welfare committee in the state.

"Never have I ever imagined that I'd be able to resume my studies and step into a college. I am happy that I utilised all the opportunities that came my way and got into MCC," said Mallesh who hails from a tribal community. He is now an MA Social Work student of the college in Chennai.

"Life of bonded labourers is a curse. No one should go through it. I will study hard to become an IAS officer and will work especially to uplift the lives of bonded labourers," added the youngster.

Hailing from the Irular community, Santhosh's childhood was slightly different as it was not him but his parents who went through the same plight. "Fortunately, I have not suffered the agony of being a bond-

ed labourer but I have seen their lives from close quarters," said Santhosh, a native of Dr Abdul Kalam Puram, a settlement for rescued bonded labourers started by the state government. He has enrolled in the same college for BA Tamil course.

MCC principal Paul Wilson said the college has been supporting underprivileged students for many years now, thereby making the campus inclusive and holistic.

Source: *The New Indian Express*, 13 July 2024, p. 2

10 TN tribal students secure admission in NIT, top institutes

PEARSON LENEKAR SR/ SUBASHINI
VIJAYAKUMAR @ Tiruchy/ Chennai

SIX tribal students from schools run by the Tamil Nadu tribal welfare department and four from private institutions have secured admissions in premier institutions such as the National Institute of Technology, Tiruchy (NIT-T), National Institute of Fashion Technology (NIFT), and National Law University (NLU), this year.

Even as only three of the six rounds of Joint Seat Allocation (JSA) counselling have been completed so far, five tribal students from Tiruchy district — one from a government school and four others from private institutions — have already secured seats at NIT-T. The lot includes four girls. Sources from the institution said it is for the first time that these many students from tribal communities in Tiruchy have got into the institution during the first three rounds of counselling.



M Rohini

Among them is M Rohini (18), a student from the government tribal residential higher secondary school in Pachamalai Hills of Chinna Illupur. Securing 73.8% in the JEE Mains examination, she was ranked 6,910 in the Scheduled Tribes (ST) category. She has been allotted a seat in the Chemical Engineering department. Hailing from the Malayali tribal community, Rohini's parents are agricultural daily-wage labourers in Kerala. She lives with her elder brother and his wife who work as agricultural labourers in Chinna Illuppur. Rohini is the first in their family to pursue a professional degree.

"Frequent tests were conducted based on previous year's question papers, apart from special classes. While I was able to write the JEE Mains examination well, the Advanced examination was quite challenging. However, I am happy that I got into a reputed institution and hope to do well," said Rohini. **P9**

2 tribal students to pursue B.Design course at NIFT

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

THE other tribal students from Tiruchy who got admitted to NIT-T are K Kavini from Kailasapuram (Bachelor of Architecture) with a rank of 302; PN Rithika from Mutharasanallur (Computer Science Engineering) with a rank of 2,538; G Dhiya Preetha from Poolangudi (Production Engineering) with a rank of 7,106; and Dhanush Rajkuamr Bangaru from Kailasapuram (Production Engineering) with a rank of 8,872.

A Ajai from Eklavya Model Residential School (EMRS) in M Palada of The Nilgiris has been admitted to the National Law University in Tiruchy. K Meena and S Durga, from EMRS in Puliampatti of Tiruvannamalai district will pursue Bachelor of Design course at NIFT. E Palaniyamil and K Thavamani from the government tribal residential school in Maniyarpalayam of Kallakurichi district have joined the Bachelor of Fashion Technology programme at the same in-

'Women need higher education for economic independence'

The Hindu Bureau
CHENNAI

Madras High Court Judge, Justice M. Sundar, said on Thursday that V.L. Ethiraj, founder of Ethiraj College for Women, firmly believed that higher education for women was important for their economic independence.

Delivering the V.L. Ethiraj Endowment Lecture, organised as part of the 134th birth anniversary of the college founder, Mr. Justice Sundar said women needed economic independence for their emancipation.

Legal career

Justice Sundar also spoke on how Ethiraj used the money he earned from his illustrious career in the legal profession to build institutions for women.

V.M. Muralidharan, Chairman, Ethiraj College for Women, also spoke. Financial Trustee M. Sekar participated in the event.

(Above) Source: *The New Indian Express*,
12 July 2024, p. 1&9

(Right) Source: *The Hindu*, 19 July 2024

Govt. scheme helps Adi Dravidar, tribal school students realise their dream

N. Sai Charan
CHENNAI

It was a dream come true for C. Parthasarathy, a student of Government Adi Dravidar Welfare Higher Secondary School at Sundararajapuram in Virudhunagar district when he came to know that he was admitted to the Aerospace Design course at the Indian Institute of Technology-Madras (IIT-M).

He was the first student from the schools administered by the State's Adi Dravidar and Tribal Welfare Department to get into an IIT, thanks to the State's flagship *Naan Mudhalvan* scheme, officials said. The 18-year-old student told *The Hindu*, "The coaching classes for the IIT Joint Entrance Examination (JEE) Mains were conducted by our school-teachers. After clearing the exam, experts from Chennai helped me clear JEE Advanced..."



Rewarding initiative: Minister for Adi Dravidar and Tribal Welfare N. Kayalvizhi Selvaraj felicitating the students. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

L. Suganya and M. Rohini from the Government Tribal Residential (GTR) Higher Secondary Schools at Kariyakovilvalavu in Salem district and Chinna Iluppur near Pachamalai in Tiruchi district respectively are slated to join the National Institute of Technology (NIT)-Tiruchi.

They were trained under the *Naan Mudhalvan* scheme, and found the initiative very helpful.

"I never expected that my son would pursue higher education at the Tamil Nadu National Law University in Tiruchi. He is the first generation in our family to go for higher studies," said R. Arumugam, whose son A. Ajai, a student of Eklavya Model Residential School (EMRS) in the Nilgiris district cleared the Common Law Admission Test. K. Meena and S. Durga, students of EMRS,

Puliyampatti in Tiruvannamalai district, E. Palaniyammal and K. Thavamani from GTR Higher Secondary School at Maniyarpalayam in Kallakurichi district, will join the National Institute of Fashion Technology at Taramani in Chennai.

Recently, Chief Minister M.K. Stalin and Minister for Adi Dravidar and Tribal Welfare N. Kayalvizhi Selvaraj had felicitated the students. Mr. Stalin provided laptops to them.

G. Laxmi Priya, Secretary, Adi Dravidar and Tribal Welfare Department, said video lectures of teachers from Model schools and experts were telecast for seven weeks in schools. "Doubt-clearing sessions were organised for students. Special training programmes were held. From this year, training programmes for entrance exams will be conducted throughout the academic year," she said.

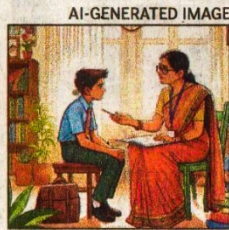
Source: *The Hindu*, 24 July 2024

Corporation to hire full-time student counsellors for its schools from Aug

Padmaja.J
@timesgroup.com

Chennai: Shankar*, who studies in Class IX in a Greater Chennai Corporation (GCC) school in north Chennai, used to be addicted to tobacco-flavoured mouth fresheners. Soon, his marks fell from 90% and he barely passed last year. Then, a counsellor asked Shankar if he wanted to become an addict like his father or set a good example for his younger brother. "I stopped taking them," he said.

GCC schools report a lot of cases of students straying from academics because of relationships, drugs, alcohol, stress and depression. "Teachers, who are overburdened with completing portions, cannot always help them," said Anuradha Gopalakrishnan, a consultant for GCC schools. The GCC plans to hire 15 full-time counsellors for 30 schools,



paying them each around ₹30,000 a month, starting Aug.

"Teachers are also stressed after the pandemic. They have to complete portions," said S Charulatha, headmistress of a GCC school. "Students have become less interested in studies after the pandemic, so we need counsellors," she added.

NGOs such as Arunodhaya and SCARF (Schizophrenia Research Foundation) fill the role in a few schools in the city. Arunodhaya has a social worker in each of the 22 GCC schools in north Chennai. These counsellors visit every week to

GCC schools report a lot of cases of students straying from academics because of relationships, drugs, alcohol, stress and depression

talk about love, infatuation, menstrual hygiene, and safe and unsafe touch. They also refer children to counsellors for one-on-one sessions, said Virgil D Sami, Arunodhaya's executive director.

"We plan to work with families and communities, not just students," said Sharanya Ari, GCC deputy commissioner (education).

Once, a student threatened to kill himself if the teacher failed him. In another case, a few girls cut themselves with blades, said Virgil.

Arunodhaya's counsellor S Chellammal attends such cases. "Two people in love will grow together, wait

for each other, and help each other achieve their goals. But infatuation is a temporary attraction that can make a person deviate from goals," she tells the girls.

Children who get love and validation at home won't look for it in other people or substances, said Chellammal. "Many parents are also daily wage workers who cannot spend time with their children. They become overly critical. So, we ask parents to tell their children what financial and emotional difficulties they face."

Shankar thus got to know that his mother works very hard to send him and his brother to school. "I help my mother whenever I can. She never sleeps," he said.

Now, Shankar's scores have increased to 85%. "My ambition is to become a pilot," he said. "Chellammal ma'am was the first person to ask me that."

(*name changed)

Source: *The Times of India*, 3 July 2024, p. 3

T.N. Language Atlas brings out the State's varied linguistic typology and distribution

Dennis S. Jesudasan
CHENNAI

About 18.49% of the total population in Tamil Nadu could speak English, the Language Atlas of Tamil Nadu, 2011, has revealed.

Published recently by the Registrar General and Census Commissioner of India (RG&CCI), under the Union Ministry of Home Affairs, the Atlas has pointed out that 2.11% of the total population in the State could speak Hindi.

It further pointed out that 96.20% of the total population in the State could speak Tamil; 8.05%, Telugu; 2.59%, Kannada; and 1.40%, Malayalam – either as their mother tongue or as their first or second subsidiary language. The Atlas has used the 2011 Census data for Tamil Nadu for its analysis, and puts the population of the State at 7,21,47,030.

Five major languages

The five major languages, classified on the basis of the total number of speakers in the State, are - Tamil

Linguistic diversity

A delve into the distribution of monolingual, bilingual and trilingual speakers in the State in 2011

Major languages	Speakers (mother tongue)	Monolinguals	Bilinguals (excluding trilinguals)	Trilinguals
Tamil	6,37,53,997	4,96,87,022	1,30,47,336	10,19,639
Telugu	42,34,302	9,56,866	26,60,016	6,17,420
Kannada	12,86,175	2,80,564	7,84,735	2,20,876
Urdu	12,64,537	3,40,243	7,15,784	2,08,510
Malayalam	7,26,096	1,99,740	3,34,020	1,92,336
Hindi	3,93,380	1,63,375	1,68,116	61,889
Gujarati	2,75,023	48,129	1,68,116	65,633
Marathi	85,454	17,741	42,237	25,476
English	24,495	8,516	12,927	3,052
Tulu	2,636	348	987	1,301
Others	1,00,935	28,216	41,688	31,031
TOTAL	7,21,47,030	5,17,30,760	1,79,69,107	24,47,163



■ As per the T.N. Language Atlas, **96.2% of the total population in T.N. could speak Tamil**, 8.05%, Telugu; 2.59%, Kannada; and 1.40%, Malayalam – either as their mother tongue or as their first or second subsidiary language

The figures in the table do not include the number of people who have mentioned the above listed languages either as their first or secondary subsidiary language.

(6,37,53,997), Telugu (42,34,302), Kannada (12,86,175), Urdu (12,64,537), and Malayalam (7,26,096). Besides, there are 8,81,923 speakers of other languages. Over 24 lakh persons in the State could speak three languages. Excluding the trilinguals, over 1.79 crore people

in the State could speak two languages.

The first version of the country's Language Atlas was published in 2004, using the 1991 Census data. Subsequently, the Language Atlas of India, 2001, and the Language Atlas of India, 2011 (using the 2001 and the 2011 Census data)

were published. The first State-wise Language Atlas published was that of West Bengal (using the 2011 Census data) in October 2023. The Language Atlas of Tamil Nadu, 2011, is the second State-wise language Atlas to have been released. It represents the typology of language, its geo-

graphical distribution, bilingualism, and trilingualism, among others.

The Tamil Nadu Language Atlas has language family-wise maps - Dravidian, Indo-European, Austro-Asiatic and Tibeto-Burman - and the distribution of Scheduled and Non-Scheduled Languages. Of the 17 Dravidian languages, speakers of 14 languages were found in Tamil Nadu, while those of Jatapu, Kolami and Koya were not present in the State. There were 10 major Indo-Aryan languages spoken in the State - Bengali, Gujarati, Hindi, Konkani, Marathi, Nepali, Odia, Punjabi, Sindhi and Urdu. English is categorised under the Germanic branch of the Indo-European family.

The RG&CCI had earlier published a report of the Linguistic Survey of India-Tamil Nadu (LSI-TN), conducted on the basis of the field data of 2021-22.

According to the report, there are 60 million Tamil speakers, mainly in south India, and 68 million Tamil speakers worldwide.

Source: *The Hindu*, 15 July 2024

TN forms 'One Health' panel to protect people, animals & environment

SV KRISHNA CHAITANYA @ Chennai

WITH the increasing extreme climate events and zoonotic spillover, the state has decided to take 'One Health' approach and constituted a 23-member committee that will help manage the health crisis.

A G.O. constituting the 'One Health and Climate Change Strategic Committee' was issued by environment secretary P Senthilkumar, who will also act as the convenor for the committee. The group will be headed by chief secretary. Top bureaucrats/ officials from health, agriculture, animal husbandry, wildlife, Tamil Nadu Pollution Control Board, Zoological Survey of India, Wildlife Institute of India, meteorological department will be members along with experts.

The 'One Health' concept is aimed at creating an integrated approach to health that recognises the interconnection between human, animal and environmental health.

Senthilkumar said the committee will look to promote a comprehensive and integrated response to the public health challenges posed by climate change, leveraging the 'One Health' approach to foster collaboration across various sectors and disciplines and advocating for policies that protect the health of people, animals and the environment.

The committee's mandate included mapping of existing surveillance programmes, including all ongoing disease surveillance programmes across the sectors and having access to information on climate mediated diseases and disease trigger mechanisms to develop preventive actions and control. It also aims to develop complete surveillance systems for early detection of disease outbreaks across species, as per the G.O.

The efforts are aimed at making the state more climate-resilient and reducing its vulnerability



Staff at a hospital in Perambra in Kozhikode, Kerala, during the Nipah virus outbreak in 2018 | FILE PHOTO

What's zoonotic

Zoonotic, or zoonosis, is an infectious disease that spreads between animals and humans. The diseases can be caused by viruses, bacteria, parasites, or fungi, and can range from mild to severe and life threatening. Some examples of zoonotic diseases include rabies, canicola fever, and Weil's disease.

ity to the adverse effects of climate change. During the first meeting of TN Governing Council on Climate Change, Chief Minister MK Stalin directed the ministers to examine and implement projects through the climate change lens, and also pointed out the need for 'One Health' approach.

Supriya Sahu, additional chief secretary to the government said this is a very futuristic move. "Currently, the surveillance data generated from different departments like animal husbandry, epidemiological data from health, forest etc are not looked at holistically. For instance, everyone assumes the rise in dengue cases is because of unseasonal rains, but there is more to it. Lots of interactions happen between human, animals within an ecosystem. This must be understood to intervene appropriately. The Nipah virus is another example," she said.

T.N. Health Minister discusses with World Bank officials plan to boost health infrastructure

The government has implemented Tamil Nadu Health System Reform Project at \$287 million to improve healthcare with the support of the World Bank, says Health Minister Ma. Subramanian

The Hindu Bureau
CHENNAI

Health Minister Ma. Subramanian on Wednesday met with a team of World Bank officials in the U.S. to discuss funding sources and action plan for improving health infrastructure in the State.

The Minister, while speaking at the meeting, said the World Bank has supported the Tamil Nadu Health System Reform Project of \$287 million.

"We have implemented this five-year project to improve healthcare with the support of the World Bank. We have also got a good track



Health Minister Ma. Subramanian with a team of World Bank officials in the U.S. on Wednesday. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

record of excelling in healthcare delivery through its impressive achievements in the health sector.

He noted that Tamil Nadu is known for its remarkable

track record of excelling in healthcare delivery through its impressive achievements in the health sector.

"The State has a rich histo-

ry of pioneering public health initiatives through its dynamic public health system started way back in 1923," he said.

The team of World Bank officials included Martin Raiser, Regional Vice President, South Asia; Mamta Murthi, Vice President, Human Development; Ilango Patchamuthu, Director, Strategy and Operations, South Asia; Nicole Klingens, South Asia Regional Director for Human Development and Juan Pablo Uribe, Global Director for Health, Nutrition, and Population.

Gagandeep Singh Bedi, former Health Secretary, was also present.

(Above) Source: *The New Indian Express*, 28 July 2024, p. 6

(Right) Source: *The Hindu*, 12 July 2024

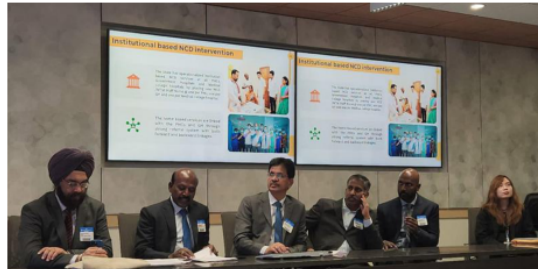
Minister highlights various health schemes of State govt. at Harvard University

The Hindu Bureau
CHENNAI

Health Minister Ma. Subramanian on Monday made a presentation on the Tamil Nadu government's health schemes and achievements at Harvard University in the U.S.

He elaborated on the reach of the Chief Minister's Comprehensive Health Insurance Scheme (CMCHIS); the 'Kalaigarin Varumun Kappom Thittam'; the 'Innuyir Kappom Nammai Kakkum-48'; the 'Idhayam Kappom'; the 'Makkalai Thedi Maruthuvam' (MTM); workplace-based Non Communicable Diseases (NCD) intervention programme; and 108 emergency care services, among others.

The CMCHIS reached 14 million beneficiaries between July 2009 and June 2024, with claims approved for ₹136.25 billion. Out of the total beneficiaries, 4.32 million received care at government hospitals, with claims amounting to ₹49.45 billion, he said.



Listing initiatives: Minister Ma. Subramanian making a presentation on Tamil Nadu's health schemes at Harvard University. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

The 108 emergency care services, with a fleet of 1,353 ambulances, significantly reduced the response time in rural and urban areas. The average response time for road traffic emergencies across the State was 11 minutes and 23 seconds, he added. He further said that under the 'Innuyir Kappom Nammai Kakkum-48' scheme, 2,52,981 patients availed of cashless treatment from December 18, 2023 to May 31, 2024, for an amount worth ₹2.21 billion. Of the total beneficiaries, 2,33,039 patients were treated in government hospitals. He listed the services

extended to beneficiaries under the MTM – home-based drug delivery by Women Health Volunteers for hypertension and diabetes; screening of persons using handy electronic blood pressure apparatus and glucometer; home-based physiotherapy and palliative care by a team of physiotherapist and palliative care nurse and provision of Continuous Ambulatory Peritoneal Dialysis bags.

Former Health Secretary Gagandeep Singh Bedi and Vice-Chancellor of Tamil Nadu Dr. MGR Medical University K. Narayanasamy were present.

(Left) Source: *The Hindu*, 10 July 2024

(Below) Source: *The New Indian Express*, 10 July 2024, p. 4

MaSu highlights TN's success story in healthcare at Harvard

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @ Chennai

TAMIL Nadu's focus on primary health care and promotive health, its medical services recruitment system, drug procurement and distribution system, secondary and tertiary care and the state's flagship schemes have contributed to its success in the sector, said Health Minister Ma Subramanian in his presentation on the efficient health systems and

achievements of the Tamil Nadu government, at the Harvard University.

The Chief Minister's Comprehensive Health Insurance Scheme has reached out to 14 million beneficiaries between July 2009 and June 2024, with claims approved for a total of \$136.25 billion. Out of the total beneficiaries, 4.32 million received care at government hospitals with claims amounting to \$49.45 billion, the minister



Health Minister Ma Subramanian at the Harvard University | EXPRESS

said in his presentation.

Under the Makkalai Thedi Maruthuvam Scheme, home-based screening services by Woman Health Volunteers (WHVs) from self-help groups selected through the Tamil Nadu Corporation for Development of Women, were taken up. One WHV is assigned for each

health sub-centre area. "Improved service coverage and outcomes by making services available, accessible and affordable, strengthens greater equity, social inclusion and community participation and social accountability of the Department of Health and Family Welfare," the minister said.

TN will be first to achieve population stabilisation: Ma Su

TFR IN STATE AMONG LOWEST

State	Total fertility rate (TFR)
Tamil Nadu	1.4
West Bengal	1.4
Delhi	1.4
Telangana	1.5
Punjab	1.5
Maharashtra	1.5
Kerala	1.5
Jammu & Kashmir	1.5
Karnataka	1.6

Source: Health and family welfare department policy note, 2024

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

Chennai: By 2035, Tamil Nadu will become the first state in India to achieve population stabilisation, a stage where the size of the population remains unchanged and birth rate equals death rate, health minister Ma Subramanian said here on Saturday.

The total fertility rate — number of children born to women between 15 and 49 years of age — in Tamil Nadu is among the lowest in the co-

The population of TN, which was 7.33 crore in 2013, is projected to be 7.71 crore in 2024, according to population projections by the Census of India. It is expected to peak in 2031 at 7.80 crore and begin to decline in 2032

untry, he said after flagging off World Population Day rally in the city.

According to the 2024 policy note of the health department, TFR rate in Tamil Nadu is 1.4, the same as in Delhi and West Bengal.

From around 3.9 in 1971, the fertility rate in the state dropped to 2.7 in 1986 and touched 2 in 2000. It fell to 1.7 six years later and was recorded at 1.4 in 2020, when the fertility rate in India was around 2. Earlier this week, the Centre

announced that by 2021, India's TFR rate will fall to 1.91, below the replacement level needed to maintain a stable population size.

The number of children born in Tamil Nadu every year has dropped to around 9 lakh in 2013 from 11 lakh in 2013. "The base of the population pyramid is now getting thinner," said director of public health Dr T S Selvavinayagam, also the registrar for births and deaths in Tamil Nadu.

"There are around 6.9 lakh deaths. The overall life expectancy has increased in Tamil Nadu, and more and more elderly continue to live longer. There has also been a lot of migration within and into the state, contributing to the increase in population," Dr Selvavinayagam said.

The population of Tamil Nadu, which was 7.33 crore in 2013, is projected to be 7.71 crore in 2024, according to population projections by the Census of India. It is expected to peak in 2031 at 7.80 crore and begin to decline in 2032.

Tamil Nadu has an infant mortality rate (IMR) of 13 per 1,000 live births compared to 28 in India, and an maternal mortality rate (MMR) of 45.6 per 1,00,000 live births compared to 97 in India, according to Sample Registration System (SRS) 2020.

Last week, former health secretary Gagandeep Singh Bedi said IMR in TN was below 9 in 2024, according to the state's health management information system data.

(Left) Source: *The Times of India*, 14 July 2024, p. 4

(Below) Source: *The New Indian Express*, 30 July 2024, p. 1

In a first, TN health district records zero maternal mortality

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @ Chennai

FOR the first time in Tamil Nadu, zero maternal death has been recorded in a Health Unit District (HUD) in one year. From April 2023 to March 2024, of the 7,991 deliveries recorded in the Virudhunagar HUD, no maternal death was recorded, officials said. About 30 to 40 primary health centres (PHCs) are clubbed together to form HUDs across the state. The HUDs are different from revenue districts. Virudhunagar, which is one of the 45 HUDs of Tamil Nadu, had recorded 8,483 live births and six maternal deaths in 2022-23, sources said.

As per the Health Management Information System (HMIS) data, the overall maternal mortality ratio (MMR) in TN has also fallen to 45.5 from 52.3 per one lakh live births in 2023-24 compared to 2022-2023. Better coordination between PHCs and secondary and tertiary care hospitals is one of the key reasons for achieving this feat, sources said. Virudhunagar HUD comprises 22 primary health centres. In Virudhunagar revenue district there are two HUDs — Virudhunagar and Sivakasi.

Sivakasi HUD recorded two maternal deaths until February 2024.

Dr Pitchaikali, district mentor of Obstetricians and Gynaecologists, credited the success to the joint efforts of health department officials and collector. There was a good referral system between PHCs and hospitals, she said. Virudhunagar Collector in 2022 started a WhatsApp group where all private and government doctors would share updates on deliveries. If any complications were reported, the patient concerned will immediately be shifted to the tertiary care hospital, she said.

First step was identification of all low-risk and high-risk pregnant women. High-risk women will then be referred to the nearest Comprehensive Emergency Obstetric and Newborn Care (CEmONC) centres for delivery. Better infrastructure in CEmONC centres also helped, Dr Pitchaikali said.

P7

T.N's MMR drops to 45.5 in 2023-24

The Hindu Bureau
CHENNAI

Going by the Health Management Information System (HMIS) data, Tamil Nadu's Maternal Mortality Ratio (MMR) recorded a significant drop during 2023-24, declining by over six points to reach 45.5 per one lakh live births. In fact, during the same period, Virudhunagar Health Unit District (HUD) recorded nil maternal deaths, according to health officials.

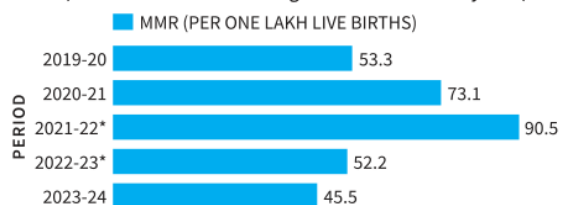
As per HMIS data, MMR has dropped from 52.2 per one lakh live births during 2022-23 to 45.5 during 2023-24. The State's MMR rose during the COVID-19 pandemic years.

Shilpa Prabhakar Satish, Mission Director, National Health Mission (NHM), Tamil Nadu, while speaking at a workshop on 'Connecting the missing dots', said the State had achieved the Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) for maternal mortality (to reduce global MMR to less than 70 per one lakh live births) way back and well ahead of the target due to the efforts of various persons including village health nurses at the field level, maternal child health officers at the district level, deputy and joint directors and obstetricians and gynaecologists.



According to health officials, some of the causes of maternal deaths are pregnancy-induced hypertension, postpartum haemorrhage, sepsis, and conditions such as heart diseases, diabetes, and abortion-related issues

T.N.'s Maternal Mortality Ratio (MMR) from 2019-20 to 2023-24 (sourced from Health Management Information System)



*COVID-19 pandemic years | SOURCE: HEALTH DEPARTMENT

tricians and gynaecologists. "Earlier, MMR dropped each year by two to three points. However, during 2023-24, the MMR dropped by 6.7 points. This reduction in maternal deaths tells us that closely monitoring each pregnant woman can help achieve our target of nil preventable deaths. If Kerala has brought down their MMR to below 18, we also can do it," she said.

The official said Virud-

hunagar HUD recorded nil maternal deaths from April 2023 to March 2024. She raised the need for close coordination not only with secondary and tertiary care institutions but also private hospitals.

Director of Public Health and Preventive Medicine T.S. Selvavinayagam said that the State had already achieved the SDG but this was not enough as many western countries have single-digit MMR.

Nearly 60% to 75% of causes for maternal deaths are connected to four risk factors – pregnancy-induced hypertension, postpartum haemorrhage, sepsis, and unmet need for family planning services, he said.

"We need to arrive at certain basic risk factors such as elderly pregnant women, those with cardiac issues, already known hypertension, and teens," he said. He laid emphasis on picking up already known risk factors early and extending appropriate care at all levels. "From a public health and primary care approach, we need to prevent the emergence of risk factors well before conception," he said.

Ms. Shilpa, while talking about the revamped Pregnancy and Infant Cohort Monitoring and Evaluation portal, said the health status of every pregnant woman could be viewed on the dashboard. "Through 104 health helpline, calls will be made to high-risk pregnant women three times during the antenatal period to inquire about their health. This is over and above what is done at the field level," she said. She also raised the need to ensure that there are no teenage pregnancies in the State.

(Above) Source: *The Hindu*, 30 July 2024; (Below) Source: *The New Indian Express*, 30 July 2024, p. 7

'Other districts should follow Virudhunagar HUD model'

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

SPEAKING to reporters, Health Minister Ma Subramanian said other districts should follow the Virudhunagar HUD model. He further pointed out that 99.9% of deliveries in TN happen in hospitals, and 59% of them happen in government fa-

cilities. Audit will be conducted on caesarean section deliveries done in private hospitals, the minister said.

The health department on Monday conducted a workshop on "Bringing Down the Maternal Mortality Rate Connecting Missing Dots" for health officials and workers. According to

health secretary Supriya Sahu, analysis of maternal deaths in the 10-year period between April 2014 and March 2024 showed that 75% of deaths occurred during the postnatal period and 25% during prenatal period. Shilpa Prabhakar, mission director, National Health Mission-Tamil Nadu, said the

aim of health officials should be to stop preventable deaths. Pregnant women should be followed up regularly.

Dr T S Selvavinayagam, Director of Public Health and Preventive Medicine, said maternal deaths are mainly due to haemorrhage, hypertension, sepsis, and others.

Health Department objects to State's immunisation data in NITI Aayog report

Serena Josephine M.
CHENNAI

Tamil Nadu's Health Department has objected to an immunisation data published in the NITI Aayog's SDG (Sustainable Development Goals) India Index 2023-2024.

Raising the contentious issue with the Union Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, the Department has pointed to discrepancies in the data as a result of using a "wrong denominator" to evaluate the key health indicator, officials said.

The NITI Aayog's SDG India Index, which was published last week, had put the State's performance in one of the key indicators of SDG 3 (Good Health and Well-Being) - percentage of children aged nine to 11 months who were fully immunised - at 85.13.

At the national level, 93.23% of children aged nine to 11 months were fully immunised. However, with a coverage of 85.13% (as per the report), Tamil Nadu was behind at least 15 States.

Target for indicator

The target for this indicator was 100%. It aims at ending the preventable deaths of newborns and children aged under five years. The 100% immuni-

The State's Health Department has pointed to discrepancies in the data as a result of using a "wrong denominator" to evaluate the key health indicator

sation coverage (BCG, measles and three doses each of polio and DPT) is a prerequisite to achieve the global target, the report said.

"Our performance in 'fully immunised' [indicator] is over 95% in all the health unit districts. This has always been the State's target. However, the Government of India (GoI) arrived at the denominator based on birth rate that was 13.8% at the time of the Sample Registration System (SRS) (2018-2020). However, the number of births registered in Tamil Nadu's Civil Registration System (CRS) were fewer, having a difference of about 1.70 lakh. As a result, while the actual immunisation coverage is over 95%, it is 85% [in the report] as per the GoI's calculation," T.S. Selvavinayagam, Director of Public Health and Preventive Medicine, has said.

Elaborating on the discrepancies in the data, offi-

cials said that the GoI's reviews were based on an estimated target of births, while the Tamil Nadu government's reviews were based on live births and targets arrived at on the basis of actual births as per the CRS. Going by the GoI's methodology, the estimated population of infants for 2023-2024 was 10,48,690, whereas the actual live births in the State during the period was 8,78,055 - a difference of 1,70,635 births.

They further said that according to the Health Management Information System, Tamil Nadu's birth rate was 11.4%.

Similar issue

This is not the first time that the State has had to flag discrepancies in data with the Union Health Ministry. A similar issue cropped up after the NITI Aayog published the "Healthy States Progressive India" report in 2019.

"We have been unable to crack this for nearly five to six years despite taking the issues up with the Union Ministry. While they say that they will examine them, the issues remain unaddressed. This difference in immunisation coverage is because of the way in which it is calculated," Dr. Selvavinayagam said.

Source: *The Hindu*, 17 July 2024

TN set to get three more private medical colleges

Pushpa.Narayan
@timesofindia.com

Chennai: At least three private medical colleges – a deemed university, a state private university and a self-financing medical college – are likely to start MBBS courses in Tamil Nadu with 150 seats each this year.

The National Medical Commission (NMC), which is the apex body responsible for medical education in the country, has not published the total number of medical colleges approved for the year so far. However, three of the five institutions in Tamil Nadu said they would start undergraduate courses this year. If this happens, the number of medical colleges, both private and govt, in Tamil Nadu will increase to 77 from 74.

"This year cutoffs are high. There is no increase of seats in govt colleges. With 450 additional seats more students will get to join these colleges," said stu-

dent counsellor Manickavel Arumugam.

On Tuesday, J R Medical College and Research in Villupuram, which comes under the ambit of Bharath Institute of Higher Education and Research, announced that it would start admissions for 150 seats and charge ₹18 lakh a year as tuition fee.

"The NMC has approved our application and has permitted us to start the first batch of MBBS this year," said a university official. This will be the fourth medical college under the university besides Sree Balaji Medical College and Hospital, Sri Lakshmi Narayana Institute of Medical Science Medical College and Hospital and Bhaarith Medical College and Hospital.

Admission to this college will be done through centralised counselling by the medical counselling committee under the Directorate-General of Health Services.

Officials at the Kanya-

kumari Medical Mission in Kanyakumari said they have received approval from the NMC for 150 MBBS seats. "Since we come under the state private university, admission will be done by the state directorate of medical education. Seats will be split as govt and management quota. Some seats will be reserved under NRI quota," he said. The fee will be fixed by the fee fixation committee, he said. Minority seats will be available from 2025.

Annai Medical College, Kanchipuram, a self-financing college affiliated to Tamil Nadu Dr MGR Medical University, said the final inspection has been completed but NMC decision is pending.

"We made all the necessary changes based on the input given by inspection committee. We are confident of getting permission for 150 seats," said a college official.

Two other institutions are expected to start in 2025.

(Left) Source: *The Times of India*, 31 July 2024, p. 4

(Below) Source: *The Times of India*, 30 July 2024, p. 5

Maternal mortality down, C-section remains high

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

Chennai: Virudhunagar health unit district, which excludes Sivakasi, registered no maternal deaths in 2023-24 – a drop from 15 deaths in 2021-22 and 6 in 2022-23, the state health department announced on Monday. The maternal mortality ratio (MMR) for Virudhunagar district, which includes deaths in Sivakasi, was 27 in 2023-24.

Between April 2023 and March 2024, the MMR for the state was 45.5 per one lakh live births, a decline of seven points from 52.3 in 2022-2023. When the Covid-19 pandemic hit Tamil Nadu in 2020, MMR increased for the first time in a decade. In 2020-21, maternal mortality went by 38% from 53.4 to 73 per lakh live births. The next year, it rose by another 24% to 90.6. In the post covid period in 2022-23, the MMR returned to 52.3. "We have seen the biggest decline after that in 2023-24 when MMR dropped to 45.5. It is the results of efforts taken by the government," health minister Ma Sub-

VIRUDHUNAGAR RECORDS ZERO DEATHS

*Maternal deaths per one lakh live births

TOP 5 IN MMR*

Kanyakumari	14.5
Vellore	20.5
Coimbatore	23.3
Perambalur	25.7
Villupuram	25.8

BOTTOM 5

Tirunelveli	77
Tirupathur	72.1
Tiruppur	69.9
Kallakurichi	67.6
Trichy	67.4

TOP CAUSES OF MORTALITY

Post-partum haemorrhage	20	Hypertensive disorders	20	Heart disease	9	Sepsis	8	Abortion	4	Obstetric complication	4	Others	35
-------------------------	----	------------------------	----	---------------	---	--------	---	----------	---	------------------------	---	--------	----

ramanian said at a workshop on bringing down maternal mortality rate – connecting the missing dots. While districts such as Kanyakumari (14.5), Vellore (20.5) and Coimbatore (23.3) were among the lowest, Tirunelveli (77), Tirupattur (72.1) and Tiruppur (69.9) were among the highest. "We must ensure there are no maternal deaths," the minister told senior health officials and doctors at the conference. "When Kerala can have an MMR below 18 why can't we en-

sure it for our women," he asked.

However, C-sections in the state continue to remain high. Although life-saving when done at the time of need, needless C-sections can increase risk of deaths in mothers, they said. Experts said increasing C-section rates were worrying and needed policy revision. "We must ensure blood sugar and blood pressure are under control, monitor high-risk women and ensure timely referrals to appropriate le-

vels of care," said a senior gynaecologist. One out of every two women underwent a C-section in the state. Of the 8.7 lakh women, 4.3 lakh, 50% delivered through C-section. In 2016, C-sections were below 40% in TN.

On Monday, data released by health department showed the private sector recorded 58% compared to 43% in government hospitals. In Virudhunagar, 57% of overall deliveries were C-Section – 52% in government and 71% in private. In Ka-

nyakumari, which had the lowest MMR C-sections were recorded at 62%. "We may not be able to keep MMR at zero, but bringing down C-sections will be difficult. Perambalur, which reported one death, brought MMR to 10 in 2015. C-sections rose to 50%. Now, MMR in the district is more than 24 and doctors have not been able to bring down C-sections," she added. Data showed that C-section deliveries were higher in GHs at Villupuram and Nilgiris. For instance, 52% of deliveries in GHs were C-sections compared to 37% in private. Nearly 52% of deliveries in this district were in GHs. In Nilgiris, 48% of deliveries in GH were C-sections compared to 42% in private hospitals.

Health secretary advocated for documenting outcomes of maternal audits in all districts, reducing preventable death in private hospitals, learning from other states and coordinating with other department to help women improve nutrition and follow health protocols.

Small, medium private hospitals in State feel the pinch of 'unviable' CMCHIS package rates

Serena Josephine M.
CHENNAI

'Unreasonable' package rates have put many small and medium private hospitals empanelled under the Chief Minister's Comprehensive Health Insurance Scheme (CMCHIS) in a tight spot. The treatment package rates, according to a cross-section of doctors, was revised only once in the last 15 years since the scheme came into force. Consequently, hospitals do not find it viable to treat patients under the scheme for certain ailments, as the cost covered by the insurance is way too less compared with the actual treatment cost.

Revamp sought

About 800 to 850 small and medium private hospitals across the State are empanelled under the CMCHIS. A number of doctors who run hospitals said that the present package rates were unviable, and demanded that they be revised. They sought a complete revamp of the scheme.

On its part, the Indian Medical Association, Tamil Nadu State Branch (IMA-TNSB) had submitted its views to a committee, formed to streamline the

In need of revision

A comparison of costing offered under the Chief Minister's Comprehensive Health Insurance Scheme (CMCHIS) for some of the procedures with the rates that were worked out by the Indian Medical Association for an analysis



Procedure	Speciality	IMA-approved package (in ₹)	CMCHIS package (in ₹)	Private insurance package (in ₹)
Appendicectomy	General Surgery	63,300	8,850	46,100
Hernioplasty	General Surgery	70,480	10,350	59,400
TURP*	Urology	66,235	15,943	56,900
Mastoidectomy	ENT	56,319	9,150	38,000
Fracture - TIBIA Internal Fixation plating	Orthopaedics	83,704	12,400	70,000
Open hysterectomy	Obstetrics and Gynaecology	82,867	13,450	54,300

Some of the demands of the IMA and its member hospitals

*Transurethral resection of the prostate

■ Revision of package rates, in accordance with the IMA's scientific costing

■ Ending delays in processing of approved payments

■ No reduction in fixed package rates during settlement of claims

■ A single package system for government and private hospitals

Source: Indian Medical Association, Tamil Nadu State Branch

implementation of the CMCHIS, raising the long-pending need to revise the charges and address glitches, including those in pre-approvals and settling of claims.

"...While the package rates are highly unviable, we face issues due to delays in obtaining pre-authorisation, and payments. The process is slow, and the scheme's implementation is highly flawed unlike the hassle-free process that was in place when it was

launched in 2009," a doctor said.

"Take cholecystectomy (removal of the gallbladder) for instance. In a corporate hospital, the cost of treatment may be around ₹3 lakh to ₹4 lakh. In small and medium hospitals, the rate is around ₹40,000 to ₹50,000. But the CMCHIS has fixed the rate at ₹16,000. How can we manage with this cost?," he asked.

"A lot of costs are involved in running a hospi-

tal. The package rates are so low. It is difficult to operate with the current CMCHIS rates. None of the members who decide these package rates run a hospital. How is this fair?," a private hospital doctor asked.

He further said, "Moreover, If we submit a claim for ₹50,000, they agree initially, but reduce the amount later. In the end, we receive only about half of the amount claimed..."

The IMA had listed a

comparison of the costing for various procedures. It pointed to the rise in nursing charges, doctor fee, operation theatre charges, and cost of drugs, disposables and implants over the last few years. Based on hospital costs and investments, it came up with a scientific workup of treatment costs, and submitted it to the State government. But there is no end in sight to the issues.

An official source said, "As a policy, I agree that the package cost should be viable so that it is translated as benefit to the patients who need it. At the same time, we need to understand that in a government-funded mass health insurance scheme, it is the incremental cost that is factored in, where the surplus capacity available with the private sector is being utilised."

"The rate depends on many factors. To arrive at a viable cost, the insurer, provider and administrator should understand each other's views along with those of the user," he added.

A Health Department official said the present package rates were valid up to the end of 2026. A revision would be undertaken only after that.

Source: *The Hindu*, 8 July 2024

'Re-employment of retired government doctors sets bad precedent for health sector'

Serena Josephine M.
CHENNAI

Government doctors' associations have criticised the recent decisions of the Health Department to re-employ, or extend the services of, government doctors who have retired from service.

Members of the associations said such a move would take away the promotion opportunities of eligible doctors in service and set a bad precedent for the State's health sector. P. Saminathan of Service Doctors and Post Graduates Association said, "Tamil Nadu boasts of qualified expert medical manpower. But when an extension is provided to retired doctors, it looks as though there is no one to replace them. When the retirement age was raised from 58 to 60, it was considered a labour-regressive step. Now, by re-employing doctors, the government is indirectly increasing the retirement age for select individuals."

If this practice of grant-

ing extension continued, the lowest cadre of the actual working manpower – assistant professors or assistant surgeons – would never get to be administrators in the future, he further said.

'No extension'

K. Senthil, president of the Tamil Nadu Government Doctors Association, said: "Sometimes, retired doctors are appointed to expert panels of the National Health Mission as there are no takers, or because those are part-time jobs. However, there should never be re-employment or extension of service for administrative posts..."

Doctors cited the earlier case of how a number of doctors, who superannuated from service, were appointed on a contractual basis to the Tamil Nadu Government Multi Super Speciality Hospital, Omandurar Estate. P. Balakrishnan, president of Democratic Tamil Nadu Government Doctors Association, said a number of these doctors continued to work even af-

ter turning 68.

"In the Tamil Nadu medical services, doctors are appointed to administrative posts based on seniority. This is the routine process. Adopting re-employment or extension of service will affect the cycle of promotions and employment of other doctors. Posts such as Institute Director should be filled through regular appointments. We are opposing this move on principle, and are not against the individuals," he added.

'Financial burden'

M. Akilan, secretary, Tamil Nadu Medical Officers Association, said this was an additional financial burden on the State government as such doctors received pay as well as pension.

"This is happening despite there being adequate number of qualified doctors in regular service. Also, doctors who are given extension or re-employment will not come under the ambit of Tamil Nadu government service rules," a doctor said.

(Left) Source: *The Hindu*, 7 July 2024

(Below) Source: *The Hindu*, 3 July 2024

Stop collecting fee from patients belonging to other States, doctors urge govt.

T.N. Health Development Association says the practice goes against the principle of universal free healthcare. Doctors add that such patients, mainly migrant labourers, are unable to pay the amount

The Hindu Bureau
CHENNAI

The Tamil Nadu Health Development Association (TNHDA) has demanded that the State government stop collecting a payment of ₹1,000 from persons belonging to other States and seeking healthcare at government hospitals in Tamil Nadu.

C.S. Rex Sargunam, president, and N. Gnanaguru, secretary, of the association, in a statement, said the Tamil Nadu government should stop the practice immediately, as this goes against the principle of universal free healthcare.

Dr. Sargunam said this practice of collecting ₹1,000 existed for a long time, and whether such a



Top choice: Government hospitals in the city such as the Rajiv Gandhi Government General Hospital get patients from places including Bihar and some northeastern States. FILE PHOTO

practice was based on a Government Order (G.O.) was unclear.

A number of government hospitals, including the Institute of Child Health and Hospital for Children, the Rajiv Gandhi Government General Hospital, and the Government Stanley Medical College Hospital, receive several patients from other States.

Many migrant labourers also seek medical care at government hospitals in the city.

A number of government doctors pointed out that ₹1,000 was charged for admission and treatment of patients from other States including migrant labourers. "We have seen many of them facing difficulty in paying that

amount for hospital admission and treatment. There are patients from Andhra Pradesh, northeast States, and migrant workers currently in Chennai. Some of them have insurance cards from their respective States, and maybe the Tamil Nadu government could chalk out a way to coordinate with the respective States/insurance companies," a doctor said.

Another government doctor said they had been receiving patients from States such as Telangana and Bihar, in addition to migrant labourers. "They are unable to pay the amount. There are nominal charges for tests as well. The State government should waive the charges or at least bring in an annual income ceiling," he said.

59% of deliveries in the State happened at government health facilities, says Minister

The Hindu Bureau
CHENNAI

In Tamil Nadu, 99.9% of deliveries take place in a health facility, of which 59% happen in government institutions, according to Health Minister Ma. Subramanian.

After inaugurating a workshop in Chennai on 'Connecting the Missing Dots' to discuss measures needed to reduce maternal deaths in the State on Monday, he said the State's institutional deliveries stood at 99.9% (8.70 lakh deliveries). A reason to cheer is

that 59% deliveries have taken place at government health facilities, he said, adding that, "Out of this, 80% of deliveries have taken place in the Comprehensive Emergency Obstetric and Newborn Care centres."

Mr. Subramanian said the State's Maternal Mortality Ratio (MMR) was currently 45.5 per one lakh live births. This was due to various measures taken, including improvements in infrastructure and quality of healthcare and doctors' contributions.

Health Secretary Supri-

ya Sahu said Norway had the lowest MMR at 1.8 per one lakh live births, while other European countries, such as Sweden and Finland, also having achieved the gold standard of having a single-digit MMR. "Tamil Nadu is also looking to bring down the MMR to a single-digit", she said.

Analysing decadal data (2014 to 2024), she said that of the total 6,008 maternal deaths, 4,464 (74%) deaths occurred during the postnatal period. About 25% of mothers (1,469) died during the prenatal period. Taking a look

at the causes of the maternal deaths, Ms. Sahu said that 20% of the deaths were due to haemorrhage, 20% due to hypertension, 9% due to heart diseases, 8% due to sepsis, 1% due to diabetes, and 4% due to abortion-related issues.

Sepsis, she said, was institution-based and can be avoided, while haemorrhage and hypertension together contributed to 40% of the deaths.

Maternal mortality is not a statistic. It is a socio-economic health issue that needs to be looked at in its entirety, Ms. Sahu said.

Source: *The Hindu*, 30 July 2024

Amid disruption in Central supply, T.N. Medical Services Corpn. pitches in to procure anti-TB drugs for first time

Serena Josephine M.
CHENNAI

After managing the short supply in anti-tuberculosis (TB) drugs by way of local purchases, Tamil Nadu is all set to meet its immediate drug requirements through the Tamil Nadu Medical Services Corporation (TNMSC).

This is the first time that the TNMSC has stepped in to procure and supply anti-TB drugs - both three and four fixed-dose combination (3FDC and 4FDC) drugs for drug-sensitive TB. The State's move comes in the wake of continuing disruptions in drug

supply from the Central TB Division. Official sources confirmed that the State was receiving less than 5% of its monthly drug requirements from the Centre. "There is still an interruption in supply of anti-TB drugs, including for Multi Drug Resistant (MDR) TB. The Central TB Division is sending 'No Objection Certificate' asking the States to make procurements till September or December. Tamil Nadu has been tiding over the crisis through local purchases by the District TB Officers. We decentralised local purchases to ensure that persons with TB do not suffer.

The TNMSC has started the process to procure and supply the required drugs," an official of the National TB Elimination Programme, Tamil Nadu, said. The official further said that the TNMSC was procuring both 3FDC and 4FDC drugs for drug-sensitive TB, which were supplied by the Central TB Division, and would provide MDR TB drugs based on requests from the State TB Office.

Orders placed

"The TNMSC has already placed orders for 3FDC drugs and is awaiting the board's approval for 4FDC

drugs. The first lot of 3FDC drugs - 40% - is expected to arrive in a day or two, and the final lot in a week to 10 days. This is the first time that the TNMSC would procure and supply anti-TB drugs," said another official.

Officials further said that in the State, 95% of the patients with TB needed drug-sensitive TB drugs (3FDC and 4FDC), and only 4% are those with drug-resistant TB.

"Based on a forecast of the annual consumption, we made local procurements for the MDR TB drugs too," the official added. The last few months

have been nothing short of challenging for TB managers in the State.

Key challenges

The shorter duration for which patients were given drugs was one of the key challenges. Another key issue was new formulations of commercially available drugs. The NTEP staff had to be trained to counsel patients, who turned apprehensive, on this aspect.

"Interruptions in supply will continue till the end of the year, but Tamil Nadu is poised to manage through local purchases and the TNMSC supply," the official said.

Source: *The Hindu*, 31 July 2024

T.N. to streamline rehabilitation of homeless persons with mental illness

A policy is being formulated to put in place structured services for the wandering mentally-ill and define the roles and responsibilities of the various stakeholders, including non-governmental organisations, involved in the process

Serena Josephine M.
CHENNAI

Tamil Nadu is formulating a policy to streamline the processes involved in the rescue and rehabilitation of homeless persons with mental illness, facilitating their reunion with family and reintegration into society. The policy will not only put in place structured services for the wandering mentally-ill but also define the roles and responsibilities of the various stakeholders.

Following an announcement in the Health Budget that a State Policy for Homeless Persons with Mental Illness will be released, Tamil Nadu is preparing a draft policy.

This is expected to standardise the process of rescue, recovery, and rehabilitation of homeless persons with mental illness and bring in uniformity across the State, officials

Giving succour

In the Health Budget for 2024-25, a State Policy for Homeless Persons with Mental Illness, along with implementation strategies and an action plan, was announced. This was to improve the welfare of such individuals considering their social environment and vulnerability to various risks



Emergency Care and Recovery Centres (ECRC) in Tamil Nadu at a glance

- There are 10 government and eight non-governmental organisation-run ECRCs for wandering mentally ill persons in the State

- Medical and psychiatric rehabilitation, vocational training, and reintegration services are provided to inmates in a residential setting

- Since the centres' inception, 3,760 homeless persons with mental illness have benefited out of whom 2,400 were reunited with their families

- The Health Department has announced that the ECRCs will be expanded at the rate of one per district

SOURCE: HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE DEPARTMENT'S ANNOUNCEMENTS AND POLICY NOTE

said. The State has for long been involved in the rescue and rehabilitation, reunion and reintegration of wan-

dering mentally ill persons. It was to strengthen the existing efforts and ensure proper care for the

homeless mentally-ill persons that the policy is being drafted.

"We are coming up with a plan of action for the wandering mentally-ill, from end-to-end. There are challenges when various departments work together in the rescue and rehabilitation of homeless persons with mental illness. So, for every stage of the process, we will be defining the roles of the various departments," an official said, adding that stakeholders from various departments and civil societies/NGOs will be involved in the entire process of rescue to rehabilitation.

As per standards and protocols, rehabilitation of persons with mental illness should not take place in mental health institutions but at the community-level, aiming at social inclusion, the official said, adding: "At present, the Emergency Care and Recovery Centres (ECRC) that

cater to the wandering mentally-ill in the State follow a method starting from rescue to immediate care/admission, recovery, rehabilitation, reuniting with family, social inclusion and continuum of care. The aim of the policy is to strengthen these processes and bring in uniformity across the State. Various NGOs are also involved, and we want to have common procedures in place."

It is expected that the policy will focus on monitoring of rescue operation/reunion with family through the District Mental Health Committees, enabling social reintegration through supported accommodation, ensuring continuum of care by linking to District Mental Health Programme and providing a rehabilitation package that takes a bio-psychosocial approach that includes provision of social welfare benefits to them, officials said.

Source: *The Hindu*, 19 July 2024

TN saw 3,380 incidents of forest fire last summer, highest in 4 yrs

Senior official of state forest dept attributes the spike to extremely dry weather conditions

SV KRISHNA CHAITANYA @Chennai

THE state has witnessed a whopping 3,380 incidents of forest fire this year, the highest in the last four years. However, there is no estimate available on how much of the forest area has been destroyed.

The number of incidents of fire ravaging the state's forests has been on a constant rise. The data tabled in the Lok Sabha by junior environment minister Kirti Vardhan Singh, in a reply to a query, shows there has been a sharp rise compared to previous years. The numbers were calculated from November to June year on year. In 2021-22, the state recorded 1,035 incidents of forest fire and the following year the number nearly doubled, clocking 1,998 fires. This summer it went up to 3,380.

Among all the states, Uttarakhand saw the highest number of forest fires. The hilly state recorded 21,033 forest fires followed by Odisha - 20,973, Chhattisgarh - 18,950, Andhra Pradesh - 18,174, Madhya Pradesh - 15,878



The forest fire on Kurangani hills near Bodi in Theni district in 2018 | FILE PHOTO

and Telangana - 13,479. The neighboring Karnataka and Kerala have witnessed 5,500 and 1,110 incidents respectively.

Despite severe drought conditions due to failure of monsoon in Karnataka, the state was able to reduce the forest fires from 13,074 last year to

5,500 this summer.

The ministry said overall in the forest fire season (November 2023 to June 2024), the total number of forest fires detected by the Forest Survey of India was 2,03,544 in the country. "No estimation of loss of forest and wildlife due to the fire in the country has been made by the

ministry," the reply said.

When contacted, a senior official of the Tamil Nadu forest department attributed the spike in forest fires to extremely dry conditions.

"There was no rain till April. There was no moisture in the soil. All the water holes had dried up, and it was affecting the health of the wildlife as well. The whole forest was painted brown. The accumulation of flammable material such as dry leaves, twigs and mass flowering of bamboo trees in the last couple of years have all contributed to rise in forest fires," the official said.

Officials said Tamil Nadu has been implementing a Forest Fire Prevention and Management Scheme, which includes creating and maintaining fire lines and firebreaks, early warning systems etc.

The funds are sanctioned in the ratio of 60:40 by the Central and state governments. During 2023-24, a sum of ₹4.96 crore was sanctioned and this scheme will be continued during 2024-25.

8% of greenhouse gas emissions in state come from realty sector

CHENNAI: In a step to tackle the rising energy consumption and CO2 emissions linked to buildings, the Tamil Nadu Climate Change Mission (TNCCM) under the Department of Environment and Climate Change, in collaboration with the Indian Institute for Human Settlements (IIHS), organised a workshop on 'Energy Efficient Habitat' at Taj Coromandel in Nungambakkam, on Friday. The event was chaired by P Senthil Kumar, Principal Secretary of the Environment, Climate Change, and Forest Department, and Anshul Mishra,

Member Secretary of the Chennai Metropolitan Development Authority. Discussions highlighted importance of energy-efficient structures to reduce greenhouse gas emissions from the construction sector, which currently contributes 8% of TN's emissions. The TNCCM aims to promote low-emission buildings across the state to advance a greener and more resilient TN. Speaking at the event, Mishra said Third Master Plan for Chennai will integrate strategies to address the challenges of climate change and CO2 emissions. ENS

(Above) Source: *The New Indian Express*, 30 July 2024, p. 2

(Left) Source: *The New Indian Express*, 27 July 2024, p. 5

TNPCB commences study on pollution load carrying capacity in Manali area

It will cover all sources of pollution. The assessment is expected to help quantify sulphur dioxide, nitrogen dioxide, and particulate matter emissions and suggest an effective mitigation plan

Geetha Srimathi

CHENNAI

The Tamil Nadu Pollution Control Board (TNPCB) has commenced a carrying capacity study in Manali, a highly industrialised region in northern Chennai, to evaluate the total emissions from local industries.

In response to a directive from the Southern Bench of the National Green Tribunal (NGT), the TNPCB issued an Expression of Interest in February 2023 to conduct a pollution load carrying capacity study in the Manali industrial area. Later, in December of the same year, the TNPCB announced a call for tenders.

The study involves assessment of air, water, land, and noise pollution in and around a 10-km radius of the Manali industrial area. R. Kannan, Member Secretary of the TNPCB, recently told *The Hindu* that Hubert Enviro Care Systems began the work two months ago, and



Rules flouted: A study by the Chennai Climate Action Group in 2021 found that six major industries in the Ennore-Manali region had violated emission norms 53% of the time in 2020. B. VELANKANNI RAJ

the firm was expected to complete it by September 2024.

The study on emissions will include all sources of pollution, including unit operations, fugitive emissions, incinerators, and vehicular movement.

The assessment is expected to help quantify sulphur dioxide, nitrogen dioxide, and particulate matter emissions in the Manali industrial cluster and suggest an effective mitigation plan.

Air pollution in the Ennore-Manali region came under the scanner in 2021 when a study by the Chen-

nai Climate Action Group, analysing hourly stack emissions data from six major industries in the region, obtained through the Right to Information Act, revealed that these industries had violated emission standards 53% of the time in 2020.

The six industries are North Chennai Thermal Power Station - Stage 1 and 2, NTPC Tamilnadu Energy Corporations Limited, Valur, Chennai Petroleum Corporations Limited - Refineries 1, 2, and 3, Madras Fertilizers Limited, Manali Petrochemical Limited - Plant 1 and 2, and Tamilna-

du Petroproducts Limited.

Mr. Kannan said the TNPCB provided numerous inputs on data collection. Emissions data will be gathered from each industry, and collective data will be analysed to determine if emissions exceed prescribed levels. If emissions exceeded the prescribed levels, the TNPCB will decide whether to prohibit new industries, restrict the expansion of existing ones, or impose stricter regulations.

"Further steps will be decided once the report is completed," Mr. Kannan said.

Source: *The Hindu*, 29 July 2024

SCIENTISTS PROJECT SEA LEVEL RISE OF 19.2CM ALONG CHENNAI, TIRUVALLUR AND CHENGALPET BY 2050

COASTAL CRISIS

Climate change could make 76% of the coast of three districts prone to hazards

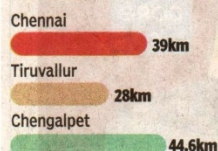
WHAT MAY HAPPEN BY 2050?

- Sea level may rise by 19.2cm in the three districts
- The rise may lead to inundation of 6,120 hectares



The projection is if CO2 emissions remain near the current levels till mid-century and then start to decrease

COASTAL STRETCH THAT MAY BE PRONE TO MULTIPLE CLIMATE HAZARDS



IN THE PAST

Length of coastal erosion between 1992-2022 and land lost and gained

	Length of erosion	land loss*	land gain*
Chennai	11.8km	58	55
Tiruvallur	17.3km	197	188
Chengalpet	43.85km	156	45

*hectares

WHY ARE THE THREE DISTRICTS HIGHLY PRONE TO MULTIPLE HAZARDS?

- Due to shoreline changes, sea level rise and proximity to cyclone track
- Exposure factors such as T38land use and road networks within 500m from shoreline
- Vulnerability factors such as a low-lying coastal plain and groundwater salinity

RISING SEA, SINKING CITY

U.Tejonmayam@timesofindia.com

If you are living in your dream sea-facing villa or planning to purchase one, here's a warning. In 25 years, property less than 500m from the sea may get frequently flooded by the rising sea. City scientists say that by 2050, climate change and local factors could make 102.2km or 76% of the coast of Chennai, Tiruvallur and Chengalpet prone to hazards such as cyclones, coastal erosion and sea level rise. Of that, 77km with structures, roads, industries, lagoons, creeks, swamps and beaches face very high climate risk.

Climate risk includes a projected sea level rise of 19.2cm in three districts by 2050, which may lead to inundation of 6,120 hectares. This is applicable if CO2 emissions remain near the current levels till mid-century and decline thereafter.

Rising seas mean cyclonic storms travel further inland and more frequent flooding caused by high tides. This can worsen coastal erosion, affect groundwater resources and inundate wetlands that act as protective barriers. These projections are in a draft report titled 'Climate risk assessment and adaptation plan of Tamil Nadu — coastal ecosystem' by Centre for Climate Change and Disaster Management (CCCDM), Anna University.

"Tiruvallur, Nagapattinam and Chengalpet have extensive coastlines with high vulnerability due to salinity levels and low elevation areas. Districts such as Kanyakumari,

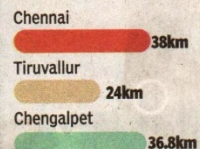
Chennai and Cuddalore have more than 60% of their coastlines exposed to climate change, influenced by factors such as land use and infrastructure," the report said.

For Tamil Nadu, projected sea level rise for 2050 indicates an average increase of 19.71cm with Tiruvallur, Nagapattinam and Thanjavur districts being the most affected, the report added. Between 1916 and 2015, there has been a relative sea level rise of 0.18feet in 100 years along Chennai coast. Global sea level rise along with other local factors such as local subsidence due to anthropogenic activities such as groundwater and hydrocarbon extraction will influence regional sea levels.

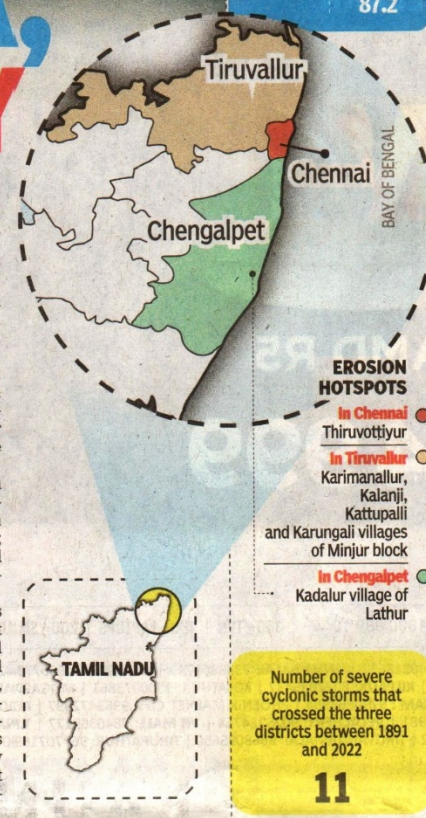
Risk to the coast was identified based on shoreline changes, sea level rise and proximity to cyclone track; vulnerability factors such as coastal plains and groundwater salinity; and exposure factors such as land use and road networks. Of the 43,868 hectares in Chennai, 28,330 hectares or 64% is built-up land.

"A combination of soft and hard measures are required to reduce coastal risks. The soft measures are primarily nature-based solutions such as mangrove restoration and conservation, shelterbelt plantation, integrated coastal zone management, artificial beach nourishment. Hard measures include coast protection structures such as breakwater, revetment, vertical walls. Early warning systems and livelihood support schemes are also essential," said Kurian Joseph, director, CCCDM.

Coastal length affected by multiple hazards such as cyclones, sea level rise and coastal erosion between 1992 and 2022



Tamil Nadu 1013



(Above) Source: The Times of India, 6 July 2024, p. 4; (Below) Source: The Hindu, 22 July 2024

Researchers at IIT-M suggest model for regional climate assessment

The Hindu Bureau
CHENNAI

Researchers at the Indian Institute of Technology-Madras (IIT-M) have suggested the use of a multi-modal approach to quantify climate model uncertainty.

The approach offers reliable climate change estimates and quantifies uncertainty among models crucial for informed climate

planning and management.

Globally, researchers in climate change rely on the reports published by the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) through its three working groups to develop climate models. The global climate models (GCMs) are primary tools for the accurate prediction and demonstration of possible future impacts

of climate change to policymakers. However, these models cannot be used for the regional assessment of climate.

Several researchers have, hence, advocated the use of the multi-modal climate data to quantify uncertainty. They point to uncertainties in future projections, natural variability, model uncertainty, and aerosol forcing com-

plexities for this. The two widely used models are Bayesian model averaging and reliability ensemble averaging (REA), said S. Mohan, professor in the Department of Civil Engineering, who is leading the research.

The REA model is used to address critical challenges in climate modelling in monsoon-prone regions such as India, offering va-

luable insights for climate change projections, he said. Research scholar Akash Sinha is also part of the research.

Based on the latest IPCC report, the ensemble of 26 global climate models was used to evaluate the possible change in seasonal precipitation in Coimbatore, Rajkot, Udaipur, and Siliguri, cities with distinct climate conditions.

The study found that the performance of the models of the GCMs for the skewed distribution of rainfall is very poor. The REA method, however, predicted the most reliable estimate of the change in climatic variables and quantified the uncertainty among various models. The study has been published in the peer-reviewed *Journal of Water and Climate Change*.

Will Facilitate Groundwater Recharge, Help Prevent Floods During Monsoon

New life for 12 lakes



RETTERI

Theme: Linear public space
Present condition | Lack of public recreational spaces | Poor public infrastructure such as seating, lighting and toilets | No safety in and around lake | Frequent flooding

Development | Landscaping | Stemming of ground water percolation during rain, floods | Connecting bridges | Create one seamless space along the lake and provide an iconic landmark for Chennai | Linear public space

Vivek.Narayanan@timesofindia.com

Many of Chennai's lakes may be dying, but Chennai Metropolitan Development Authority is giving it a shot at reviving 12 of them. In the next two years, 12 lakes in Chennai and its suburbs—including those at Perumbakkam, Perungudi, Velachery, and Puzhal—will undergo a metamorphosis. The Chennai Metropolitan Development Authority (CMDA) has prepared a road map to revive, fortify, beautify and create space for community activities at these lakes.

CMDA had earlier announced that 10 lakes at Perumbakkam, Retteri, Mudichur, Kolathur, Sembakkam, Ayanambakkam, Velachery, Adambakkam, Puzhal, and Madambakkam would be developed for ₹120 crore. The plan agency has now added Perungudi and Porur lakes to the list.

"Urban planning has been perceived as concretisation of land, replacing blue spaces with grey. However, this perception overlooks its multi-faceted nature. A significant aspect of urban planning involves creating blue-green spaces. By prioritizing the creation and maintenance of blue-green spaces, urban planning can lead to more sustainable and livable cities. This approach not only addresses environmental challenges but also fosters a harmonious relationship between urban development and nature," said Anshul Mishra, member

secretary, CMDA. The idea is to preserve the lake as a public space and prevent encroachment in the future. A special purpose vehicle will be formed to implement the project. As part of the roadmap, CMDA has created a database for each lake that includes issues faced by the water body, history of encroachment, its characteristics, and how they can be improved and redeveloped.

Work has been demarcated for the stakeholder departments involved. The water resources department will ensure removal of encroachments, bund strengthening and construct surplus drains. Metrowater will plug illegal sewage lines. CMDA is preparing a flood master plan, and the lake capacity will be augmented accordingly. CMDA teams have taken inputs from local residents and created a theme for the development of each lake. For example, the Perumbakkam lake is touted as a community lakefront and bird interpretation point. This will be achieved by enhancing biodiversity and creating habitats for birds, butterflies and dragonflies.

Though experts welcome the move, they point out that there is a lot more that needs to be done. L Venkatachalam, an environmental economist at Madras Institute of Development Studies, said flood regulation is a vital function of water bodies. "They should create a database on issues faced by lakes, including biodiversity loss. The history of the water body is important. They should identify feeder canals," he said.

PERUMBAKKAM

Theme: Bird interpretation & community lakefront
Present condition | Dilapidated bund, poor accessibility and social infrastructure | Threat to critical wetland and bird habitat | Extensive proliferation of water hyacinths | Solid waste & sewage discharge

Development | Eco-pond | Wetland trail | Bird watching tower | Viewing decks & bund trails | Play areas

PUZHAL Theme: Natural trail

Present condition | Pollution encroachment on lakebed | Lack of awareness about lake's importance | Limited access for public | Lack of adequate infrastructure for recreation and tourism

Development | Elevated pathways | Viewing decks | Connecting bridge | Forest walkways | Miyawaki forest | Relaxation area & seating plaza | Information kiosks | Eatery shops | Book store | Interpretation centre | Exhibition centre | Ticket booth

VELACHERY

Theme: Resilient community
Present condition | Solid waste & sewage discharge | Water hyacinths | Weakened bund | No social amenities | Loss of biodiversity habitat

Development | Capacity & quality augmentation | Floating wetlands to improve quality | Pollinator park | Rain garden | Promenade and viewing decks | Boat jetty

MUDICHUR

Theme: The soul of the suburb
Present condition | Waste disposal | Under-utilised area | Encroachments | Weak bund
Development | Promenade | Performance zone | Picnic area | Reflexology path | Outdoor musical garden | Bund development

ADAMBAKKAM

Theme: Redeeming the lake
Present condition | Frequent flooding | Encroachment | Sewage inflow
Development | Land scape & Amenities | Play areas | Community gathering spaces

AYANAMBAKKAM

Theme: Celebrating Water
Present condition | Solid waste dumping | Narrow approach roads | Presence of overhead high-tension electric line
Development | Bund top walkway | Temple plaza | Boating deck | Festive gathering

KOLATHUR

Theme: Reconnecting with urban waterscape
Present condition | Encroachment
Development | VR zone | Seating options | Interactive play area | Artificial waterfall



“Developing lakes is crucial for urban development, facilitating groundwater recharge and serving as natural sponges to prevent flooding. Our intention towards this project was to transform these lakes to their pristine nature while also creating vibrant public spaces” **P K Sekarbabu, MINISTER, CMDA**

Porur, Perungudi get new water treatment units

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

Metrowater has constructed two modular 10MLD (million litres a day) water treatment plants in Porur and Perungudi lakes for ₹4 crore. The project is part of the decentralised water supply scheme taken up by the water agency after the 2016-17 drought. By Sept, 6MLD-10MLD of water from Porur lake will be supplied, while water from Perungudi lake will be pumped out by Feb 2025, officials said. Around 10,000 residents of each area will benefit from the scheme.

Currently, there are six major surface reservoirs and three desalination plants that supply 1,070mld water to the city. "These localised sources will bring down dependence on the centralised water sources. Further, the cost of pumping and distribution of water will be reduced by 80%," said an official.



CITY OF LAKES: The lake redevelopment project will cost the CMDA ₹120 crore



SEMBAKKAM Theme: Embracing water & land
Present condition | Sewage discharge | Reduced water spread | Dumping of solid waste
Development | Treatment plant at two locations | Reviving bunds | Strengthening & elevating the east & south bunds | Community activities | Pedestrian walkway along the bund

Source: The Times of India, 9 July 2024, p. 2

Tiger conservation: State proves a safe home for these big cats despite several challenges

There are two major conservation issues in the Nilgiris landscape as well as rest of Tamil Nadu. The rise of development has led to an increasing overlap between wildlife and humans, leading to conflicts; and the spread of invasive species that has to be contained to safeguard the indigenous flora and the ecosystem as a whole

B. Aravind Kumar

International Tigers Day has just passed by. In Tamil Nadu, the tigers have found a new home, as the Nilgiris landscape, which has the largest tiger population in the world; and the contiguous forests between Kerala and Tamil Nadu in Periyar - Megamalai cluster and Anamalai - Parambikulam complex, help the big cats thrive here.

As many as 306 tigers were recorded in Tamil Nadu in the nation-wide census by the National Tiger Conservation Authority (NTCA) for 2022. This figure was an increase from the 264 big cats found in the 2018 survey. In fact, there has been a four-fold increase in the tiger numbers here over the past two decades.

The conservation of tigers in India can be divided into two phases. The first phase, starting in the 1970s, involved the enactment of the Wildlife Protection Act and the establishment of protected areas. The second phase began in 2005-2006, with the government adopting a landscape-level approach and implementing strict monitoring for tiger conservation.

The cycles of tiger monitoring have resulted in major changes in policy and tiger population management. These include the designation and notification of inviolate critical core and buffer areas of tiger reserves, identification and declaration of new reserves, recognition of tiger landscapes and the importance of corridors.

The protected areas within the Western Ghats are some of the most biodiverse in the country. In 2018, the tiger population was estimated at 981. In 2022, 824 unique tigers were recorded, indicating a decline in some regions and stability in well-protected tiger reserves.

Major conservation issues

There are two major conservation issues in the Nilgiris landscape as well as rest of Tamil Nadu. The rise of development has led to an increasing overlap between wildlife and humans, leading to conflicts; and the spread of invasive species that has to be contained to safeguard the indigenous flora and the ecosystem as a whole.

While the Nilgiri cluster is home to the world's largest tiger population, recent data shows a decrease in tiger occupancy throughout the Western Ghats. While tiger populations within the protected areas have either remained stable or increased, tiger occupancy outside of these regions has significantly decreased.

Beyond the protected area border of Anamalai - Parambikulam complex, a decrease in tiger occupancy was observed. Although tiger



Its turf: A tiger at Manthirimattam in the core area of Anamalai Tiger Reserve in Coimbatore district.

While the Nilgiri cluster is home to the world's largest tiger population, recent data shows a decrease in tiger occupancy throughout the Western Ghats

populations in the Periyar landscape have remained stable, tiger occupancy outside of Periyar has decreased. While tiger had reportedly gone locally extinct in Srivilliputhur and Kanniyakumari, the forest department vehemently denied it as the results were based on camera traps. There were a few to occasional direct sightings and some indirect evidence of tiger presence in both areas, forest officials clarified.

The good news is all the five tiger reserves in Tamil Nadu performed well in terms of management effectiveness, according to the fifth cycle summary report released by the National Tiger Conservation Authority last year. Anamalai Tiger Reserve and the Mudumalai Tiger Reserve were found to be excellent reserves in Management Effectiveness Evaluation - 2022 rating.

Both the reserves scored above 90% in the

assessment done by the NTCA and Wildlife Institute of India. While the Sathyamangalam Tiger Reserve and the Kalakkad Mundanthurai Tiger Reserve were categorised as very good reserves, the newly formed Srivilliputhur - Megamalai Tiger Reserve was classified as a good reserve with a 60.94% score.

The connectivity of protected areas, along the Western Ghats, are some of the best in the country. But the increasing human footprint and development have led to an increase in the interface between humans and wildlife. While wildlife in the human-dominated landscape is a cultural part of the Western Ghats, there is increasing tension between humans and megaherbivores and carnivores. There is utmost need to address this issue if we are to retain one of the world's biodiversity hotspots, according to the status report of the tigers by the NTCA.

Tiger deaths

There were 10 tiger deaths that occurred between August 16 and September 19 in 2023 at five locations - two within the MTR and three in the Nilgiris forest division. After a field investigation, the NTCA team reported that it was not alarming. The increase in the number of tigers in the Western Ghats and the spillover of their

population from Mudumalai and Sathyamangalam Tiger Reserves (MTR and STR) into the Nilgiris forest division is exposing them to higher chances of natural and unnatural causes of mortality, it said. The NTCA suggested increased monitoring of the tiger population in the landscape, establishing better networks of informants and investigating tiger sightings across human-dominated landscapes.

The other major concern is the spread of invasive species in large tracts of protected areas. It is necessary to contain this spread, to ensure the survival of native flora and subsequently reduce the impact it has on flora, fauna, soil and habitat as a whole. According to forest officials here, the removal of invasives is a long, tedious and continuous process that will keep going on for years.

In another heart-breaking story for tiger lovers, the Tamil Nadu Forest Department aborted its first ever attempt to re-wild a rescued tiger early this month. The tiger was rescued as a nine-month-old cub from a tea estate near Valparai in September 2021.

It was kept in an open enclosure of 10,000 sq.ft but had to be shifted to Vandalar Zoo as it would not be advisable to release it into the wild for various reasons.

Source: *The Hindu*, 31 July 2024

Armed With Pencils And 3D Scanners, Walking On The Edge Of Precipices And Crawling Through Crevices, Archaeologists Set About On A Mission To Document Drawings At Ancient Sites

TN'S INDIANA JONESES BATTLE BATS, bees to save 3,000-year-old art

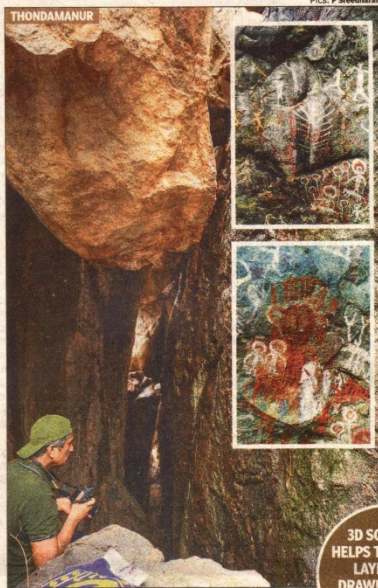
Padmini Sivarajah
@timesofindia.com

After a 700m climb using ropes, a 100m descent along the edge, K T Gandhirajan cautiously crawled under a crevice just one-and-a-half foot wide, determined to find the elusive petroglyph. Several minutes later, the historian found what he was looking for, and whipped out his 3D scanner to document the ancient rock carving. Just as he was done, hundreds of bats flew at him as he and his team scrambled onto ledges for dear life. "If I had slipped, I would have fallen 400ft," says Gandhirajan, who was part of a seven-member team of archaeologists on a mission to document and digitise ancient rock art in Tamil Nadu.

Of the 248 identified rock art sites in Tamil Nadu, the team has documented 46 (including the bat cave at Thondamanur in Tiruvannamalai), with a two-volume report ready for publication. These expeditions were among the toughest, with most team members being senior experts.

"Apart from hand drawings for reference, we used 3D scanners," says R Sivanantham, joint director of the Tamil Nadu archaeology department, who led the team. "The scanners helped us uncover art forms invisible to the naked eye and reveal even intricate details that gave us insights into religious and cultural practices. We also discovered layered drawings, unseen for centuries."

At Karikkalalur in the Nilgiris, a slippery, rocky and shrub-covered path led to a rock shelter, about 500ft long with a narrow entrance, where the team discovered more than 500 images drawn during different periods. The images were of humans and animals, bulls being tamed and wild animals, including deer, elephants and fowls. "They were carved using white ochre. There are also scenes of hunting, fights, cattle and one that looked like a celebra-



tion with musical instruments," says Gandhirajan. Here, adds the rock art expert, team members were chased out of the shelters by wild bees that had built hives there. "But it was worth the risk as this rock art is more than 3,000 years old."

At Sethavarai, a rock art site in Villupuram, which came at the end of a treacherous terrain, the archaeologists found drawings of a cow with flames around it, indicating that the animal was sacrificed. "We also found imprints of the palm of a hand with some fingers missing. This prehistoric rock art gives a lot of insight into

the culture of those times as fingers missing in hands may be an indication of an offering to gods, and a way of recording it," says Gandhirajan.

Historian and archaeologist K Rajan, also part of the team, says it is important to digitise and analyse rock art.

"It tells you so much about the cultural practices of the time. For example, we discovered that the people who drew the rock art, did not dwell in the sites where the drawings were found, but lived in the foothills, and moved to the caves to per-



HISTORY TRAIL: The archaeologists were accompanied by an anthropologist, geologist and botanist who studied the surroundings

form rituals and ceremonies. They drew their practices as a form of documentation. The repeated visits to the sites resulted in superimposition of the drawings," he says.

"Until now, art forms were described based on the discoverer's perception. But we went about this scientifically. Our team had an anthropologist, geologist, and botanist, to get a comprehensive understanding of the sites," says Rajan.

The portable scanner, he says, was the latest technology, given by the TN govt to aid in the quest. "The scanner uses D-stretch software to enhance clarity. It reveals layers of drawings." The documentation project is being done with a budget of ₹25 lakh.

Rajan explains that older drawings about the neolithic era were predominantly done in red ochre and the later megalithic drawings, from the iron age, done using white ochre.

Also, the cattle in the neolithic period are depicted as being used for farming. It was during the iron age that tribes started raiding for cattle. The raids were not battles, but minor con-

flicts, 'theru poosai' (cattle conflicts) as Sangam literature refers to them," he says.

While geologists looked at reasons why clans chose certain sites, botanists analysed the medicinal and sacred properties of plants in the region.

The project has also made the team take up ethnographic studies by comparing the art forms with the present-day rituals of ancient tribes such as the Muthuvair and Palliyar tribes.

"We found that the Muthuvair tribes moved to higher elevations if they found that their water was drunk by an outsider," says Rajan, who adds that the documents have been compiled in two volumes, and work will go on.

"Documenting sites is important because protecting them is a challenge especially as several are in almost inaccessible areas. The next step is to create awareness among the tribal populations who access them on the importance of protecting them, and also making the stakeholders like the panchayats take ownership of them," says V Selvakumar, senior archaeologist.

Sivanantham says they plan to work with govt to come up with ways to protect these sites.

NGO steers kids toward books with 'bus' library



Open to all, it houses material from puzzles to autobiographies

Sukshma.A@timesofindia.com

Set up inside a stationary school bus, this unusual library, launched by Sakthi-Vidyal, gives children a chance to read and learn while having a feeling of 'travelling' in a bus with friends.

"The idea for the library came to me from a Japanese children's story 'Totto-Chan: The Little Girl at the Window', authored by Tetsuko Kuroyanagi," says C Jim Jesudoss, executive director of the NGO. "This particular story speaks of unconventional schooling that children during the second world war underwent. Since it was difficult to run schools during war, classrooms had been set up in old railway coaches. It was fascinating." The 'bus' library with bus seats as chairs, houses about 300 books. It is set up on the Sakthi-Vidyal campus at Muthupatti in Madurai, a centre for children from underprivileged backgrounds.

"We had a school bus which was worn down and unfit for use. It took a while and some refurbishing but finally we were able to establish and open the 'bus' library. Children from underprivileged backgrounds often don't have the luxury of buying books to read in leisure so such a library is a boon to them. It is also a good way to grab their attention away from smart phones and encourage reading habits," he says.

The 'bus' library has a variety of books for children from Class I to Class X, including story books, autobiographies, books with puzzles/riddles, or even picture books for some of the much younger kids. M Atheesri, a Class VII



GRAB A SEAT: The 'bus' library can accommodate around 25 children at a time



GRAB A SEAT: The 'bus' library can accommodate around 25 children at a time

student of a govt school was excited to use the 'bus' library. "Sitting in the driver's seat with the steering wheel in my hand gave me the feeling that I was driving a bus while reading a book," he says.

A Theja, a Class VI student of a corporation school says the 'bus' library with fans and tables inside makes it more comfortable for readers. "It really feels like I'm travelling in a bus when I'm inside there reading. Also though a school I can go to the library to read here there is more freedom and I can also pick any book I like," she says.

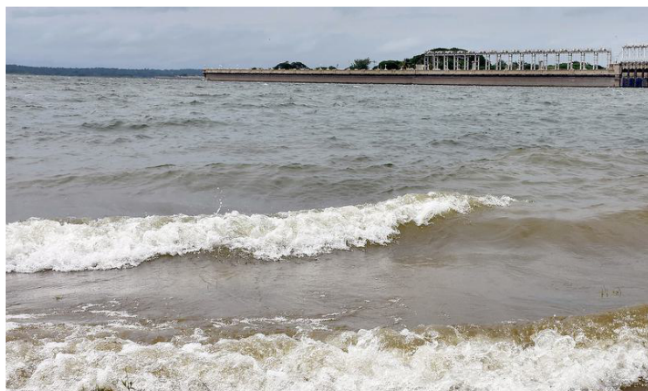
The 'bus' library can accommodate about 25 children at a time. "The library is open to all kids in the neighbourhood. Our children will be using it regularly, but perhaps slowly it may be developed further and more kids may join," says Jesudoss.

Email your feedback with name and address to southpole.toi@timesofindia.com

Source: The Times of India, 10 July 2024, p. 6

State realised over 9 tmcft of Cauvery water in eight days

Cauvery Water Management Authority will hold a meeting on July 24. The situation has improved since the meeting of the CWRC on July 11



Copious flow: The realisation comes amid reports of the river being in spate in parts of the catchment in Karnataka during the last few days. M.A. SRIRAM

T. Ramakrishnan
CHENNAI

Tamil Nadu realised over 9 thousand million cubic feet (tmcft) of Cauvery water in eight days (till July 18), amid reports of the river being in spate in parts of the catchment in Karnataka during the last few days.

Around 7.6 tmcft was received from July 16 to 18, according to data of the Central Water Commission, which monitors the flow at Biligundlu on the inter-State border. Even though the flow in the river was reported to have gone up for the past one week, a

perceptible increase in realisation at the inter-State border was witnessed only from Tuesday (July 16). Since June 1, the total realisation was around 14 tmc ft.

Considering the latest spurt in flow in the Cauvery, about four tmcft was reported to have been realised on Thursday. Consequently, the shortfall in realisation till July 18 was about 14 tmcft.

According to information reaching here, the Kabin, which saw a discharge of 70,000 cubic feet per second (cusecs) on Thursday, experienced a rapid fall in the discharge to about

40,000 cusecs.

Meanwhile, the Cauvery Water Management Authority (CWMA) is to hold its meeting on July 24. The situation has improved since the meeting of the Cauvery Water Regulation Committee (CWRC) on July 11. When the CWRC directed Karnataka last week to ensure that Tamil Nadu realised one tmcft a day for the next 20 days, the neighbouring State's immediate reaction was to go on an appeal against the order and approach the CWMA. Under the current circumstances, it remains to be seen whether it will stick to its stand.

(Left) Source: *The Hindu*, 20 July 2024

(Below) Source: *The New Indian Express*, 18 July 2024, p. 5

05 CHENNAI

THURSDAY 18.07.2024

newindianexpress.com

State records 88% excess rainfall in southwest monsoon

Orange alert for Nilgiris, ghat areas of Coimbatore on Thursday; Avalanche weather station records 34 cm of rain in 24 hours

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @ Chennai

WITH heavy rain continuing to lash the western districts, Tamil Nadu has received an excess rainfall of 88% for the southwest monsoon season so far. Tirunelveli received 450% excess rains while Chennai and neighbouring districts received excess rains in the range of 175%. The regional meteorological centre has issued an orange alert for Nilgiris and ghat areas of Coimbatore for Thursday. A fresh low-pressure area is likely to form over west central and adjoining northwest Bay of Bengal around July 19. Moderate westerlies/southwesterlies would prevail over the region in the lower tropospheric levels and they would sustain the rainfall in southern districts of Tamil Nadu, especially the ghat areas.

On Wednesday, the Avalanche

weather station in Nilgiris district received extreme downpours for the second consecutive day. In the last 24 hours ending at 8.30 am on Wednesday, it received 34 cm of rain. Following this, the water level of the 7,460-foot capacity Upper Bhavani Dam reached 7,412 ft. In Gudalur, as many as 48 residents in the low-lying areas of Iruvayal and Chemundi were evacuated and given accommodation at the temporary relief camp at the government residential school at Thorapalli on Wednesday morning.

Two houses were partially damaged in rain at Pandalur, and four huts were partially damaged in the rain in Udhamandalam taluk. A tree fell on the road and was cleared within half an hour on Naduvattam road. A landslip occurred along the roadside at Ithalar in Kundal Taluk.

Rain disrupts over 6K power connections

Dindigul: Over 6,000 power connections were disrupted following strong winds and rain in Kodalkanal of Dindigul district for two days. Speaking to TNIE, a top Tangedco official said, "Strong winds and rain for the past four days has thrown life out of gear in Kodalkanal taluk. There are over 40,000 power consumers in Kodalkanal. Though rain affected most areas of Kodalkanal taluk, there was no disruption of power supply. However, strong winds played spoilsport in hilly sections as power lines were damaged, affecting over 6,000 consumers for the last two days. Most affected areas include Pannaikadu, Thandikudi and Poondikavuchi, which are located outside Kodalkanal town. Despite less manpower, we were able to restore most of the power connections. Few connections will be restored on Wednesday." ENS



Residents of Iruvayal and Chemundi villages were evacuated to the temporary relief camp at the government residential school at Thorapalli on Wednesday | EXPRESS

Inflow to Mettur jumps from 4k to 21,520 cusecs, storage touches 47.7 ft

SALEM: Due to heavy rain in catchment areas and discharge of water from Karnataka dams, the inflow to the Mettur dam increased to 21,520 cusecs on Wednesday. On Monday, the inflow was 4,000 cusecs. The storage touched 47.7 feet against full capacity of 120 feet, compared to Monday's level of 43.2 ft.

The water level in the Lower Bhavani Dam is rising rapidly following heavy rains in the Nilgiris and Coimbatore districts. The water inflow into the dam crossed 21,000 cusecs on Wednesday. Due to the high inflow, the water level of the dam has risen by 4.5 feet in 24 hours from 71 ft recorded on Tuesday. Similarly, the inflow of water to one of Tiruppur's main dams, Amaraavathi, has also increased. The water level has risen by 10 ft in 24 hours and was recorded at 80 ft on Wednesday. ENS



Flooding at Panchalinga Falls of the Thirumoorthy Dam | EXPRESS

SHOLAYAR LEVEL INCREASE BY 12 FT IN 24 HRS

The water level of Sholayar Dam increased up to 12 feet within a single day in the last 24 hours following incessant rain. The inflow to the dam is 7,753.23 cusecs and its discharge is 1,069.91 cusecs. Due to heavy rain, district collector announced a holiday for schools in Valparai.

All water, dam-related data to be available online by July-end

S GURUVANMIKANATHAN @ Chennai

THE state government is set to launch a new Water Resources Information and Management System by the end of this month to make all water-related data, including reservoir storage and inflow, available online. Some of the relevant data sets will be made available online to the public.

A senior Water Resources Department (WRD) official said, "The aim is to gather all existing data from various sources to create a single portal. This will serve as the central source for water-related information, aiding future planning by any department."

The WRD has completed nearly 95% of the project. The official added that once the portal is ac-

tive, it will even help in identifying illegal activities such as encroachments on waterbodies or water theft.

The portal will act as a central repository of water-related data, ensuring all government departments have accurate information for planning and policy-making.

Another official highlighted that the advanced features of the portal include real-time dashboard modules, which are already in beta testing. These modules integrate data from sources like the Central Water Commission, the Indian Meteorological Department, ISRO, and others.

"The real-time dashboard has seven modules covering rainfall, reservoirs, irrigation tanks, groundwater, river gauges, soil

moisture, and evapotranspiration. Inflow forecasting, reservoir operations optimisation, water audit, and deficit water indent modules have also been completed," he detailed.

WRD manages 90 reservoirs across the state, and the portal will host comprehensive data, including water levels and flow rates. This digital portal, being developed at a cost of ₹30 crore with financial support from NABARD, marks a milestone in the state's water management efforts, officials said. It is expected to revolutionise the way water resources are monitored and conserved in Tamil Nadu, ensuring a sustainable future for all.

The state government has formed an apex, executive, and expert committee to review, coordinate, and guide the implementation.



T.N. decides against allowing removal of gravel free of cost from waterbodies

Dennis S. Jesudasan
CHENNAI

The Tamil Nadu government has decided against allowing potters, farmers and members of the public to remove "gravel" free of cost from beds of waterbodies, which are under the control of various departments. They would be able to remove "clay and silt" for free, but under a revised procedure.

Earlier, the Tamil Nadu Minor Mineral Concession Rules, 1959, allowed quarrying of "clay, silt and gravel" for free from the beds of tanks, channels and reservoirs across the State, which are under the control of the Public Works and the Rural Development and Panchayat Raj Departments (barring those in Chennai, Kanchipuram and Tiruvallur districts). The Mines and Minerals (Development and Regulation) Act, 1957, calls gravel a "minor mineral".

Recently, the Natural Resources Department introduced a clause in the Rules, stating: "The removal of clay and silt free of cost for agricultural purposes from the beds of tanks, channels and reservoirs shall be a non-mining activity..." It has also removed the word "gravel" from all the sub-rules of rule 12 in the Rules.

Though an earlier proviso said that minerals were to be loaded onto the vehicles of the applicant by the

Clay and silt can be removed free of cost, but under a revised procedure

respective government departments, the amended proviso states that the removal of clay and silt would be "monitored" by the Collector with the assistance of the respective departments.

Originally, the rules only provided for quarrying "sand, earth or silt" for free for bonafide domestic or agricultural purposes. In April 2017, the Tamil Nadu government amended the rules to allow quarrying of "clay, silt, *savudu* and gravel". The quantity of earth, *savudu* and gravel proposed to be removed for other domestic purposes shall not exceed 30 cubic metres, it had said.

However, in February 2021, in a judgment, the Madurai Bench of the Madras High Court said that there shall not be any quarrying in colloquial or local terms. Any lease shall be in accordance with the minerals notified under Section 3 of the Mines and Minerals (Development and Regulation) Act, 1957.

Rules amended

Eventually, the State government amended the Tamil Nadu Minor Mineral Concession Rules, 1959, in December 2022 to replace the word *savudu* with the term "ordinary earth".

(Clockwise from left) Sources:

The New Indian Express, 30 July 2024, p. 5;
The New Indian Express, 20 July 2024, p. 4;
The Hindu, 1 July 2024.

05 CHENNAI

TUESDAY 30.07.2024

State seeks clarity on clearance for shoreline development plan

C SHIVAKUMAR @ Chennai

THE state government is likely to file a miscellaneous application in the National Green Tribunal, seeking clarification whether approval from the union Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEFCC) is required for its Comprehensive Shoreline Development Plan (CSDP).

NGT had ruled that the Chennai Metropolitan Development Authority (CMDA) cannot continue with the CSDP without getting approval from MoEFCC, in a case challenging the works being done as part of the Chennai Shoreline Renourishment and Revitalization (CSSR) Projects Limited, a special purpose vehicle that was launched to carry out various works on the Marina to Kovalam stretch at a cost of ₹100 crore.

NGT had passed an order to halt the project based on a suo motu case that raised concerns on the levelling of coastal dunes in Injambakkam as part of the project. CMDA had denied allegations about levelling dunes.

Official sources are of the opinion that issues with CSSR need not interfere with CSDP, which is an overall comprehensive master plan developed by CMDA and is an integral part of the Third Master Plan (2027-



File picture of Marina beach in Chennai | *pr*

2046), prepared for the Chennai Metropolitan Area. CSDP is not a project and hence it may not need approval from MoEFCC.

"The master plan will act as a blueprint that guides future development and growth of the city, and hence, it includes study and analysis of every characteristic of region, and the same needs no approval from the union ministry of environment and forests," sources said.

CSDP is a sub plan of the Third Master Plan (2027- 2046) that will be implemented by CMDA under the provisions of the Tamil Nadu Town and Country Planning Act, 1971. Sources said the issue before the tribunal was the Housing and Urban Development Department Government Order

(dated July 2022) for CSSR.

CSDP was put in place to study the regions for the purpose of zoning on existing characters, user activity, environmental significance, coastal zone regulation and environmentally sensitive areas.

According to sources, CMDA has sought clarification on the NGT order which mentions a blanket direction to approach the Tamil Nadu Coastal Zone Management Authority (TNCZMA) for approval for any activity other than cleaning and removal of encroachment. Officials wanted to know whether it includes only CSSR activities because if not, CSDP and other related activities will get affected along with the effective functioning of the authority itself.

Chembarambakkam lake restoration to begin soon

The waterbody bore the brunt of Cyclone Michaung in December last year. The Water Resources Department is preparing to carry out works to strengthen the flood-damaged infrastructure

K. Lakshmi
CHENNAI

The Water Resources Department (WRD) will soon start the restoration of the infrastructure at Chembarambakkam reservoir that was affected during Cyclone Michaung last year. The work will start in about a month.

The waterbody, one of the major sources of drinking water for Chennai, bore the brunt of the December floods. The Department is preparing to carry out improvement works to strengthen the flood-damaged infrastructure.

Spread across an area of 25.51 sq.km, the reservoir has a storage of 1,522 million cubic feet (mcft) against its capacity of 3,645 mcft.

Officials of the WRD said the portions of stone pitching, which is used for slope protection in the bund (close to the shutters), were damaged during the



Major source: Spread across an area of 25.51 sq.km, the reservoir has a storage of 1,522 million cubic feet against its capacity of 3,645 mcft. FILE PHOTO

northeast monsoon last year.

If left unattended, it would further affect the bund and the storage capacity of the reservoir.

In an effort for a permanent solution, the Department will replace the stone pitching in the bund slope with concrete for a total stretch of 500 metre on both sides of the shutters.

Besides improvements to the parapet wall along the top layer of the bund, repair works of the flood-

gates would also be completed before the onset of the northeast monsoon, said officials.

Inlet improvements

Two inlet channels bringing flood water from other waterways and waterbodies into the reservoir would be improved as part of the ₹22.95 crore project.

The 7.1 km-long New Bangaru channel, which branches out from Cooum river, and the channel that brings flood water from

Sriperumbudur tank and other upstream areas would also be desilted and improved, officials said.

Besides repairing the reservoir's two weirs that suffered damages during last monsoon, the WRD also plans to construct flood protection wall for a total stretch of 400 metres in the surplus course.

This would help alleviate the impact of flooding in the neighbouring villages when the reservoir's floodgates are opened.

Source: *The Hindu*, 3 July 2024

Submit report on water turning green in Veeranam lake, NGT directs TNPCB

When hearing a *suo motu* case on water pollution around NLC India Ltd., the Bench referred to a news report on the discolouration and raised concern over pollution from dyeing units in Karur

The Hindu Bureau

CHENNAI

The Southern Bench of the National Green Tribunal (NGT) asked the Tamil Nadu Pollution Control Board (TNPCB) if water samples from the Veeranam lake, which had appeared greenish at the end of May, had been tested, and if any action had been taken.

Hearing a *suo motu* case on water pollution around NLC India Limited in Cuddalore district, the Bench, comprising Justice Pushpa Sathyanarayana and expert member Satyagopal Korlapati, referred to a news report dated May 31, 2024 about water in the Veeranam lake turning green and raised concern over contamination due to effluents from dyeing units in Karur.

“The news item also quoted the version of the officials of the Public Works



Given explanation: The Bench also said the news report quoted officials as saying that the change in water colour at the Veeranam lake was due to formation of algae. FILE PHOTO

Department that the green colour of the water was due to the Veeranam lake drying up, with the algae formed causing the discolouration,” the Bench said,

and noted that the lake served as a source of drinking water for Chennai. Noting that after the rain in June, the lake’s storage had gone up, and it will not be

possible to test the water now, the Bench directed the TNPCB to file a report on whether it had taken tested the water at the relevant point of time.

Source: *The Hindu*, 7 July 2024

Study finds lack of awareness on vulture conservation in Mudumalai and Sathyamangalam Tiger Reserves

Rohan Premkumar
UDHAGAMANDALAM

A study on the awareness of vulture conservation across the species' key habitats in Mudumalai (MTR) and Sathyamangalam Tiger Reserves (STR) has shown that communities living in the region have to fully realise "vulture-safe" practices in raising livestock and the importance of the birds to the region. The lack of awareness could potentially pose a risk to the survival of the species, argue researchers.

Covert surveys

In a paper published recently in the *Journal of Threatened Taxa*, titled, 'Harmonizing ecology and society: an integrated analysis of vulture conservation in the Nilgiri Biosphere Reserve, India,' researchers S. Manigandan, H. Byju and P. Kannan undertook covert surveys in 82 veterinary pharmacies in four districts across the region - The Nilgiris, Erode, Coimbatore and Tiruppur, and conducted random surveys among 20 villages in the two tiger reserves, to ascertain the le-



A file photograph of White Rumped Vultures, one of the four species found in the Nilgiris. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

vel of awareness among communities about the threats facing the four species of vultures commonly seen in the region.

Three of the four species - the white-rumped vulture, the long-billed vulture and the Asian king vulture, are resident to the landscape and are known to nest and breed within the two reserves, while the Egyptian vulture is believed to be a migratory species.

The researchers, during their covert surveys of veterinary pharmacies in the region, learnt that while

the 82 pharmacies did not sell large veterinary-dose vials of diclofenac, the harmful Non-Steroidal Anti Inflammatory Drug (NSAID) that is largely believed to have caused a crash in the vulture populations across India over the last few decades, smaller doses for human usage were sold in three shops.

More concerning, however, was that other NSAIDs harmful to vultures such as Ketoprofen, Aceclofenac and Nimesulide were still available in these veterinary pharmacies.

"There is a distinct lack of awareness about NSAIDs across the board, including diclofenac," said researcher S. Manigandan, one of the authors of the paper. He explained that the availability of smaller vials of the drug meant for human use in pharmacies hinted at the probability of the drug being sold in smaller doses for use in cattle as well. "Multiple smaller vials can be bought and used together for treating cattle," said Mr. Manigandan.

Knowledge parity

Surveys conducted among local residents in the 20 villages showed that Adivasi communities had more knowledge about vulture conservation, especially in MTR, while there was a distinct lack of knowledge about the need for vulture conservation and the reasons for the species' drastic reduction among the eight villages in Sathyamangalam, the researchers noted.

Awareness about vulture conservation was also low in three villages in MTR, researchers found, including Bokkapuram,

Chemmanatham and Thengumarahada.

In a statement, S. Manigandan said while many awareness programmes are conducted on vulture conservation in the two tiger reserves, that these campaigns have not altered public perception towards ensuring the protection of vultures.

The researchers suggested ensuring immediate compensation to cattle herders in case of predation by carnivores to help protect vultures by preventing retaliatory poisoning.

"Carcass poisoning has killed vultures in this study area as part of retaliatory action by livestock holders on carnivores. We have also found that pharmacies located in and around vulture habitats need to be sensitised to dangerous drugs such as Nimesulide, Flunixin, and Ketoprofen. Scientific awareness campaigns are frequently needed for local residents, pilgrims, livestock holders, veterinarians, and drug stores in the long-run, for the conservation of vultures in this region," they added.

Source: *The Hindu*, 13 July 2024

When intra-State or intra-district water projects ran into opposition from locals

A project to supply water from Pattukottai to Vedaranyam, which is at the tail-end of the Cauvery delta, sparked a protest. The project, which started in 1987, came to a halt. It was revived by the DMK government of 1996-2001 by drawing from the Coleroon near Tiruvaikavur. The Madras High Court bailed out the New Veeranam Project

T. Ramakrishnan

The Cauvery water dispute between Tamil Nadu and Karnataka erupted again weeks ago, though its intensity has subsided after heavy rain. In the last 35-odd years, Tamil Nadu witnessed resistance even to projects for drawing water from one place to another, both intra-district and inter-district. Among them was a project for Vedaranyam, now part of Nagapattinam district and formerly of the composite Thanjavur. Located at the tail-end of the Cauvery delta, Vedaranyam is a chronic water-deficit area. It has been suffering from saline water ingress because of its proximity to the sea. In the mid-1980s, when the authorities proposed to supply water to the area by drawing from Pattukottai (also in Thanjavur district), strong opposition forced them to abandon the ₹16.5-crore project for the benefit of over four lakh persons in the Muthupet, Thiruthuraipoondi, Thalainayar and Vedaranyam panchayat unions. In fact, this project was formulated after several years of a detailed and exhaustive study.

Foundation laid

In April 1987, Chief Minister M.G. Ramachandran laid the foundation for the project which progressed steadily for two-and-a-half years before coming to a halt. A report published by *The Hindu* on May 4, 1990, gave a vivid account of how the project was sought to be revived by Local Administration Minister K. Ponmudy (now Higher Education Minister). The proposal was meant for “tapping into just 0.3 per cent of the underground water in the deep aquifer and would in no way affect the upper layer of the water table, which is now being exploited by the hundreds of borewells, open wells, hand-pumps, etc., for cultivation of coconut, paddy and other crops.” But the mediation did not succeed. The



Stiff resistance: Farmers and residents of Madurantakam formed a human chain on January 12, 2004, to protest against the government's decision to supply water from the Madurantakam tank to Chennai. THE HINDU ARCHIVES

report points out that “over ₹5 crore worth of PVC and asbestos pipes are exposed to the sun and rain for long time at many points in the workspots.”

It was left to the DMK government of 1996-2001, particularly Local Administration Minister Ko.Si. Mani, one of the key political figures of the delta, to revive the project. This time, a plan was drawn up to take water from the Coleroon near Tiruvaikavur, 8 km away from Kumbakonam, and convey it to Kodiyakadu near Vedaranyam. The project cost was revised to ₹133 crore, with the coverage increased. The project, which took off in January 2001, became operational in June 2004, with the capacity to

provide about 44 million litres a day (MLD).

In the mid-1990s, the southern region of the State suffered the problem seen in the Cauvery delta. When the authorities were implementing a project to draw water from Karaikudi for supply to Tiruppathur, about 20 km away, the source was Sambai Uthu, a spring located along a major weak zone (fault) between Cuddalore and Sattankulam. Litigation arose. The Madras High Court, in November 1995, stayed the operation of the project formulated in 1987. Even at the stage of preparation, the Karaikudi municipality adopted a resolution against the project, contending that Sambai Uthu, its source of water for long, was not able to meet the full

requirements of the locals. In June 1996, the High Court directed the government to review the project and said that if it decided to implement it, it had to safeguard the interests of Karaikudi people. Nearly 15 years later, the Tiruppathur town panchayat was covered under the Ramanathapuram Mega Drinking Water Project.

Extension dropped

When the AIADMK government, headed by Jayalalithaa, decided to implement the New Veeranam Project in 2001, Chennai had been going through a prolonged spell of water shortage. Yet, the tank ayacutdhars had approached the High Court, but in vain. At the time of launching the project which was estimated to cost ₹720 crore in February 2003, Jayalalithaa took on the opponents of the project, especially the Opposition parties, and asked them how Tamil Nadu could seek water from Karnataka when they considered the supply of Veeranam water to Chennai improper. Eventually, the project was completed in May 2004 for supply of 75 MLD. When the AIADMK government wanted to take up an extension scheme by drawing 150 MLD from the sub-surface flows of the Coleroon, sections of the farmers started an agitation in the Ariyalur-Perambalur belt. The matter reached the High Court. Though the court cleared the project, Jayalalithaa, in April 2005, announced the withdrawal of the extension.

Even as Chennai was struggling, during 2003-04, to come to terms with a water crisis, the AIADMK government, in January 2004, mooted a plan to draw about 565 million litres of water from the Madurantakam tank, 85 km from the city. Residents and farmers of the town and nearby areas opposed the move and formed a human chain. The government dropped the plan. Water conflicts, be they inter-State or intra-State or even intra-district, have always been intense.

Source: *The Hindu*, 26 July 2024

'Include fishermen's local infrastructure in draft CZMP maps'

The Hindu Bureau
CHENNAI

Fishermen from Chennai and neighbouring coastal districts gathered near the District Collector office here on Friday demanding inclusion of the fishing community's local infrastructure in the Coastal Zone Management Plan (CZMP) maps.

The State Coastal Zone Management Authority (SCZMA) recently informed the Southern Bench of the National Green Tribunal (NGT) that the CZMP draft maps were ready for public hearing. In August 2023, it released the maps for all coastal districts, except Chennai and Tiruvallur.

Fishermen found that the draft maps were incomplete, much like the ones released in 2018 and 2022.

They said it lacked spec-

ific details on fishing zones, breeding and spawning grounds, common properties of fishing communities, and a comprehensive plan for the long-term housing needs of coastal fishermen as specified in the Coastal Regulation Zone Notification, 2019.

At the demonstration, K. Bharati of the Neithal Makkal Katchi referred to the NGT's directive to encompass all aspects of fisherfolk's livelihood. He emphasised the need to include common properties, such as net-mending areas and fish auction or sale zones.

Highlighting the critical need for long-term housing plans for the fishing community, which faces risks from rising sea levels, Mr. Bharati added that they were not consulted when these plans were being prepared.

'Works to set up institute at Thalaivasal to be completed in 3 months'

The Hindu Bureau
CHENNAI

The works to set up the Advanced Institute for Integrated Research on Livestock and Animal Sciences at Thalaivasal in Salem district would be completed within two to three months, Minister for Animal Husbandry Anitha R. Radhakrishnan said on Tuesday.

There was a delay in establishing the institute during the previous government, he said in a statement, responding to the concerns raised by AIADMK general secretary Edappadi K. Palaniswami on the completion of the project.

In 2019, it was mooted that the institute would be set up at cost of ₹564.4 crore. "When the DMK came to power in 2021, not even 50% of the works had been completed," Mr. Radhakrishnan said.

He further listed the steps taken by the DMK to complete the project.

Source: *The Hindu*, 27 July 2024

Source: *The Hindu*, 31 July 2024

WRD seeks ₹160 crore to remove mussels from Ennore-Pulicat wetlands

Applying the “Polluter-Pays” principle, the Water Resources Department has sought ₹160 crore from Kamarajar Port to stop the spread of invasive mussels in the Ennore-Pulicat wetlands

The Hindu Bureau
CHENNAI

The Water Resources Department (WRD) has informed the Southern Bench of the National Green Tribunal that it has sought ₹160 crore from Kamarajar Port to dredge the Kosasthalaiyar backwaters and Buckingham Canal to stop the spread of invasive mussels in the Ennore-Pulicat wetlands.

In a status report filed by the WRD as part of an ongoing case on invasive mussels (*Mytella strigata*) - or *charru* mussels - in the Ennore-Pulicat wetlands, it was said that the mussels have spread along the stretch of Kosasthalaiyar backwater, Buckingham Canal, and the Pulicat lake mouth.

The proliferation of the invasive species not only possesses a harmful effect on the waterbodies and the marine ecosystem as they threaten the diversity of wetlands, but also takes a toll on the movement of boats.

“It is further submitted that the Kamarajar Port Limited, Ennore, is the main reason for the spread of the *charru* mussels along the (North) Buckingham Canal, the Kosasthalaiyar backwaters, and the Pazhavarkadu mouth due to the



Twin trouble: The invasive mussels (*Mytella strigata*) not only harm the waterbodies, but also hinder the movement of boats. FILE PHOTO

The invasive mussels has spread along the Kosasthalaiyar backwater, Buckingham Canal, and Pulicat mouth

lack of a ballast water regulation for ship movement from the south and central coasts of the U.S. to the Indian shores,” the status report filed by the department said.

The report also mentioned that it was the failure of the Indian coastal

regulation of port authorities to implement stringent regulations.

While an estimate for dredging the Ennore Creek over 700m at an outlay of ₹8.5 crore has already been prepared and sent to the Tamil Nadu State Wetland Authority for approval, the WRD has now chalked out a plan to remove the invasive mussels spread from the Ennore Creek to the Pulicat mouth (16 km), as requested in the petition.

Applying the “Polluter-Pays” principle, the WRD has suggested that the

Kamarajar Port should contribute ₹160 crore to eradicate invasive mussels from the Ennore-Pulicat wetlands.

In a recent hearing of the petition, the Bench comprising Justice Pushpa Sathyanarayana and expert member Satyagopal Korlapati criticised the Department for delaying the clean-up of the Ennore Creek, and directed them to come up with a timeline for it.

The next hearing of the petition is scheduled for August 8.

Source: *The Hindu*, 31 July 2024

Perimeter wall to protect Pallikaranai marshland

Oppili.P@timesofindia.com

Chennai: Construction work on the perimeter walls of the eco-sensitive Pallikaranai marshland is advancing swiftly, with the project divided into two key phases.

In the first phase, the wall will extend from the rear of National Institute of Ocean Technology campus to Oggiyam Maduvu, and from Elcot, Perumbakkam campus to River View Colony in Karapakkam.

Chennai forest officer, VA Saravanan, said that work began a few months ago near Sai Ganesh Nagar in Pallikaranai village and recent rains caused some delays. Major civil works have been completed, with the remaining task being the installation of railings. It could not be transported to the site because of the rain. Installation will proceed once stagnant water has drained, he said.

The second phase will see a similar wall over 10km cov-



WALLING UP: Perimeter wall at Sai Ganesh Nagar, Pallikaranai

ering Mettukuppam, VGP Mahalakshmi Nagar, and parts of Perumbakkam. The primary aim of these walls is to prevent encroachments. More than three years ago, a 2.5km perimeter wall was erected along the Velachery-Tambaram High Road.

A senior official said more than 1,000 encroachments on the marshland were identified six years ago. Notices have been issued to some, and a meeting will be organised to remove squatters.

National Green Tribunal has ordered govt to take action

to evict IT parks, govt buildings and private apartments occupying the Pallikaranai marshland if they lack rightful ownership or title.

The tribunal, following a **TOI** report in Jan 2022 that highlighted debris dumping in Pallikaranai, instructed the govt to survey the marshland, and remove encroachments. Two years later, a Differential Global Positioning System survey conducted by the land survey department identified the occupants of the marshland, which spans 1,206 hectares.

(Above) Source: *The Times of India*, 22 July 2024, p. 3

(Right) Source: *The Times of India*, 28 July 2024, p. 4

TN forms panel to combat climate change

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

Chennai: To address public health challenges posed by climate change, a 23-member 'One Health and Climate Change Strategic Committee' chaired by the chief secretary has been set up. The committee will work towards making the state climate-resilient and reducing vulnerability to adverse effects.

A four-page order from environment secretary P Senthilkumar said during the first meeting of the Tamil Nadu governing council on climate change, chief minister MK Stalin had directed ministers of all departments to examine and implement projects through climate change lens. The environment secretary will be the convenor of the committee.

"The sudden change in rain patterns, flooding and excessive heat in summers have led to a surge in several zoonotic diseases. Bringing all data and expertise to the table will help the state develop comprehensive short and long-term plans," said health secretary Supriya Sahu, who is a member of the committee along with secretaries of agriculture, animal husbandry, rural development, municipal administration, and housing departments.

The surge in vector-borne diseases such as Nipah, Zika, and dengue has all been linked to climate change, water, and sanitation issues, she said.

Roles include mapping disease surveillance programmes across the sectors and developing preventive actions on climate-mediated diseases. It will also create surveillance systems to enable early detection of disease outbreaks across species.

The committee will have experts including former WHO chief scientist Dr Soumya Swaminathan, ICMR centre for advanced research on air quality's Kalpana Balakrishnan, WASH specialist Ananya Ghoshal, environment activists, besides govt officials.

‘Other states emulate TN’s welfare schemes’

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @ Chennai

TAMIL Nadu has been implementing numerous welfare and developmental works and these schemes have attracted the attention of other states, an official release said on Sunday.

The free bus ride scheme has so far benefited women, differently abled persons and trans persons who have undertaken 473.61 crore trips on state-owned transport corporation buses and the cost involved so far for this scheme stands at ₹6,661.47 crore. Under the Kalaignar Magalir Urimai Thogai Thittam, women are getting ₹1,000 per month.

Similarly, under the Pudhu-
mai Penn Scheme, girl students

who complete higher secondary in government schools are being given ₹1,000 per month to pursue higher studies. In the current year, 2.73 lakh girl students are being benefitted under this scheme. During the current academic year, the admission rate in the colleges has gone up by 34% due to this scheme.

The CM’s Rural Roads Development Scheme, Annal Ambedkar Business Champions Scheme, Innuyir Kappom scheme, Naan Mudhalvan scheme, Thozhi Viduthigal (hostels for working women), exclusive budget for agriculture, are among the numerous welfare schemes being implemented by the government.

(Left) Source: *The New Indian Express*, 15 July 2024, p. 4

(Below) Source: *The New Indian Express*, 13 July 2024, p. 4

TN: Numerous schemes for SC/STs being implemented

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @ Chennai

THE state government on Friday said numerous welfare schemes are being implemented for the welfare of people belonging to Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes in Tamil Nadu, and during the past three years, many new schemes have been introduced for them.

An official release said the Annal Ambedkar Business Champions Scheme was announced last with an allocation of ₹100 crore. It offers up to 35% capital subsidy on plant and machinery for small business owners from SC and ST communities. Within a short period, loans were sanctioned to

2,136 Adi Dravidar beneficiaries. Of them, 1,303 entrepreneurs received ₹159.76 crore as government grants. In all 288 women entrepreneurs received ₹33.09 crore under this scheme.

The Ayotheedasa Pandithar Habitation Development Scheme is being implemented for five years at a total cost of ₹1,000 crore. The CM has created Tamil Nadu State Commission for the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes to safeguard their rights.

The government has announced incentives for villages which have common burial grounds without any casteist differences.

₹21 crore allocated for smooth functioning of Amma canteens

Stalin directs MLAs, ministers and local body representatives to inspect canteens regularly

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @ Chennai

THE state government has allotted ₹21 crore to enhance and ensure seamless functioning of the 388 Amma Unavagams (Amma Canteens) across Chennai. The allocation includes ₹7 crore for replacing damaged utensils and ₹14 crore for renovating them. Chief Minister MK Stalin directed the MLAs, ministers and local body representatives to regularly inspect the Amma Unavagams in their localities and offer necessary help.

The directive of Stalin follows an unannounced inspection carried out by the chief minister at the Amma Unavagam at Teynampet on Friday. He was accompanied by the newly appointed Chennai Corporation Commissioner J Kumaragurubaran.

The visit came in the backdrop of concerns that the Unavagams, one of the flagship initiatives of the AIADMK government headed by late chief minister J Jayalalithaa, were not being run properly allegedly due to lack of funds.

After the visit, Stalin, in a post on social media platform X (formerly Twitter), said rumours were doing the rounds that the Amma Unavagams would be shut after the present DMK government came to power. However,



Chief Minister MK Stalin tasting the food at Amma Unavagam in Teynampet | EXPRESS

er, he said the present government has spent more than ₹450 crore in the last three years, serving food to more than ₹ lakh persons a day.

Of the 407 canteens in Chennai, as per a recent official statement, 388 are functional at the moment. A month ago, when TNIE visited 37 canteens, it found

at least five closed and nine not operating regularly. The reasons included low customer turnout, with some staff reporting that they were serving as few as 25 people a day. Moreover, 12 canteens, which had been constructed over storm water drains, were demolished by the corporation following floods. The number of

customers in many other canteens had also declined to 100 and 150 daily.

The staff at Amma Unavagam have complained over no change in the menu, which they say, has led to a decline in both the number of customers and sales. A 44-year-old employee at the Amma Unavagam in Kaladipet said, "In the early days of the initiative, 18 people had been working at this Amma Unavagam. However, only 10 are working now due to the drop in sales. While initially, the turnover per month was ₹1.2 lakh, it has come down to ₹50,000 and sometimes even less."

After 11 years of the start of the initiative, employees of Amma Unavagam recently received their first salary increase, from ₹300 to ₹325 per day. However, they claim the increase is insufficient. Staff also reported that their salaries often get delayed by 15 to 30 days.

According to an official release, the present government, since May 2021, has spent ₹148.4 crore towards wages of members of SHGs running the canteens since 2021. Apart from this, ₹400 crore from Chennai corporation and another ₹69 crore from the state government as subsidy for rice and wheat were allocated to these canteens.

(Above) Source: *The New Indian Express*, 20 July 2024, p. 4

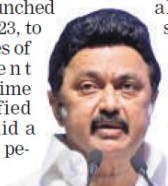
(Below) Source: *The New Indian Express*, 5 July 2024, p. 4

CM invites all parties to attend Govt schemes bear fruit, gratitude govt scheme expansion events

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @ Chennai

CHIEF Minister MK Stalin on Thursday wrote to MPs and MLAs of all parties in the state, inviting them to the expansion of 'Makkaludan Mudhalvar' programme in Dharmapuri on July 11 and the expansion of CM's Breakfast Scheme on July 15 in Thiruvallur.

A release said 'Makkaludan Mudhalvar' was launched on December 18, 2023, to ensure that services of the government reached people on time through a simplified process. Stalin said a whopping 8.74 lakh petitions were dis-



posed of through this scheme in urban areas. Now, this scheme will be extended to rural areas in all districts on July 11 (except in Villupuram district where poll code is in force).

The breakfast scheme was inaugurated on September 15, 2022, and over 14.4 lakh students studying in classes 1 to 5 have been getting breakfast on all working days. The scheme received overwhelming response from parents as well as students, the CM said, adding it would be extended to all government-aided schools in rural areas on July 15.

CHIEF Minister MK Stalin on Thursday received feedback from beneficiaries of various schemes through video calls.

The CM launched 'Neengal Nalamaa' (Are you doing well?) on March 6 to reach out to the public. Views of people are being uploaded on <https://neengal-nalamaa.tn.gov.in>.

A release said Chitrakala from Coimbatore, who benefitted from 'Annal Ambedkar Business Champions Scheme', said that within a month of applying under the scheme, a loan of ₹68.37 lakh with government subsidy was sanctioned and the process for getting loan was also simple.

The mother of Sanjay, a differently-abled youth, said she has



been receiving ₹1,500 per month as maintenance assistance. She has also been getting ₹1,000 per month from 'Kalaingar Magalir Urimathi Thittam'. Using this amount, she could pay ₹500 as tuition fees for her elder son and the rest was spent on the family.

Manikandan from Ranipet district thanked the CM for treating him under 'Innyir Kappom' scheme at MIOT hospital when he met with a road accident.

During another call, Stalin spoke to the brother of a differently-abled girl from Chengalpatu district. The person said he is visually impaired and his elder sister has lost movement in both legs. Besides, his nephew has mental illness. His family has been getting ₹1,500 each for him and his sister per month and ₹2,000 per month for the maintenance of his nephew, all of which have been of great help.

CM interacts with people to review implementation of various welfare schemes

The Hindu Bureau
CHENNAI

Under the 'Neengal Nalama' programme, Tamil Nadu Chief Minister M.K. Stalin on Thursday interacted with people over the phone to review the implementation of government welfare programmes and address their grievances.

Chithralekha of Coimbatore, a beneficiary of the Annal Ambedkar Business Champions Scheme, informed the Chief Minister that she had received ₹68.37 lakh in assistance to start her business.

The mother of Sanjay (a differently-abled student) from Mayiladuthurai said that she was receiving ₹1,500 in maintenance assistance, and also ₹1,000 per month under the 'Ka-



Chief Minister M.K. Stalin during an interaction with beneficiaries of government schemes in Chennai on Thursday.

laignar Magalir Urimai Thittam'.

Manikandan from Ranipet, a beneficiary of the 'Innuyir Kappom, Nammai Kakkum 48' scheme, thanked the Chief Minister for the prompt assistance and treatment at a private hospital that he received after he met with an accident, a press release said.

Suganya of Chengalpat-

tu thanked Mr. Stalin for the disability assistance given to her, her sister, and her nephew.

Sangeetha of Ramana-
thapuram thanked the Chief Minister for launching the Chief Minister's Breakfast Scheme, which has been benefiting thousands of children, including her daughter, Keerthikasri.

(Above) Source: *The Hindu*, 5 July 2024

(Below) Source: *The New Indian Express*, 20 July 2024, p. 4

BREAKFAST SCHEME HELPS IMPROVE HUMAN RESOURCE CAPITAL

SALEM DHARANIDHARAN

A BIDDING by the philosophy of Dravidian Model, Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu MK Stalin has given a renewed push to the education sector in the state. Apart from enhancing the nutrition of school kids, one of the flagship programmes of his government – the morning breakfast scheme – aims to improve the human resource capital of the state in the long run.

The scheme coverage was extended to more aided schools by the chief minister on Monday. Around 24 lakh students now benefit from the scheme, making Tamil Nadu the first region in the world to offer breakfast in schools on such a large scale.

Though the scheme will cost the exchequer ₹500 crore, its short term and long term benefits will be massive.

Some may naively deride interventions like these as freebies, only progressive schemes such as these implemented by

FOOTNOTE

the Dravidian parties have made Tamil Nadu the numero uno state in India on human resources development. In fact, the much acclaimed mid-day meal scheme, now emulated across India, was introduced in Madras State (now Tamil Nadu) by the Justice Party (precursor of the DMK party) way back in

1921. Since then, Tamil Nadu has been a role model to the rest of India in evidence-based social interventions.

The rationale for introducing the morning breakfast scheme can be realised from a baseline study conducted among children aged 5-12, which identified that 43% did not consume breakfast daily or took it occasionally. As much as 17% were found to never eat breakfast before going to school. The study further identified that the problem of skipping breakfast was more profound among children from the bottom 40 percentile of income, or rather whose parents, particularly mothers, are daily wage labourers.

A study conducted by the European Journal of Medical and

Dutch study

A study in the Netherlands among 605 kids found breakfast skipping (eating breakfast <5 days/week) was associated with lower average annual school grades. With regular breakfast intake (>5 times a week), their grades showed drastic improvements

Health Sciences identified a clear positive causation between eating breakfast to happiness and concentration. Students who ate breakfast every day had higher scores in happiness index.

Similarly, another research from the University of Leeds, UK ('The effects of breakfast on

behaviour and academic performance in children and adolescents') suggested a positive association between breakfast frequency and quality of school grades or standardised test scores.

A study in the Netherlands among 605 Dutch children found that breakfast skipping (eating breakfast <5 days/week) was associated with lower average annual school grades. With regular breakfast intake (>5 times a week), their performance showed drastic improvements.

A study conducted by the Tamil Nadu Planning Commission into the Chief Minister's breakfast scheme also identified similar trends. It found that attendance increased by at

least 20% in 90% of the schools owing to the scheme. This is why the breakfast scheme was a game-changer.

Recently, Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau announced on 'X' platform that breakfast would be made mandatory across primary schools via his government's National School Food Programme. Furthermore, the Labour Party in the UK, had promised to offer free breakfast to primary school students across the country if voted to power.

As Tamil Nadu Chief Minister Stalin once said, education is the real wealth that can't be stolen. The breakfast scheme, among

others, goes a long way in providing a level-playing field for children from all backgrounds. When a government imparts the best education to all children, the overall human resources of the state improve. Better the human resource capital, better the society and better the overall economic growth.

[Footnote is a weekly column that discusses issues relating to Tamil Nadu]

(Salem Dharanidharan is executive coordinator of Dravidian Professionals Forum and an alumnus of the University of Oxford)



Stalin launches single-window system that simplifies process of getting building permission

Permission for plots measuring up to 2,500 sq.ft. and having a built-up area of up to 3,500 sq.ft. can be obtained based on self-certification. It applies to buildings with a ground or ground and 1 floor

The Hindu Bureau
CHENNAI

Chief Minister M.K. Stalin on Monday launched a single-window system through which building permissions for plots measuring up to 2,500 sq.ft. and having a built-up area of up to 3,500 sq.ft. could be obtained based on self-certification. This would apply to the construction of residential buildings with a ground or ground and one floor (not exceeding seven metres in height).

During an event at the Secretariat, the Chief Minister issued permissions to those who had applied



Streamlined approval: Chief Minister M.K. Stalin handing over building permissions to applicants at the Secretariat on Monday.

through the single-window system. On making the necessary payments, the applicants could download the building permissions with a QR code, which could help in commencing

construction work, a press release said.

During his Budget speech in the Assembly in February, Finance Minister Thangam Thennarasu had announced that a new mo-

dule, integrated into the single-window system, would be introduced to facilitate the sanctioning of building permissions based on self-certification, without the requirement of a completion certificate. "Plots of up to 2,500 sq.ft. in size and a built-up area of up to 3,500 sq.ft. for the construction of residential structures having a ground or ground plus one floor will be eligible for instant registration without the requirements of building permission," he had said.

Ministers S. Muthusamy and P.K. Sekarbabu, Chief Secretary Shiv Das Meena and senior officials were present during the event.

(Above) Source: *The Hindu*, 23 July 2024

(Right) Source: *The New Indian Express*, 1 July 2024, p. 4

State to create more transport planners

Vivek Narayanan
@timesgroup.com

Chennai: In a city where traffic snarls and gridlock have become the norm, Tamil Nadu is taking a step towards a smoother, more connected future. The housing and urban development department has embarked upon an initiative to produce trained traffic planners in the state with the help of Anna University.

They will be starting a two-year M Plan (transport planning) course under Anna University's School of Architecture and Planning department next academic year. Minister for housing and urban development S. Muthusamy made the announcement in the assembly recently.

A transport planner integrates transport and urban planning to reduce congestion, pollution and accidents in city and state. He/She will also devise strategies and policies pertaining to transportation.

According to officials from housing and urban development department, there is a dire shortage of such planners in the city. "There are only a few institutions in the country that offer a course on traffic plan-

ning. Integration of land use and transportation is the core of the M Plan (TP) programme," said an official. Approximately ₹8.5 crore has been sanctioned for the programme and to create the infrastructure. The department will be equipped with software and virtual reality labs. Those who have done courses such as BE civil engineering, BArch, B Plan, MA economics, MA sociology can apply. Officials said there should be one traffic planner for each town. He/she should coordinate with local administration and police and devise a proper land use and traffic plan. "They will have to collect statistics, analyse travel pattern of the residents and come up with a plan which is economically and sociologically viable," the official added.

The employment potential of the program is copious. "All the urban planning authorities in the country in general and Tamil Nadu in particular need transport planners. Now there are hardly any of them in planning agencies. Therefore, introduction of the programme in Tamil Nadu is highly appropriate," said N V Rakhunath, retired chief planner, CMDA.

Metrowater to hold survey to assess quality of services

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

Chennai: Under World Bank-funded Chennai City Partnership project, Metrowater will conduct a baseline survey among a random sample of 15,000 households across all 15 zones in the city, starting Monday. The survey aims to assess quality of its services.

“A consultant has been appointed, and their staff will conduct the survey over 60 days in these households. They will evaluate consumer satisfaction with water supply and sewerage services, infrastructure, expansion of water supply, and water quality, in addition to checking for household water connections,” said T G Vinay, the managing director of the board.

At the end of 60 days, a detailed report will be prepared, and Metrowater will use the feedback to improve their services. Based on the survey results, the water agency will redistribute and increase water supply to areas in need.

The survey results will be corroborated with other World Bank-funded projects,

SURVEY STARTS TODAY

Amount of water supplied from major reservoirs on Sunday

RESERVOIR	WATER SUPPLIED (ML)
Red Hills	440.71
Chembarambakkam	266
Poondi	46.16
Veeranam	178
Minjur 100MLD desalination plant	28.42
Nemmeli 100MLD desalination plant	39.92
Nemmeli 150MLD desalination plant	52.54
Own source	20
Total amount of water supplied on Sunday	1071.75

such as metering multi-storeyed and commercial water consumers and water demand management. Metering is expected to reduce non-revenue water. Currently, almost all consumers, both domestic and commercial, are billed a flat-water charge irrespective of consumption, an official noted.

Currently, Metrowater supplies 1,072 MLD (million liters per day) from six reservoirs — Red Hills, Chembarambakkam, Poondi, Veeranam, Cholavaram, and Kan-

nankottai-Thervokandigai — and three desalination plants — two 100 MLD plants in Minjur and Nemmeli, and a 150 MLD plant in Nemmeli inaugurated this year. Additionally, a 400 MLD desalination plant is under construction, with plans to commission it by March 2026. The water board estimates that they supply water to around 8.8 million residents. Metrowater has asked residents to be ready to share necessary details for the survey if consultants visit their households.

Source: *The New Indian Express*, 1 July 2024, p. 4

State govt. lists welfare schemes implemented by MAWS Department

The Hindu Bureau
CHENNAI

The Tamil Nadu government has listed various welfare programmes being implemented by its Municipal Administration and Water Supply (MAWS) Department, including the Atal Mission for Rejuvenation and Urban Transformation (AMRUT) 2.0 being executed at a cost of ₹2,391.72 crore, road projects, and urban development initiatives.

An release issued on Sunday said 515 road works and 11 bridge works had been completed since 2021 under the National Bank for Agricultural and Rural Development scheme at a total cost of ₹602 crore. "Under the Tamil Nadu Urban Road Infrastructure Programme, 1,178 road works have been taken up at a cost of ₹812.21 crore. As for the *Nagarpura Salai MEMPATTU Thittam*, roads have been developed at a

cost of ₹10.46 crore," it added.

A total of 668 works have been taken up at a total cost of ₹210.99 crore, with the backing of the Operation and Maintenance Deficit Grant Fund.

"Over 3,000 works have been taken up at a cost of ₹466.55 crore using the 15th Finance Commission grants. Under the *Kalaigarnar Nagarpura MEMPATTU Thittam*, 1,509 works have been taken up at a cost of ₹1,112 crore in the past three years. Under the *Namakku Naame* scheme, 1,199 works pertaining to road-laying, development of waterbodies, and setting up of parks were taken up," the government said.

Besides, under the *Iyothee Thass Pandithar Habitation Development Scheme*, basic amenities were being set up in Adi Dravidar habitations at town panchayats in 37 districts at a cost of ₹51.81 crore, the release said.

'Taking steps to bring more women under Urimai Thogai scheme'

The Hindu Bureau
CHENNAI

The Tamil Nadu government on Sunday said it was taking steps to cover more women heads of families under the *Kalaigarnar Mahalir Urimai Thogai Thittam*. So far, about 1.15 crore women are covered under the scheme, launched in September 2023, and a monthly aid of ₹1,000 is being provided to each of them.

A government release listed many of its achievements. Under the *Pudhumai Penn Thittam*, launched in September 2022, a monthly aid of ₹1,000 each was being provided to over 2.73 lakh girls pursuing higher education. The *Tamil Pudhalvan* scheme is set to be launched soon to cover boys, it said.

It pointed out that while the Gross Enrolment Ratio in higher education at a national level stood at 26%, the State's figure was 52%. Under the *Vidiyal Payanam* initiative, women were able to save

₹888 every month. The *Naan Mudhalvan* scheme for developing the skills of school and college students, launched in March 2022, has benefited about 28 lakh students, the release said.

It further said that 'Thozhi' women hostels in Tiruchi, Guduvancheri and Tambaram had come to the aid of working women, and new such hostels were being constructed in Hosur, Tiruvannamalai and St. Thomas Mount.

A financial aid of ₹1,047 crore had been provided for weddings of over 1.26 lakh women, the release said. Besides, a monthly pension was being provided to 1,482 transpersons.

After the DMK came to power, foundation stones had been laid for 45 industries, and 27 of them had been inaugurated, bringing jobs to over 74,700 youths, the release added.

The State government said it provided aid to fishermen during the fishing ban period, and to farmers to aid agricultural production.

(Above) Source: *The Hindu*, 22 July 2024

(Right) Source: *The Hindu*, 15 July 2024

'State is spending significantly on welfare of Adi Dravidar and tribal communities'

The Hindu Bureau
CHENNAI

The Tamil Nadu government on Friday listed the welfare schemes being implemented by the Adi Dravidar and Tribal Welfare Department in the past three years.

An official release said that projects worth ₹230 crore were under way this year under the the Iyothee Thass Pandithar Habitation Development Scheme. The scheme will be executed at a cost of ₹1,000 crore over five years. It is aimed at improving roads, street lights, and drinking water supply at Adi Dravidar habitations in urban and rural areas. As for compensation given to those who suffered atrocities, the government had also provided job op-



The government has allocated ₹2,992.57 crore during 2024-25 to the Adi Dravidar and Tribal Welfare Department and ₹2,252.51 crore has been earmarked for educational programmes.

portunities to 154 persons, granted pension to 535 persons, and allotted a housing plot to one person, it said.

The government had allocated ₹2,992.57 crore in 2024-25 to the Adi Dravidar and Tribal Welfare Department, and ₹2,252.51 crore

was earmarked for educational programmes. It had also offered ₹77.40 lakh in internship stipends to 774 students.

An internship stipend of ₹10,000 was being offered to final-year students of government law colleges to expose them to the emerg-

ing facets of law. A sum of ₹65 lakh had been granted to provide a stipend of ₹15,000 each to 15 students for interning with judges of the Madras High Court and its Madurai Bench, the release said.

A total of 54 youths from Adi Dravidar and tribal communities had benefited from the government incentive to pursue higher education abroad. The government was providing an assistance of ₹36 lakh to encourage students to pursue postgraduate and doctoral research studies abroad. Besides, 54 students had pursued engineering, finance, global health, global industry and law courses in countries such as the U.K., Australia, New Zealand, France, and Belgium, it said.

(Above) Source: *The Hindu*, 13 July 2024

(Below) Source: *The New Indian Express*, 28 July 2024, p. 6

535 Adi Dravidar, tribal hostels to get facelift at ₹100 crore

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
@ Chennai

THE Adi Dravidar and Tribal Welfare Department will renovate 535 hostels across the state at a cost of ₹100 crore. The work is expected to begin next week and will be completed within six months. This initiative will focus on addressing water and sanitation in hostels apart from improving their overall condition, officials said.

During a district collectors' meeting held in October last, Chief Minister MK Stalin announced that the repair of Adi Dravidar and Tribal Welfare

hostels would be undertaken within the next two years. Following this, the department has begun assessing the works that have to be carried out in 535 hostels.

Of these, 15 are tribal welfare hostels in Chennai, Vellore, Villupuram, Salem, Coimbatore, Tiruchy, Thanjavur, Madurai and Tirunelveli.

While there are 1,378 school and college hostels managed by the department, the renovation will exclude those located on rented premises or recently repaired.

"Usually, hostel renovations are carried out at a cost of ₹3

Work expected to get over in six months

The work is expected to begin next week and will be completed within six months. The initiative will focus on addressing water and sanitation in hostels apart from improving their overall condition

crore to ₹4 crore. However, this has been increased to ₹10 crore in the past two years. With ₹100 crore allocated for this project, we plan to bring significant improvement to the living condition and also address major issues," T Anand, director of the depart-

ment, said. Additionally, 60 hostels will be converted from school to college facilities to meet increasing demand and works are under way, he added.

While the government has allocated ₹75 crore for the project, the rest of the funds will come from the Tamil Nadu Adi Dravidar Housing & Development Corporation Ltd which is the execution agency for the project.

In a government order allocating the money, the government has said the department should spend the money within the financial year or send it back.

CM invites MPs, MLAs to launch expansion of two govt. schemes

Stalin is expected to launch expansion of 'Makkaludan Mudhalvar' and Chief Minister's Breakfast Scheme at events in Dharmapuri, Tiruvallur



About 14.40 lakh students have benefited from the Chief Minister's Breakfast Scheme so far. FILE PHOTO

The Hindu Bureau
CHENNAI

Chief Minister M.K. Stalin is scheduled to take part in a function in Dharmapuri on July 11 to launch the expansion of the 'Makkaludan Mudhalvar' initiative. He is also scheduled to take part in another function in Tiruvallur on July 15 to expand the Chief Minister's Breakfast Scheme.

On the same dates, Ministers would launch the

programmes in the respective districts. The Chief Minister has written to all MPs and MLAs in Tamil Nadu, inviting them to take part in the two events, an official press release said.

Mr. Stalin launched the 'Makkaludan Mudhalvar' initiative in urban areas in December 2023 as part of the first phase. Under the initiative, over 8.74 lakh petitions were resolved. Except for Villupuram district (where the Model Code of Conduct is in place

in a specific area in view of the Vikravandi byelection), the initiative is set to be expanded to all rural areas on July 11.

The Chief Minister's Breakfast Scheme was launched in September 2022 to benefit students of Classes I to V in State-run schools. About 14.40 lakh students have benefited from the scheme, which has helped improve nutrition. It is set to be expanded to State-aided schools in rural areas from July 15.

State govt. to shift ration shops from private premises to its own buildings

The Hindu Bureau
CHENNAI

The Tamil Nadu government is taking steps to construct new buildings for fair price shops under various schemes to gradually replace more than 7,000 outlets functioning on private premises on rent, and to maintain a specific proportion of ration cardholders per fair price shop.

According to data from the Department of Food and Consumer Protection, more than 2.24 crore family smart cardholders in the State are entitled to receive various commodities under the Universal Public Distribution System and the National Food Security Act, 2013. A total of 36,954 fair price shops are functioning in Tamil Nadu, including 26,502 full-time and 10,452 part-time shops administered by cooperative societies, the Tamil Nadu Civil Supplies Corporation and women's self-help groups.

In its policy note for 2024-25 tabled in the Assembly, the department

said that out of the 36,954 fair price shops, 19,872 had their own buildings, whereas 9,285 were operating from rent-free buildings. However, the remaining 7,797 shops were operating from private buildings on rent.

To avoid using private buildings to run ration shops, the State government has been taking steps to construct new buildings. It built 2,009 new fair price shops in the last three years.

The Department of Food and Consumer Protection is also planning to construct ration shops with assistance from the Rural Development Department, and using funds from the local area development scheme of MPs and MLAs.

Further, to ensure hassle-free accessibility to ration shops, the State government is taking steps to maintain a proportion of one PDS outlet for every 1,000 ration cardholders in urban areas, and every 800 ration cardholders in rural areas.

(Above) Source: *The Hindu*, 5 July 2024

(Right) Source: *The Hindu*, 8 July 2024

Safe Bus Operation Project reduces accidents, fatalities in 2023-24

The Hindu Bureau
CHENNAI

The State Transport Department, which manages the eight State Transport Corporations (STCs), has been taking several measures on the technical and

human resources fronts to reduce the number of accidents as well as fatalities.

Producing results

The measures taken under the Safe Bus Operation Project have borne fruit, with the overall figures of

accidents and fatalities decreasing in 2023-24 compared to 2022-23.

A senior official of the department, sharing the figures for the eight STCs, including the Metropolitan Transport Corporation (MTC), said the total num-

ber of accidents stood at 877 in 2023-24 compared to 906 in the previous year, resulting in a decrease of nearly 19%. Also, the total number of fatalities has come down to 970 for 2023-24 compared to 1,000 in the 2022-23, regis-

tering a 12% decrease.

Various initiatives

The official said the accident preventive measures of the Safe Bus Operation Project included initiatives such as teaching yoga to drivers, giving incentives

to drivers who had completed 10 years of service without causing any accidents, organising regular health and eye camps, and identifying drivers with alcohol addiction and admitting them to rehabilitation centres.

Source: *The Hindu*, 10 July 2024

New SOP to make TN buses disabled-friendly

SUBASHINI VIJAYAKUMAR @ Chennai

IN an attempt to make public transport services disabled-friendly, the state transport corporations have issued a new standard operating procedure (SOP) for drivers and conductors of government buses to make travel comfortable for disabled passengers.

One of the key points of the new SOP, issued based on a directive from the transport department secretary, is the mandatory feedback mechanism to be put in place to receive response from disabled passengers.

Each transport corporation has to come up with a system to collect feedback from disabled passengers, based on which

suitable guidance must be provided to drivers and conductors at their monthly training session, a top official of the transport department said.

“Making sure drivers and conductors are sensitive to needs of disabled persons is important. Corporations should engage with them to understand their needs,” he said.



At least 5-6 incidents of ill-treatment of disabled persons occur across TN on a daily basis

P7 TARATDAC

‘Regular revision of SOP vital to keep them relevant’

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

HIGHLIGHTING that revising the SOP regularly is crucial to keep them relevant, he said that treating all passengers, including women, senior citizens, and disabled persons with compassion is a continuous process that required frequent training.

The new SOP also mandates that seats reserved for disabled persons must have clear and visible stickers, making it easier for them to identify and use these seats. If the stickers are torn or damaged, they should

be promptly replaced. Additionally, if another passenger is occupying a reserved seat when a disabled person boards the bus, the conductor must ensure that the seat is vacated for the disabled person.

Persons with 40% disabilities and above, along with their escorts, can travel for free in white-board buses using the Unique Disability ID (UDID) card issued by the central government or the National Identity Disability Card (NIDC) issued by the differently abled welfare offices in the



state. The conductor must provide free tickets for both.

All disabled persons can travel in government buses across the state with a 75% concession on the ticket fare using a

UDID or NIDC. The necessary ticket should also be provided to them.

Disabled persons should be given the required assistance while boarding and deboarding the buses, and it should be ensured that they are treated with respect. In case of medical emergencies, they should be given the necessary first aid. However,

disabled persons say that despite the issuance of new SOPs, they continue to face ill-treatment while travelling in government buses. “While this is a welcome move, we are aware of at least five to six incidents reported across the state on a daily basis. Conductors often engage in fighting, questioning the disability of a person despite being shown a valid certificate leading to problems,” said S Namburajan, state vice-president of Tamil Nadu Association for the Rights of All Types of Differently Abled and Caregivers (TARATDAC)

Source: *The New Indian Express*, 21 July 2024, p. 1&7

Passports issued by Chennai RPO cross 5-lakh mark in 2023

The time to obtain an appointment in the Passport Seva Kendras in the jurisdiction of the Chennai RPO has reduced to 3 to 5 days, says official

The Hindu Bureau
CHENNAI

The time taken for obtaining passports through the Passport Seva Kendras (PSKs) within Chennai Regional Passport Office (RPO) limits has come down substantially over the past few years. Data shows the number of passports granted in a year has crossed the 5-lakh mark.

The total number of passports granted by Chennai RPO during 2023 was 5,19,682. This was 4,74,472 for 2022 and 4,72,274 for 2019. The data for 2020 and 2021 could not be obtained since COVID-19-related lockdown was in effect for the better part of those years.

The time taken to obtain an appointment in the PSKs for various services, including issuance of a fresh passport and reissuing (both normal and tatkal), within the jurisdiction of the Chennai RPO has



Quick process: The Chennai Regional Passport Office has four PSKs — one each in Aminjikarai, Saligramam, and Tambaram and another in Puducherry. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

come down to three to five days, said S. Kovenathan, Regional Passport Officer for Chennai. A couple of years ago, it took about 14 days to get police verification done within the Chennai RPO limits, but it was later reduced to about a week. Eventually, this period had been reduced further and is about three to four days currently, he said.

The Chennai Regional

Passport Office has four PSKs — one each in Aminjikarai, Saligramam, and Tambaram and another in Puducherry. It also has within its limits 13 Post Office Passport Seva Kendras (POPSKs) to cover as many northern districts of Tamil Nadu.

On an average, the RPO Chennai handles between 2,500 to 2,700 appointments in all PSKs and POPSKs.

(Left) Source: *The Hindu*, 8 July 2024

(Below) Source: *The New Indian Express*, 29 July 2024, p. 4

₹5.5K cr encroached temple lands retrieved in three years, says govt

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @ Chennai

THE DMK government has made significant strides in the HR and CE Department during past three years, which includes retrieval of temple lands worth ₹5,577.35 crore from encroachers, an official release said.

The government has performed consecration at 1,355 temples between May 7, 2021 and January 31, 2024, carried out renovation works at 8,436 temples at a total cost of ₹3,776 crore, and restored 143 temple tanks at a cost of ₹84.16 crore.

The release also said 15,753 temple priests have been getting ₹1,000 per month and ₹10,000 has been given to 400 legal heirs of priests who work in temples where the One Time Pooja Scheme is implemented

for pursuing higher studies. The government bears the expenses for devotees going on pilgrimage from Rameswaram to Kashi every year at a cost of ₹1.25 crore and allocated ₹1,50 crore towards taking 1,000 devotees to six abodes of Lord Muruga.

The government has appointed 11 women as Oodhuvars in different temples. 'Annadanam' schemes are being implemented in 756 temples and around 82,000 devotees benefit from this every day. The release also recalled that till 1967 when the DMK assumed office, HR&CE department remained among the 'miscellaneous subjects' and only the DMK government headed by former chief minister M Karunanidhi in 1970 had created a separate department.

T.N. government to renovate women's hostels in 6 districts

Meghna M.
CHENNAI

The Tamil Nadu Working Women Hostels Corporation will take over six hostels run by the Department of Social Welfare and Women Empowerment.

With an outlay of ₹1 crore allocated for this project, the six hostels in Madurai, Tiruppur, Thoothukudi, Tiruvallur, Pudukkottai, and Coimbatore will be renovated with amenities, such as WiFi and biometric system. Adequate security personnel and hostel managers will be posted. "These six hostels will be reopened as Thozhi hostels," said an official from the Social Welfare Department.

The government runs 21 working women hostels set up in 1980, and 10 of these had already been converted into Thozhi hostels in Chennai, Chengalpattu, Salem, Tiruchi, Tirunelveli, Vellore, Vilupuram, Perambalur, and Thanjavur.

With over 950 beds out of the 1,140 in the Thozhi hostels across the State occupied, the official added that the demand had only been rising. The Thozhi hostel in Adyar was at full occupancy, with registrations increasing every day. "About five-six people visit the hostel a day to enquire about vacancies. There is lack of awareness regarding the online registration," said the warden of the Adyar hostel.

For Maria of Thrissur, studying at a college in Chennai, the hostel has been very useful as she prioritised hygiene. "This



The Thozhi hostel in Tambaram. B. VELANKANNI RAJ

government initiative is very useful as it encourages women to pursue opportunities while also ensuring their safety," said Ms. Maria's parent.

Hike in rent

However, residents of the Thozhi hostel have stated the sudden increase in rent has made things difficult for them. "We were not given notice regarding the increase in rent. Only a PDF was shared on June 27 with the revised tariff, noting that it was effective from July 1. No feedback was taken," said a resident of the Adyar hostel, whose earlier rent of ₹6,500 has now been hiked to ₹6,850. She also stated that no additional amenities, such as a microwave or a kettle, were provided. Therefore, the increase in rent was not justified.

Though a notice said the hostels completed one year and the inflation in maintenance costs resulted in the hike in rent, residents said the move came out of the blue. "We were not prepared for the additional cost as most of us are from other districts," said a resident of a hostel in Guduvancherry.

Drones deployed to combat growing mosquito menace

Preetika.P@timesofindia.com

Chennai: Greater Chennai Corporation (GCC) has deployed six drones to tackle the city's escalating mosquito problem, intensified by recent rain. The corporation receives more than 100 mosquito-related complaints daily, with last year's total at 5,372, according to official data.

To combat this, GCC has mobilised around 3,200 personnel, including 2,170 field workers and 900 supervisors. The drones are being used to spray bio larvicide in rivers, canals, and water bodies to curb breeding.

Health department reported an uptick in seasonal flu cases, especially at Thiruvottiyur and Sholinganallur, due to the recent rain. "We are identifying areas with higher fever and flu cases to locate mosquito breeding grounds," said chief health officer M Jagadeesan.

Santhi K, a resident near Adyar river, said the unclean

river and growing weeds have become major breeding grounds. "Sewage discharge into stormwater drains worsens the situation, especially after rain," she said.

Chief vector control officer S Selvakumar highlighted the focus on waterways and stormwater drains, particularly at Tondiarpet, Old Washermanpet, Korukkupet, and Mint along Buckingham canal. "We use bio larvicide, which is less harmful to non-target organisms compared to traditional pesticides," he added.

The corporation is surveying the city for hidden mosquito breeding sources. A 2023 survey identified more than 10,000 houses, mainly at Tondiarpet, Royapuram, and Central Chennai, contributing to breeding due to stagnant water.

Last month, mayor R Priya criticised civic officials for leaving drones, meant for larvicide and disinfectant spraying, idle despite complaints.



TECH IN USE: GCC uses drone to spray biolarvicide near Cooum river

(Left) Source: *The Hindu*, 8 July 2024

(Above) Source: *The Times of India*, 8 July 2024, p. 4

CM hands over awards to artisans, craftspersons who have excelled in their fields



The Chief Minister presented the Living Craft Treasure Award to eight craftspersons and the Poompohar State Award to 10 artisans.

The Hindu Bureau
CHENNAI

Chief Minister M.K. Stalin on Tuesday handed over various awards to craftspersons and artisans who have excelled in their respective fields. He presented the Living Craft Treasure Award to eight

craftspersons and the Poompohar State Award to 10 artisans.

N. Balakrishnan, K.P. Umapathi, S. Rajagopal, N. Mani Achari, C. Muthusamy Achari, S. Govindharaj, B. Sulaikan Beevi and S. Thangajothi received the Living Craft Treasure Award for 2022-23, an official release said. The award honours craftspersons of eminence who are over 65 years of age. It carries a cheque for ₹1 lakh, a *tamirapathiram*, an eight gram gold medal and a certificate.

The Chief Minister handed over the Poompohar State Award to C. Ravi, S. Nagalakshmi, M. Rajappa, M. Murugesan, R. Loganathan, N. Poovammal, B. Varadhan, M. Rajarathinam, R. Sakthivel and S. Lilly Mary for 2022-23. The award is given to 10 best artisans who have contributed to the development of the crafts of Tamil Nadu. It carries a cash prize of

₹50,000, a four gram gold medal, a *tamirapathiram* and a certificate. Minister T.M. Anbarasan, Chief Secretary Shiv Das Meena and senior officials were present on the occasion. At another event, the Chief Minister unveiled new buildings constructed

for the Higher Education Department in various locations across the State.

The buildings have been constructed in Coimbatore, Namakkal, Pudukkottai and Tiruchi districts at a total cost of ₹52.75 crore. Minister for Higher Education K. Ponnudiy and senior officials were present.

(Above) Source: *The Hindu*, 17 July 2024

(Below) Source: *The Times of India*, 12 July 2024, p. 4

New govt sleeper buses arrive this month

SETC Draws Inspiration From Private Services

Ram.Sundaram
@timesofindia.com

Chennai: The new city buses arrived first. Now, around 60 govt long-distance sleeper buses designed to connect Chennai with the southern and western districts of Tamil Nadu have come, ahead of their launch later this month.

The State Express Transport Corporation (SETC) has introduced several improvements in the buses, drawing

READY TO GO



Photo credit: TNSTC Enthusiasts

The first batch of 60 sleeper-cum-seater buses is expected to be launched this month

NEW FEATURES OF SETC SLEEPER-CUM-SEATER BUSES

- > Mobile charging points
- > Leather and rexine seats

- > Dividers between berths
- > Fire detection and exhaust systems (FDDS)
- > Microphone and speaker systems



inspiration from private services. One of the notable features is the replacement of

USB chargers with more durable sockets, accompanied by holders for phones while

charging.

This change was made after frequent breakages of

USB chargers in older models.

Santhapriyan Kamaraj of TNSTC Enthusiasts, a group that worked with the SETC in improving the design, said that privacy for passengers has also been improved.

The new sleeper-cum-seater buses are equipped with

'SAFETY KEY FOCUS'

dividers between berths. Additionally, the new buses feature leather and rexine seats instead of cloth, simplifying maintenance and improving hygiene.

"Safety is a key focus in the new buses. They are equipped with fire detection and exhaust systems (FDDS), enhancing safety during tra-

vel," he said.

The buses also include microphone and speaker systems to assist conductors in announcing upcoming bus stops.

Of the 200 new buses in the present batch, 150 will have seats on the lower deck and sleeper berths on the upper deck. However, 50 buses will feature a unique layout with five lower berths on the left-hand side reserved for women and children. The first batch of 60 sleeper-cum-seater buses is expected to be launched this month, and the rest by Sept 15.

While there have been several enhancements, there are some cost-cutting measures as well. The new buses will have reduced interior lighting and will not include blind spot mirrors.

Kuthambakkam terminus by March 2025: Minister



WORK GATHERS PACE: CMDA minister P K Sekarbabu said nearly 80% of the work at the terminus, being developed on 25 acres at ₹427 crore, was complete

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

The fully air-conditioned Kuthambakkam bus terminus will be opened to the public by March 2025, P K Sekarbabu, minister for Chennai Metropolitan Development Authority (CMDA), has said. The govt has initiated discussions with National Highways Authority of India (NHAI) to plan access roads to avoid congestion.

The minister said nearly 80% of the work at the terminus, being developed on 25 acres at ₹427 crore, was complete. Con-

struction began in Oct 2021, but many facilities were missing in the initial design. "We have included more escalators, lifts, a health centre, a police outpost, a feeding room, separate toilets and bathrooms for the differently abled and transgenders and signages. It also has braille and tactile signs. A fire audit has also been carried out."

The terminus will cater to buses to Western TN including Krishnagiri, Hosur and Coimbatore via Salem as well as Tirupati via Tiruvallur and Bengaluru. The main terminal has a waiting lounge, restrooms, a medical centre, ATMs, a ticket office and restaurants.

Parking will be available for 234 four-wheelers and 1,811 two-wheelers. There are 146 dormitory rooms for TNSTC drivers and 60 for Karnataka State Transport Corporation drivers.

There will be 41 shops, and 8 counters for booking tickets for private buses. There will be four passenger lifts, three service lifts, and five escalators. The station is designed to accommodate 30 private buses and 70 govt buses at a time. A wall separates operation areas of the two services.

There will be 36 bays for private buses, facilities for idle parking for 37 outbound buses and 27 private buses, along with automated parking management systems.

Learning from the Kilambakkam experience, the govt is taking steps to ensure

THE TERMINUS WILL CATER TO BUSES TO WESTERN TN, TIRUPATI AND BENGALURU

seamless traffic around the terminus. "We will hold a meeting with NHAI to discuss access roads. If there is any improvement that needs to be made, it will be done before the inauguration," Sekarbabu said.

A CMDA official said the terminus will definitely get a metro rail link. "It won't be as crowded as Kilambakkam as only 15% of the entire bus strength will be operated from here. The rest is split between Kilambakkam and Madhavaram."

Residents want a proper drainage plan in place. "Flooding should be avoided during the monsoon," said S Rajasekar of Tiruvallur.

FIRST PHASE

Minister: 2,595 milk producers' co-ops will be computerised

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
@ Chennai

MINISTER of Milk and Dairy Development Mano Thangaraj said 2,595 of Aavin's primary milk producers' cooperative societies will be taken up for computerisation during the first phase. Aavin currently receives milk from 9,057 cooperative societies across the state.

In a statement on Wednesday, he said cooperative societies will be classified into four categories based on factors such as the number of suppliers, the quantity of milk supplied, net profit and the sale of milk products. "So far, 559 societies have been fully computerised during the first phase, and the remaining societies out of the 2,595 will be completed soon," he added.

Thangaraj also said that the ₹3 incentive per litre announced for milk producers should be transferred directly from district milk unions to the bank accounts of dairy farmers. "Electronic receipts should be given to farmers who supply milk and payments should be settled within 10 days. New cooperative societies should be established in villages with potential to supply milk to Aavin," he said.

The initiative aims to ensure that milk producers receive all benefits of schemes implemented by Aavin and other government agencies, Thangaraj said.

The computerisation project involves digitising all records of the societies, including dairy farmers' details, daily milk supply quantities, loans, payment settlements, etc. Additionally, training will be provided to Aavin staff, dairy farmers, and other support staff.

(Above) Source: *The New Indian Express*, 26 July 2024, p. 6

(Left) Source: *The Times of India*, 14 July 2024, p. 2



Aavin officials worried as 122 milk cooperative societies turn dormant

Nil milk production in these societies in Madurai in last six months; farmers choosing private firms

SARAVANAN MP @ Madurai

DESPITE an increase in production from milk cooperative societies in Madurai, senior officials attached to the Tamil Nadu Cooperative Milk Producers Federation Limited (TNC-MPFL) are worried as 122 milk cooperative societies have ceased production.

According to official records, over 870 milk cooperative societies have been registered under the district cooperative (dairy) department in Madurai, of which 122 have become dormant, without any milk production for the last six months. Industry experts have blamed poor management skills, competition within cooperative societies and the arrival of pri-

vate dairy centres as the primary reasons.

Speaking to *TNIE*, MS 2347 Loga Dairy Farm Cooperative Society president V Ajith Kumar said, "My society had 60 members with a large number of milk farmers in Usilampatti. We used to procure 1,000 litres of milk and supply it to Aavin daily. It was a win-win system for Aavin, the cooperative society and the milk farmers. But as soon as a private dairy company launched a procurement unit in our village, we began to face the heat. The private dairy company started to offer money in advance to the farmers, by offering ₹1 lakh for two cows, which resulted in the

milk farmers preferring the private entity."

Tamil Nadu Milk Farmers Welfare Association (Madurai) president P Periya Karuppan said, "In many villages, there are about five cooperative societies, which is an extremely competitive environment.

Private dairy companies offer ₹5 extra per litre on all categories of milk. However, private entities tend to reduce the price of procurement, when the demand drops, leading to the farmer moving back to cooperative societies associated with Aavin, which offer stable prices and long-term growth. There is a lack of interest among youngsters towards milk farming and

this in turn affects the cooperative societies which were started off late. Hence, the small and new cooperative societies are turning dormant."

An official from the district cooperative department (dairy) said, "Many societies have fewer members. There are societies which offer just 50-60 litres of milk to Aavin daily. If there is a personal issue between the milk farmer and the society, the milk farmer offers his milk to another society in the same village. The rivalry between societies causes the smaller societies to go dormant. Aavin will not be affected, as it will procure milk either way. Recently, we have started offering incentives to cooperative societies and procurement has increased."



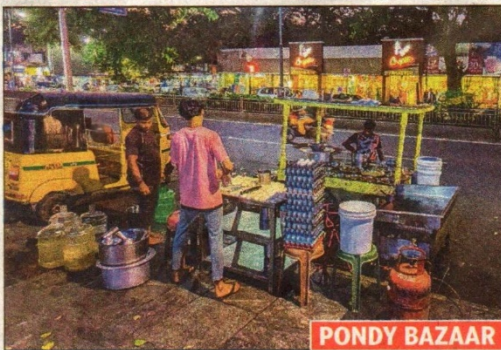
Source: *The New Indian Express*, 29 July 2024. p. 5

VENDORS TAKE OVER CITY ROADS GCC PANEL SLEEPS ON JOB

VELACHERY MAIN ROAD, PALLIKARANAI



KICK 'EM OUT: Most roads remain occupied by illegal vendors



PONDY BAZAAR

Pics: L R Shankar, B A Raju & C Suresh Kumar

Omjasvin.MD@timesgroup.com

Greater Chennai Corporation in 2023 formed a town vending committee to rein in the menace of 35,000-odd roadside vendors across the city. Nobody knows where this 15-member committee, headed by the GCC commissioner, is, because encroachments continue to mushroom in every nook and corner.

In one year, the committee has met only twice. Its meetings have not yielded any results but have faced disruptions from street vendors.

The committee, which also includes police officers, NGOs, residents welfare associations and street vendors, is supposed to carry out field surveys, demarcate vending and non-vending zones, declare illegal encroachments, and direct GCC to remove them. None of these has happened yet.

Further, Madras high court has given temporary stay to some vendors encroaching upon public space, directing the vending committee to provide them solutions. Yet, the panel has not

The committee met twice. We have formed a draft vending zone list. It will be finalised soon

R Lalitha, DEPUTY COMMISSIONER (REVENUE AND FINANCE), GCC

complied with any orders nor has it heard any cases from vendors in the two meetings.

"The committee has been procrastinating on issues. There is a brute power given to the committee to act on street vendors, and in the next meeting which will happen in a week, we will put an end to all unresolved issues," said GCC commissioner Dr J Radhakrishnan, who heads the committee.



T NAGAR

Despite Forming A 15-Member Town Vending Committee To Control The 35,000 Street Vendors, GCC Is Yet To Finalise Vending, Non-Vending Zones

MEET A WHITE ELEPHANT

The previous vending zone list, now defunct after Madras high court invalidated the old town vending committee in 2022, had only 900 vending zones accommodating 5,000 vendors. The new town vending committee has given licences to 35,000 vendors.

Official sources said a draft-vending zone list has been formed for all 15 zones but hasn't been officially approved. This is because if approved, most vendors would become illegal.

Advocate N Rukamangadhan, who has filed multiple PILs to remove vendors in Egmore, said the committee has not resolved several court orders.

"When I filed cases in 2018, GCC responded saying there were 64 encroachments on Pantheon Lane, 4 on Gandhi Irwin Road and 6 on Ethiraj Salai. Now, there are 71, 9 and 12 encroachments respectively. Why is GCC is not responding in court on the action taken by this committee as per court directions?," asked Rukamangadhan.

Deputy mayor Mahesh Kumar said there's no transparency on what's happening in the vending committee.

With encroachments mushrooming on major roads, activists and former officials say local officials, particularly the vending panel, need to use their powers and act.

15-member town vending committee formed in Aug 2023

Committee headed by GCC commissioner

Vendors can only be 2.5% of the population of a ward

If there are more vendors in a ward, they must be relocated

ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES :

- > Demarcate vending, non-vending zones
- > Issue ID cards to street vendors
- > Conduct surveys to identify vending zones
- > Issue ID cards to vendors

ISSUES:

- > No vending zone, non-vending zone formed
- > All vendors yet to be surveyed
- > Encroachments ballooning across city

VENDING ZONES AND NON-VENDING ZONES DEMARCATED IN 2022, BUT NULLIFIED BY HC



NON-VENDING ZONES 4,700

VENDING ZONES



912

NON-VENDING ZONES: Prepared without consultations, centralised town vending committee and through zonal vending committees

MADRAS HC DECLARED TOWN VENDING COMMITTEE ILLEGAL IN 2022, INVALIDATING THE VENDING ZONES



ENCROACHMENT HOTSPOTS:

Basant Nagar beach | Ambattur Estate Road | Venkatnarayana Road | Velachery Main Road | PT Rajan Salai

Several Fail Service Delivery Test: Long Delay, Overcharging Push Users To Private Facilities

Uncouth staff, red tape plague e-sevai centres

Preetika.P
@timesgroup.com

Jyothi K, a househelp from Kannagi Nagar, waited at the Sholinganallur e-sevai centre, hoping to apply for a community certificate. After an hour, she was turned away due to server issues. When she returned the next day, she was charged ₹350 for a service that costs only ₹60.

Like Jyothi, many who rely on e-sevai centres rue that they often get fleeced. The crowd at e-sevai centres, such as the one at the Pal-

lavaram Taluk office, indicates high demand for these services.

While rates for 92 services are available on the TNEGA website, the fee for the remaining 312 services is yet to be updated. "Many people, especially those in remote areas or those less familiar with technology, rely on e-Sevai centres. They usually don't talk back if the staff there are rude. We need a strong grievance redressal system," Sadagopan said.

Satish Galley, a civic activist from Semmencherry, said data operators often exploit people who want to get their job done quickly. "These operators ask for bribes to a third-party UPI number so that it can't be tracked to their account," he said.

Some people who are aware of this opt for private centres. Gomathi Sankar, a Triplicane resident, said the work gets done much faster at private centres. "I had to wait for an hour at a govt-run centre. It took me only 15 minutes at a private centre."

Private players were brought in by the govt to offer services beyond the working hours of govt-run centres. They may be standalone centres or those attached to browsing zones that provide other services—a reason why data operators in govt-run centres are unhappy.

Sivakumar G, an operator, complained that they were paid a salary of just ₹7,000 monthly. "It is not enough. Service delivery may improve if operators receive fair remuneration," he said.

E-SEVAI: IN NUMBERS

Govt-run centres	4,772 (TN)	133 (Chennai)
Private centres	28,170	730
Transaction/day (average)	25,800	842
Centres blocked for overcharging	185	36

HOW TO AVAIL eSEVAI SERVICES

Step 1 | Visit eSevai centre

Step 2 | Submit documents and pay the fee. Collect the receipt after completion of certificate

Step 3 | Results of the application submitted will be tracked and informed to the customer from time to time

Service delivery peaks during March-June

Pics: A Prathap



THIRUVANMIYUR



SAIDAPET

lavaram Taluk office, indicates high demand for these services.

E-sevai centres were launched in 2006 to provide online services such as payment of electricity bills, property and water taxes or for native, community or legal heir certificates under one roof.

"The demand has always been high. This is why we keep updating our services. From 65 services in 2019, we offer 404 different services today," said TN e-governance agency joint director K Priya.

However, several visitors to these centres complain of overcharging, technical glitches, rude behaviour and temporary closures that affect service delivery. "Many centres don't display official rate cards. People don't even know they are being fleeced," said consumer rights activist T Sadagopan. "When I asked

120 centres warned for falling short

Preetika.P@timesgroup.com

The Tamil Nadu e-governance agency (TNEGA) has been conducting audits since Aug last year, prompted by complaints received on its helpline. Officials report receiving more than 500 calls daily, a majority of them about rude staff, overcharging, and inquiries about application status.

"We have issued warning to 120 centres for failing to display

mandatory rate charts. We've also asked district managers to report these centres, and we are following up on cases of overcharging with a stern warning for operators," said K Priya, joint director of the agency.

District managers overseeing these centres have told TNEGA about the lack of cooperation from operators. Audits have revealed that some operators use dongles instead of LAN router connectivity. This affects the processing of

applications. "We are preparing a report on these issues and will follow up on centres that provide poor services," an official said.

Meanwhile, residents in Mogappair East have reported

that their local centres have been shut for months, a recurring issue across the city. This comes as the agency is addressing centres with minimal transactions. They are temporarily closing e-sevai centres that register zero activity after obtaining IDs.

TNEGA says it has given operators seven days to respond before further action is taken. "We are evaluating these reports and working to reopen centres based on an audit," Priya said.

OPERATORS WHO HAVE PROVIDED SHODDY SERVICE HAVE TO RESPOND IN SEVEN DAYS

Source: The Times of India, 3 July 2024, p. 2

Pulicat islanders' 20-year wait ends, bridge to mainland ready

SV KRISHNA CHAITANYA @ Chennai

THE two-decade wait of around 20,000 residents of Pasiyavaram island in Pulicat for safe mobility during the monsoon is finally over as the state highways department has completed the bridge work over the lake. Chief Minister MK Stalin is likely to commission the bridge over the lake soon.

According to sources, Stalin will inaugurate it virtually along with several other developmental projects. The work on the bridge, connecting the island and Chennai-Pulicat road, had begun in 2020 and was supposed to be over by 2022, but got delayed due to various reasons.

When *TNIE* visited the island on Wednesday, workers were seen doing finishing touches. Heavy machinery was deployed to remove the debris dumped in Pulicat lake to create a temporary platform for bridge construction.

The island has five villages — Sathankuppam, Edamani, Edamani Colony, Rahmat Nagar and Pasiyavaram — falling in two panchayat limits. The population, mostly fishermen,



The work on the bridge connecting Pasiyavaram island and Chennai-Pulicat road got delayed due to various reasons | SV KRISHNA CHAITANYA

is put to hardship during every monsoon. The island has two primary schools, a temple and pucca roads, but no hospital.

The water level in the lake steadily rises from November as the region receives good rainfall and surplus water from Arani river also gushes in. The temporary road, which the islanders use for daily commute, gets submerged when the monsoon peaks. For several days, the inhabitants get stranded.

The state highways department had proposed to construct

the bridge, but the project was stonewalled on multiple occasions due to environmental concerns. Finally, the Union Environment Ministry had granted Coastal Zone Regulation (CRZ) clearance in 2018, and the project commenced in 2020.

The state government had accorded administrative sanction of ₹15 crore under the Tsunami Rehabilitation Programme in 2007-08 and later revised it to ₹18.2 crore in 2015. The length of the bridge is 432 m and width is 8.5 m.



Around 300 temporary conservancy workers staging a protest in front of Ripon Buildings against Greater Chennai Corporation's plan to privatise solid waste management on Wednesday. R. RAGU

Conservancy staff protest against move to privatise solid waste management

The Hindu Bureau
CHENNAI

As an extension of a three-day hunger strike against privatisation of solid waste management in Zones 5 (Royapuram) and 6 (Thiruvika Nagar) by the *Uzhaiyir Urimai Iyakkam* (Labour Rights Movement), temporary conservancy workers of the Greater Chennai Corporation (GCC) staged a demonstration in front of the Ripon Buildings on Wednesday.

The Chennai police detained 65 of the protesters in Ayanavaram, 358 at a hall in Perambur Barracks and over 50 near Poona-mallee High Road, since the demonstration disrupted traffic on E.V.R Periyar Salai at Kannappar Thidal, towards Chennai Central railway station.

Previously, the contract workers, appointed under the Deendayal Antyodaya Yojana-National Urban Livelihoods Mission (DAY-NULM), had staged a protest at the zonal offices in May, demanding regularisation and salary hike.

K. Aisha, 42, claimed private companies will offer lower salaries. "My husband is differently-abled. As the sole breadwinner of the family, a meagre ₹15,000 salary will not suffice," she said.

Sulochana, 51, a temporary worker for nearly 15 years, claimed that she has been travelling from Padi to work in Collector Nagar under Division 89. "I have no kids, and my husband passed away. This work is my only source of sustenance. The private agency may not hire me considering my age," she said.

No facilities

Many workers alleged that the Corporation has not set up appropriate toilet and drinking water facilities or provided safety gear for the workers and that they depend on locals even for basic needs. Sariba. B, a DAY-NULM worker of Division 90, claimed that the protest would continue until the civic body considered their demands.

GCC Commissioner J.Radhakrishnan said the Corporation resolution mentions that the existing workers, after consultations, would be accommodated in the vacancies in education, health and other Corporation departments. They could be accommodated in other zones closer to their homes, so their travel time is reduced.

He added that the salary provided by the private agency would also be looked into.

(Above) Source: *The New Indian Express*, 26 July 2024. p. 5

(Right) Source: *The Hindu*, 4 July 2024

கால்நடை பண்ணைகள் அமைக்க இளைஞர்களுக்கு அரசு அழைப்பு

சென்னை, ஜூலை 6- அமைச்சர் மனோ தங்கராஜ் நேற்று வெளியிட்ட அறிக்கை:

உலக சந்தை பால் உற்பத்தியில், தமிழகத்தை முன்னோடி மாநிலமாக கொண்டு செல்ல, படித்த இளைஞர்கள், பெண்கள், தொழில் முனைவோர், பால் உற்பத்தியில் ஈடுபட வேண்டும். அவ்வாறு முன்வருவோருக்கு, பால் வளத்துறை உறுதுணையாக செயல்படும்.

பல்வேறு துறை சார்ந்த திட்டங்களின் மானியங்களை ஒருங்கிணைத்து, 'தாட்கோ' வழியே ஆதிதிராவிடர்களுக்கு, திட்டமதிப்

பீட்டில் 30 சதவீதம் அல்லது 2.25 லட்சம் ரூபாய், இதில், எது குறைவோ அது மானியமாக வழங்கப்படும்.

பழங்குடியினருக்கு திட்ட மதிப்பீட்டில், 50 சதவீதம் அல்லது 3.75 லட்சம் ரூபாய் ஆகியவற்றில், எது குறைவோ அது மானியமாக வழங்கப்படும். 'டாட்கோ' திட்டத்தின் கீழ், சிறுபான்மையினருக்கு, 6 சதவீதம் வட்டியில் கடன் வழங்கப்படுகிறது.

பிற்படுத்தப்பட்டோர், மிகவும் பிற்படுத்தப்பட்டோர் மற்றும் சீர்மரபினருக்கு, 6 சதவீதம் வட்டியில், வங்கிகள் வழியாக

கடன் வழங்கப்படுகிறது. படித்த இளைஞர்களுக்கு, மாவட்ட தொழில் மையம் வழியாக, 15 சதவீதம் முதல் 35 சதவீதம் வரை, திட்ட மதிப்பீட்டில், மானியத்துடன் கூடிய வங்கிக் கடன் வழங்கப்படுகிறது.

மேலும் காப்பீடு, மருத்துவ உதவிகள், பண்ணை அமைக்க தேவையான ஆலோசனைகள், பயிற்சிகள் வழங்கப்படும். இவற்றின் வழியாக, குறைந்தது, 10,000 புதிய கால்நடை வளர்ப்போரை உருவாக்க திட்டமிட்டுள்ளோம்.

இவ்வாறு அதில் கூறப்பட்டுள்ளது.

Source: Dinamalar, 6 July 2024, p. 4

பயிர்களை 'புகையான்' சேதப்படுத்துவதை கட்டுப்படுத்த வழிமுறைகள்: வேளாண் துறை

சென்னை, ஜூலை 7: நெற்பயிர்களை 'புகையான்' பூச்சிகள் சேதப்படுத்துவதை கட்டுப்படுத்த விவசாயிகளுக்கு வேளாண் துறை வழிமுறைகளை தெரிவித்துள்ளது.

இது குறித்து வேளாண்மை உழவர் நலத்துறை சார்பில் வெளியிடப்பட்டுள்ள செய்திகுறிப்பு:-

நெற்பயிர்கள் 'புகையான்' பூச்சிகளால் தாக்கப்பட்டிருந்தால், அப்பயிர்கள் முற்றிலும் காய்ந்து தீயந்த மாதிரி காட்சியளிக்கும். அதே போல், முதிர்ச்சியடைந்த பயிர்கள் காய்ந்து வட்டமான திட்டுகளாகக் காணப்படும்.

மேலும், நீர்மட்டத்துக்கு மேலிருக்கும் பயிர்களின் அடிப்பகுதியில் இளங்குஞ்சுகள் மற்றும் முதிர் பூச்சிகள் ஓட்டிக் கொண்டிருக்கும்.

கட்டுப்படுத்தும் முறை : புகையான் பூச்சிகள் பயிர்களை தாக்காமல் இருக்கத் தேவைக்கு அதிகமான தழைச்சத்து உரங்கள் பயன்படுத்துவதையும், தண்ணீர் பாய்ச்சுவதையும் விவசாயிகள் தவிர்க்க வேண்டும். விளக்கு பொறி அமைத்து புகையானை கவர்ந்து அழிக்கலாம்.

அதேபோல், வயலில் நன்றாக தண்ணீர் வடிந்த பிறகு மருந்து

தெளிக்க வேண்டும். மேலும், ஒரு ஏக்கருக்கு 6 லிட்டர் தண்ணீரில் 30 சதவீதம் வேப்ப எண்ணெய் கலத்து பயிர்களில் தெளிக்க வேண்டும்.

மேலும், ஒரு ஏக்கர் நிலத்துக்கு கார்போசல்பான் 25 இசி 400 மில்லி லிட்டரும், குளோர்பைரிபால் 25 இசி 500 மில்லி-யும், மெத்தில் டிமெட்டான் 25 இசி 400 மில்லி-யும், ஃபோசலோன் 35 இசி 600 மில்லி-யும் தெளிக்கலாம்.

ஆனால், இந்த பூச்சிக்கொல்லி மருந்துகளில் ஏதேனும் ஒன்றை மட்டுமே பயன்படுத்த வேண்டும் எனத் தெரிவிக்கப்பட்டுள்ளது.

Source: Dinamani, 8 July 2024, p. 2

விவசாயிகளின் சந்தேகங்களுக்கு விடையளிக்க செயற்கை நுண்ணறிவு செயலி

சிங்கப்பூர் பல்கலை.. துணையுடன் உருவாக்கம்



சிங்கப்பூர் தேசியப் பல்கலைக் கழகத்தின் தொழில்முனைவோர் மையத்திலுள்ள செயற்கை நுண்ணறிவு மையத்தைப் பார்வையிட்டு அதன் பயன்பாடு குறித்து திங்கட்கிழமை கேட்டறிந்த உழவர் நலத் துறை அமைச்சர் எம்.ஆர்.கே.பன்னீசெல்வம், உடன் தமிழக வேளாண்மை உற்பத்தி ஆணையர் அபூர்வா, தமிழ்நாடு பல்கலைக் கழக துணைவேந்தர் வெ.கீதாலட்சுமி உள்ளிட்டோர்.

சென்னை, ஜூலை 29: விவசாயிகளுக்கு வேளாண்மையில் ஏற்படும் சந்தேகங்களுக்கு செயற்கை நுண்ணறிவு செயலி மூலம் விடைகொடுக்கவுள்ளது. இதற்கான தனித்த செயலியை சிங்கப்பூர் பல்கலைக்கழகத்தின் துணையுடன் தமிழக அரசு உருவாக்க உள்ளது. வேளாண்மைத் துறையில் நவீன தொழில்நுட்பங்களைப் பயன்படுத்துவது தொடர்பாக சிங்கப்பூர் பல்கலைக்கழக விஞ்ஞானிகளுடன் வேளாண் அமைச்சர் எம்.ஆர்.கே.பன்னீசெல்வம், திங்கட்கிழமை ஆலோசனை நடத்தினார்.

சிங்கப்பூர் தேசியப் பல்கலைக் கழகத்தின் தொழில்முனைவோர் மையத்திலுள்ள செயற்கை நுண்

ணறிவு மையத்தைப் பார்வையிட்டு அதன் விஞ்ஞானிகளான டேரியல், வில்லியம்ஸ் ஆகியோருடன் வேளாண்மையில் செயற்கை நுண்ணறிவின் பயன்பாடு குறித்து அவர் கேட்டறிந்ததாக, அரசின் செயலியில் தெரிவிக்கப்பட்டுள்ளது.

அகிரி - பாட் தமிழ்மொழியில் வேளாண்மைக்கென தனித்துவம் வாய்ந்த சாட் ஐபிடி போன்று அகிரி - பாட் என்ற செயற்கை நுண்ணறிவு இணையதளம் உருவாக்குவது குறித்து விவாதிக்கப்பட்டதாகத் செய்தியில் கூறப்பட்டுள்ளது.

இந்த செயலி மூலம் வேளாண் தொழில்நுட்பங்களையும் வேளாண் சார்ந்த தகவல்களையும்

துரிதமாக நமது விவசாயிகளுக்கு கொண்டு சேர்க்க இயலும் எனவும் விவசாயிகள் தங்களது கைப்பேசி மூலமாக அனைத்து சந்தேகங்களையும் தீர்த்துக் கொள்ளலாம் என்றும் செய்தியில் தெரிவிக்கப்பட்டுள்ளது.

சிங்கப்பூர் நாட்டில் தமிழ் ஆட்சி மொழியாக உள்ளதால், சிங்கப்பூரின் செயற்கை நுண்ணறிவு மையமானது, தமிழக அரசுடன் இணைந்து செயலியை உருவாக்க ஒப்புதல் தெரிவித்துள்ளது.

இந்தப் பயணத்தில், அமைச்சருடன் வேளாண்மைத் துறை முதன்மைச் செயலர் அபூர்வா உள்ளிட்ட உயரதிகாரிகள் சென்றுள்ளனர்.

கோடை மழை, கூறைக்காற்றால்

தமிழகம் முழுவதும் 3,335 ஏக்கரில் பயிரிடப்பட்டிருந்த வாழைகள் சேதம்

ஹெக்டேருக்கு ரூ.17,000 இழப்பீடு வழங்கும் பணிகள் மும்முரம்

டி.செல்வகுமார்

சென்னை

தமிழகத்தில் அண்மையில் பெய்த கோடை மழை மற்றும் சூறைக்காற்றால் 3 ஆயிரத்து 335 ஏக்கரில் பயிரிடப்பட்டிருந்த வாழை மரங்கள் சேதமடைந்துள்ளன என்று கண்டறியப்பட்டுள்ளது. அதனால், 2.47 ஏக்கருக்கு ரூ.17 ஆயிரம் வீதம் விவசாயிகளுக்கு இழப்பீடு வழங்குவதற்கான நடைமுறைகளை தமிழக அரசு முடிக்கிவிட்டுள்ளது.

தமிழகத்தில் கோடை மழையால், சூறைக்காற்றால் தோட்டக்கலைப் பயிர்கள் பெரிதும் சேதமடைந்தன. இதனால் விவசாயிகளுக்கு பெரும் இழப்பு ஏற்பட்டது. மழையால், சூறைக்காற்றால் சேதமடைந்த பயிர்களை உடனடியாக கணக்கிட்டு இழப்பீடு வழங்க வேண்டும் என்று விவசாயிகள் கோரிக்கை விடுத்தனர். இதை யடுத்து, சேதமடைந்த பயிர்கள் குறித்து கணக்கெடுப்பு நடத்த தமிழக அரசு உத்தரவிட்டது. மாவட்டம் வாரியாக பயிர் சேதத்தை கணக்கிடும் பணி தொடங்கியது. இதில், ஆயிரக்

கணக்கான ஏக்கரில் பயிரிடப்பட்டிருந்த பயிர்கள் சேதமடைந்திருப்பது தெரியவந்தது.

கூடுதலாக சேதம்

இதுகுறித்து தோட்டக்கலைத் துறை அதிகாரிகள் கூறியதாவது: கோடை மழை மற்றும் சூறைக்காற்றால் கடந்தாண்டைவிட இந்தாண்டு தோட்டக்கலைப் பயிர்கள் கூடுதலாக சேதமடைந்திருப்பது கணக்கெடுப்பில் தெரியவந்துள்ளது. தமிழகம் முழுவதும் 26 மாவட்டங்களில் 1,395 ஹெக்டேரில் (ஒரு ஹெக்டேர் என்பது 2.47 ஏக்கர்) பயிரிடப்பட்டிருந்த பயிர்கள் சேதமடைந்துள்ளன. இதில், 1,350 ஹெக்டேரில் (3,335 ஏக்கர்) பயிரிடப்பட்டிருந்த வாழைகள் சேதமடைந்துள்ளன. இதுதவிர, பப்பாளி, முருங்கை, மிளகாய், கீரை, மரவள்ளிக் கிழங்கு, புடலங்காய், கத்தரிக் காப் ஆகிய பயிர்களும் சேதமடைந்துள்ளன.

வாழை மரங்களைப் பொருத்த வரை திருவண்ணாமலை மாவட்டத்தில் அதிகப்பட்சமாக 370 ஹெக்டேரில் பயிரிடப்பட்டிருந்த வாழைகள் சேதமடைந்துள்ளன

குறைந்தபட்சமாக தூத்துக்குடி மாவட்டத்தில் 0.6 ஹெக்டேரில் வாழைகள் சேதமடைந்திருக்கின்றன. திருச்சி மாவட்டத்தில் 169 ஹெக்டேர், ஈரோடு 125, கோவை 102, ராணிப்பேட்டை 90, தருமபுரி 78, திண்டுக்கல் 48, வேலூர் 53, மதுரை 43, திருப்பத்தூர் மாவட்டத்தில் 52 ஹெக்டேரில் பயிரிடப்பட்டிருந்த வாழைகள் சேதமடைந்துள்ளன. சேதமடைந்த வாழைகளுக்கு ஹெக்டேருக்கு ரூ.17 ஆயிரம் வழங்கப்படும். இதர பயிர்களுக்கு அதன் சேதத்துக்கு ஏற்ப இழப்பீடு வழங்கப்படும்.

விவசாயிகளுக்கு இழப்பீடு

தமிழகம் முழுவதும் பயிர்களின் சேதம் கணக்கிடப்பட்டு அந்த விவசாயிகள் வருவாய் நிர்வாக ஆணையருக்கு கருத்துரு கட்டி ஜூன் மாதம் அனுப்பப்பட்டது. அந்த கருத்துரு பரிசீலனையில் உள்ளது. வருவாய் நிர்வாக ஆணையர் ஒப்புதல் அளித்ததும் மாநில பேரிடர் நிவாரண நிதியில் இருந்து இழப்பீடு வழங்கப்படும் என்று அதிகாரிகள் தெரிவித்தனர்.

Source: Hindu Tamil Thisai,
30 July 2024, p. 2

திருநெல்வேலியில் ரூ.850 கோடியில் பசுமை அமோனியா ஆலை அமைகிறது

சென்னை, ஜூலை 30- திருநெல்வேலி மாவட்டம், கங்கைகொண்டான் 'சிப்காட்' தொழில் பூங்காவில், 'கே.ஆர்.ஆர்., ஏர்' நிறுவனம், 'டிட்கோ' உடன் இணைந்து, 850 கோடி ரூபாய் முதலீட்டில், பசுமை அம்மோனியா தொழிற்சாலை அமைப்பதற்கான கட்டுமான பணிகளை துவங்கியுள்ளது. தமிழகத்தைச் சேர்ந்த கே.ஆர்.ஆர்., ஏர் நிறுவனம், பசுமை அம்மோனியா உற்பத்தி ஆலை அமைக்க, இந்தாண்டு ஜனவரியில், தமிழக அரசு நடத்திய உலக முதலீட்டாளர்கள் மாநாட்டில், புரிந்துணர்வு ஒப்பந்தம் செய்தது. இதைத் தொடர்ந்து

இந்நிறுவனம், 'டிட்கோ' உடன் இணைந்து தினமும், 5 டன் பசுமை அம்மோனியா உற்பத்தி செய்யும் திறன் உடைய தொழிற்சாலை அமைக்கும் பணியை துவக்கி உள்ளது. இதற்கு தேவைப்படும் மின்சாரத்திற்காக, 100 மெகா வாட் திறனில் சூரியசக்தி மின் நிலையமும் அமைக்கப்பட உள்ளது. இதுகுறித்து, கே.ஆர்.ஆர்., ஏர் நிறுவனத்தின் தலைவர் மற்றும் மேலாண் இயக்குனர் ஆர்.பிரியம் வெங்கட் கூறியதாவது: தமிழகத்தைச் சேர்ந்த கே.ஆர்.ஆர்., குழுமம், 40 ஆண்டுகளாக, மருத்துவ துறைக்கு பயன்படும் ஆக்ஸிஜன், தொழிற்சாலைக்கு

பயன்படும் நைட்ரஜன் உற்பத்தி மற்றும் வினியோகத்தில் ஈடுபட்டு வருகிறது. தமிழக தொழில் நிறுவனங்களுக்கான அம்மோனியா தேவை, பிற மாநிலங்களின் வாயிலாக பூர்த்தி செய்யப்படுகிறது. தற்போது, பசுமை அம்மோனியாவுக்கு தேவை அதிகரித்துள்ளது. எனவே, கே.ஆர்.ஆர்., குழுமத்தைச் சேர்ந்த கே.ஆர்.ஆர்., ஏர் நிறுவனம், டிட்கோ உடன் இணைந்து ஆலை அமைக்கும் பணியை துவக்கி உள்ளது. அடுத்த ஆண்டுக்குள் அம்மோனியா உற்பத்தி துவங்கப்படும். இவ்வாறு அவர் கூறினார்.

Source: Dinamalar,
30 July 2024, p. 6

மாநகரின் அனைத்து சாலைகளிலும் கழிவுகளை அகற்றும் தீவிர தூய்மை பணியை செப்டம்பருக்குள் முடிக்க திட்டம்

● மாநகராட்சி ஆணையர் ஜெ.குமரகுருபரன் உறுதி

● சென்னை

சென்னை மாநகராட்சி பகுதிகளில் உள்ள அனைத்து சாலைகளிலும் கழிவுகளை அகற்றும் தீவிர தூய்மைப் பணிகளை வரும் செப்டம்பர் மாதத்துக்குள் முடிக்க திட்டமிட்டிருப்பதாக மாநகராட்சி ஆணையர் ஜெ.குமரகுருபரன் தெரிவித்துள்ளார்.

சென்னை மாநகராட்சியில் 418 கிமீ நீளத்துக்கு 488 பேருந்துசாலைகள் உள்ளன. இவற்றில் பேருந்துகள் உள்ளிட்ட அனைத்து வாகனங்களும் சீராக செல்வதற்கும், நடைபாதைகளில் மக்கள் சிரமமின்றி செல்வதற்கும் ஏற்ப 22-ம்

தேதி இரவுமுதல், மாநகராட்சி சார்பில் தீவிர தூய்மைப் பணி நடைபெற்று வருகிறது. இப்பணிகளை மாநகராட்சி ஆணையர் ஜெ.குமரகுருபரன் மற்றும் வட்டார துணை ஆணையர்கள் இரவு முழுவதும் நேரில் சென்று கண்காணித்து வருகின்றனர். இதுவரை 1,000 டன்னுக்கு மேற்பட்ட குப்பை மற்றும் கட்டுமானக் கழிவுகள் அகற்றப்பட்டுள்ளன. இப்பணிகளை வரும் செப்டம்பர் மாதத்துக்குள் முடிக்க மாநகராட்சி திட்டமிட்டுள்ளது. இதுதொடர்பாக சென்னை மாநகராட்சி ஆணையர்

ஜெ.குமரகுருபரன் கூறியிருப்பதாவது: சென்னை மாநகராட்சி பேருந்து தடசாலைகளில் உள்ள குப்பைகள் மற்றும் கட்டுமான கழிவுகளை அகற்றும் தீவிர தூய்மைப் பணிகள் கடந்த 22-ம் தேதி முதல் 3 மண்டலங்களில் சோதனை அடிப்படையில் நடைபெற்று வருகிறது. இப்பணி இன்றுமுதல் மாநகராட்சியின் 15 மண்டலங்களுக்கும் விரிவாக்கப்படுகிறது. இப்பணி வரும் ஆக.10-ம் தேதி வரை நீடிக்கும். அதன் பிறகு உட்புற சாலைகளிலும் தீவிர தூய்மைப் பணி தொடங்கப்படும். அனைத்து சாலைகளிலும் தீவிர தூய்மைப்

பணிகளை செப்டம்பர் மாதத்துக்குள் முடிக்க திட்டமிடப்பட்டுள்ளது.

இந்த தீவிர தூய்மைப் பணியுடன், கைவிடப்பட்டு சாலையோரம் கிடக்கும் பழைய வாகனங்களும் அகற்றப்பட்டு வருகிறது. இந்த வாகனங்கள் மீது காவல்துறையிடம் தடையில்லா சான்று பெற்று, ஏலம் விடப்பட உள்ளது. தொடர்ந்து, சாலையோரம் நிறுத்தப்பட்டு கைவிடப்பட்ட வாகனங்கள் கணக்கெடுக்கப்பட்டு வருகிறது. எந்த வாகனமும் விடுபடாது அகற்றப்படும்.

இவ்வாறு அவர் தெரிவித்துள்ளார்.

Source: Hindu Tamil Thisai, 29 July 2024, p. 3

தினமலர் தொழில்

‘பே அக்ரி இன்னோவேஷன்’ நிறுவனத்தில் தமிழக அரசு ரூ.8 கோடி முதலீடு

சென்னை, ஜூலை 27-
விவசாயிகளிடம் இருந்து மஞ்சள், மக் காச்சோளம் உள்ளிட்ட வேளாண் விளைபொருட்களை நேரடியாக கொள்முதல் செய்து, அவற்றை உணவுப் பொருட்கள் தயாரிக்கும் நிறுவனங்களுக்கு விநியோகம் செய்யும், ‘பே அக்ரி இன்னோவேஷன்’ நிறுவனத்தில், தமிழக அரசின், வளர்ந்து வரும் துறை ஊக்க நிதியத்தில் இருந்து, 8 கோடி ரூபாய் முதலீடு செய்யப்பட்டுள்ளது.

தமிழகத்தைச் சேர்ந்த, தனித்துவமாக செயல்படக்கூடிய, வளர்ந்து வரும் புதிய தொழில் நிறுவனங்கள் மற்றும், ‘ஸ்டார்ட்அப்’ எனப்படும் புத்தொழில் நிறுவனங்களில், அரசு முதலீடு செய்யும் திட்டத்தை, முதல்வர் ஸ்டாலின் 2023 ஜனவரியில் துவக்கி வைத்தார்.

இதற்காக, தமிழகத்தில் வளர்ந்து வரும் துறை

ஊக்கான ஊக்க நிதியம் ஏற்படுத்தப்பட்டது. இந்த நிதியத்தை, டி.என்.ஐ.எப்.எம்.ஆர்., எனப்படும், தமிழக உள்கட்டமைப்பு நிதி மேலாண்மை நிறுவனம் நிர்வகிக்கிறது.

நிதியத்தில், தமிழக அரசு, ‘டிட்கோ’ எனப்படும் தொழில் வளர்ச்சி நிறுவனம், ‘டைடல் பार्க்’ நிறுவனங்கள் முதலீடு செய்துள்ளன.

அந்த நிதியில் இருந்து, வளர்ந்து வரும் துறைகளில் தொழில் துவங்கியுள்ள நிறுவனங்களில், 1 கோடி ரூபாயிலிருந்து, 10 கோடி ரூபாய் வரை முதலீடு செய்யப்படுகிறது.

தற்போது, ‘பே அக்ரி இன்னோவேஷன்’ நிறுவனத்தில், 8 கோடி ரூபாய் முதலீடு செய்யப்பட்டுள்ளது. உள்கட்டமைப்பு நிதி மேலாண்மை நிறுவனம், இதுவரை 10 நிறுவனங்களில், 50 கோடி ரூபாய் முதலீடு செய்துள்ளது.

இதுகுறித்து, பே அக்ரி

நிறுவனத்தின் நிறுவனர்கள் ராஜீவ் கைமல், கே.வி.எம்.ராஜ்குமார் கூறியதாவது:

வங்கியில் பணிபுரிந்த நாங்கள், கடந்த 2017ல், தேனியில் புத்தொழில் நிறுவனமாக, எங்கள் நிறுவனத்தை துவக்கினோம். தற்போது, தமிழகம், ஆந்திரா, கர்நாடக மாநிலங்களில் உள்ள விவசாயிகளிடம் பொருட்களை கொள்முதல் செய்கிறோம்.

கடந்த ஆண்டில் நிறுவனத்தின் விற்றுமுதல், 120 கோடி ரூபாயாக இருந்தது.

விரைவில் ஆப்ரிக்காவில் உள்ள, ‘டோகோ, பெனின், ஐவரி கோஸ்ட்’ நாடுகளின் விவசாயிகளிடம் இருந்து கச்சா முந்திரி, சோயாவை கொள்முதல் செய்து, இந்திய நிறுவனங்களுக்கு வழங்க உள்ளோம்.

இவ்வாறு அவர்கள் கூறினர்.

Source: Dinamalar,
27 July 2024, p. 8

தமிழக மின்வாரியம் சார்பில் 1000 மெகாவாட் சூரியசக்தி மின்சாரம் வாங்க ஒப்பந்தம்

●சென்னை
இந்திய சூரிய எரிசக்தி கழகத்திடம் 1,000 மெகாவாட் சூரியசக்தி மின்சாரத்தை வாங்க தமிழக மின்வாரியம் ஒப்பந்தம் செய்துள்ளது.

கடந்த 2023-24-ம் ஆண்டில் தமிழகத்தில் 1.28 கோடி மில்லியன் யூனிட் மின்சாரம் பயன்படுத்தப்பட்டுள்ளது. இதில் 24 ஆயிரம் மில்லியன் யூனிட் பசுமை எரிசக்தி மின்சாரம் ஆகும்.

தமிழகத்தில் 10,592 மெகாவாட் திறன் கொண்ட காற்றாலைகள் அமைக்கப்பட்டு உள்ளன. இதில், கடந்த 2023-24-ம் ஆண்டில் 13,500 மில்லியன் யூனிட் மின்சாரம் உற்பத்தி செய்யப்பட்டுள்ளது.

கடந்த மார்ச் மாத நிலவரப்படி, தமிழகத்தில் 8,146 மெகாவாட் திறனில் சூரியசக்தி மின்னூற்பத்தி நிலையங்கள் உள்ளன. இதில், கடந்த 2023-24-ம் ஆண்டில் 11 ஆயிரம் மில்லியன் யூனிட் மின்சாரம் உற்பத்தி செய்யப்பட்டுள்ளது.

மேலும், நடப்பு நிதியாண்டில் சூரியசக்தி மின்னூற்பத்தியை 5 முதல் 6 சதவீதம் உயர்த்த முடிவு செய்யப்பட்டுள்ளது. இதனால், சூரியசக்தி மின்சாரத்தைக் கூடுதலாக உற்பத்தி செய்ய வேண்டும் அல்லது வெளியில் இருந்து கொள்முதல் செய்ய வேண்டும்.

அந்த வகையில், மின்வாரியம் 1000 மெகாவாட் சூரியசக்தி மின்சாரத்தை வாங்க, இந்திய சூரிய எரிசக்தி கழகத்திடம் ஒப்பந்தம் செய்துள்ளது என மின்வாரிய அதிகாரிகள் தெரிவித்தனர்.

Source: Hindu Tamil Thisai, 16 July 2024, p. 2

மகளிரை தொழில் முனைவோராக்க 'டி.என்., ரைஸ்' திட்டம் துவக்கம்

சென்னை, ஜூலை 3-
மகளிரை தொழில்
முனைவோராக மாற்றவும்,
அவர்களுக்கான நிதி சந்தை
கள், தொழில் தொடர்புகள்
போன்றவற்றை எளிதாக்கும்
வகையிலும், 'டி.என்.ரைஸ்'
என்ற புதிய திட்டத்தை,
அமைச்சர் உதயநிதி நேற்று
துவக்கி வைத்தார்.

தமிழக ஊரக வளர்ச்சி
மற்றும் ஊராட்சி துறை சார்
பில், 'டி.என்., ரைஸ்' என்ற
திட்டம், அதற்கான லோகோ
மற்றும் இணையதளத்தை,
அமைச்சர் உதயநிதி, சென்
னையில் நேற்று துவக்கி
வைத்தார்.

பல திட்டங்கள்

பின், அவர் பேசியதாவது:
மகளிர் சுயஉதவி குழுக்

கள், தற்போது லட்சக்கணக்
கான பெண்களுக்கு நம்பிக்
கையை ஏற்படுத்தி உள்ளன.
மகளிர் மேம்பாட்டு நிறுவ
னம் சிறப்பாக செயல்பட்டு
வருகிறது. மகளிர் மேம்பாட்
டுக்கான, 'வாழ்ந்து காட்டு
வோம் - 2.0' திட்டம், பல
பெண்களை ஊக்குவித்து
வருகிறது.

மகளிர் வேலைக்கு செல்
கின்றனர் என்ற நிலையை
மாற்றி, அவர்கள் பலருக்கு
வேலை தரும் வகையில்,
பல திட்டங்கள் செயல்ப
டுத்தப்பட்டு வருகின்றன.
நாட்டில் பெண்களால் நடத்
தப்படும் தொழில் நிறுவ
னங்களில், 13.5 சதவீதம்
தமிழகத்தில் இருப்பது
பெருமையே.

இந்த வெற்றியின் மேலும்

ஒரு மைல் கல்லாக, 'டி.
என்., ரைஸ்' என்ற நிறுவ
னம் துவக்கப்பட்டுள்ளது.
தொழில் முனைவோராக
விரும்பும் மகளிருக்கு,
எல்லா வகையிலும் இந்த
நிறுவனம் உதவி செய்யும்.

ஆலோசனை

ஏற்கனவே தேர்வான,
126 மகளிர் தொழில் முனை
வோர், 80 மகளிர் தொழில்
குழுக்கள் நடத்தும் நிறுவ
னங்கள், அடுத்த கட்டத்
திற்கு வளர, இந்த நிறுவ
னம் வாயிலாக ஆலோசனை
வழங்கப்படும்.

ஆண்டுதோறும் மகளிர்
தொழில் முனைவோர்,
மகளிர் குழு நிறுவனங்கள்
பயன்பெறும்.

தொழில் முனைவோ

ருக்கு வழிகாட்டவும்,
தேவையான உதவிகளை
வழங்கவும், உலகளவில்
புகழ் பெற்ற பிளிப்கார்ட்,
எச்.பி., - எஸ்.ஐ.சி.சி.எல்.,
ஸ்டார்ட் அப் தமிழ்நாடு
என, பல நிறுவனங்களு
டன் புரிந்துணர்வு ஒப்பந்தம்
கையழுத்தாகியுள்ளது.

இவ்வாறு அவர்
பேசினார்.

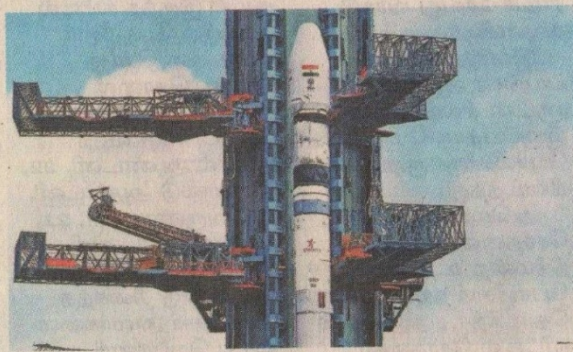
விழாவில், ஊரக
வளர்ச்சி துறை கூடுதல்
தலைமை செயலர் ககன்தீப்
சிங் பேடி, தமிழ்நாடு மக
ளிர் மேம்பாட்டு நிறுவன
மேலாண் இயக்குனர் திவ்ய
தர்சினி, செயல் இயக்குனர்
ஸ்ரேயா சிங், உலக வங்
கியின் பணி தலைவர் சமிக்
சுந்தர் தாஸ் உள்ளிட்ட பலர்
பங்கேற்றனர்.

(Above) Source: Dinamalar, 3 July 2024, p. 4; (Below) Source: Dinamalar, 16 July 2024, p. 12

குலசேகரன்பட்டினம் ராக்கெட் ஏவுதளம் கட்டுமான பணிக்கு இஸ்ரோ 'டெண்டர்'

சென்னை, ஜூலை 16-
தூத்துக்குடி மாவட்
டம், குலசேகரன்பட்டி
னத்தில் ராக்கெட் ஏவுதளம்
கட்டுவதற்கான கட்டு
மான பணிக்கு, 'இஸ்ரோ'
டெண்டர் கோரியுள்ளது.
இந்திய விண்வெளி
ஆய்வு நிறுவனமான இஸ்
ரோவுக்கு, ஆந்திரமாநிலம்,
புரீஹரி கோட்டாவில் ராக்
கெட் ஏவுதளம் உள்ளது.
அங்குள்ள முதல் மற்றும்
இரண்டாவது ஏவுதளங்
களில் இருந்து, பி.எஸ்.
எல்.வி., - ஜி.எஸ்.எல்.
வி., வகையைச் சேர்ந்த
ராக்கெட்டுகள் உதவியு
டன் செயற்கைக்கோள்கள்
விண்ணில் நிலை நிறுத்தப்
படுகின்றன.

விண்வெளித் துறையில்
ஈடுபட, தனியார் நிறுவ
னங்களுக்கு மத்திய அரசு



அனுமதி அளித்துள்ளது.
இதன் தொடர்ச்சியாக,
தூத்துக்குடி மாவட்டம்,
குலசேகரன்பட்டினத்தில்,
2,230 ஏக்கரில், எஸ்.எஸ்.
எல்.வி., எனப்படும் சிறிய
வகை ராக்கெட்டிற்கான
ஏவுதளம் ஒன்றை இஸ்ரோ
அமைக்க உள்ளது.
அங்கிருந்து, எஸ்.எஸ்.

எல்.வி., ராக்கெட் உதவி
யுடன், 5000 கிலோ எடை
குறைவான, 'நானோ'
எனப்படும் மிகச்சி
றிய செயற்கைக்கோள்,
குறைந்த தூர புவி வட்ட
பாதையில் நிலைநிறுத்தப்
பட உள்ளது.

குலசேகரன்பட்டினம்
ராக்கெட் ஏவுதள திட்டத்

திற்கு பிரதமர் மோடி,
இந்தாண்டு பிப்ரவரியில்
அடிக்கல் நாட்டினார்.
அங்கு நிலத்தை மேம்ப
டுத்தும் பணிகள் நடந்து
வருகின்றன.

குலசேகரன்பட்டினத்
தில் ராக்கெட் ஏவுதள
மேடை, அலுவலகம், ஆய்
வகம், நூலகம், விருந்தினர்
இல்லம் உள்ளிட்ட கட்டு
மானங்கள் மேற்கொள்ளப்
பட உள்ளன. தற்போது,
அந்த கட்டுமான பணிகளை
மேற்கொள்வதற்கான ஒப்
பந்த நிறுவனத்தை தேர்வு
செய்ய இஸ்ரோ, டெண்டர்
கோரியுள்ளது.

கட்டுமானப் பணியை
விரைந்து முடித்து,
2025 - 26ல் குலசேகரன்
பட்டினத்தில் ராக்கெட்
ஏவ திட்டமிடப்பட்டு
உள்ளது.

காய்கறிகள், பழங்களை வாங்கி விற்க காய்கனி வழித்தடம் தயாரிப்பு தீவிரம்

சென்னை, ஜூலை 28-
விவசாயிகளிடம் இருந்து காய்கறி, பழங்களை நேரடியாக கொள்முதல் செய்து, தமிழகம் முழுதும் உள்ள மக்களுக்கு விற்க கூட்டுறவு துறை முடிவு செய்துள்ளது.

இதற்காக, திண்டுக்கல், கிருஷ்ணகிரி, நீலகிரியில் இருந்து, தமிழகம் முழுதும் வாகனங்களில் எடுத்து செல்லும் வகையில், காய்கனி வழித்தட வரைபடம் தயாரிக்கும் பணியில், அதிகாரிகள் ஈடுபட்டுள்ளனர்.

கூட்டுறவு துறைக்கு சென்னையில், 20 உட்பட, மாநிலம் முழுதும், 63 பண்ணை பசுமை காய்கறிகடைகள் உள்ளன. அந்த கடைகளில் சென்னை கோயம்பேடு உள்ளிட்ட மொத்த விலை சந்தைகளில் இருந்து காய்கறிகள் வாங்கப்பட்டு, குறைந்த விலைக்கு விற்கப்படுகின்றன.

உரிய விலை கிடைக்கும்

இதனால், மிக குறைந்த மக்களே பயன் பெறுகின்றனர். விவசாயிகளின் விளைபொருட்களுக்கு உரிய விலை கிடைக்கவும், தமிழகம் முழுதும்

வசிக்கும் மக்களுக்கு தரமான காய்கறி, பழங்கள் கிடைக்கவும், காய்கனி வழித்தடம் அமைக்க கூட்டுறவு துறை முடிவு செய்துள்ளது.

கிருஷ்ணகிரி, திண்டுக்கல், நீலகிரி உள்ளிட்ட மாவட்டங்களில் காய்கறிகளும், பழங்களும் அதிகளவில் விளைகின்றன. அம்மாவட்டங்களில் கூட்டுறவு வங்கிகள், தொடக்க வேளாண் கூட்டுறவு கடன் சங்கங்களில் பயிர் கடன் பெற்றுள்ள விவசாயிகளுடன், அரசு ஒப்பந்தம் செய்ய உள்ளது. அவர்களிடம் இருந்து தினமும் காய்கறி, பழங்களை கொள்முதல் செய்து, தமிழகம் முழுதும் விற்க திட்டமிட்டுள்ளது.

இதற்காக, திண்டுக்கல் மாவட்டத்தில் இருந்து காய்கறிகளை ஏற்றி கிளம்பும் லாரிகள், திருச்சி - பெரம்பலூர் - விழுப்புரம் - சென்னை வழித்தடத்தில் செல்லும்.

இதேபோல, திண்டுக்கல்லில் இருந்து திருச்சி - புதுக்கோட்டை - தஞ்சை - நாகை - மயிலாடுதுறை - கடலூருக்கு மற்றொரு வழித்தடத்தில் காய்கறிகள்

எடுத்து செல்லப்படும்.

இதுதவிர, திண்டுக்கல்லில் இருந்து மதுரை - விருதுநகர் - தூத்துக்குடி - திருநெல்வேலி - கன்னியாகுமரிக்கு காய்கறிகள் அனுப்பப்பட உள்ளன. இதேபோல், நீலகிரி மற்றும் கிருஷ்ணகிரியில் இருந்து தமிழகம் முழுதும் காய்கறி, பழங்கள் எடுத்து செல்லும் காய்கனி வழித்தடம் அமைக்கப்பட உள்ளது.

திட்ட மதிப்பீடு

இந்த வழித்தடத்தில் உள்ள நகரங்களில் கூடுதல் காய்கனி கடைகள் திறக்கப்படும். அந்த கடைகளில் காய்கனிகள் இறக்கப்படும்.

தற்போது, காய்கனி வழித்தடத்தை உள்ளடக்கிய வரைபடம், திட்ட மதிப்பீடு தயாரிக்கும் பணியில் அதிகாரிகள் ஈடுபட்டு வருகின்றனர்.

இதுகுறித்து, கூட்டுறவு துறை அதிகாரி ஒருவர் கூறியதாவது:

விவசாயிகளிடம் இருந்து காய்கறி, பழங்களை வாங்கும் இடைத்தரகர்கள், அவர்களுக்கு குறைந்த விலையை

வழங்கி, அதிக லாபம் ஈட்டுகின்றனர்.

கூட்டுறவு சங்கங்களுக்கு மட்டுமே மாநிலம் முழுதும் எளிதில் மக்களை அணுகும் வகையில் விநியோக சங்கிலிகள் உள்ளன. தற்போது, பண்ணைபசுமைகடைகள் குறைவாகவே உள்ளன. வெளிச்சந்தையில் காய்கறி, பழங்கள் விலை திடீரென உயர்கிறது.

எனவே, திண்டுக்கல், கிருஷ்ணகிரி, நீலகிரி என, காய்கறி, பழங்கள் அதிகம் கிடைக்கும் பகுதிகளில் இருந்து, மாநிலம் முழுதும் எடுத்து சென்று, மக்களிடம் விநியோகிக்க, காய்கனி வழித்தடம் அமைக்கப்பட உள்ளது.

அந்த வழித்தடத்தில், 24 மணி நேரமும் கொள்முதல், காய்கறி, பழங்களை அனுப்புதல், விற்பனை செய்தல் பணிகள் தொய்வின்றி நடக்கும்.

இதன் வாயிலாக, மக்களுக்கு தரமான பொருட்கள் குறைந்த விலையில் கிடைக்கும். விவசாயிகளுக்கும் உரிய விலை கிடைக்கும்.

இவ்வாறு அவர் கூறினார்.

(Above) Source: Dinamalar, 28 July 2024, p. 2

(Right) Source: Dinamalar, 16 July 2024, p. 12

ரூ.40 லட்சம் கடன்

‘தாய்கோ’ வங்கி முடிவு

சென்னை, ஜூலை 16-

தமிழக அரசின் சிறு, குறு மற்றும் நடுத்தர தொழில் நிறுவனங்கள் துறையின் கீழ், ‘தாய்கோ’ எனப்படும், தமிழக தொழிற்கூட்டுறவு வங்கி செயல்படுகிறது. இதற்கு மாநிலம் முழுதும், 47 கிளைகள் உள்ளன.

இந்த வங்கி, தொழில் நிறுவனங்களுக்கு, ‘சிட்கோ’ தொழிற்பேட்டையில் தொழில்மனைகள் வாங்குவது உட்பட பல்வேறு தேவைகளுக்கு கடன்களை வழங்குகிறது.

தற்போது குறுந்தொழில்களுக்கு, 10 சதவீத வட்டியில் 20 லட்சம் ரூபாய் வரை கடன் வழங்கப்படுகிறது.

இதுகுறித்து அதிகாரி ஒருவர் கூறுகையில், “தாய்கோ வங்கியில் வழங்கப்படும் கடன் அளவை அதிகரிக்குமாறு தொழில்முனைவோர்களிடம் இருந்து கோரிக்கைகள் பெறப்பட்டன. எனவே, 20 லட்சம் ரூபாய் வரை வழங்கப்படும் கடனை, 40 லட்சம் ரூபாய் வரை அதிகரிக்க முடிவு செய்யப்பட்டுள்ளது. இதுதொடர்பாக, அரசிடம் ஒப்புதல் பெறப்பட்டு, விரைவில் செயல்படுத்த நடவடிக்கை எடுக்கப்படும்,” என்றார்.

விரைந்து தொழில் துவங்க முதலீட்டாளர்களுடன் பேச்சு

சென்னை, ஜூலை 7- தமிழக அரசு நடத்திய உலக முதலீட்டாளர்கள் மாநாட்டில், புரிந்துணர்வு ஒப்பந்தம் செய்த சிறு, குறு, நடுத்தர நிறுவனங்கள், விரைந்து தொழில்களை துவக்க தேவைப்படும் உதவி குறித்து, மாவட்ட வாரியாக முதலீட்டாளர்களுடன், அதிகாரிகள் பேச்சு நடத்தி வருகின்றனர்.

தமிழக அரசு, உள் நாட்டு மற்றும் வெளி நாட்டு தொழில் நிறுவனங்களின் முதலீடுகளை ஈர்க்க, சென்னையில் இந் தாண்டு ஜனவரியில் உலக முதலீட்டாளர்கள் மாநாடு நடத்தியது.

உற்பத்தி, எரிசக்தி உட்பட பல்வேறு துறைகளில், பல நிறுவனங்களின் புரிந்துணர்வு ஒப்பந்தம் வாயிலாக, 6.64 லட்சம் கோடி ரூபாய்க்கு முதலீடுகள் ஈர்க்கப்பட்டன.

அதன்படி, சிறு, குறு மற்றும் நடுத்தர தொழில்

துறை சார்பில், 5,068 சிறு நிறுவனங்கள் வாயிலாக, 63,573 கோடி ரூபாய்க்கு முதலீட்டை ஈர்க்கும் வகையில் புரிந்துணர்வு ஒப்பந்தங்கள் செய்யப்பட்டன.

அவற்றில், சிறு தொழில் நிறுவனங்களின் பங்கு, 38,811 கோடி ரூபாய்; நடுத்தர நிறுவனங்களின் பங்கு, 22,609 கோடி ரூபாய்; குறு நிறுவனங்களின் பங்கு, 2,152 கோடி ரூபாய்.

மேற்கண்ட தொழில் நிறுவனங்கள், தங்களின் தொழில்களை விரைந்து துவங்க தேவைப்படும் உதவிகள் தொடர்பாக, தொழில்துறை அதிகாரிகள், முதலீட்டாளர்களுடன் பேச்சு நடத்தி வருகின்றனர்.

இதுகுறித்து, தொழில் துறை அதிகாரி ஒருவர் கூறியதாவது:

சிறு, குறு பிரிவில் புரிந்துணர்வு ஒப்பந்தங்கள் வாயிலாக, வேளாண்

மற்றும் உணவு பதப்படுத்தல், ஜவுளி உற்பத்தி, வாகன உதிரிபாகங்கள் ஆகிய துறைகளில் அதிக முதலீடுகள் ஈர்க்கப்பட்டன.

ஒப்பந்தம் செய்த முதலீட்டாளர்கள் விரைந்து தொழில் துவங்க, அரசின் சார்பில் என்னென்ன உதவிகள் தேவை என்பது குறித்து, மண்டலம் வாரியாக பேச்சு நடத்தப்படுகிறது.

வேலூரில் சில தினங்களுக்கு முன் நடந்த கூட்டத்தில், வேலூர், திருவண்ணாமலை, திருப்பத்தூர், ராணிப்பேட்டை, கிருஷ்ணகிரி மாவட்டங்களில் உள்ள தொழில் நிறுவனங்களை சேர்ந்த முதலீட்டாளர்கள் பங்கேற்றனர்.

இதேபோல், தமிழகம் முழுதும் நடத்தப்பட்டு, ஒப்பந்தம் செய்த நிறுவனங்கள் விரைவில் தொழில்கள் துவங்க நடவடிக்கை எடுக்கப்படும்.

இவ்வாறு அவர் கூறினார்.

(Above) Source: Dinamalar, 7 July 2024, p. 6

(Right) Source: Dinamalar, 1 July 2024, p. 4

மறுசுழற்சி தொழில்நுட்பம் திருப்பூர் நிறுவனங்கள் ஆர்வம்

திருப்பூர், ஜூலை 1-

உலக நாடுகள், 'வளம் குன்றா வளர்ச்சி நிலை உற்பத்தி' என்ற கோட்பாட்டின் அடிப்படையில், ஜவுளி உற்பத்தியில் மறுசுழற்சி தொழில்நுட்பம் பயன்பாடு, அதிகளவில் மேற்கொள்ளப்பட வேண்டும் என எதிர்பார்க்கின்றன.

ஐரோப்பிய நாடுகளுடன் வர்த்தகம் செய்ய, 2030 முதல், 50 சதவீத மறுசுழற்சி உற்பத்தி கட்டாயமாக்கப்பட்டுள்ளது. அமெரிக்கா, ஜப்பான், ஆஸ்திரேலியா போன்ற நாடுகளும், அதிக கட்டுப்பாடுகளை விதித்து உள்ளன.

ஜவுளி இறக்குமதி செய்யும் இந்த நாடுகளின் எதிர்பார்ப்புகளை பூர்த்தி செய்ய, ஐரோப்பாவை



சேர்ந்த 'ரிவர்ஸ் ரிசோர்சஸ்' என்ற நிறுவனம், புதிய இணையத்தை உருவாக்கி உள்ளது. அதன்வாயிலாக மறுசுழற்சி தொழில்நுட்பம் பயன்பாடுகள் குறித்த விபரங்கள், டிஜிட்டல் முறையில் ஆவணப்படுத்தப்பட உள்ளன.

இதனால், ஒரு நிறுவனத்தில் கொள்முதல் செய்த ஜவுளி கழிவு, எங்கே சென்றது; அதிலிருந்து எத்தனை கிலோ

நூல் அல்லது துணி உற்பத்தியானது என்ற விபரத்தை, உறுப்பினர்களோ, ஜவுளி இறக்குமதி நாடுகளோ எளிதாக ஆராய்ந்து பார்க்க முடியும்.

திருப்பூர் ஏற்றுமதியாளர் சங்க தலைவர் சுப்பிரமணியன் கூறுகையில், "ஐரோப்பிய நிறுவனத்தின் இணையத்தில், 20 ஏற்றுமதியாளர்கள் முதல்கட்டமாக இணைந்துள்ளனர். உற்பத்தி வழிமுறை அடிப்படையில், அவற்றுக்கு நற்சான்றிதழ் வழங்கியுள்ளனர்."

"மறுசுழற்சி தொழில்நுட்ப விபரம், டிஜிட்டல் முறையில் ஆவணமாக மாற்றப்படுவது, நீடித்த நிலையான வர்த்தகத்துக்கு கைகொடுக்கும்," என்றார்.

தமிழகத்தில் முதலீடுகள் புதிய உச்சம் தொடும்: வழிகாட்டுதல் துறை நிர்வாக இயக்குநர் விஷ்ணு

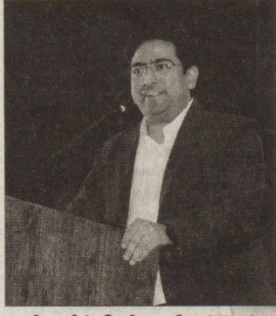
சென்னை, ஜூலை 29: தமிழகத்தில் முதலீடுகளை உயர்த்துவதற்கான பணிகள் நடைபெறுகிறது என வழிகாட்டுதல் துறை நிர்வாக இயக்குநர் விஷ்ணு தெரிவித்தார்.

சென்னை கிண்டியில், சென்னை தொழில் வர்த்தக சபையின் (எம்சிசிஐ) 188-ஆவது ஆண்டு பொதுக் கூட்டம் திங்கள் கிழமை நடைபெற்றது.

இந்த நிகழ்வுக்கு தமிழ்நாடு தொழில்துறை வழிகாட்டுதல் மற்றும் ஏற்றுமதி மேம்பாட்டு பிரிவு நிர்வாக இயக்குநரும், தலைமை நிர்வாக அதிகாரியுமான விஷ்ணு சிறப்பு அழைப்பாளராக கலந்துகொண்டார்.

அப்போது அவர் பேசுகையில், தமிழகத்தில் முதலீடு மேம்படுத்த ஆராய்ச்சி மற்றும் மேம்பாட்டு மையங்கள் அமைப்பது முதல் திட்டம், இந்த மையங்கள் தொழில்துறையின் உற்பத்தி, ஏற்றுமதி மற்றும் முதலீடுகளை ஊக்குவிக்கும். இதன் காரணமாக தமிழகத்தில் தொழில்துறை, ஏற்றுமதி மற்றும் முதலீடுகள் புதிய உச்சம் தொடும் என்றார் அவர்.

முன்னதாக, எம்.சி.சி.ஐ. தலைவர், துணைத் தலைவர் பதவிகளுக்கான வாக்கெடுப்பில், கெம்பிளாஸ்ட் சன்மார் லிமிடெட் நிறுவனத்தின் மேலாண்மை இயக்குநர் ராம்குமார் சங்கர்,



விழாவில் பேசிய வழிகாட்டுதல் துறை நிர்வாக இயக்குநர் விஷ்ணு

எம்.சி.சி.ஐ. தலைவராகவும், டெல்பி டி.வி.எஸ் டெக்னாலஜிஸ் லிமிடெட் நிறுவனத்தின் தலைவர் ஏ.விஸ்வநாதன் துணை தலைவராகவும் தேர்ந்தெடுக்கப்பட்டனர்.

புதிய தலைவராக தேர்ந்தெடுக்கப்பட்ட ராம்குமார் சங்கர் கூறுகையில், தமிழகத்தில் தொழில் மேம்பாட்டுக்காக தொடர்ந்து பாடுபடுவோம். இந்தியாவில் தமிழ்நாடு முதலிடத்தில் பயணிக்க உறுதியேற்போம் என்றார் அவர்.

கொளவ விருந்தினராக, சுந்தரம்கிளேடன் நிறுவன தலைவர் லட்சுமி வேணு பங்கேற்றார். எம்.சி.சி.ஐ. நிர்வாகிகள் மற்றும் உறுப்பினர்கள் உள்ளிட்ட பலர் கலந்து கொண்டனர்.

(Left) Source: Dinamani, 30 July 2024, p. 4

(Below) Source: Dinamani, 12 July 2024, p. 5

தமிழில் ஏஜ தொழில்நுட்பம்: அமைச்சர் பழனிவேல் தியாகராஜன்

சென்னை, ஜூலை 11: தமிழில் செயற்கை நுண்ணறிவை (ஏஐ) உருவாக்குவதன் மூலம் தமிழர் களுக்கு அது பெரிதளவில் உதவியாக இருக்கும் என தமிழக தகவல் தொழில்நுட்பத் துறை அமைச்சர் பி.டி.ஆர் பழனிவேல் தியாகராஜன் தெரிவித்துள்ளார்.

சென்னையில், தமிழ்நாடு தொழில்நுட்ப மையத்தின் (ஐடிஎன்பி) முதலாம் ஆண்டு நிறைவு விழா விழா முக்கிய நடைபெற்றது. இதில் கலந்துகொண்ட பின்னர் செய்தியாளர்களிடம் அவர் கூறியது:

செயற்கை நுண்ணறிவை (ஏஐ) பொருத்தவரை தமிழகத்தின் வளர்ச்சிக்கேற்ப அதன் கட்டுப்பாடுகள், ஒழுங்குமுறைகளை மாற்றி அமைக்க வேண்டும். தமிழ் மொழியில் 'ஏஐ' உருவாக்குவதன் மூலம் தமிழர்களுக்கு அது, பெரிதளவில் உதவியாக இருக்கும். அதேசமயம்,



சென்னை ராஜா அண்ணாமலைபுரத்தில் விழா முக்கிய நடைபெற்ற விழாவில் சிறப்பு விருந்தினராக பங்கேற்ற அமைச்சர் பி.டி.ஆர் பழனிவேல் தியாகராஜன். உடன், இந்திய தொழில் கூட்டமைப்பின் தமிழக தலைவர் ஸ்ரீவதஸ் ராம், தமிழக தகவல் தொழில்நுட்பம் மற்றும் எண்ம சேவைகள் துறையின் கூடுதல் தலைமை செயலர் தீரஜ் குமார் உள்ளிட்டோர்.

தமிழகத்தில் அனைவருக்கும் பயனளிக்கும் வகையில், அதை உருவாக்க சுமார் ஒரு டிரில்லியன் டாலர் மதிப்பில் முதலீடு தேவை. இதுபோன்ற பல்வேறு தொழில்நுட்பம் சார்ந்த சிக்கல்களுக்கு தீர்வு காண அரசு நடவடிக்கைகள் மேற்கொண்டு வருகிறது.

அதிக நிதி தேவை: தகவல் தொழில்நுட்ப துறையில் மட்டும் தான் வெறும் 100 சதர அடியில் பல்வேறு வேலைவாய்ப்புகளை உருவாக்க முடியும்.

இருப்பினும் கர்நாடகம் போன்ற மாநிலங்களுடன் ஒப்பிடும் போது ஐடி துறையில் தமிழ்

கம் பின்தங்கி தான் உள்ளது. கர்நாடக மாநிலத்தில் ஐடி துறைக்கு மட்டும் சுமார் ரூ. 700 கோடி முதல் ரூ.1,000 கோடி வரை நிதி ஒதுக்கப்படுகிறது. ஆனால், தமிழகத்தில் ரூ.100 கோடி வரை நிதி ஒதுக்கப்படுகிறது. தமிழகத்தில் பல்வேறு துறைகளை மேம்படுத்த

படுத்த திட்டம் செயல்படுத்தப்பட்டு வருவதால், ஐடி துறைக்கு அதிக அளவில் நிதி ஒதுக்க முடியவில்லை. இருப்பினும், ஐடி துறைக்கு அதிக நிதி ஒதுக்க வேண்டும் என சட்டப்பேரவையில் கோரிக்கை வைத்துள்ளேன். என்றார் அவர்.

நிகழ்வில், தமிழக தகவல் தொழில்நுட்பம் மற்றும் எண்ம சேவைகள் துறையின் கூடுதல் தலைமை செயலர் தீரஜ் குமார், தமிழ்நாடு மாநில திட்டக்குழு வின் துணைத் தலைவர் ஜே.ஜெயரஞ்சன், ஐடிஎன்பி மையத்தின் தலைமை செயலர் அலுவலர் வனிதா வேணுகோபால், ரோஸ் ராய்ஸ் நிறுவனத்தின் இந்தியா மற்றும் தெற்கு ஆசிய தலைவர் கிஷோர் ஜெயராமன், இந்திய தொழில் கூட்டமைப்பின் தமிழக தலைவர் ஸ்ரீவதஸ் ராம் உள்ளிட்டோர் கலந்து கொண்டனர்.

நகரமயமாக்கலில் முன்னணி மாநிலமாக திகழும் தமிழகம்

▶ மேம்பாட்டு பணிகளை சுட்டிக்காட்டி தமிழக அரசு பெருமிதம்

● சென்னை

புதுமையான திட்டங்கள் மற்றும் நகராட்சி நிர்வாகத் துறையின் பணிகளால் நகரமயமாக்கலில் நாட்டிலேயே முன்னணி மாநிலமாக தமிழகம் திகழ்வதாக தமிழக அரசு பெருமிதம் தெரிவித்துள்ளது.

இதுகுறித்து தமிழக அரசு வெளியிட்ட செய்திக்குறிப்பு:

இந்தியாவின் நகர்ப்புற மக்கள் தொகை 1991-ல் 25.71 சதவீதம் என இருந்தது. 2011-ல் 31.16 ஆக உயர்ந்தது. அதே நேரம், தமிழகத்தில் நகர்ப்புற மக்கள் தொகை 2011 -ம் ஆண்டில் 48.45 சதவீதம் என உயர்ந்தது. தேசிய சராசரியை விட 17.29 சதவீதம் அதிகரித்து, நகரமயமாதலில் தமிழகம் முன்னணி மாநிலமாக உள்ளது. இதன் விளைவாக, ஊராட்சிகள் பேரூராட்சிகளாகவும், பேரூராட்சிகள் நகராட்சிகளாகவும், நகராட்சிகள் மாநகராட்சியாகவும் வளர்ச்சி பெறுகின்றன.

தமிழகத்தில் தற்போது, 21 மாநகராட்சிகள், 138 நகராட்சிகள், 490 பேரூராட்சிகள் உள்ளன. மேலும், காரைக்குடி, புதுக்கோட்டை, திருவண்ணாமலை, நாமக்கல் ஆகிய நகராட்சிகள் மாநகராட்சிகளாக உயர்த்தப்படும் என அறிவிக்கப்பட்டுள்ளது. முதல்வர் மு.க.ஸ்டாலின், நகர்ப்புற மக்களின் வசதிகளை பெருக்க பல்வேறு புதிய திட்டங்களை நடை

முறைப்படுத்தி வருகிறார்.

நகராட்சி, பேரூராட்சிகளில் அடிப்படை கட்டமைப்புகளை மேம்படுத்த ஆண்டுதோறும் ரூ.1000 கோடியில், கலைஞர் நகர்ப்புற மேம்பாட்டுத் திட்டம் உருவாக்கப்பட்டுள்ளது. நகர்ப்புற வேலை வாய்ப்புத் திட்டத்தில் இதுவரை 2 லட்சத்து 4,860 பேருக்கு வேலைக்கான அடையாள அட்டைகள் வழங்கப்பட்டுள்ளன. சீரமைக்கப்பட்ட, சென்னை, கோயம்புத்தூர், மதுரை, சேலம், தஞ்சாவூர், வேலூர், தாதுக்குடி, திருநெல்வேலி, திருப்பூர், திருச்சிராப்பள்ளி மற்றும் ஈரோடு ஆகிய 11 மாநகராட்சிகளில் ரூ.10,890 கோடி மதிப்பில் செயல்படுத்தப்படுகிறது.

சாலை மேம்பாட்டுத் திட்டத்தின் கீழ், சென்னை தவிர்ந்த 20 மாநகராட்சிகள், 138 நகராட்சிகளில் 11,872 கி.மீ. நீளமுள்ள சேதமடைந்த சாலைகள் 4 ஆண்டுகளில் சீரமைக்க உத்தரவிடப்பட்டு 9,346 கி.மீ. சாலைகள் நடப்புத் திட்டங்களின் கீழும், மீதமுள்ள 2,526 கி.மீ நீளமுள்ள சாலைகள் அரசின் சிறப்பு நிதி ரூ.1,000 கோடியில் பணிகளை முடிக்கவும் நிதி ஒதுக்கப்பட்டுள்ளது.

தூத்துக்குடி மாநகராட்சியுடன் இணைக்கப்பட்ட பகுதிகளில் பருவ மழையின்போது வெள்ளநீர் சூழ்ந்து பாதிப்பு ஏற்பட்டது. இது

போன்ற நிலை வருங்காலங்களில் ஏற்படாத வகையில், வரைவு திட்டம் தயாரிக்கப்பட்டு மழைநீர் வடிகால் அமைக்கும் பணிகள் 4 தொகுதிகளாக ரூ.491.29 கோடியில் முடிக்கப்பட்டுள்ளது.

முக்கிய திட்டங்கள்

கடந்த 3 ஆண்டுகளில் ரூ.8,672 கோடியில் 13,387 கி.மீ. நீள சாலை, கொசுதலை ஆறு மற்றும் சென்னையைச் சுற்றி ரூ.6,778 கோடியில் 2,641 கி.மீ நீள மழைநீர் வடிகால் திட்டப் பணிகள் முடிக்கப்பட்டுள்ளன. மேலும் ரூ.8,911 கோடியில் 28 பாதாள சாக்கடைத் திட்டப் பணிகள், ரூ.858 கோடியில் 7.42 லட்சம் தெரு விளக்குகள் எல்ஈடி விளக்குகளாக மாற்றப்பட்டு வருகின்றன. ரூ.1500 கோடியில் 55 பேருந்து நிலையப் பணிகள் முடிவற்ற நிலையில், 100 பேருந்து நிலையப் பணிகள் நடைபெறுகின்றன. ரூ.690 கோடியில் 62 சந்தைகள் கட்டி முடிக்கப்பட்டு, 86 இடங்களில் சந்தை பணிகள் நடைபெறுகின்றன.

100 அறிவுசார் மையங்கள் நகராட்சி, மாநகராட்சியால் தொடக்கப்பட்டுள்ளன. மேலும், ரூ.198 கோடியில் 79 அறிவுசார் மையகட்டிடங்கள், ரூ.424 கோடியில் 681 பூங்கா அபிவிருத்திப் பணிகள் முடிந்துள்ளன. ரூ.700 கோடியில் பல்வேறுநீர் நிலை

கள் தூர்வாரப்பட்டுள்ளன. ரூ.373 கோடியில் புதிய மின் மயானங்கள் அமைக்கும் பணிகள், நவீனப்படுத்தும் பணிகள் நடைபெறுகின்றன.

இதேபோல் ரூ.153 கோடியில் நகர்ப்புற உள்ளாட்சிகளுக்கான அலுவலகக் கட்டிடங்கள், ரூ.771 கோடியில் பள்ளிகளுக்கு புதிய கட்டிடங்கள் கட்டப்பட்டுள்ளன. ரூ.316 கோடியில் பயோமைனிங் மூலம் தேக்கத் திடவுக்களை அகற்றி, நிலத்தினை மீட்டெடுக்கும் பணி பல்வேறு நகரங்களில் முடிவற்ற நிலையில் உள்ளன. கடந்த 3 ஆண்டுகளில் 1,405 பேருக்கு நகராட்சி நிர்வாக இயக்குநரகத்தின் சார்பில் பணிநியமன ஆணைகள் வழங்கப்பட்டுள்ளன.

முதல்வர் மு.க.ஸ்டாலன் உத்தரவுப்படி, உள்ளாட்சி அமைப்புகளில் பணியாளர் பற்றாக்குறையை போக்க, 2,500 பேரைத் தேர்வு செய்ய தேர்வுத்தாள் மதிப்பிடும் பணி நடைபெறுகிறது. இதுதவிர மேலும் 3,000 பேரும் நியமிக்கப்பட உள்ளனர்.

முதல்வர் மு.க.ஸ்டாலின் திராவிட மாடல் ஆட்சியில் புதுமையான திட்டங்கள் மற்றும் நகராட்சி நிர்வாகத்துறையின் பணிகளால் நகரமயமாக்கலில் நாட்டிலேயே முன்னணி மாநிலமாக தமிழகம் திகழ்கிறது. இவ்வாறு கூறப்பட்டுள்ளது.

Source: Hindu Tamil Thisai, 11 July 2024, p. 9

சென்னையில் தொழில்முனைவோராக உருவெடுக்கும் 213 தூய்மை பணியாளர்கள்

▶ கழிவுநீர் குழாய்களை பராமரிக்க பயிற்சி

● சென்னை

தொழில்முனைவோராக தேர்ந்தெடுக்கப்பட்டுள்ள 213 தூய்மைப் பணியாளர்களுக்கு சென்னை குடிநீர் வாரிய கழிவுநீர் குழாய்களை பராமரிக்க பயிற்சி வழங்கப் பட்டது.

மனிதக் கழிவுகளை மனிதனே அகற்ற உச்சநீதிமன்றம் தடை விதித்துள்ளது. இதனால் இத்தொழிலில் ஈடுபட்டுவந்த தூய்மைப் பணியாளர்களின் வாழ்வாதாரத்தை பாதுகாக்கும் வகையில், அவர்களை தொழில்முனைவோர்களாக மாற்ற தமிழக அரசு நடவடிக்கை எடுத்து வருகிறது.

அதன்படி, தொழில்முனைவோர்களாக தேர்ந்தெடுக்கப்பட்ட தூய்மைப் பணியாளர்களுக்கு கழிவுநீர் குழாய்களை இயந்திரங்கள் மூலம் பராமரிக்கும் பயிற்சி வழங்கும் முகாம் கீழ்ப்பாக்கத்தில் உள்ள சென்னை குடிநீர் வாரிய பயிற்சி மையத்தில் நேற்று நடைபெற்றது. சென்னை குடிநீர் வாரிய மேலாண் இயக்குநர் டி.ஜி.வினய், முகாமை தொடங்கி வைத்தார். பின்னர் நிகழ்ச்சியில் அவர் பேசிய தாவது:

தூய்மைப் பணியாளர்களை தொழில் முனைவோர்களாக மாற்றும் உன்னதமான முயற்சிக்கான வழிகாட்டுதலில், தலித் இந்திய வர்த்தக மற்றும் தொழிற்சங்கத் துடன், முதல்வர் மு.க.ஸ்டாலின் முன்னிலையில் ஒரு புரிந்துணர்வு ஒப்பந்தம் கடந்த ஆண்டு செய்யப்பட்டது.

அதன்படி, இறந்த தூய்மை பணியாளர்களின் வாரிசுகாரர்கள், தூய்மைப் பணியாளர்கள், சமூக பொருளாதார நிலையை மேம்படுத்தும் வகையில் தகுதியான 213 பேரை கண்டறிந்து, அவர்களை தொழில் முனைவோர்களாக மாற்றுவதற்கு தேவையான தொழில்நுட்ப உதவிகள் வழங்குவதற்கும் நடவடிக்கை எடுக்கப்பட்டுள்ளது. அவர்களுக்கு நவீன கழிவுநீர் அகற்றும் ஊர்திக்கான கடன் உவிக்கான ஆணைகளை முதல்வர் ஸ்டாலின் அண்மையில் வழங்கினார்.

இவர்களை சென்னை குடிநீர் வாரிய கழிவுநீர்கற்று பணிகளில் ஈடுபடுத்த ஒப்பந்தப் புள்ளிகள் கோரப்பட்டு, 7 ஆண்டுகளுக்கு கழிவுநீர் அகற்றும் பணிகளை மேற்

கொள்வதற்காக ரூ.524 கோடி இறுதி செய்யப்பட்டுள்ளது. 2 ஆயிரம் லிட்டர் கொள்ளளவு கொண்ட வாகனம் வைத்திருப்போர், ஒரு மீட்டர் நீள கழிவுநீர் குழாயை பராமரிக்க ரூ.17.60, ஆறாயிரம் லிட்டர் கொள்ளளவு கொண்ட வாகனம் வைத்திருப்போர் ஒரு மீட்டர் நீளத்துக்கு பணியாற்ற ரூ.20.70 என கட்டணம் நிர்ணயிக்கப்பட்டுள்ளது.

தூய்மைப் பணியாளர் தாங்கள் மேற்கொள்ளும் பணிகளை சிறப்பாக மேற்கொள்ள வேண்டும். தூய்மைப் பணியாளர்களின் வாழ்வாதாரத்தை மேம்படுத்துவதோடு, பாதுகாப்பாக பணிகளை மேற்கொள்வதற்கும் இத்திட்டம் உறுதுணையாக இருக்கும்.

இவ்வாறு அவர் கூறினார்.

இந்நிகழ்ச்சியில் தலித் இந்திய வர்த்தக மற்றும் தொழிற்சங்க தேசிய தலைவர் ரவிக்குமார் நர்ரா, தென்னிந்திய தலைவர் சவுந்தர ராஜன், சென்னை குடிநீர் வாரிய பொறியியல் இயக்குநர் ஜெய்கர் ஜேசுதாஸ், தலைமை பொறியாளர் இரா.சிவமுருகன் உள்ளிட்டோர் கலந்துகொண்டனர்.

Source: Hindu Tamil Thisai, 9 July 2024, p. 5

மாதம் ரூ.750 உதவி தொகையுடன் மின்சார வாகன மெக்கானிக் பயிற்சி வடசென்னை ஐடிஐ-யில் நேரடி சேர்க்கை

● சென்னை

சென்னை மாவட்ட ஆட்சியர் ரஷ்மி சித்தார்த் ஐகடே வெளியிட்டுள்ள செய்திக்குறிப்பில் கூறியிருப்பதாவது: வடசென்னை அரசினர் தொழிற்பயிற்சி நிலையத்தில் (ஐடிஐ) சிவில் இன்ஜினியரிங் அசிஸ்டென்ட், டிராப்ட்ஸ்மேன் சிவில் மற்றும் மெக்கானிக்கல், டர்னர், மெஷினிஸ்ட், லிப்ட் மெக்கானிக், பிட்டர், ஏசி மெக்கானிக் ஆகிய 2 ஆண்டுகால தொழிற்பயிற்சிகளும், இண்ட்ரியர் டிசைன் அண்ட் டெக்கரேஷன், வெல்டர், பிளம்பர் ஆகிய ஓராண்டு கால தொழிற் பயிற்சிகளும், 6 மாத கால டிரோன் பைலட் பயிற்சியும் வழங்கப்படுகின்றன.

இப்படிப்புகளில், 10-ம் வகுப்பு மற்றும் பிளஸ் 2 முடித்தவர்கள், டிப்ளமோ படித்தவர்கள், பட்டதாரிகள் சேரலாம். நடப்பு கல்வி ஆண்டில் மேற்கண்ட படிப்புகளுக்கான நேரடி மாணவர் சேர்க்கை தற்போது நடைபெற்று வருகிறது. மேலும், டாட்டா டெக்னாலஜி நிறுவனத்துடன் இணைந்து உயர் தொழில் நுட்பத்துடன் கூடிய ஓராண்டு மற்றும் இரண்டாண்டு கால தொழிற்பயிற்சிகளுக்கும் சேர்க்கை நடைபெறுகிறது. இதில், இண்டஸ்ட்ரியல் ரோபோட்டிக்ஸ் அண்ட் டிஜிட்டல் மேனுபேக்ரிங் டெக்னீசியன் என்ற ஓராண்டு கால படிப்பும், மெக்கானிக் எலெக்ட்ரிக் வெகிக்ளில், பேசிக் டிசைனர் அண்ட் விரச்சுவல் வெரிபயர் (மெக்கானிக்கல்), அட்வான்ஸ்டு சிஎன்சி மேனுபேக்ரிங் டெக்னீசியன் ஆகிய 2 ஆண்டுகால படிப்புகளில் சேரலாம்.

மேற்குறிப்பிட்ட தொழிற்பயிற்சிகளில் சேருவோருக்கு மாதம் ரூ.750 உதவித்தொகை, இலவச பாடப்புத்தகங்கள், வரைபடக் கருவி, 2 செட் சீருடைகள், பஸ் பாஸ், ஷூ ஆகியவை வழங்கப்படும். பயிற்சி நிலையத்தில் விடுதி வசதி உள்ளது. பெண்களுக்கு வயது வரம்பு கிடையாது. படித்து முடித்தவுடன் வளாக நேர்காணல் நடத்தி தொழில் நிறுவனங்களில் 100 சதவீத வேலைவாய்ப்பு பெற்றுத்தரப்படும்.

பயிற்சியில் சேர விரும்புவோர் ஜூலை 31-ம் தேதிக்குள் வடசென்னை மின்ட் பகுதியில் உள்ள அரசினர் ஐடிஐ-க்கு நேரில் வந்து சேர்க்கை பெறலாம். கூடுதல் விவரங்களுக்கு 044-25209268 என்ற தொலைபேசி எண்ணில் தொடர்புகொள்ளலாம்.

(Above) Source: Hindu Tamil Thisai, 28 July 2024, p. 3

(Right) Source: Hindu Tamil Thisai, 8 July 2024, p. 5

பள்ளி, கல்லூரி மாணவர்களுக்கு வேலைவாய்ப்பு குறித்த விழிப்புணர்வு நிகழ்ச்சி

● சென்னை

பள்ளி, கல்லூரி மாணவர்களுக்கு தொழில்திறன், வேலைவாய்ப்பு குறித்து விழிப்புணர்வு ஏற்படுத்தும் வகையிலான நிகழ்ச்சிகள் சென்னையில் நாளை முதல் ஒருவாரம் நடைபெறும் என மாவட்ட ஆட்சியர் ரஷ்மி சித்தார்த் ஐகடே தெரிவித்துள்ளார்.

இளைய தலைமுறையினருக்கு உயர்கல்வி, தொழில்திறன், போட்டித் தேர்வுகள் மற்றும் வேலைவாய்ப்பு குறித்து விழிப்புணர்வு ஏற்படுத்தும் வகையில் ஜூலை மாதம் 2-ம் வாரம் (9 முதல் 12-ம் தேதி வரை) தொழில்நெறி விழிப்புணர்வு மற்றும் திறன் வாரமாகவும், 15-ம் தேதி உலக இளைஞர் திறன்நாளும் சென்னை மாவட்ட வேலைவாய்ப்பு மற்றும் தொழில் நெறி வழிகாட்டும் மையம் மூலம் கொண்டாடப்படுகிறது.

இதையொட்டி நாளை மாற்றுத்திறனாளிகளுக்கான தொழில்நெறி

விழிப்புணர்வு மற்றும் திறன் வாரம் குறித்த விழிப்புணர்வு நிகழ்ச்சியும், 10-ம் தேதி மகளிர் கல்லூரி மற்றும் பள்ளிகளில் பெண் கல்வி, பெண்முன்னேற்றத்துக்கான தொழில் நெறி வழிகாட்டுதல் நிகழ்ச்சியும் நடத்தப்படுகின்றன.

தொடர்ந்து பொறியியல் மாணவர்கள், பள்ளி மற்றும் கல்லூரி மாணவர்களுக்கு தொழில்நெறிவழிகாட்டும் நிகழ்ச்சிகளும், 15-ம் தேதி அரசினர் தொழிற்பயிற்சி நிலையம் மற்றும் பாலிடெக்னிக் மாணவர்களுக்கான சுய வேலைவாய்ப்பு, தொழிற் பழகுநர் பயிற்சி குறித்த விழிப்புணர்வு நிகழ்ச்சியும் நடைபெற உள்ளன.

இத்துடன் வேலைவாய்ப்பு முகாம், கல்வித் தொலைக்காட்சி பற்றியும் மாணவர்களுக்கு விழிப்புணர்வு ஏற்படுத்தப்படும் என மாவட்ட ஆட்சியர் தெரிவித்துள்ளார்.

7,360 கவுரவ விரிவுரையாளர் நியமிக்க அனுமதி

▶ உயர்கல்வித் துறை அரசாணை வெளியீடு

● சென்னை

அரசு கலை அறிவியல் கல்லூரி களில் நடப்பு கல்வி ஆண்டில் ஷிப்ட் 1 மற்றும் ஷிப்ட் 2-ல் 7,360 கவுரவ விரிவுரையாளர்களை ரூ.25 ஆயிரம் தொகுப்புகி யத்தில் நியமிக்க அனுமதி வழங்கி உயர்கல்வித்துறை தனித்தனி அரசாணையை வெளி யிட்டுள்ளது.

இதுதொடர்பாக தமிழக அரசின் உயர்கல்வித்துறை செயலர் பிரதீப் யாதவ் வெளி யிட்டுள்ள அரசாணையில் கூறப் பட்டு இருப்பதாவது:

நடப்பு கல்வி ஆண்டில் (2024-2025) அரசு கலை மற்றும் அறிவி யல் கல்லூரிகளில் ஷிப்ட் 1-ல் பாடப்பிரிவுகளை நடத்த தேவை யான 6,445 கவுரவ விரிவுரை யாளர்களை தொகுப்புகியத் தில் நியமிக்க அனுமதியும் அவர்

களுக்கான மாதாந்திர தொகுப் புகியம் ரூ.25 ஆயிரம் வீதம் 11 மாதங்களுக்கு தேவையான ரூ.177 கோடியே ரூ.23 லட்சம் நிதி ஒதுக்கீடு செய்தும் உரிய ஆணை வழங்குமாறு கல்லூரி கல்வி இயக்குநர் அரசை கேட்டுக்கொண்டுள்ளார்.

இயக்குநரின் கருத்துருவை ஆய்வுசெய்து நடப்பு கல்வி ஆண்டில் ஷிப்ட் 1-ல் பாடப்பிரிவு களை நடத்த வசதியாக 5,699 விரிவுரையாளர்களை மாதம் ரூ.25 ஆயிரம் தொகுப்புகியத்தில் 11 மாதங்களுக்கு பணியமர்த்த நிபந்தனைகளுடன் அனுமதி வழங்கியும், அதற்கு தேவை யான ரூ.156 கோடியே 72 லட்சம் நிதியை ஒதுக்கியும் அரசு ஆணை யிடுகிறது.

இவ்வாறு அதில் கூறப்பட் டுள்ளது.

இதேபோல், உயர்கல்வித் துறை செயலர் பிரதீப் யாதவ் வெளியிட்டுள்ள மற்றொரு அரசாணையில் நடப்பு கல்வி ஆண்டில் அரசு கலைக் கல்லூரி களில் ஷிப்ட் 2-ல் பாடப்பிரிவு களை நடத்த தேவையான 1,661 கவுரவ விரிவுரையாளர்களை ரூ.25 ஆயிரம் மாதாந்திர தொகுப் புகியத்தில் நியமிக்க அனுமதி அளித்தும் அதற்கு தேவையான நிதி ஒதுக்கீடு செய்தும் உத்தர விட்டுள்ளார்.

இதற்கிடையே, அரசு கலை அறிவியல் கல்லூரிகளில் 4 ஆயிரம் உதவி பேராசிரியர்களை நிரந்தர பணி அடிப்படையில் நியமிக்க ஆசிரியர் தேர்வு வாரி யத்தால் ஆகஸ்ட் 4-ம் தேதி நடத்தப்பட இருந்த போட்டித் தேர்வுத்ள்ளிவைக்கப்பட்டுள்ளது என்பது குறிப்பிடத்தக்கது.

110 விதியின்கீழ் வெளியிட்ட அறிவிப்புகள் மூலம்

மாநில முன்னேற்றம், இளைஞர் வேலைவாய்ப்புக்கு வழிவகை செய்த முதல்வர் ஸ்டாலின்

▶ தமிழக அரசு பெருமிதம்

● சென்னை

சட்டப்பேரவையில் 110 விதியின்கீழ் வெளியிட்ட அறிவிப்புகள் மூலம் தமிழகத்தின் முன்னேற்றத்துக்கும், இளைஞர்களின் அரசு வேலை வாய்ப்புக்கும் முதல்வர் ஸ்டாலின் வழிவகை செய்துள்ளதாக தமிழக அரசு தெரிவித்துள்ளது.

இதுகுறித்து தமிழக அரசு வெளியிட்ட செய்திக்குறிப்பு:

சட்டப்பேரவை விதிகளில் தனிச் சிறப்பு வாய்ந்த 110-வது விதியின் கீழ், பொது முக்கியத்துவம் வாய்ந்த பொருள் பற்றி அவசரமாக அறிவிப்பு வெளியிடலாம். இந்த அறிவிப்பின்கீழ் எந்த விதமான விவாதமும் கூடாது.

அந்த வகையில், கடந்த ஜூன் 20 முதல் 29-ம் தேதி வரை 9 நாட்கள் காலை, மாலை இரு வேளையும் பேரவை கூடி, மானிய கோரிக்கைகள் மீது விவாதம் நடைபெற்றது.

இந்த கூட்டத்தொடரில் முதல்வர் ஸ்டாலின், சில முக்கிய அறிவிப்புகளை 110 விதியின்கீழ் வெளியிட்டார்.

அந்த வகையில், 'முதல்வரின் கிராம சாலைகள் மேம்பாட்டு திட்டத்தின் கீழ்க் கடந்த 3 ஆண்டுகளில் ரூ.9,324.49 கோடியில் 16,596 கி.மீ. நீளமுள்ள சாலைகள், 425

உயர்மட்ட பாலங்கள் அமைக்க திட்ட அனுமதி வழங்கப்பட்டுள்ளது. வரும் 2 ஆண்டுகளில் கூடுதலாக மேலும் 10 ஆயிரம் கி.மீ. நீளமுள்ள ஊரக சாலைகள் ரூ.4,000 கோடியில் மேம்படுத்தப்படும்' என்று ஜூன் 24-ம் தேதி அறிவித்தார்.

'வரும் 2026 ஜனவரிக்குள், அதாவது இன்னும் 18 மாதங்களுக்குள் பல்வேறு அரசுப் பணியிடங்களுக்காக, டிஎன்பிஎஸ்சி மூலம் 17,595 பணியிடங்கள், டிஆர்பி மூலம் 19,260 ஆசிரியர்கள், எம்ஆர்பி மூலம் 3,041 மருத்துவ பணியிடங்கள், சீருடை பணியாளர் தேர்வாணையம் மூலம் 6,688 பணியிடங்கள் என 46,584 பணியிடங்கள் நிரப்பப்படும். இதுதவிர, சமூக நலம், நகராட்சி நிர்வாகம், குடிநீர் வழங்கல் உள்ளிட்ட முக்கிய துறைகளில் காலியாக உள்ள 30,219 பணியிடங்கள் நிரப்பப்படும். ஒட்டு மொத்தமாக 75 ஆயிரத்துக்கும் மேற்பட்ட பணியிடங்கள் நிரப்பப்படும்' என 25-ம் தேதி அறிவித்தார்.

'ஓசூரில் 2,000 ஏக்கர் நிலப்பரப்பில், ஆண்டுக்கு 3 கோடி பயணிகளை கையாளும் வகையில் பன்னாட்டு விமான நிலையம் அமைக்கப்படும். திருச்சியில் உலகத்தரம் வாய்ந்த மாபெரும்

நூலகம் மற்றும் அறிவுசார் மையம் கலைஞர் பெயரால் அமைக்கப்படும்' என 27-ம் தேதி அறிவித்தார்.

தமிழ்நாடு நகர்ப்புற வாழ்விட மேம்பாட்டு வாரியத்தால் தமிழகத்தில் 1,93,891 அடுக்குமாடி குடியிருப்புகள் பராமரிக்கப்பட்டு வருகின்றன. அதில் 28,643 குடியிருப்புகள் சிதிலமடைந்துள்ளதாக கண்டறியப்பட்டுள்ளன. இவை அனைத்தும் அடுத்த 3 ஆண்டுகளுக்குள் மறுகட்டுமானம் செய்யப்படும். முதல்கட்டமாக, இந்த ஆண்டில் சென்னையில் கிழக்கு கல்லறை சாலை, கொடுங்கையூர், வ.உ.சி. நகர் போன்ற திட்டப் பகுதிகள், தஞ்சாவூரில் ஏ.வி.பதி நகர், திருச்சியில் கோட்டக்கொல்லை திட்டப் பகுதி ஆகியவற்றில் உள்ள 6,746 அடுக்குமாடி குடியிருப்புகள் ரூ.1,146 கோடியில் மறுகட்டுமானம் மற்றும் புதிய திட்டப் பகுதிகளில் கட்டுமானமும் மேற்கொள்ளப்படும் என 28-ம் தேதி அறிவித்தார்.

மொத்தத்தில், 110 விதியின்கீழ் பல்வேறு முக்கிய அறிவிப்புகளை வெளியிட்டு தமிழகத்தின் முன்னேற்றத்துக்கும், இளைஞர்களின் அரசு வேலைவாய்ப்புக்கும் முதல்வர் ஸ்டாலின் வழிவகை செய்துள்ளார். இவ்வாறு அதில் கூறப்பட்டுள்ளது.

Source: Hindu Tamil Thisai, 4 July 2024, p. 2

தொழிலாளர்களின் குழந்தைகள்

கல்வி உதவித் தொகை பெற விண்ணப்பிக்கலாம்

திருவள்ளூர், ஜூலை 26: பீடி சுற்றுப்பவர்கள், சுரங்கப் பணி செய்பவர்கள் மற்றும் திரைப்பட தொழிலாளர்கள் குழந்தைகள் கல்வி உதவித் தொகை பெற விண்ணப்பிக்கலாம் எனத் தெரிவிக்கப்பட்டுள்ளது.

இது குறித்து சென்னை கிண்டி திரு.வி.க. தொழில் பூங்கா வளாகத்தில் உள்ள மத்திய நல ஆணையர் அலுவலகம் (தொழிலாளர் நல அமைப்பு) சார்பில் வெளியிட்டுள்ள செய்திக் குறிப்பு:

சென்னை உள்ளிட்ட பல்வேறு பகுதிகளில் அரசு மற்றும் அரசு உதவி பெறும் பள்ளிகளில் பயின்று வரும் பீடி சுற்றுதல், சுரங்கப்பணி செய்தல் மற்றும் திரைப்பட தொழில் புரிந்து வருவோரின் குழந்தைகள் பயன்பெறும் பல்வேறு நலவாரிய திட்டங்கள் செயல்படுத்தப்பட்டு வருகின்றன. அந்த வகையில், தொழிலாளர்களின் குழந்தைகளுக்கு கல்வித் தகுதிக்கேற்ப ரூ. 1,000 முதல் ரூ. 25,000 வரை கல்வி உதவித் தொகை பெற தாங்கள் பயிலும் கல்வி நிறுவனங்கள் மூலம் விண்ணப்பிக்கலாம். இதற்கான <https://scholarships.gov.in> என்ற தேசிய கல்வி உதவித் தொகை வலைதளத்தில் முழு விவரங்கள்

அளிக்கப்பட்டுள்ளது.

அதைத் தொடர்ந்து கல்வி நிறுவனங்களின் நிர்வாகம், இந்த விண்ணப்பங்களை பெற்று, பரிசீலனைக்கு பின்னர் தொழிலாளர் நலவாரியம் வழங்கியுள்ள நிபந்தனை அடிப்படையில் பட்டியல் தயார் செய்ய வேண்டும். பின்னர் வங்கிக் கணக்கு விவரம், அடையாள அட்டை நகல் ஆகியவற்றுடன் பள்ளிகள் மற்றும் கலை அறிவியல் கல்லூரிகள் ஆக, 31-ஆம் தேதிக்குள் அதற்கான பட்டியலை ஆன்லைன் மூலம் அனுப்பி வைக்க வேண்டும். அதேபோல், தொழில் கல்வியான மருத்துவம், வேளாண்மை மற்றும் மேலாண்மை பட்டப்படிக்கான கல்வி நிறுவனங்கள் ஆக, 31-க்குள் அனுப்பி வைக்க வேண்டும்.

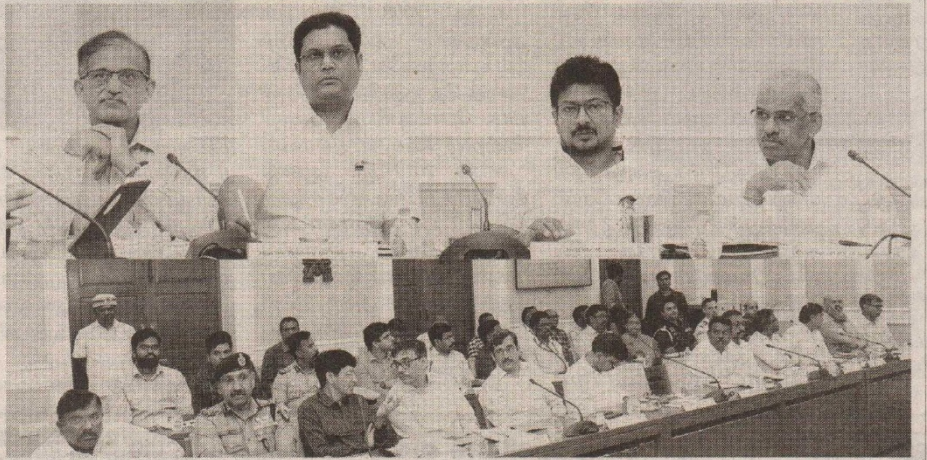
மேலும், இது குறித்து மத்திய நல ஆணையர் அலுவலகம், தொழிலாளர் நல அமைப்பு, தரைதளம், சிட்கோ நிர்வாககிளை அலுவலக வளாகம், திரு.வி.க. தொழில் பூங்கா, கிண்டி, சென்னை-600032 என்ற முகவரியிலோ அல்லது தொலைபேசி-044-29530169 என்ற எண்ணில் தொடர்பு கொண்டு பயன்பெறலாம்.

(Left) Source: Dinamani, 27 July 2024, p. 4

(Below) Source: Dinamani, 4 July 2024, p. 7

விளையாட்டு வீரர்களுக்கு அரசுப் பணியில் 3% இடஒதுக்கீடு திட்டம்

அமைச்சர் உதயநிதி ஆலோசனை



விளையாட்டு வீரர்களுக்கு இடஒதுக்கீட்டின் கீழ் அரசுப் பணி வழங்குவது தொடர்பாக சென்னை தலைமைச் செயலகத்தில் புதன்கிழமை ஆலோசனை நடத்திய இளைஞர் நலன் மற்றும் விளையாட்டு மேம்பாட்டுத்துறை அமைச்சர் உதயநிதி ஸ்டாலின், உடன், தொழில் துறை அமைச்சர் டி.ஆர்.பிரஜா, தலைமைச் செயலர் சிவ்தாஸ் மீனா, இளைஞர் நலன் மற்றும் விளையாட்டு மேம்பாட்டுத் துறை கூடுதல் தலைமைச் செயலர் அதுல்ய மிஸ்ரா மற்றும் பல்வேறு துறைகளின் செயலர்கள்.

சென்னை, ஜூலை 3: விளையாட்டு வீரர்களுக்கு அரசுப் பணிகளில் 3 சதவீதம் இட ஒதுக்கீடு வழங்கும் திட்டம் குறித்து இளைஞர் நலன் மற்றும் விளையாட்டு மேம்பாட்டுத்துறை அமைச்சர் உதயநிதி ஸ்டாலின் ஆலோசனை நடத்தினார்.

தேசிய, சர்வதேச அளவிலான போட்டிகளில் முத்திரை பதிக்கும் வீரர், வீராங்கனைகளுக்கு அரசின் பொதுத் துறைகளில் வேலை வாய்ப்பு அளிக்கப்பட்டு வருகிறது.

மொத்தமுள்ள காலியிடங்களில் 3 சதவீதம் வரை வழங்க வழி செய்யப்பட்டுள்ளது. இந்தத் திட்டம் தொடர்பாக தலைமைச் செயலகத்தில் அமைச்சர் உதயநிதி ஸ்டாலின் தலைமையில் புதன்கிழமை ஆலோசனை நடைபெற்றது.

அமைச்சர் டி.ஆர்.பிரஜா, தலைமைச் செயலர் சிவ்தாஸ் மீனா, இளைஞர் நலன் மற்றும் விளையாட்டு மேம்பாட்டுத் துறை கூடுதல் தலைமைச் செயலர் அதுல்ய மிஸ்ரா, முக்கிய துறை

வின் செயலர்கள், மின்சார வாரியத் தலைவர் ராஜேஷ் லக்கானி, மாநகராட்சி ஆணையர் ஜெ.ரா தாகிருஷ்ணன் உள்ளிட்ட பலர் பங்கேற்றனர்.

இதே போன்று, கோயம்புத்தூரில் கிரிக்கெட் விளையாட்டு மைதானம் அமைக்கும் பணியும் நடந்து வருகிறது. இது குறித்தும் அதிகாரிகளிடம் அமைச்சர் உதயநிதி கேட்டறிந்தார். மைதானம் அமைக்கும் பணிகளை விரைந்து முடிக்கவும் கேட்டுக் கொண்டார்.

பராமரிப்பு செலவுக்காக முதல்கட்டமாக

அரசு பள்ளிகளுக்கு கல்வி துறை ரூ.61.53 கோடி நிதி விடுவிப்பு

● சென்னை

அரசுப் பள்ளிகளில் நடப்பு கல்வி ஆண்டின் பராமரிப்பு செலவுக்காக முதல்கட்டமாக ரூ.61.53 கோடி நிதி விடுவிக்கப்பட்டுள்ளது.

இதுகுறித்து ஒருங்கிணைந்த பள்ளிக்கல்வியின் மாநிலத் திட்ட இயக்குநரகம் சார்பில் அனைத்து மாவட்ட முதன்மை கல்வி அலுவலர்களுக்கும் அனுப்பப்பட்டுள்ள சுற்றறிக்கை விவரம்:

மத்திய கல்வி அமைச்சகத்தின் திட்ட ஒப்புதல் குழு 2024-25-ம் கல்வி ஆண்டுக்கு ஒருங்கிணைந்த பள்ளிக்கல்வி திட்டத்தின்கீழ் தொடர் செலவினத்துக்காக அரசுப் பள்ளிகளுக்கு மானியம் வழங்க பரிந்துரை செய்துள்ளது. எனவே, முதல்கட்டமாக அனைத்து அரசுப் பள்ளிகளுக்கும் 50% தொகை வழங்குவதற்காக மாவட்டங்களுக்கு தற்போது நிதி விடுவிக்கப்பட்டுள்ளது.

அதன்படி, மாணவர்கள் எண்ணிக்கை அடிப்படையில் குறைந்த பட்சம் ரூ.10 ஆயிரம் முதல் அதிக பட்சம் ரூ.1 லட்சம் வரை பள்ளி

களுக்கு நிதி ஒதுக்கப்பட்டுள்ளது. ஒட்டுமொத்தமாக தமிழகம் முழுவதும் உள்ள 37,471 அரசுப் பள்ளிகளுக்கும் ரூ.61.53 கோடி நிதி விடுவிக்கப்பட்டுள்ளது.

இந்த தொகையை முன்னுரிமை அடிப்படையில் செலவு செய்ய வேண்டும். ஆசிரியர்களின் கையடக்க கணினிக்கு (டேப்லெட்) சிம் கார்டு வாங்குவது (ஓர் ஆசிரியருக்கு ரூ.110), மாணவர்களுக்கு தனியாக கைகழுவும் வசதி, பாதுகாப்பான குடிநீர், தாய்மை பணி, பள்ளிகளுக்கான பொருட்கள் வாங்குதல், கட்டிடப் பராமரிப்பு ஆகியவற்றுக்கு இத்தொகையை பயன்படுத்திக் கொள்ள வேண்டும்.

இத்தொடர்பான வழிகாட்டுதல் களை பின்பற்றி, உரிய காலத்துக்குள் மானியத்தை பயன்படுத்த வேண்டும். செலவின அறிக்கையை பயன்பாட்டு சான்றிதழுடன் இணைத்து செப்டம்பர் 30-ம் தேதிக்குள் முதன்மை கல்வி அலுவலர்கள் அனுப்ப வேண்டும்.

(Left) Source: Hindu Tamil Thisai, 3 July 2024, p. 2

(Below) Source: Dinamalar, 26 July 2024, p. 4

உயர் கல்வி மாணவருக்கு மாதம் ரூ.1,000 ரூ.360 கோடி ஒதுக்கியது தமிழக அரசு

சென்னை, ஜூலை 26-

அரசு மற்றும் அரசு உதவி பெறும் பள்ளிகளில் படித்து, உயர் கல்வி கற்கும் மாணவர்களுக்கு, மாதந்தோறும் 1,000 ரூபாய் உதவித்தொகை வழங்கும், 'தமிழ் புதல்வன்' திட்டத்தை செயல்படுத்த 360 கோடி ரூபாய் ஒதுக்கப்பட்டுள்ளது. திட்டத்திற்கான வழிகாட்டு நெறிமுறைகளும் வெளியிடப்பட்டு உள்ளன.

ஏற்கனவே உள்ள, 'புதுமைப் பெண்' திட்டத்தின் கீழ், 3 லட்சத்து 28,159 மாணவியர், மாதம் 1,000 ரூபாய் பெற்று வருகின்றனர்.

அதன் அடிப்படையில், தமிழ் புதல்வன் திட்டத்தில், 3.28 லட்சம் மாணவர்கள் பயன்பெறுவர் என, கணக்கிடப்பட்டுள்ளது.

அவர்களுக்கு மாதம் 1,000 ரூபாய் வழங்க, ஆண்டுக்கு 393.60 கோடி ரூபாய், நிர்வாக செலவு, 7.87 லட்சம் ரூபாய் என மொத்தம், 401.47 கோடி ரூபாய் நிதி

விண்ணப்பிக்க தகுதிகள் என்ன?

அரசாணையில் கூறப்பட்டுள்ள வழிகாட்டு நெறிமுறைகள் விபரம்:

- அரசு பள்ளிகளில், ஆறாம் வகுப்பு முதல் பிளஸ் 2 வரை, தமிழ் மற்றும் ஆங்கில வழியில் படித்த மாணவர்கள்; அரசு உதவி பெறும் பள்ளிகளில், தமிழ் வழியில் படித்த மாணவர்கள் உயர் கல்வி கற்றால், இத்திட்டத்தில் பயன் பெறலாம்.
- விண்ணப்பிக்க இணையதளம் உருவாக்கப்படும். மாணவர்களின் வங்கி கணக்கில் பணம் நேரடியாக வரவு வைக்கப்படும்.
- வருமான உச்சவரம்பு, இனம், ஒதுக்கீடு என, எந்த பாடுபாடும் கிடையாது. மாணவர் படிக்கும் நிறுவனம் மற்றும் பாடப்பிரிவு அரசால் அங்கீகரிக்கப்பட்டிருக்க வேண்டும்.
- அரசு மற்றும் அரசு உதவி பெறும் பள்ளிகளில், எட்டாம் வகுப்பு, ஒன்பதாம் வகுப்பு அல்லது 10ம் வகுப்பு முடித்து, ஐ-டி-ஐ., படிக்கும் மாணவர்களும் பயன் பெறலாம். தொலை

ஒதுக்கும்படி, அரசுக்கு கல்லூரி கல்வி இயக்குனர் கடிதம் எழுதினார். அதை பரிசீலனை

செய்த அரசு, நடப்பாண்டு திட்டத்தை, 360 கோடி ரூபாயில் செயல்படுத்த, அனுமதி அளித்துள்ளது.

தூர மற்றும் தபால் வழியில், அங்கீகரிக்கப்படாத கல்வி நிறுவனங்களில், உயர் கல்வி கற்கும் மாணவர்கள் ஊக்கத்தொகை பெற இயலாது.

- வேறு ஏதேனும் உதவித்தொகை பெறுபவராக இருந்தாலும், இத்திட்டத்தில் பயன் பெறலாம். மற்ற மாநில பள்ளிகளில் படித்த மாணவர்கள் பயன் பெற முடியாது.
- ஒரே குடும்பத்தில் எத்தனை மாணவர்கள் தகுதி பெற்றிருந்தாலும் விண்ணப்பிக்கலாம். ஒருங்கிணைக்கப்பட்ட பாடப்பிரிவில் படிக்கும் மாணவர்கள் மட்டும், முதல் முன்று ஆண்டுகள் ஊக்கத்தொகை பெற இயலும். மத்திய அரசின் கீழ் செயல்படும் கல்வி நிறுவனங்களில் படிக்கும் மாணவர்களும் பயன் பெறலாம்.
- ஒவ்வொரு மாதமும் மாணவர்களுக்கு ஊக்கத்தொகை, 7ம் தேதிக்குள் அவர்களின் வங்கி கணக்கில் வரவு வைக்கப்படும். இவ்வாறு கூறப்பட்டுள்ளது.

இதற்கான அரசாணையை, சமூக நலத்துறை செயலர் ஜெயமணி முரளிதரன் வெளியிட்டுள்ளார்.

72 ஆயிரம் மாணவர்களின் திறன் பயிற்சிக்காக

17 நிறுவனங்களுடன் புரிந்துணர்வு ஒப்பந்தம்

● அமைச்சர் பழனிவேல் தியாகராஜன் முன்னிலையில் கையெழுத்து

● சென்னை

72 ஆயிரம் மாணவர்களின் திறன் பயிற்சிக்காக ரூ.82 கோடியில் 17 முன்னணி நிறுவனங்களுடன் புரிந்துணர்வு ஒப்பந்தங்கள் அமைச்சர் பழனிவேல் தியாகராஜன் முன்னிலையில் கையெழுத்தாகின. தமிழக தொழில்நுட்பவியல் மற்றும் டிஜிட்டல் சேவைகள் துறையின் தமிழ்நாடு ஐசிடி அகாடமி மற்றும் பல்வேறு தொழில்நிறுவனங்கள் இடையே புரிந்துணர்வு ஒப்பந்தம் பரிமாற்றம் நிகழ்வு சென்னையில் நேற்று நடைபெற்றது.

இதில், தகவல் தொழில்நுட்பத் துறை அமைச்சர் பழனிவேல் தியாகராஜன் முன்னிலையில் 72 ஆயிரம் மாணவர்கள் பயனடையும் வகையில் திறன் மேம்பாட்டு பயிற்சிக்காக 17 முன்னணி தொழில் நிறுவனங்களுடன் புரிந்துணர்வு ஒப்பந்தங்கள் கையெழுத்தானது. அதன்படி பொறியியல், கலை மற்றும் அறிவியல் கல்லூரிகளில் பயிலும் 7,500 பட்டதாரி மாணவர்களுக்கு 'கேப்ஜெமினி' நிறுவனத்

தில் 3 ஆண்டுகால திறன்பயிற்சி, 'ஹனிலெவ் ஹோம்டவுன் சொல்பு சன்ஸ் இந்தியா' அறக்கட்டளை சார்பில் உயர்கல்வி பயிலும் 17 ஆயிரத்துக்கும் மேற்பட்ட மாணவர்களுக்கு தகவல் தொழில்நுட்பம், இணைய பாதுகாப்பு குறித்த 3 ஆண்டுகால திறன் பயிற்சிக்கான ஒப்பந்தங்கள் கையெழுத்திடப்பட்டன.

தொடர்ந்து பொருளாதாரத்தில் பின்தங்கிய 48 ஆயிரம் உயர்கல்வி மாணவர்களுக்கு 'இன்போசிஸ்' நிறுவனத்தில் 3 ஆண்டுகால பயிற்சி, 'மைக்ரோசாப்ட்' நிறுவனத்தில் 200 கல்வியாளர்கள், 3 ஆயிரம் உயர்கல்வி மாணவர்களுக்கு சைபர் பாதுகாப்பு பயிற்சி, தேசிய திறன் மேம்பாட்டு கழகம் சார்பில் 8 ஆயிரம் உயர்கல்வி மாணவர்களுக்கு சில்லறை வணிகம், ஐடி துறைகளில் திறன் பயிற்சி, இதுதவிர மத்திய அரசின் மின்னணுவியல் வியல் மற்றும் தகவல் தொழில்நுட்ப அமைச்சகம் மூலம் 1.35 லட்சம் பேருக்கு மேம்பட்ட பயிற்சி என

17 நிறுவனங்களுடன் புரிந்துணர்வு ஒப்பந்தங்கள் கையெழுத்தாகின. இதுகுறித்து செய்தியாளர்களிடம் அமைச்சர் கூறியதாவது: தமிழ்நாடு ஐசிடி அகாடமி நிறுவனம் மூலம் மாணவர்களுக்கு திறன் பயிற்சி அளித்து அவர்களுக்கான வேலைவாய்ப்புகளை அதிகரிக்கும் வகையில் பல்வேறு நிறுவனங்களுடன் 3 வகையான புரிந்துணர்வு ஒப்பந்தங்கள் கையெழுத்தாகின. அதன்படி முதலாவதாக கார்ப்பரேட் நிறுவனங்கள் தங்களது சிஎஸ்ஆர் நிதியில், ஐசிடி அகாடமி மூலம் மாணவர்களுக்கு திறன்பயிற்சி அளித்து, 60 முதல் 80 சதவீத வேலைவாய்ப்புக்கு வழிவகுப்பது.

இரண்டாவதாக, மத்திய அரசின் துறைகளான மின்னணுவியல் மற்றும் தகவல் தொழில்நுட்ப அமைச்சகம், தேசிய திறன் மேம்பாட்டு கழகம் சார்பில், எலெக்ட்ரானிக்ஸ் உற்பத்திக்கான திறன் பயிற்சி வழங்க ஒப்பந்தம் கையெழுத்தானது. மூன்றாவதாக கடந்த

சட்டப்பேரவை மானியக் கோரிக்கையில் ஐசிடி அகாடமி பயிற்சி திட்டங்கள் பாலிடெக்னிக், கல்லூரிகளுக்கு மட்டுமின்றி ஐடிஐக்களுக்கும் பயன்படும் வகையில் விரிவாக்கம் செய்யப்படும் என அறிவிக்கப்பட்டது.

இதுதொடர்பாக தமிழக அரசின் வேலைவாய்ப்பு மற்றும் பயிற்சித் துறையுடன் இன்றைக்கு ஒப்பந்தம் மேற்கொள்ளப்பட்டது. இன்னும் சில நாட்களில் 102 ஐடிஐக்களுடன் ஒப்பந்தம் போடப்பட்டு ஐசிடி பயிற்சி திட்டங்களில் ஐடிஐ மாணவர்கள் பங்கேற்கும் வகையில் நடவடிக்கை எடுக்கப்படும். அந்த வகையில் ஐசிடி அகாடமி மூலம் ரூ.82 கோடிக்கு ஒப்பந்தங்கள் கையெழுத்தாகி உள்ளன.

இவ்வாறு அவர் கூறினார். இந்நிகழ்வில் தகவல் தொழில்நுட்பத் துறை செயலர் குமார் ஜெயந்த், தமிழ்நாடு ஐசிடி அகாடமி யின் தலைமை நிர்வாக அதிகாரி ஸ்ரீகாந்த் உள்ளிட்டோர் பங்கேற்றனர்.

(Above) Source: Hindu Tamil Thisai, 31 July 2024, p. 5

(Right) Source: Hindu Tamil Thisai, 5 July 2024, p. 9

அரசுப் பள்ளிகளில் உபரியாக உள்ள உடற்கல்வி ஆசிரியர்களை பணி நிரவல் செய்ய வேண்டும்

▶ பள்ளிக்கல்வித் துறை உத்தரவு

● சென்னை

அரசுப் பள்ளிகளில் உபரியாக உள்ள உடற்கல்வி உபரி ஆசிரியர்களை பணிநிரவல் செய்ய வேண்டுமென பள்ளிக்கல்வித் துறை அறிவுறுத்தியுள்ளது.

இதுகுறித்து பள்ளிக்கல்வி இயக்குநர் ச.கண்ணப்பன், அனைத்து மாவட்ட முதன்மைக் கல்வி அலுவலர்களுக்கும் அனுப்பிய சுற்றறிக்கை விவரம்: தமிழகத்தில் அரசு உயர்நிலை, மேல்நிலைப் பள்ளிகளில் உடற்கல்வி ஆசிரியர்கள் மாணவர்களை எண்ணிக்கை அடிப்படையில் பணிநியமனம் செய்யப்படுகின்றனர்.

அதன்படி 700-க்கும் கீழ் உள்ள மாணவர்கள் இருந்தால் ஒரு உடற்கல்வி ஆசிரியர், உயர்நிலைப் பள்ளிகளில் 700-க்கும் மேல் மாணவர்கள் இருந்தால் 2 உடற்கல்வி ஆசிரியர்கள், மேல்நிலைப் பள்ளிகளில் 701 முதல் 1,500 வரை மாணவர்கள் இருந்தால் ஒரு உடற்கல்வி இயக்குநர் மற்றும் ஒரு உடற்கல்வி ஆசிரியர், 1,500-க்கும் மேற்பட்ட மாணவர்கள் பயிலும் மேல்நிலைப் பள்ளிகளில் ஒரு உடற்கல்வி இயக்குநர், 2 உடற்கல்வி ஆசிரியர்கள் என்ற வாய்ப்பு பணிநிரவல் நிர்ணயிக்கப்பட்டுள்ளது.

இந்த எண்ணிக்கையின்படி பள்ளிகளுக்கு உடற்கல்வி ஆசிரியர்களை பணிநிரவல் செய்ய வேண்டும். அதன் அடிப்படையில் உபரியாக உள்ள ஆசிரியர்களை உரிய வழிகாட்டுதல்களை பின்பற்றி பணிநிரவல் கலந்தாய்வு மூலம் தேவையுள்ள பள்ளிகளுக்கு மாறுதல் செய்தாக வேண்டும்.

வழிகாட்டுதல்கள் வெளியீடு

அதன் விவரங்களை எம்ஸிஸ் வலைதளத்தில் பதிவேற்றம் செய்ய வேண்டும். இதற்கான உபரி பணியிடங்களை கண்டறிதல், பணிநிரவல் கலந்தாய்வுக்கான முன்னுரிமை, காலிப் பணியிடங்களை சரிபார்த்தல் உள்ளிட்ட பல்வேறு அம்சங்களுக்கான வழிகாட்டுதல்கள் வழங்கப்பட்டுள்ளன. அதை பின்பற்றி கலந்தாய்வை நடத்த அனைத்து மாவட்ட முதன்மைக் கல்வி அலுவலர்களும் உரிய நடவடிக்கைகள் எடுக்க வேண்டும். இவ்வாறு அதில் கூறப்பட்டுள்ளது.

அரசுப் பள்ளிகளில் எஸ்எம்சி குழுக்களுக்கு புதிய உறுப்பினர்கள்

கல்வித் துறை அறிவுறுத்தல்

சென்னை, ஜூலை 1: தமிழகத்தில் அரசுப் பள்ளிகளில் ஏற்படுத்தப்பட்டுள்ள பள்ளி மேலாண்மைக் குழுவின் (எஸ்எம்சி) பதவிக் காலம் முடிவதால் புதிய உறுப்பினர்களை ஜூலை, ஆகஸ்ட் மாதங்களில் தேர்வு செய்ய வேண்டுமென பள்ளிக்கல்வித் துறை அறிவுறுத்தியுள்ளது.

பள்ளிக்கல்வித் துறை செயலர் ஜெ.குமரகுருபரன் வெளியிட்ட அரசாணை விவரம்: தமிழகத்தில் அரசுப் பள்ளிகளில் செயல்பட்டு வரும் பள்ளி மேலாண்மைக் குழுக்கள் (எஸ்எம்சி) 2022-ஆம் ஆண்டு மறுகட்டமைப்பு செய்யப்பட்டது.

அதன்படி பெற்றோர்கள், ஆசிரியர்கள், உள்ளாட்சிப் பிரதிநிதிகள் மற்றும் கல்வியாளர்களை உள்ளடக்கிய 20 உறுப்பினர்கள் கொண்ட குழுவாக எஸ்எம்சி மாற்றி அமைக்கப்பட்டு சிறப்பாக செயல்பட்டு வருகிறது.

இதற்கிடையே 2022 ஜூலை முதல் 2024 மே வரை 16 பள்ளி மேலாண்மை குழு கூட்டங்கள் ஒவ்வொரு மாதமும் வெள்ளிக்கிழமைகளில் நடத்தப்பட்டன.

அதில், கற்றல், சேர்க்கை, மேலாண்மை தொடர்பாக 3 லட்சத்து 71,729 தீர்மானங்கள் குழுவின் கூட்டத்தில் முன்வைக்கப்பட்டு அதில் 75,863 தீர்மானங்கள் நிறைவேற்றப்பட்ட

நுள்ளன. மேலும், அரசின் பிற துறைகளால் 8,311 தீர்மானங்களும் செய்து தரப்பட்டுள்ளன. இதற்கிடையே ஏற்கெனவே நியமிக்கப்பட்ட பள்ளி மேலாண்மைக் குழுவின் பதவிக் காலம் ஜூலையில் நிறைவடையவுள்ளது.

இதையடுத்து 2024-2026-ஆம் ஆண்டுக்குமான எஸ்எம்சி குழுவுக்கு புதிய உறுப்பினர்களை தேர்வு செய்வதற்கான நடைமுறைகள் தற்போது வெளியிடப்பட்டுள்ளது.

அதன்படி, பள்ளி மேலாண்மைக் குழுவின் புதிய உறுப்பினர்களை ஜூலை மற்றும் ஆகஸ்ட்டில் தேர்ந்தெடுக்க வேண்டும். இந்தக் குழுவுக்கு பெற்றோர் ஒருவர் தலைவராக இருக்க வேண்டும்.

தலைமை ஆசிரியர் ஒருங்கிணைப்பாளராக செயல்பட வேண்டும். அதனுடன், பெற்றோர், ஆசிரியர், உள்ளாட்சி பிரதிநிதிகள், கல்வியாளர், சுய உதவிக்குழு உறுப்பினர், முன்னாள் மாணவர்கள் என மொத்தம் 24 பேர் இந்தக் குழுவில் இடம்பெற்றிருப்பர்.

அதில் 18 பேர் பெற்றோராகவும், மொத்த உறுப்பினர்களில் 12 பேர் பெண்களாகவும் இருக்க வேண்டும். மேலும், பள்ளியின் தலைமை ஆசிரியரே உறுப்பினர்களை தேர்வு செய்யும் அலுவலராக இருப்பார் எனத் தெரிவிக்கப்பட்டுள்ளது.

Source: Dinamani, 2 July 2024, p. 2

முதல்வர் காப்பீட்டில் 1.4 கோடி பேருக்கு கட்டணமில்லா சிகிச்சை

அமெரிக்க பல்கலை.யில் அமைச்சர் மா.சுப்பிரமணியன்

சென்னை, ஜூலை 9: தமிழகத்தில் முதல்வரின் விரிவான மருத்துவக் காப்பீட்டுத் திட்டத்தின் கீழ் 1.4 கோடி பேருக்கு ரூ.13,625 கோடி மதிப்பிலான சிகிச்சைகள் கட்டணமில்லா வழங்கப்பட்டுள்ளதாக அமெரிக்காவின் ஹார்வர்டு பல்கலைக்கழகத்தில் மக்கள் நல்வாழ்வுத் துறை அமைச்சர் மா.சுப்பிரமணியன் தெரிவித்தார்.

அரசுமுறைப் பயணமாக அமெரிக்கா சென்றுள்ள அவர், அங்குள்ள உலகப் புகழ்பெற்ற ஹார்வர்டு பல்கலைமையில் தமிழகத்தின் மருத்துவக் கட்டமைப்பு குறித்து உரை நிகழ்த்தினார். அவருடன் ஊரக வளர்ச்சித் துறை கூடுதல் தலைமைச் செயலர் கனகசபை சிங் பேடி, தமிழ்நாடு டாக்டர் எம்.ஜி.ஆர். மருத்துவப் பல்கலை. துணைவேந்தர் கே.நாராயணசாமி ஆகியோரும் சென்றுள்ளனர். ஹார்வர்டு பல்கலைக்கழகத்தில் அமைச்சர் மா.சுப்பிரமணியன் ஆற்றிய உரை:

தமிழக மக்கள் நல்வாழ்வுத் துறை பிற மாநிலங்களுக்கு முன்னோடியாக விளங்கி வருகிறது. 1923-ஆம் ஆண்டு தொடங்கப்பட்ட பொது சுகாதார அமைப்பு மூலம் பல்வேறு பொது சுகாதாரத் திட்டங்கள் செயல்படுத்தப்பட்டுள்ளன.

காப்பீட்டுத் திட்டம் ஏழை மக்களுக்காக 2009-ஆம் ஆண்டு ஜூலை 23-ஆம் தேதி காப்பீட்டுத் திட்டத்தை முன்னாள் முதல்வர் கருணாநிதி தொடங்கினார்.

முதல்வரின் விரிவான மருத்துவக் காப்பீட்டுத் திட்டம் தொடங்கியது முதல் கடந்த ஜூன் வரை ரூ.13,625 கோடி மதிப்பீட்டில் (13,625 பில்லியன்) செலவில், 1.4 கோடி மக்களுக்கு (14 பில்லியன்) சிகிச்சை அளிக்கப்பட்டுள்ளது. மொத்த பயனாளிகளில் 43.2 லட்சம் மக்கள் அரசு மருத்துவமனைகளில் உயர்சிகிச்சைகள் பெற்றுள்ளனர்.



அமெரிக்கா பாஸ்டனில் உள்ள ஹார்வர்டு பல்கலைக்கழகத்தில் அமைச்சர் மா.சுப்பிரமணியன், உடன், ஊரக வளர்ச்சித் துறை கூடுதல் தலைமைச் செயலர் கனகசபை சிங் பேடி, தமிழ்நாடு டாக்டர் எம்.ஜி.ஆர். மருத்துவப் பல்கலைக்கழக துணைவேந்தர் டாக்டர் நாராயணசாமி.

2008-ஆம் ஆண்டு செப். 15-ஆம் தேதி 1,353 அவசர ஊர்திகளுடன் 108 அவசர கால பராமரிப்பு சேவை திட்டம் தொடங்கப்பட்டது. தமிழகத்தில் எந்த இடத்தில் இருந்தாலும், கட்டுப்பாட்டு அறையை தொடர்பு கொண்ட 11 நிமிஷங்கள் 23 விநாடிகளுக்குள் அவசர ஊர்தி அந்த இடத்துக்கு சென்றடையும் வகையில் அந்த திட்டம் செயல்பட்டு வருகிறது.

இன்னுயிர் காப்போம் திட்டம்: சாலைப் போக்குவரத்து விபத்துகளுக்கு இலவச அவசர சிகிச்சை வழங்கும் இன்னுயிர் காப்போம் நம்மை காக்கும் 48 திட்டம் 2023-ஆம் ஆண்டு டிச. 18-ஆம் தேதி தொடங்கப்பட்டது. இத்திட்டத்தில் கடந்த மே மாதம் வரை ரூ.221 கோடியில் 2,52,981 நோயாளிகள் கட்டணமில்லா சிகிச்சையைப் பெற்றுள்ளனர்.

இதில் மொத்த பயனாளிகளில் 2,33,039 நோயாளிகள் அரசு மருத்துவமனைகளில் சிகிச்சை பெற்றுள்ளனர். 2008-ஆம் ஆண்டு முதல் தமிழகத்தில் மூளைச் சாவு அடைந்தவர்களிடம் இருந்து உடல் உறுப்

புகளை தானமாகப் பெற்று உறுப்பு மாற்று அறுவை சிகிச்சை மேற்கொள்ளும் திட்டம் தொடங்கப்பட்டது.

இதன் மூலம் இதுவரை இதயம், நுரையீரல், கல்லீரல், சிறுநீரகம், கணையம், சிறுதூல், வயிறு, கைகள் என மொத்தம் 7,783 உறுப்புகள், 3,950 சிறிய உறுப்புகள் மற்றும் திசுக்கள் தானமாக பெறப்பட்டு உறுப்பு மாற்று அறுவை சிகிச்சைகள் செய்யப்பட்டுள்ளன.

தமிழகம் முதலிடம்: அதிக எண்ணிக்கையிலான உறுப்பு மாற்று அறுவை சிகிச்சைகளை செய்யும் மாநிலங்களில் தமிழகம் தொடர்ந்து தேசிய அளவில் முதல் இடம் பிடித்துள்ளது. உறுப்பு தானம் செய்யப்பட்ட உடலுக்கு அரசு மரியாதை வழங்கப்படுகிறது.

மக்களைத் தேடி மருத்துவம் திட்டம் 2021-ஆம் ஆண்டு ஆக. 5-ஆம் தேதி தொடங்கப்பட்டது. இத்திட்டத்தில் மக்களுக்கு தேவையான மருந்துகள், அவர்களின் வீடுகளுக்கே சென்று வழங்கப்படுகிறது.

இத்திட்டம் மூலம் 1 கோடிக்கும் மேற்பட்டோர் பயன்பெற்று வருகின்றனர். மருத்துவ சேவைகள் மலிவாக கிடைக்கக் கூடிய, அணுகக்கூடியதாக மாற்றுவதன் மூலம் மேம்படுத்தப்பட்ட சுகாதார சேவைகள் அனைவருக்கும் கிடைக்கும் நிலை ஏற்படும். தமிழகத்தில் மக்களைத் தேடி ஆய்வகம் திட்டம், இதயம் காப்போம் திட்டம், சிறுநீரகம் பாதுகாப்புத் திட்டம், தொழிலாளரை தேடி மருத்துவம் எனும் திட்டம் உள்ளிட்ட பல்வேறு திட்டங்கள் சிறப்பாக செயல்படுத்தப்பட்டு வருகின்றன என்று அமைச்சர் மா.சுப்பிரமணியன் பேசினார்.

(Left) Source: Dinamani, 10 July 2024, p. 3

(Below) Source: Dinamani, 10 July 2024, p. 2

அரசு காப்பீட்டுத் திட்டத்தில் புதிதாக 84 தனியார் மருத்துவமனைகள்

சென்னை, ஜூலை 9: முதல்வரின் விரிவான காப்பீட்டுத் திட்டத்தின் கீழ் தமிழகத்தின் பல்வேறு மாவட்டங்களில் உள்ள 84 முன்னணி தனியார் மருத்துவமனைகள் இணைக்கப்பட்டுள்ளன.

முதல்வரின் காப்பீட்டுத் திட்டத்தின் கீழ் 1.45 கோடி குடும்பங்கள் பயன்பெற்று வருகின்றன. அவர்களுக்கு ஆண்டுக்கு ரூ.5 லட்சம் வரையிலான சிகிச்சைகள் வழங்கப்பட்டு வருகின்றன.

மொத்தம் 1,513 வகை சிகிச்சைகள் அதன் கீழ் வழங்கப்படுகின்றன. இதைத் தவிர, கல்லீரல், சிறுநீரகம், இதயம், கணையம், எலும்பு, எலும்புமஜ்ஜை, விழி வெண்படல மாற்று அறுவை சிகிச்சைகள் உள்

பட 8 வகை உயர் அறுவை சிகிச்சைகளும் காப்பீட்டுத் திட்டத்தின் கீழ் மேற்கொள்ளப்படுகின்றன.

இத்திட்டம் 854 அரசு மருத்துவமனைகள், 975 தனியார் மருத்துவமனைகள் என மொத்தம் 1,829 மருத்துவமனைகளில் செயல்படுத்தப்பட்டு வருகிறது.

இந்நிலையில், புதிதாக 84 தனியார் மருத்துவமனைகளை காப்பீட்டுத் திட்டத்தின் கீழ் இணைத்து தமிழக அரசு ஆணை வெளியிட்டுள்ளது.

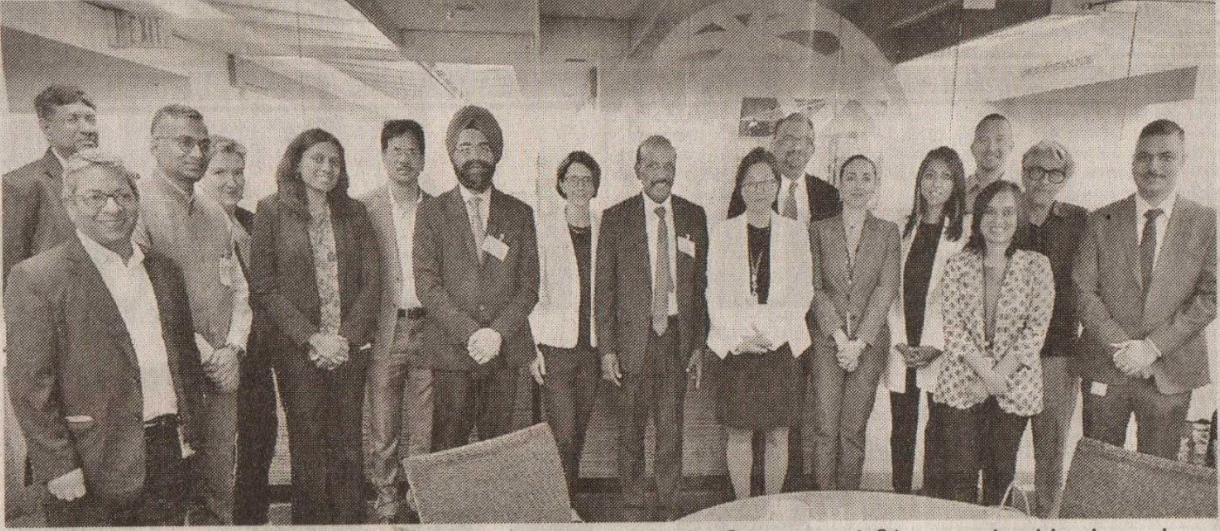
அதன்படி, சென்னையில் பி வெல், அக்ரவால்ஸ், வடபழனி காவேரி, செயின்ட் தாமஸ், ஆர். கே. சர்க்கரை நோய் சிகிச்சை

மையம் உள்பட 10 மருத்துவமனைகள் புதிதாக இணைக்கப்பட்டுள்ளன. இதைத் தவிர கோவையில் ஜெம் மருத்துவமனை உள்பட தருமபுரி, காஞ்சிபுரம், ஈரோடு, கிருஷ்ணகிரி என அனைத்து மாவட்டங்களிலும் 74 தனியார் மருத்துவமனைகள் இணைக்கப்பட்டுள்ளன.

சென்னை, ஷெனாய் நகரில் உள்ள பில்ரோத் மருத்துவமனையில் உறுப்பு மாற்று சிகிச்சைத் திட்டங்களும் கூடுதலாக அரசு காப்பீட்டுத் திட்டத்தின் கீழ் இணைக்கப்பட்டுள்ளன.

பெயர், முகவரி மாற்றப்பட்ட 14 மருத்துவமனைகள் காப்பீட்டுத் திட்டத்திலிருந்து நீக்கப்பட்டுள்ளன.

தமிழக சுகாதார கட்டமைப்பு மேம்பாட்டுக்கு ரூ. 3,000 கோடி வழங்க உலக வங்கி ஒப்புதல்



அமெரிக்காவின் வாஷிங்டனில் உள்ள உலக வங்கி தலைமையகத்தில் உலக வங்கித் தலைவர் மார்ட்டின் ரைசர், பிரதிநிதிகளுடன் நிதி ஆதாரம் மற்றும் செயல் திட்டங்கள் குறித்து வியாழக்கிழமை நடைபெற்ற அமர்வில் மக்கள் நல்வாழ்வுத் துறை அமைச்சர் மா.சுப்பிரமணியன், துறையின் செயலர் ககன்தீபிங் பேடி, தமிழ்நாடு டாக்டர் எம்ஜிஆர் மருத்துவப் பல்கலைக்கழகத் துணைவேந்தர் டாக்டர் நாராயணசாமி.

சென்னை, ஜூலை 11: தமிழக சுகாதார கட்டமைப்பு, தரத்தை மேம்படுத்துவதற்கு ரூ. 3,000 கோடி நிதியுதவி வழங்க உலக வங்கி ஒப்புதல் அளித்துள்ளதாக மக்கள் நல்வாழ்வு துறை அதிகாரிகள் தெரிவித்தனர்.

தமிழகசுகாதாரதரத்தைமேம்படுத்தும்வகையில், உலக வங்கியின் உதவியுடன், சுகாதார சீரமைப்பு திட்டம் 2019 முதல் செயல்படுத்தப்பட்டு வருகிறது. 5 ஆண்டு கொண்ட திட்டத்தில் ரூ. 2,854.74 கோடி மதிப்பில் பல்வேறு சுகாதார பணிகள் மேற்கொள்ளப்படுகிறது. இதில் ரூ. 1,998.32 கோடி உலக வங்கியும், ரூ. 856.42 கோடி மாநில அரசும் நிதி அளிக்கிறது.

கடந்த 2019-ஆம் ஆண்டில் இருந்து இதுவரை உலக வங்கியிடமிருந்து ரூ. 1,621.86 கோடி பெறப்பட்டு தொற்றா நோய், விபத்து சிகிச்சை, பேறுசார் மற்றும் குழந்தைகள் நல திட்டம்,

மருத்துவ உள்கட்டமைப்பு உள்ளிட்ட பல்வேறு பணிகளுக்கு பயன்படுத்தப்பட்டுள்ளன.

இத்திட்டம் நிகழாண்டுடன் முடிவடையும் நிலையில், இத்திட்டத்தில் மீதமுள்ள ரூ. 376.46 கோடி மற்றும் புதிய கட்டமைப்புகளுக்காக ரூ. 3 ஆயிரம் கோடி நிதியுதவியை வழங்க கோரி, உலக வங்கியிடம் கோரிக்கை வைக்கப்பட்டுள்ளது.

இதற்காக மக்கள் நல்வாழ்வு துறை அமைச்சர் மா.சுப்பிரமணியன், அரசு கூடுதல் செயலர் ககன்தீபிங் பேடி, தமிழ்நாடு டாக்டர் எம்.ஜி.ஆர். மருத்துவ பல்கலை துணைவேந்தர் நாராயணசாமி ஆகியோர் அமெரிக்கா சென்றுள்ளனர்.

அங்கு, வாஷிங்டனில் உள்ள உலக வங்கி தலைமை அலுவலத்தில் அந்த வங்கியின் தெற்காசிய பிராந்திய துணைத் தலைவர் மார்ட்டின் ரைசர் உள்ளிட்ட அதி

காரிகளை சந்தித்து நேற்று கடந்த புதன்கிழமை ஆலோசனை நடத்தினார். அப்போது, தமிழகத்தில் செயல்படுத்தப்படும் திட்டங்கள் மற்றும் மேம்படுத்தப்பட்டு உள்ள செயல் திட்டங்கள் குறித்து விளக்கப்பட்டது.

இது குறித்து, மக்கள் நல்வாழ்வு துறை அதிகாரிகள் கூறியதாவது: தமிழகத்தின் மருத்துவ கட்டமைப்பை உலக வங்கி அதிகாரிகள் பாராட்டியுள்ளனர். தற்போது கேட்கப்பட்டுள்ள ரூ. 3,000 கோடி நிதியுதவி அளிக்கவும் முன் வந்துள்ளனர். உலக வங்கி அதிகாரிகள் தமிழகத்தில் அரசு மருத்துவமனைகள், மக்கள் நல்வாழ்வு துறை செயல்பாடுகள் உள்ளிட்டவற்றை ஆய்வு செய்து எவ்வளவு நிதி ஒதுக்கீடு என்பது குறித்து இறுதி முடிவு எடுப்பார்கள். உலக வங்கியுடனான சந்திப்பு வெற்றிகரமாக முடிந்துள்ளது என அவர்கள் தெரிவித்தனர்.

Source: Dinamani, 12 July 2024, p. 4

கொசு ஒழிப்பு, குடிநீர் சுத்திகரிப்புக்கு கூடுதல் முக்கியத்துவம்

பொது சுகாதாரத் துறை இயக்குநர் அறிவுறுத்தல்

சென்னை, ஜூலை 2: கொசுக்கள் மற்றும் குடிநீர் மூலம் பரவும் நோய்களைத் தடுப்பதற்கு கூடுதல் முக்கியத்துவம் அளிக்க வேண்டும் என்று பொது சுகாதாரத் துறை இயக்குநர் செல்வவிநாயகம் அறிவுறுத்தியுள்ளார்.

அனைத்து மாவட்ட சுகாதார தொழில்நுட்ப கண்காணிப்பாளர்களுடனான ஆய்வுக் கூட்டம் சென்னை தேனாம்பேட்டை டிஎம் எஸ் வளாகத்தில் டாக்டர் செல்வவிநாயகம் தலைமையில் செவ்வாய்க்கிழமை நடைபெற்றது.

மழைக்கால நோய்த் தொற்றுகளைத் தடுத்தல், மருத்துவ முகாம் களை அமைத்து தொற்று பரவலை கட்டுப்படுத்துதல், குடிநீரின் தரத்தை மேம்படுத்துதல் என பல்வேறு நிரல்களின் கீழ் ஆலோசனை நடைபெற்றது.

அப்போது செல்வவிநாயகம், துறைசார் அதிகாரிகளுக்கு வழங்கிய அறிவுறுத்தல்: கட்டட அனுமதிக்கான சுகாதார சான்றிதழை விண்ணப்பித்த 15 நாட்களுக்குள் வழங்க வேண்டும்.

கொசுக்கள், பூச்சிகள் மூலம் பரவும் நோய்களைத் தடுப்பதில் அகீதகவனம் செலுத்துவது அவசியம்.

குறிப்பாக டெங்கு ஒழிப்பு நடவடிக்கைகளை தீவிரமாக முன்னெடுக்க வேண்டும்.

மலேரியா மற்றும் யானைக் கால் பாதிப்புகளுக்கு தேவையின் அடிப்படையில் முக்கியத்துவம் அளித்து தடுப்பு நடவடிக்கைகளை மேற்கொள்ள வேண்டும். ஒருங்கிணைந்த நோய் கண்காணிப்பு திட்டத்தின் (ஐடிஎஸ்பி) கீழ் காய்ச்சல் பாதிப்புகள் இருக்கும் பகுதிகளை தீவிரமாக கண்காணிப்பது முக்கியம்.

வயிற்றுப்போக்கு பாதிப்புகளைத் தவிர்க்க குடிநீரின் தரத்தை தொடர்ந்து உறுதி செய்வது அவசியம்.

குடிநீர் மாதிரிகளை மண்டல ஆய்வகங்களுக்கு அனுப்பி தரப் பரிசோதனை செய்ய வேண்டும். பாக்கியா பகுப்பாய்வு முடிவுகளை 3 நாட்களுக்குள் வழங்கி குடிநீரின் பாதுகாப்பை உறுதி செய்ய வேண்டும்.

மற்றொருபுறம், கரோனா தொற்று கண்காணிப்பையும் கைவிடாது தொடர்ந்து மேற்கொள்வது அவசியம். உட்பில் அயோடின் அளவு நிர்ணயிக்கப்பட்ட வகையில் உள்ளதா என்பதையும் ஆய்வு செய்ய வேண்டும் என்று அந்த அறிவுறுத்தலில் குறிப்பிடப்பட்டுள்ளது.

(Left) Source: Dinamani, 3 July 2024, p. 5

(Below) Source: Dinamani, 9 July 2024, p. 2

சுகாதார நிலையம் வாரியாக காசநோய் விவரங்களைத் திரட்ட முடிவு

சென்னை, ஜூலை 8: ஊரகப் பகுதி மக்களின் நலனுக்காக 424 ஆரம்ப சுகாதார நிலையங்களில் அமைக்கப்பட்ட காசநோய் சிறப்பு மருத்துவ மையங்களில் கண்டறியப்படும் புதிய பாதிப்புகளின் விவரங்களை பகுதிவாரியாக பதிவு செய்து நோய் பரவலைத் தடுக்க நடவடிக்கை எடுக்கப்பட உள்ளதாக பொது சுகாதாரத் துறை தெரிவித்துள்ளது. தற்போதைய சூழலில் மத்திய அரசின் காசநோய் தரவு இணையதளத்தில் (நிக்ஷய்) அவை பதிவேற்றப்படுவதால், மாவட்ட வாரியான பாதிப்பு நிலவரம் மட்டுமே உள்ளதாகவும், சுகாதார நிலையங்கள் வாரியாக தகவல்களை பெறுவதில் சிக்கல் இருப்பதாகவும் தெரிவிக்கப்பட்டுள்ளது.

காசநோயை முழுமையாக

ஒழிக்கும் நோக்கில் மத்திய, மாநில அரசுகள் பல்வேறு முயற்சிகளை மேற்கொண்டு வருகின்றன. எதிர்வரும் 2025-க்குள் அந்த நோயை முற்றிலும் ஒழிக்க வேண்டும் என்ற இலக்குடன் பல்வேறு திட்டங்கள் செயல்படுத்தப்படுகின்றன.

தமிழகத்தைப் பொருத்த வரை நோயாளிகளைக் கண்டறிதல், கூட்டு மருத்து சிகிச்சைகளை அளித்தல், தொடர் கண்காணிப்பு நடவடிக்கைகள் மேற்கொள்ளுதல் என காசநோய் ஒழிப்புத் திட்டப் பணிகள் மாநிலம் முழுவதும் விரிவாக மேற்கொள்ளப்படுகின்றன. சிகிச்சை நெறிமுறைகளைப்படி அவர்களுக்கு வீட்டிலேயே சளி மாதிரி எடுக்கப்படும், தேவைப்படுபவர்களுக்கு நடமாடும் ஊடுகதிர் கருவிகளை அவர்களின் இருப்

பிடங்களுக்கே அனுப்பி ஊடுகதிர் படம் எடுக்கப்படும் வருகிறது.

இதனால் அந்த நோயின் தாக்கத்தால் பாதிக்கப்படும் நோயாளிகளில் 84 சதவீதம் பேரை முதல் சிகிச்சையிலேயே குணப்படுத்துவதாகவும், தொடர் சிகிச்சைகள் மூலம் மீதமுள்ளவர்களையும் பூரண குணமாக்குவதாகவும் சுகாதாரத் துறை அதிகாரிகள் தெரிவித்துள்ளனர்.

ஆண்டுக்கு 70,000 பேர் பாதிப்பு: தமிழகத்தைப் பொருத்தவரை ஆண்டுதோறும் காச நோயால் 70,000 பேர் வரை பாதிக்கப்படுகின்றனர். அதைக் கருத்தில் கொண்டு கிராமப்புறங்களில் உள்ள காசநோயாளிகளைக் கண்டறிந்து சிகிச்சை அளிக்கும் வகையில், 424 ஆரம்ப சுகாதார நிலையங்களில் அதற்

கான சிறப்பு மையங்கள் கட்டத் துவக்கி தொடங்கப்பட்டது. அங்கு அறிகுறிகளுடன் வரும் நோயாளிகளைப் பரிசோதித்து பாதிப்பு உறுதி செய்யப்படுகிறது.

இது குறித்து பொது சுகாதாரத் துறை அதிகாரிகள் கூறியதாவது:

தமிழகத்தில் செயல்படுத்தப்பட்டு வரும் காசநோய் தடுப்புத் திட்டத்தின் அடுத்தகட்ட நடவடிக்கையாக கிராமப்புற மக்களுக்கு தொடக்க நிலையிலேயே காசநோயைக் கண்டறிந்து சிகிச்சை அளிக்கும் வகையில், ஆரம்ப சுகாதார நிலையங்களில் சிறப்பு பரிசோதனை மையம் தொடங்கப்பட்டது.

அந்த மையங்களில் காசநோய் பாதிப்பு உறுதி செய்யப்பட்டவர்களுக்கு உரிய சிகிச்சை வழங்

குவதுடன் மாதந்தோறும் ரூ. 500 உதவித் தொகை அளிக்கப்படுகிறது. அதேபோல், பாதிக்கப்பட்டவர்களின் வீடுகளுக்கு அருகே வசிப்பவர்களுக்கும் பரிசோதனை செய்யப்படுகிறது.

புதிய பாதிப்புகள் ஒருங்கிணைந்த தேசிய இணையதளத்தில் பதிவேற்றப்படுவதால், மாவட்ட அளவிலான புள்ளிவிவரங்கள் கிடைக்கப்பெறுகின்றன. அதேவேளையில், ஆரம்ப சுகாதார நிலையங்கள் வாரியாக அதை ஆய்வு செய்தால்தான் எந்தெந்த பகுதிகளில் பாதிப்பு அதிகம் உள்ளது என்பதைக் கண்டறிய முடியும். அதற்கான பணிகளை பொது சுகாதாரத் துறை முன்னெடுத்துள்ளது. விரைவில் அந்த நடைமுறை செயல்படுத்தப்படும் என்று அவர்கள் தெரிவித்தனர்.

பருவமழை மீட்பு மையங்கள் அமைக்கும் பணிகள்

மாநகராட்சி ஆணையர் ஜெ.குமரகுருபரன் ஆய்வு



வளசரவாக்கம் மண்டலத்தில் ரூ. 42.71 கோடியில் கூவம் ஆற்றின் குறுக்கே சின்ன நொளம்பூரில் கட்டப்பட்டு வரும் பாலப் பணியை சனிக்கிழமை ஆய்வு மேற்கொண்ட ஆணையர் ஜெ.குமரகுருபரன், உடன் மதுரவாயல் தொகுதி சட்டப்பேரவை உறுப்பினர் கா.கணபதி உள்ளிட்டோர்.

சென்னை, ஜூலை 27: வடகிழக்கு பருவமழை முன்னெச்சரிக்கை நடவடிக்கையாக சென்னை மாநகராட்சி பகுதியில் அமைக்கப்பட்டு வரும் மீட்பு மையங்களின் பணிகளை மாநகராட்சி ஆணையர் ஜெ.குமரகுருபரன் சனிக்கிழமை நேரில் பார்வையிட்டு ஆய்வு செய்தார். அண்ணாநகர், ராயபுரம், தண்

டையார்பேட்டை, திரு.வி.க.நகர், அம்பத்தூர், அடையாறு, பெருங்குடி மண்டலங்களில் உள்ள பள்ளிகள் மற்றும் சமுதாயக் கூடங்களில் அமையவுள்ள மீட்பு மையங்கள் மற்றும் சமையல் கூடங்களை ஆணையர் குமரகுருபரன் சனிக்கிழமை நேரில் பார்வையிட்டு ஆய்வு செய்தார். அப்போது, மீட்பு மையங்

ளில் தேவையான மின்சாரம், குடிநீர், கழிப்பிடம் உள்ளிட்ட அடிப்படை தேவைகளை தயார் நிலையில் வைக்கவும், மீட்பு மையங்கள் குறித்து பொதுமக்கள் எளிதில் அறியவும் நடவடிக்கை எடுக்குமாறு அலுவலர்களுக்கு அறிவுறுத்தினார். இதைத் தொடர்ந்து யானைக் கவுனி பாலத்தின் இரண்டாம் பகு

தியின் இறுதிக் கூட்டப் பணிகள், கணேசபுரம் ரயில்வே மேம்பாலம், போஜராஜன் நகர் சுரங்கபாதை, சின்ன நொளம்பூர், ஆலந்தூர் ஜீவன் நகர், தெற்கு உஸ்மான் சாலை பகுதிகளில் கூட்டப்பட்டு வரும் மேம்பாலப் பணிகளை ஆய்வு செய்த ஆணையர், பணிகளை விரைவாக முடிக்குமாறு அலுவலர்களுக்கு அறிவுறுத்தினார்.

(Above) Source: Dinamani, 28 July 2024, p. 3

(Right) Source: Dinamalar, 9 July 2024, p. 2

கடலோர மேலாண்மை திட்ட வரைபடம் விரைவில் வெளியீடு

சென்னை, ஜூலை 9- புதிய கடலோர மேலாண்மை திட்ட வரைபடம் தயார் நிலையில் இருப்பதாக, தென் மண்டல பசுமை தீர்ப்பாயத்தில், தமிழ்நாடு கடலோர மண்டல மேலாண்மை ஆணையம் தெரிவித்துள்ளது. 'மீனவர்களின் வாழ்வாதாரத்தை பாதிக்கும் வகையில், புதிய கடலோர மண்டல மேலாண்மை திட்டம் உள்ளது. திட்ட வரைவு அனைத்து அம்சங்களிலும் முழுமையாக இல்லை. இது மீனவர்களுக்கும், சுற்றுச்சூழலுக்கும் பாதிப்பை ஏற்படுத்தும். எனவே, அதை ரத்து செய்ய வேண்டும்' என, ஜேசுரெத்தினம் என்பவர், பசுமை தீர்ப்பாயத்தில் வழக்கு

தொடுத்தார். அதை விசாரித்த தீர்ப்பாயம், அனைத்து அம்சங்களிலும், முழுமையான வரைவு திட்டத்தை, பொது வெளியில் வெளியிட்ட பின், கருத்துக் கேட்பு கூட்டங்களை நடத்த உத்தரவிட்டது. இந்நிலையில், இந்த வழக்கை விசாரித்த தீர்ப்பாய நீதிபதி புஷ்பா சத்யநாராயணா, நிபுணர்குழு உறுப்பினர் சத்யநாராயணா ஆகியோர் பிறப்பித்த உத்தரவு: தமிழ்நாடு கடலோர மண்டல மேலாண்மை ஆணையம் சார்பில், மாசு கட்டுப்பாட்டு வாரியம் அறிவித்த பொது மக்கள் கருத்துக் கேட்பு கூட்டங்களுக்கு, 2023 ஆக., 18ல் தீர்ப்பாயம் தடை விதித்தது. மனுதாரர் உள்ளிட்ட பலரால்

சுட்டிக்காட்டப்பட்ட அனைத்து அம்சங்களும் தற்போது சரிசெய்யப்பட்டு, வரைவு அறிவிப்பு கிட்டத்தட்ட தயாராக உள்ளது என்று, கடலோர மண்டல மேலாண்மை ஆணையத்திற்காக ஆஜரான வழக்கறிஞர் தெரிவித்தார். இது தொடர்பாக அறிக்கை தாக்கல் செய்ய, ஆணையம் இரண்டு வாரம் அவகாசம் கோரியுள்ளது. அதன்பின், புதிய கடலோர மண்டல மேலாண்மை திட்ட வரைவு வரைபடத்தை ஆணையம் வெளியிடலாம். மக்கள் கருத்துக் கேட்பு கூட்டங்களை நடத்தலாம். வழக்கின் அடுத்த விசாரணை, வரும் 23ல் நடக்கும். இவ்வாறு உத்தரவில் கூறப்பட்டுள்ளது.

விவசாயம், மண்பாண்டத்துக்கு ஏரி - கண்மாய் மண் இலவசம்

முதல்வர் மு.க.ஸ்டாலின் தொடங்கி வைத்தார்



விவசாயம், மண்பாண்டம் தயாரிப்பதற்கு ஏரி, கண்மாய் மண்ணை கட்டணமின்றி எடுத்துப் பயன்படுத்துவதற்கான அனுமதி ஆணையை தலைமைச் செயலகத்தில் பயனாளிகளுக்கு வழங்கிய முதல்வர் மு.க.ஸ்டாலின். உடன், நீர்வளத் துறை அமைச்சர் துரை முருகன், தலைமைச் செயலர் சிவ் தாஸ் மீனா, இயற்கை வளங்கள் துறை கூடுதல் தலைமைச் செயலர் சுபாணிநிதி ரெட்டி, புவியியல், கரங்கத் துறை ஆணையர் எ.சரவணவேலுராஜ்.

சென்னை, ஜூலை 8: விவசாயம், மண்பாண்டம் செய்வதற்குத் தேவையான ஏரி, கண்மாய் மண்ணை எளிதான முறையில் விண்ணப்பித்து இலவசமாகப் பெறும் திட்டத்தை முதல்வர் மு.க.ஸ்டாலின் தொடங்கி வைத்தார். இதற்கான நிகழ்ச்சி தலைமைச் செயலகத்தில் திங்கட்கிழமை நடைபெற்றது.

இது குறித்து தமிழக அரசு வெளியிட்ட செய்திக் குறிப்பு: நீர்வளம், ஊராட்சி ஆகிய துறைகளின் கட்டுப்பாட்டில் ஏரி, குளம், கண்மாய்கள் உள்ளன. அவற்றில் இருந்து விவசாயத்துக்கும், மண்பாண்டம் செய்வதற்கும் வண்டல், களிமண் ஆகியன எடுக்கப்படுகின்றன. இவற்றை எளிதான முறையில் விண்ணப்பித்து, கட்டணமின்றி எடுத்துச் செல்லலாம் என்று கூறத் தகுந்த அறிவிப்பு செய்யப்பட்டது.

இதற்கேற்ற வகையில், தமிழ்நாடு அரசின் இ-சேவை (tnesv

ai.tn.gov.in) இணையதளத்தில் நிரூபணம் செய்யப்பட்டன. இதன் மூலம் விண்ணப்பம் பெறப்பட்டு, அவை சரிபார்க்கப்பட்டு உட்படுத்தப்பட்ட பிறகு வட்டாட்சியர்களால் அனுமதி வழங்க நடவடிக்கை எடுக்கப்பட்டது.

இதற்கு முன்பாக, அனுமதி அளிக்க அதிகாரம் மாவட்ட ஆட்சியர்களுக்கு வழங்கப்பட்டிருந்தது.

வட்டாட்சியர்கள் மூலம் அனுமதி பெறப்பட்ட பிறகு, விவசாயிகளும் மண்பாண்டத் தொழில் செய்கிறவர்களும் தங்களது வட்டத்தில் அமைந்துள்ள நீர்நிலைகளில் இருந்து வண்டல், களிமண் ஆகியவற்றை எடுத்துச் செல்லலாம். இம் திட்டத்தினைச் செயல்படுத்துவதற்கான வழிகாட்டும் நெறிமுறைகள் ஏற்கெனவே வெளியிடப்பட்டன.

திட்டம் தொடக்கம் வட்டாட்சியர்களின் அனுமதியுடன் கட்டணம் இல்லாமல் மண் வழங்கும் திட்டத்தை தலைமைச் செயலகத்தில் முதல்வர் மு.க.ஸ்டாலின் திங்கட்கிழமை தொடங்கி வைத்தார்.

கத்தில் முதல்வர் மு.க.ஸ்டாலின் திங்கட்கிழமை தொடங்கி வைத்தார்.

காஞ்சிபுரம் மாவட்டத்தைச் சேர்ந்த 10 விவசாயிகள் மற்றும் மண்பாண்டம் செய்பவர்களுக்கு மண் எடுப்பதற்கான அனுமதி உத்தரவுகளை முதல்வர் மு.க.ஸ்டாலின் வழங்கினார்.

இந்த நிகழ்வில், நீர்வளத் துறை அமைச்சர் துரை முருகன், தலைமைச் செயலர் சிவ் தாஸ் மீனா, இயற்கை வளங்கள் துறை கூடுதல் தலைமைச் செயலர் சுபாணிநிதி ரெட்டி, புவியியல் மற்றும் கரங்கத் துறை ஆணையர் எ.சரவணவேலுராஜ் உள்ளிட்ட பலர் கலந்து கொண்டனர்.

காணொலி வாயிலாக, வேலூர், விருதுநகர், காஞ்சிபுரம், கடலூர், திருவாரூர், கோவை ஆகிய மாவட்டங்களின் ஆட்சியர்கள், சட்டப் பேரவை, மக்களவை உறுப்பினர்கள் பங்கேற்றனர்.

(Left) Source: Dinamani, 9 July 2024, p. 9

(Below) Source: Hindu Tamil Thisai, 7 July 2024, p. 5

சென்னையில் காற்று மாசுவால்

12 ஆண்டுகளில் 28,674 பேர் மரணம்

ஆய்வறிக்கையில் தகவல்

● சென்னை

சென்னையில் காற்று மாசுவால் 12 ஆண்டுகளில் 28 ஆயிரத்து 674 பேர் உயிரிழந்து இருப்பதாக 'தி லான்செட்' இதழ் வெளியிட்ட ஆய்வறிக்கையில் தெரிவிக்கப்பட்டுள்ளது.

'தி லான்செட்' என்ற இதழ், சுகாதாரம் சார்ந்த ஆய்வுகளை மேற்கொண்டு அறிக்கை வெளியிட்டு வருகிறது. அதன்படி, இந்தியாவில் காற்று மாசு தொடர்பான ஆய்வறிக்கையை சிலதினங்களுக்கு முன்பு வெளியிட்டது. அதில் இடம்பெற்றிருப்பதாவது:

காற்று மாசு என்பது ஒரு உலகளாவிய பொது சுகாதார பிரச்சினையாக உள்ளது. காற்று மாசுவால் இறப்பு, சுவாசம் மற்றும் இருதய நோய்கள், நரம்பியல்பாதிப்பு குறைபாடுகள் உட்பட பலவிதமான ஆரோக்கியத்துக்கு எதிரான பாதிப்புகளை ஏற்படுத்துகிறது. இந்தியா போன்ற பொருளாதாரத்தில் வளர்ந்து வரும் நாடுகளில் அதிக அளவு காற்று மாசுவை பொதுமக்கள் அனுபவித்து வருகின்றன. இந்தியாவில் பல பகுதிகளில் காற்று மாசு, உலகசுகாதார

நிறுவன வழிகாட்டுதல்படி நிர்ணயிக்கப்பட்ட அளவைவிட அதிகமாக உள்ளது.

இதுதொடர்பாக அகமதாபாத், பெங்களூரு, சென்னை, டெல்லி, ஹைதராபாத், கொல்கத்தா, மும்பை, புனே, சிம்லா மற்றும் வாராணசி ஆகிய 10 மாநகராட்சிகளில் கடந்த 2008-ம் ஆண்டு முதல் 2019-ம் ஆண்டு வரையிலான 12 ஆண்டுகளில் பதிவான காற்று மாசு, இறப்புப் பதிவேடுகள், மரணத்துக்கான காரணங்கள் ஆய்வு செய்யப்பட்டன.

டெல்லியில் அதிகபட்சம்

அதன்படி, மேற்குறிப்பிட்ட 10 மாநகர்களில் சராசரியாக மிக நுண்ணிய அளவு கொண்ட காற்று மாசுவின் அளவு அதிகபட்சமாக டெல்லியில் 113 பிபிஎம் ஆகவும், வாராணசியில் 82 பிபிஎம் ஆகவும், சென்னையில் 33 பிபிஎம் ஆகவும் உள்ளது. இறப்பு விவரங்களின்படி 2008 முதல் 2019-ம் ஆண்டு வரை டெல்லியில் அதிகபட்சமாக 95 ஆயிரத்து 719 பேர், கொல்கத்தாவில் 45 ஆயிரத்து 458, மும்பையில் 30 ஆயிரத்து 544, அகமதாபாத்தில் 28 ஆயிரத்து 680,

சென்னையில் 28 ஆயிரத்து 674 பேராக உள்ளது.

இவ்வாறு அறிக்கையில் கூறப்பட்டுள்ளது.

தமிழக அரசு நடவடிக்கை

இதற்கிடையே, சென்னையில் காற்று மாறுவால் ஏற்படும் உயிரிழப்பை தடுக்க எடுத்து வரும் நடவடிக்கைகள் குறித்து சுற்றுச்சூழல் துறை அமைச்சர் சிவ்.வி.மெய்ய நாத்தன் கூறும்போது, "சென்னையில் காற்று மாசுவை குறைக்க வடசென்னை வளர்ச்சி திட்டத்தின் கீழ் பசுமை போர்வையை அதிகரிப்பது உள்ளிட்ட பல்வேறு பணிகள் மேற்கொள்ளப்பட்டு வருகின்றன.

சிவப்பு நிறத்தில் வகைப்படுத்தப்பட்ட அபாயகரமான தொழிற்சாலைகளில் இருந்து புகை மாசு வெளியேறுவதை தடுக்க நடவடிக்கை எடுக்கப்பட்டுள்ளது. ரூ.5 கோடியில் 25 ஆயிரம் மரக்கன்றுகளை 50 ஹெக்டேர் பரப்பளவில் அமைத்து, பசுமை போர்வையை அதிகரித்து, காற்று மாசுவை கட்டுப்படுத்தவும் நடவடிக்கை எடுக்கப்பட்டு வருகிறது" என்றார்.

ஆவின் நிறுவனம் சார்பில் ரூ.44 கோடி மதிப்பில் பால்பண்ணைகள், ஆய்வகம்

● முதல்வர் மு.க.ஸ்டாலின் திறந்து வைத்தார்

● சென்னை

ஆவின் சார்பில் ரூ.43.61 கோடிமதிப்பிலான பால் பண்ணைகள், ஆய்வகம் என 4 முடிவுற்ற திட்டப் பணிகளை முதல்வர் மு.க.ஸ்டாலின் திறந்து வைத்தார்.

இதகுறித்து தமிழக அரசு நேற்று வெளியிட்ட செய்திக்குறிப்பு: திமுக அரசு பொறுப்பேற்ற 2021-ம் ஆண்டு மே முதல் தற்போது வரை ஆவின் நிறுவனத்தின் மேம்பாட்டுக் காக ரூ.94.41 கோடி செலவில் புதியபால் பதப்படுத்தும் மற்றும் பால் பாக்கெட் தயாரிக்கும் தொழிற்சாலைகள், புதிய ஐஸ்கிரீம் தயாரிக்கும் தொழிற்சாலைகள், சேமிப்புக் கிடங்குகள், ஆய்வுக் கூடங்கள், பால் கொள்முதல் பிரிவுக் கட்டிடங்கள் உள்ளிட்ட கட்டிடங்கள் திறக்கப்பட்டுள்ளன.

திறப்பு, அடிக்கல்

இந்நிலையில், பால் நுகர்வோர்களுக்கு தரமான பால் தங்கு தடையின்றி கிடைக்க வழிவகை ஏற்படுத்தும் விதமாக கரூர் மாவட்டம், தோரணக்கல்பட்டி, திருவண்ணாமலை மாவட்டம், வேங்கிசுக்கால் ஆகிய இடங்களில் பால் பண்ணைகள், திருவள்ளூர் மாவட்டம், காக்கனூர் பால் பண்ணையில் தயிர், மோர் தயாரிக்கும் ஆலை, மாதவரத்தில் நோய்க் கிருமிகளைக் கண்டறியும் மேம்படுத்தப்பட்ட ஆய்வகம் என ரூ.10.61 கோடியில் முடிவுற்ற திட்டப்பணிகளை முதல்வர் மு.க.ஸ்டாலின்

கடலூர், விழுப்புரம் பகுதிகளில் கறவை மாடுகளுக்குத் தரமான கலப்பு தீவனம் கிடைக்கும்

திறந்து வைத்தார்.

பால் உற்பத்தியாளர்களின் கறவை மாடுகளின் கலப்புத் தீவன தேவையைப் பூர்த்தி செய்யும் வண்ணம் கடலூர் மாவட்டம், திட்டக்குடியில் ரூ.33 கோடி மதிப்பில் தினசரி 300 மெட்ரிக் டன் உற்பத்தித் திறன் கொண்ட கால்நடைத் தீவன ஆலைக்கு முதல்வர் அடிக்கல் நாட்டினார். ம.பொடையூர் கிராமத்தில் 6.77 ஏக்கர் நிலப்பரப்பில் அமையவுள்ள இந்த தீவனத் தொழிற்சாலையால் இப்பகுதியைச் சார்ந்த மக்களுக்கு வேலைவாய்ப்பு கிடைப்பதுடன், கடலூர், விழுப்புரம் மற்றும் அருகில் உள்ள மாவட்ட கூட்டுறவு பால் உற்பத்தியாளர்களின் கறவை மாடுகளுக்குத் தரமான கலப்புத் தீவனம் கிடைக்கும்.

நிகழ்ச்சியில், அமைச்சர்கள் ஆர்.காந்தி, சி.வி.கணேசன், மனோ தங்கராஜ், தலைமைச் செயலர் சிவ்தாஸ் மீனா, துறையின் செயலர் கே.கோபால், ஆவின் மேலாண் இயக்குநர் சு.வினீத் உள்ளிட்டோர் பங்கேற்றனர்.

ஐஸ்கிரீம் மொத்த விற்பனை களமிறங்குகிறது ஆவின் நிறுவனம்

சென்னை, ஜூலை 2-
திருமணம் உள்ளிட்ட விசேஷ நிகழ்ச்சிகளின் தேவைகளுக்கு, ஐஸ்கிரீம் மொத்த விற்பனையில் ஆவின் நிறுவனம் களமிறங்கவுள்ளது.

தற்போது, ஆவின் நிறுவனம் வாயிலாக தினமும், 30 லட்சம் லிட்டர் பால் கொள்முதல் செய்யப்படுகிறது. சில மாதங்களுக்கு முன், இது 26 லட்சம் லிட்டராக இருந்தது. பால் மட்டுமின்றி, 230 வகையான பால் பொருட்களையும் ஆவின் உற்பத்தி செய்கிறது.

இவற்றில், ஆவின் நெய், பால்கோவா, ஐஸ்கிரீம், குல்பி உள்ளிட்டவற்றிற்கு, நுகர்வோர் மத்தியில் பெரும் வரவேற்பு உள்ளது.

ஆவின் குல்பி, ஐஸ்கிரீமை பொறுத்தவரை கோடைகாலத்தில் அவற்றின் விற்பனை அதிகரிப்பது வழக்கம். ஆண்டுதோறும், 20 சதவீத உற்பத்தியை அதிகரிக்க நடவடிக்கை எடுக்கப்பட்டு வருகிறது.

இனி ஆண்டு முழுதும் ஆவின் ஐஸ்கிரீம் விற்பனையை அதிகரிக்க திட்டமிடப்பட்டு உள்ளது. இதற்காக, திருமணம் உள்ளிட்ட விசேஷ நிகழ்ச்சிகளுக்கு, ஐஸ்கிரீம் மொத்த விற்பனை செய்யவும் திட்டமிடப்பட்டு உள்ளது.

இதற்காக, சென்னை அம்பத்தூர், சேலம், மதுரையில் உள்ள ஆவின் ஐஸ்கிரீம் தொழிற்சாலைகளில், உற்பத்தியை அதிகரிக்கும் வகையிலான



பணி நடந்து வருகிறது.

இதகுறித்து, ஆவின் நிர்வாக இயக்குனர் வினீத் கூறியதாவது:

கோடைகாலத்தில் ஆவின் ஐஸ்கிரீம் விற்பனை அதிகரிக்கிறது. மழை மற்றும் பனிக்காலங்களில் குறைகிறது. எனவே, விற்பனை சராசரியாக இருப்பதற்கு, புதிய முயற்சியாக, மொத்த விற்பனை செய்ய திட்டமிடப்பட்டு உள்ளது.

வெண்ணிலா, மேங்கோ, ஸ்ட்ராபெர்ரி, சர்க்லேட், பட்டர் ஸ்காட்ச், பாதாம், பிஸ்தா ஆகிய சுவைகளில், 5 லிட்டர் பெட்டிகளில் ஐஸ்கிரீம் விற்கப்பட உள்ளது.

தனியார் நிறுவனங்களின், ஐஸ்கிரீம் குறைந்த விலையில் விற்கப்படுகிறது. தரமாக உற்பத்தி செய்வதால், அவர்களை போல விலையை குறைக்க முடியாது.

அதே நேரத்தில், மொத்தமாக ஐஸ்கிரீம் வாங்குபவர்களுக்கு, சில சலுகைகளை வழங்கவும் திட்டமிடப்பட்டு உள்ளது.

இவ்வாறு அவர் கூறினார்.

(Above) Source: Hindu Tamil Thisai, 30 July 2024, p. 3

(Right) Source: Dinamalar, 2 July 2024, p. 2

வணிக வரி வசூலில் அபாரம் 3 மாதத்தில் ரூ.3,727 கோடி வருவாய்

சென்னை, ஜூலை 10-
'நடப்பு, 2024 - 25ம்
நிதியாண்டின் முதல்
மூன்று மாதங்களில், 3,727
கோடி ரூபாய் வருவாய்
ஈட்டப்பட்டுள்ளது' என,
வணிக வரித்துறை அமைச்சர்
மூர்த்தி தெரிவித்தார்.

சென்னை நத்தனம்,
ஒருங்கிணைந்த வணிக
வரி கூட்டரங்கில், இணை
ஆணையர்களின் பணித்
திறன் குறித்த ஆய்வு
கூட்டம், நேற்று நடந்தது.

இதில், அமைச்சர்
மூர்த்தி, துறை செயலர்
பிரஜேந்திர நவ்ரீத்,
ஆணையர் ஜெகந்நாதன்
பங்கேற்றனர்.

கூட்டத்தில், வணிகர்
நல வாரியம் சார்பில்,
மறைந்த வணிகரின் குடும்ப
பத்தினரான, சென்னை
மணலியை சேர்ந்த உமா
மகேஸ்வரிக்கு, குடும்ப
நல நிதியாக, 3 லட்சம்
ரூபாய் காசோலையை



■ மறைந்த வணிகரின் குடும்பத்தினரான, சென்னை
மணலியை சேர்ந்த உமா மகேஸ்வரிக்கு, குடும்ப நல
நிதியாக, 3 லட்சம் ரூபாய் காசோலையை அமைச்சர்
மூர்த்தி வழங்கினார். உடன், அதிகாரிகள்.

மூர்த்தி வழங்கினார்.

அமைச்சர் மூர்த்தி
பேசியதாவது:

ஆய்வு கூட்டத்தில்
வழங்கப்படும் அறிவுரை
களை, சம்பந்தப்பட்ட
இணை ஆணையர்கள்,
தங்களுக்கு கேழுள்ள
துணை ஆணையர்கள்,
உதவி ஆணையர்கள்

மற்றும் வரி அலுவலர்
களுடன் ஆலோசித்து, வரி
வருவாயை அதிகப்படுத்த
உரிய நடவடிக்கை மேற்
கொள்ள வேண்டும்.

இந்த பணிகளை செயல்
படுத்த தேவைப்படும்
பணியாளர்கள் மற்றும்
வசதிகளை, அரசுக்கு தெரி
யப்படுத்தலாம். தரவுகளின்

உண்மைத் தன்மையை
கண்டறிய, அதிநவீன
மென்பொருள் பயன்பாட்
டிற்கு கொண்டு வரப்படும்.

நடப்பு நிதியாண்
டின் ஏப்., மே, ஜூன்
மாதங்களில், கடந்த நிதி
யாண்டை விட, 3,727
கோடி ரூபாய் கூடுதலாக
வருவாய் ஈட்டப்பட்டுள்
ளது. இதற்கு, முழுவீச்
சில் நடந்த வரி வசூல்
தான் காரணம். மேலும்,
நிலுவை வரி வசூலில் தீவி
ரம் காட்டியதும் காரணம்.

கடந்த, 2ம் தேதி நுண்
ணறிவு பிரிவின் கூடுதல்
ஆணையர், அதிகாரிகள்
மேற்கொண்ட சிறப்பு
சோதனையில், 1,040
கோடி ரூபாய் போலி
உள்ளீட்டு வரியை கண்டு
பிடித்து, போலியை
'பில்' வழங்கிய, 316 பதிவு
சான்றுகள் ரத்து செய்யப்
பட உள்ளன.

இவ்வாறு அவர் கூறினார்.

(Above) Source: Dinamalar, 10 July 2024, p. 5

(Below) Source: Dinamani, 31 July 2024, p. 3

சென்னை மாநகராட்சியில் தொழில் வரி 35 % உயர்வு

சென்னை, ஜூலை 30: சென்னை
மாநகராட்சியில் தொழில் வரியை
35 சதவீதமாக உயர்த்த மாநக
ராட்சி மாமன்ற கூட்டத்தில் தீர்மானம்
நிறைவேற்றப்பட்டது.

சென்னை மாநகராட்சியின்
மாதாந்திர மாமன்ற கூட்டம்
மேயர் ஆர்.பிரியா தலைமையில்
ரிப்பன் மாளிகை கூட்டரங்கில்
செவ்வாய்க்கிழமை நடைபெற்றது.
இதில், துணை மேயர் முமகேஷ்
குமார், ஆணையர் ஜெ.குமாரகுருப
ரன் ஆகியோர் முன்னிலை வகித்த
னர்.

அப்போது, பகுஜன் சமாஜ் கட்சி
யின் மாநிலத் தலைவர் ஆம்ஸ்ட்
ராங் மறைவுக்கு இரங்கல் தீர்மானம்
நிறைவேற்றப்பட்டு, 2 நிமிஷம்
மௌன அஞ்சலி செலுத்தப்பட்டது.

பின்னர் மத்திய அரசின்
பட்ஜெட்டுக்கு எதிர்ப்பு தெரி
வித்து காங்கிரஸ் மற்றும் மதிமுக
உறுப்பினர்கள் பட்ஜெட் நகலை
கிழித்து கூட்டத்தில் இருந்து வெளி
நடப்பு செய்தனர்.

தொடர்ந்து, சென்னை மாநக
ரில் அமைக்கப்படும் மழைநீர் வடி
கால் பணி, தெரு நாய் கட்டுப்பாடு,

மாமன்ற கூட்டத்தில் தீர்மானம்



சென்னை ரிப்பன் மாளிகையில் மேயர் ஆர்.பிரியா தலைமையில்
செவ்வாய்க்கிழமை நடைபெற்ற மாமன்ற கூட்டம்.
உடன், ஆணையர் ஜெ.குமாரகுருபரன்.

சாலைகள் மறுசீரமைப்பு உள்ளிட்ட
வை குறித்து விவாதிக்கப்பட்
டது. பின்னர் 72 தீர்மானங்கள்
நிறைவேற்றப்பட்டன.

தொழில் வரி: 37-ஆவது தீர்மானத்தில்
சென்னை மாநகராட்சி
யின் தொழில் வரியை 35 சதவீதம்
வரை உயர்த்தப்படுவதாக அறிவிக்கப்
பட்டுள்ளது. கடந்த 2018-ஆம்

ஆண்டு தொழில் வரி உயர்த்தப்
பட்ட நிலையில் தற்போது 35 சத
வீதம் உயர்த்தி தீர்மானம் கொண்டு
வரப்பட்டுள்ளது. இந்த வரி அரை
யாண்டுக்கு ஒருமுறை வசூலிக்கும்
வகையில் நிர்ணயம் செய்யப்பட்டு
ள்ளது.

அதன்படி, மாத வருமானம் ரூ.
21,000-க்குள் உள்ள நபர்களுக்கு

தொழில் வரி உயர்வு

அரையாண்டு வருமானம்	பழைய கட்டணம்	புதிய கட்டணம்
ரூ. 21,000 வரை	-	-
ரூ. 21,001 முதல் ரூ. 30,000	ரூ. 135	ரூ. 180
ரூ. 31,001 முதல் ரூ. 45,000	ரூ. 315	ரூ. 430
ரூ. 45,001 முதல் ரூ. 60,000	ரூ. 690	ரூ. 930
ரூ. 60,001 முதல் ரூ. 75,000	ரூ. 1,025	ரூ. 1,025
ரூ. 75,001-க்கு மேல்	ரூ. 1,250	ரூ. 1,250

வரி உயர்வு இல்லை. அதற்கு மேல்
வருமானம் உள்ளவர்களுக்கு வரு
மானத்தொகைக்கு ஏற்ப வரி உயர்த்தப்
பட்டுள்ளது.

உரிமம் கட்டணம்: கடைகள்
மற்றும் தொழிற்சாலைகளுக்கு
தொழில் உரிமம் பெறுவதற்கான
கட்டணம் ரூ.100 முதல் ரூ. 5,000
வரை இருந்த நிலையில் தற்போது
ரூ.1,000 முதல் ரூ. 20,000 வரை
உயர்த்தப்பட்டுள்ளது. உணவகங்
களுக்கு ரூ. 2,000 முதல் ரூ. 20,000
வரையும், பெண்கள், குழந்தைக
ளுக்கான விடுதிகளுக்கு ரூ. 3,500 மு
தல் ரூ. 7,000 வரையும், மற்ற விடுதிக
ளுக்கு (மேன்சன், கெஸ்ட் ஹவுஸ்)
ரூ. 5,000 முதல் ரூ. 25,000 வரையும்,

திருமண மண்டபம், கலையரங்கு
களுக்கு ரூ. 5,000 முதல் ரூ. 30,000
வரையும் உயர்த்தப்பட்டுள்ளது.
இந்த கட்டணம் குறு, சிறு, நடுத்தர
மற்றும் பெரிய நிறுவனங்களுக்கு
ஏற்ப மாறுபடும்.

உதாரணத்துக்கு பிளாஸ்
டிக் தயாரிப்பு நிறுவனத்துக்கு
உரிம கட்டணம் ரூ. 500 வசூலிக்கப்
பட்டுவந்த நிலையில் தற்போது குறு
நிறுவனமாக இருந்தால் ரூ. 3,500, சிறு
நிறுவனமாக இருந்தால் ரூ. 7,000,
நடுத்தர நிறுவனமாக இருந்தால்
ரூ. 10,000, பெரு நிறுவன
மாக இருந்தால் ரூ. 15,000 என
நிர்ணயிக்கப்பட்டுள்ளது.

ஊரக பகுதிகளில் உள்ள அரசு உதவி பெறும் பள்ளிகளும் பயனடையும் வகையில்

முதல்வரின் காலை உணவு திட்டம் விரிவாக்கம்

● திருவள்ளூர் மாவட்டத்தில் முதல்வர் ஸ்டாலின் தொடங்கி வைத்தார். பசி, நீட், தேசிய கல்வி கொள்கை என மாணவர்களுக்கு எது தடையாக இருந்தாலும் உடைப்போம் என்று தெரிவித்தார்.

● சென்னை

தமிழகம் முழுவதும் ஊரகப் பகுதிகளில் உள்ள அரசு உதவி பெறும் தொடக்கப் பள்ளிகளும் பயன்பெறும் வகையில் காலை உணவு திட்டத்தை விரிவாக்கம் செய்து, முதல்வர் ஸ்டாலின் தொடங்கி வைத்தார். “பசி, நீட் தேர்வு, புதிய கல்வி கொள்கை என தமிழக மாணவர்கள் படிப்பதற்கு எது தடையாக வந்தாலும் அதை உடைப்பதுதான் எங்கள் முதல் பணி” என்று அவர் தெரிவித்தார்.

தமிழகத்தில் கடந்த 2022-ம் ஆண்டு முதல் 30,992 அரசு தொடக்கப் பள்ளிகளில் 1 முதல் 5-ம் வகுப்பு வரை பயிலும் 18.50 லட்சம் மாணவ, மாணவிகளுக்கு முதல்வரின் காலை உணவு திட்டம் செயல்படுத்தப்பட்டு வருகிறது. இந்நிலையில், “ஊரகப் பகுதிகளில் செயல்படும் அரசு உதவிபெறும் பள்ளிகளில் 1 முதல் 5-ம் வகுப்பு வரை பயிலும் 2.50 லட்சம் மாணவ, மாணவிகள் பயனடையும் வகையில் முதல்வரின் காலை உணவு திட்டம் விரிவுபடுத்தப்படும்” என்று கடந்த பிப்ரவரியில் தாக்கல் செய்யப்பட்ட தமிழக பட்ஜெட்டில் அறிவிக்கப்பட்டது.

அதன்படி, திருவள்ளூர் மாவட்டம் கம்பபத்தூர் ஊராட்சி ஒன்றியம் கீழ்ச்சேரியில் உள்ள அரசு உதவிபெறும் புனித அன்னாள் தொடக்கப் பள்ளியில் நேற்று நடந்த நிகழ்ச்சியில், மாணவ, மாணவிகளுக்கு உணவு பரிமாறி, ஊரகப் பகுதிகளில் உள்ள அரசு உதவிபெறும் பள்ளிகளில் காலை உணவு திட்ட விரிவாக்கத்தை முதல்வர் ஸ்டாலின் தொடங்கி வைத்தார்.

மாணவ, மாணவிகளுடன் அமர்ந்து உணவருந்திய முதல்வர், “உணவு சுவையாக இருக்கிறதா?” என்று கேட்டறிந்தார். “நிளமும் நேரம் தவறாமல் காலை உணவு சாப்பிட வேண்டும்” என்றும் அறிவுரை வழங்கினார்.

இத்திட்டம் மூலம் தமிழகம் முழுவதும் 3,995 அரசு உதவி பெறும் தொடக்கப் பள்ளிகளில் பயிலும் 2,23,536 மாணவ, மாணவிகள் பயனடைவார்கள். மதிய உணவு திட்டத்தை அறிமுகம் செய்த முன்னாள் முதல்வர் காமராஜர் பிறந்த நாளான நேற்று முதல்வரின் காலை உணவு திட்டம் விரிவாக்கம் செய்யப்பட்டுள்ளது குறிப்பிடத்தக்கது.

தொடக்க விழாவில் முதல்வர் பேசியதாவது:



↑ திருவள்ளூர் மாவட்டம் கீழ்ச்சேரி புனித அன்னாள் தொடக்கப் பள்ளியில் நேற்று நடந்த நிகழ்ச்சியில் காலை உணவு விரிவாக்கத் திட்டத்தை தொடங்கி வைத்த முதல்வர் ஸ்டாலின், அங்கு உணவருந்தும் குழந்தைகளிடம் உரையாடினார்.

ஊரகப் பகுதிகளில் அரசு உதவி பெறும் பள்ளிகளுக்கும் காலை உணவு திட்டம் விரிவாக்கம் செய்யப்பட்டுள்ளதன் மூலம், நிளமும் 20.73 லட்சத்துக்கும் அதிகமான குழந்தைகள் சத்தான, சுவையான காலை உணவை சாப்பிடுகின்றனர். இத்திட்டம் மாணவ, மாணவிகளுக்கு தன்னம்பிக்கையை அளிக்கிறது. பெற்றோரின் பொருளாதார சுமையை குறைக்கிறது. பள்ளிக்கு வரும் மாணவர்களின் எண்ணிக்கையை அதிகரித்து, இடைநிற்றலை குறைக்கிறது. நாள்தோறும் மக்கள் நல திட்டங்கள், எதிர்கால முன்னேற்றத்துக்கான செயல்பாடுகள் என இந்த அரசு தொடர்ந்து இயங்கி வருகிறது. எனவே, பொய் செய்திகள் மூலம் தவறான தகவல்களை பரப்பி, அதில் குளிகாயலாம் என்று நினைக்கும் மக்கள் விரோத சக்திகளின் திட்டம் ஒருபோதும் நடக்காது.

குறிப்பாக, காலை உணவு திட்டம் இந்த

அரசுக்கு நீடித்த புகழை தேடித்தந்துள்ளது. இத்திட்டத்தை தமிழக அரசு தொடங்கிய பிறகு, நாட்டின் பல்வேறு மாநிலங்கள் மட்டுமின்றி, கனடா போன்ற நாடுகளிலும் இதுபோன்ற திட்டம் தொடங்கப்பட்டுள்ளது.

இத்திட்டத்தில், எந்த ஊரிலும், எந்த பள்ளியிலும் உணவின் தரம் ஒருதுளி கூட குறைய கூடாது. உங்கள் குழந்தைகள் சாப்பிடும் சாப்பாடு போல, சிறப்பு கவனம் எடுத்து செயல்படுங்கள்.

அரசியலுக்காக, அவசர நிலை பற்றி நாடாளுமன்றத்தில் மத்திய பாஜக அரசு இப்போது தொடர்ந்து பேசுகிறது. ஆனால், அவசர நிலை காலத்தில் ஒத்திசைவு பட்டியலுக்கு மாற்றப்பட்ட கல்வியை உடனடியாக மாநில பட்டியலுக்கு மாற்ற மத்திய அரசு தயாராக இருக்கிறதா? நீட் தேர்வில் நடக்கும் முறைகேடுகள் குறித்து உச்ச நீதிமன்றம் தற்போது கேள்வி கேட்கிறது. மாணவர்கள் போர்க்கொடி தூக்குகின்றனர்.

நீட் வேண்டாம் என பல முதல்வர்கள், தேசிய தலைவர்கள் குரல் கொடுக்க ஆரம்பித்து விட்டனர். தமிழகத்தின் வழியில் ஒட்டுமொத்த இந்தியாவும் நீட் தேர்வை எதிர்க்கிறது.

தமிழக மாணவர்கள் படிப்பதற்கு எதுவும் தடையாக இருக்க கூடாது என்பதே அரசின் கருத்து. அது பசியோ, நீட் தேர்வோ, மத்திய அரசின் புதிய கல்வி கொள்கையோ எதுவாக இருந்தாலும் சரி, எந்த தடை வந்தாலும் அதை உடைப்பதுதான் எங்கள் முதல் பணி.

தடைகளை நாங்கள் உடைக்கிறோம். மாணவர்களாகிய நீங்கள் கல்லியில் மட்டும் கவனம் செலுத்தங்கள். கல்விதான் யாராலும் திருட முடியாத சொத்து. அந்த சொத்தை தமிழக மாணவர்கள் பெற்றாக வேண்டும். நீங்கள் உயர, உங்கள் வீடும் உயரும், இந்த நாடும் உயரும்.

இவ்வாறு முதல்வர் பேசினார்.

நிகழ்ச்சியில், தலைமைச் செயலர் சிவ்தாஸ் மீனா, சமூகநலத் துறை செயலர் ஜெயபுரி முரளிதரன், பள்ளிக்கல்வி செயலர் குமரகுருபரன், மகளிர் மேம்பாட்டு நிறுவன மேலாண் இயக்குநர் திவ்யதர்ஷினி, முதல்வரின் காலை உணவு திட்ட ஒருங்கிணைப்பு அலுவலர் இளம்பகவத், திருவள்ளூர் ஆட்சியர் பிரபுசங்கர், எம்.பி., எம்எல்ஏக்கள் உள்ளிட்டோர் பங்கேற்றனர்.

‘பசியை போக்கிய மனிதரைவு’

முதல்வர் ஸ்டாலின் வெளியிட்ட சமூக வலைதள பதிலில், “முதல்வரின் காலை உணவு திட்டம் விரிவாக்கம் செய்யப்பட்டதும், தமிழகம் முழுவதும் எத்தனை குழந்தைகளுக்கு உணவு அளிக்கப்பட்டு என்பதை, முதல்வரின் தகவல் பலகை வழியாக கண்காணித்து மாணவர்களின் பசிபோக்கிய மனிதரைவு அடைந்தேன்” என்று தெரிவித்துள்ளார்.

இதற்கிடையே, காலை உணவு விரிவாக்க திட்டத்தை தொடங்கி வைத்த பிறகு, கீழ்ச்சேரி அடுத்த மப்பேடு கூட்டு சாலையில், தமிழ்நாடு அரசு போக்குவரத்து கழகம் (விழுப்புரம் கோட்டம்) சார்பில் ரூ.3.81 கோடியில் 8 புறநகர் பேருந்துகள், 2 புதிய மகளிர் விடயல் பயண நகர பேருந்துகள் என, 10 புதிய பேருந்துகளின் இயக்கத்தை முதல்வர் ஸ்டாலின், கொடியசைத்து தொடங்கி வைத்தார்.

Source: Hindu Tamil Thisai, 16 July 2024, p. 1

‘மக்களுடன் முதல்வர்’ திட்டத்தின் சிறப்பு முகாமில் பெறும் கோரிக்கை மனுக்கள் மீது உடனுக்குடன் தீர்வு

● மாவட்ட ஆட்சியர்களுக்கு முதல்வர் மு.க.ஸ்டாலின் அறிவுறுத்தல்

● சென்னை

‘மக்களுடன் முதல்வர்’ திட்டத்தின் கீழ் நடத்தப்படும் சிறப்பு முகாம்கள் மூலம் மக்களிடமிருந்து பெறப்படும் கோரிக்கை மனுக்கள் மீது உடனுக்குடன் தீர்வு காண வேண்டும் என்று மாவட்ட ஆட்சியர்களுக்கு முதல்வர் மு.க.ஸ்டாலின் அறிவுறுத்தினார்.

பொது மக்களுக்கான அரசின் சேவைகள் விரைவாகவும் எளிதாகவும் சென்றுசேரும் வகையில் மக்களுடன் முதல்வர் என்ற புதிய திட்டம் முதல்வர் ஸ்டாலினின் நேரடி கண்காணிப்பில் முதல்வரின் முகவரித் துறையால் செயல்படுத்தப்பட்டு வருகிறது. அனைத்து மாவட்டங்களில் உள்ள ஊரகப்பகுதிகளில் 2,341 முகாம்கள் நடத்த உத்தேசிக்கப்பட்டு, தற்போது வரை 861 முகாம்கள் நடத்தப்பட்டுள்ளன. 15 துறைகள் சார்ந்த கோரிக்கைகள் சிறப்பு முகாம்கள் மூலம் பெறப்பட்டு தீர்வு காணப்பட்டு வருகின்றன.

இந்நிலையில், நேற்று தலைமை செயலகத்தில் ‘மக்களுடன் முதல்வர்’ திட்டத்தின் கீழ் நடைபெற்றுவரும் பணிகள் குறித்து முதல்வர் மு.க.ஸ்டாலின் ஆய்வு கூட்டம் நடத்தினார். அப்போது காணொலி மூலமாக நாகப்பட்டினம், வேலூர், திருப்பூர், தூத்துக்குடி, மதுரை மாவட்ட ஆட்சியர்கள்

மற்றும் பொதுமக்களுடன் கலந்துரையாடி, முகாம் ஏற்பாடுகள் குறித்தும், பெறப்பட்ட மனுக்களின் விவரங்கள் மற்றும் வழங்கப்பட்ட நலத்திட்ட உதவிகள் குறித்தும் பயனாளிகளிடமும் கேட்டறிந்தார். தலைமைச் செயலாளர் சிவதாஸ் மீனா, வளர்ச்சி ஆணையர் நா.முருகானந்தம், முதல்வரின் முகவரித்துறை சிறப்பு அலுவலர் பெ.அமுதா உள்ளிட்டோர் ஆய்வு கூட்டத்தில் பங்கேற்றனர்.

‘மக்களுடன் முதல்வர்’ திட்ட செயல்பாடுகள் குறித்து திருப்பூர் மாவட்ட ஆட்சியர் கிளிசுதராஜ், “பொதுமக்களுக்கு தேவையான அடிப்படை வசதிகள் செய்து தரப்பட்டுள்ளன. முகாம் ஒன்றுக்கு சராசரியாக 900 மனுக்கள் பெறப்பட்டு வருகின்றன. 77 முகாம்கள் நடத்த உத்தேசிக்கப்பட்டு, 19 முகாம்கள் இதுவரை நடத்தப்பட்டுள்ளன” என்றார்.

நாகப்பட்டினம் மாவட்ட ஆட்சியர் ப.ஆகாஷ், “19 கவுண்டர்கள் கணிணி வசதியுடன் மனுக்கள் பதிவு செய்யப்பட்டு வருகின்றன. இதுவரை, 7,400-க்கும் மேற்பட்ட மனுக்கள் பெறப்பட்டுள்ளன. நாளொன்றுக்கு சராசரியாக 400 முதல் 450 மனுக்கள் பெறப்படுகின்றன. இதில் வீட்டுமனைப்பட்டா, முதியோர் உதவித்தொகை, மின்சார இணைப்பு பெயர் மாற்றம், மருத்துவகாப்பீடு அட்டை போன்ற

வற்றை கோரி அதிகமாக மனுக்கள் வருகின்றன” என்றார். மதுரை மாவட்ட ஆட்சியர் எம்.எஸ்.சங்கீதா, “முகாம்கள் காலை 9 மணிக்கு தொடங்கப்படுகிறது. 73 முகாம்கள் நடத்த உத்தேசிக்கப்பட்டு, 15 முகாம்கள் இதுவரை நடத்தப்பட்டு, 6,700 மனுக்கள் பெறப்பட்டுள்ளன” என்றார்.

வேலூர் மாவட்ட ஆட்சியர் வி.ஆர்.சுப்புலக்ஷ்மி, “49 முகாம்கள் நடத்த உத்தேசிக்கப்பட்டு, 27 முகாம்கள் இதுவரை நடத்தப்பட்டு, 21,654 மனுக்கள் பெறப்பட்டுள்ளன. நாளொன்றுக்கு சராசரியாக 800 முதல் 900 மனுக்கள் பெறப்பட்டு வருகிறது. குடும்ப அட்டையில் பெயர் சேர்த்தல், நீக்கம், முதியோர் உதவித் தொகை, மின்சார இணைப்பு பெயர் மாற்றம், பட்டா மாறுதல், போன்றவற்றை கோரி அதிகமாக மனுக்கள் வருகின்றன” என்றார்.

தூத்துக்குடி மாவட்ட ஆட்சித் தலைவர் ஜி.லட்சுமிபதி, “72 முகாம்கள் நடத்த உத்தேசிக்கப்பட்டு, 32 முகாம்கள் இதுவரை நடத்தப்பட்டு, 26,468 மனுக்கள் பெறப்பட்டுள்ளன. நாளொன்றுக்கு சராசரியாக 800 மனுக்கள் பெறப்படுகின்றன. இலவச வீட்டுமனைப்பட்டா, மனை உட்பிரிவு பெயர் மாற்றம், சாதி சான்றிதழ், வருவாய் சான்றிதழ் கோரியும், மின்சார

இணைப்பு பெயர் மாற்றம் போன்றவற்றை கோரியும் அதிகமாக மனுக்கள் வருகின்றன” என்றார். வணிகவரி மற்றும் பதிவுத்துறை அமைச்சர் பி.மூர்த்தியிடம், மதுரை மாவட்ட முகாம்களில் மக்களுக்கு செய்து தரப்பட்டுள்ள வசதிகள் ‘முகாம் குறித்து மக்களிடம் விளம்பரப்படுத்தப்பட்ட விவரம் குறித்து முதல்வர் மு.க.ஸ்டாலின் கேட்டறிந்தார்.

அதற்கு அமைச்சர் பி.மூர்த்தி, “இத்திட்டம் குறித்து கிராமம் கிராமமாக சென்று ஆட்டோக்களில் ஒலிபெருக்கி மூலமாக விளம்பரம் செய்யப்பட்டது. முகாம் நடைபெறும் விவரம் குறித்து சுவரெட்டிகள் மூலமாகவும் விளம்பரம் செய்யப்பட்டுள்ளது” என்றார்.

திட்ட முகாம்களுக்கு வந்த பொதுமக்களிடமும் முதல்வர் மு.க.ஸ்டாலின் கலந்துரையாடினார். இறுதியாக முதல்வர் மு.க.ஸ்டாலின், மாவட்ட ஆட்சியர்கள் மற்றும் அரசு உயர் அலுவலர்களுக்கு, ‘மக்களுடன் முதல்வர்’ திட்டத்தின் கீழ் நடத்தப்படும் சிறப்பு முகாம்கள் மூலம், மக்களிடம் இருந்து பெறப்படும் கோரிக்கை மனுக்கள் மீது உடனுக்குடன் தீர்வு கண்டு, உரிய பயன்கள் பயனாளிகளுக்கு சென்று சேர்வதை உறுதி செய்ய வேண்டும் என்று அறிவுறுத்தினார்.

Source: Hindu Tamil Thisai, 28 July 2024, p. 2

தமிழகத்தில் 4.49 லட்சம் குடும்ப அட்டைகள் ரத்து

▶ கூட்டுறவு, உணவுத்துறை செயலர் தகவல்

● சென்னை

தமிழகத்தில் கடந்தாண்டில் 4.54 லட்சம் குடும்ப அட்டைதாரர்களுக்கு நகல் ஸ்மார்ட் அட்டைகள் வழங்கப்பட்டுள்ளதுடன், 4.49 லட்சம் ஒரு நபர் குடும்ப அட்டைகள் இடம் பெயர்தல் மற்றும் இறப்பு காரணமாக ரத்து செய்யப்பட்டுள்ளதாக கூட்டுறவு, உணவுத் துறை செயலர் ஜெ.ராதாகிருஷ்ணன் தெரிவித்துள்ளார்.

சென்னை கோபாலபுரத்தில் திருவல்லிக்கேணி நகர கூட்டுறவு சங்கத்துக்கு சொந்தமான கிடங்கை கூட்டுறவு, உணவுத்துறை செயலர் ஜெ.ராதாகிருஷ்ணன் நேற்று ஆய்வு செய்தார். அப்போது அவர் செய்தியாளர்களிடம் கூறியதாவது:

தமிழகத்தில் மொத்தம் 36,954 ரேஷன் கடைகளில் அரிசி, சர்க்கரை மற்றும் உப்பு போன்றவைகள் போதுமான இருப்பு உள்ளது. வரும்

காலங்களில் மாதம் ஒன்றுக்கு 20 ஆயிரம் டன் துவரம் பருப்பு வழங்கவும், ஒரு கோடி பாக்கெட் பாமாயில் வழங்கவும் நடவடிக்கை எடுக்கப்பட்டுள்ளது.

கடந்த ஆண்டில் 4.54 லட்சம் குடும்ப அட்டைதாரருக்கு நகல் கார்டுகள் வழங்கப்பட்டுள்ளன. 4.49 லட்சம் தனிநபர் ஸ்மார்ட் கார்டுகள், இடம் பெயர்ந்தவர்கள், இறந்தவர்கள் என்ற அடிப்படையில் நீக்கப்பட்டுள்ளன.

தமிழகத்தில் மொத்தம் 58 சோதனைச்சாவடி அமைக்கப்பட்டு கடந்த ஆண்டில் 5,631 வழக்கு தொடரப்பட்டு ரூ.6.98 கோடி மதிப்பிலான 18,194 குவிண்டால் அத்தியாவசிய பொருட்கள் கைப்பற்றப்பட்டுள்ளன. ரேஷன் குறை தொடர்பான புகார்களுக்கு 044-28592828, 1967 மற்றும் 1800 1800 4255901 என்ற எண்களில் புகார் அளிக்கலாம்.

மேலும், www.tnpds.gov.in என்ற இணையதளத்திலும் புகார்கள் தெரிவிக்கலாம்.

கூட்டுறவுத் துறையின் வாயிலாக ரூ.1 லட்சம் கோடி அளவுக்கு பல்வேறு வகையான கடன்கள் வழங்க முடிவு செய்யப்பட்டு, தமிழ்நாடு மாநில தலைமை கூட்டுறவு வங்கி, மாவட்ட மத்திய கூட்டுறவு வங்கி, தொடக்க வேளாண்மை கூட்டுறவு கடன்சங்கங்கள் மூலமாக 1.43 லட்சம் பேருக்கு ரூ.20,807 கோடி அளவில் பல்வேறு வகையான கடன்கள் வழங்கப்பட்டுள்ளன. இவ்வாறு அவர் தெரிவித்தார்.

ஆய்வின் போது, உணவுப் பொருள் வழங்கல் ஆணையர் டி.மோகன், கூட்டுறவுச் சங்கங்களின் பதிவாளர் என்.சுப்பையன், தமிழ்நாடு நுகர்பொருள் வாணிபக் கழகம் நிர்வாக இயக்குநர் அண்ணாதுரை உள்ளிட்டோர் உடன் இருந்தனர்.

(Above) Source: Hindu Tamil Thisai, 30 July 2024, p. 2

(Right) Source: Dinamalar, 29 July 2024, p. 2

ரூ.5,577 கோடி கோவில் நிலம் மீட்பு அறிக்கை வெளியிட்டு அரசு பெருமிதம்

சென்னை, ஜூலை 29— 'மூன்று ஆண்டுகளில், ஹிந்து சமய அறநிலைய துறைக்கு சொந்தமான, 5,577 கோடி ரூபாய் மதிப்புள்ள, 6,140 ஏக்கர் நிலம் மீட்கப்பட்டு உள்ளது' என, தமிழக அரசு தெரிவித்துள்ளது.

அரசு அறிக்கை: தமிழகத்தில் ஹிந்து சமய அறநிலைய துறையின் பணிகளை பார்த்து பொதுமக்கள் பிரமிக்கின்றனர். மூன்று ஆண்டுகளில், 1,355 கோவில்களுக்கு கும்பாபிஷேகம் நடத்தப்பட்டு உள்ளது. மேலும், 8,436 கோவில்களில், 3,776 கோடி ரூபாயில் பணிகள் மேற்கொள்ள அனுமதி தரப்பட்டுள்ளது.

கிராமப்புறங்களில், ஆதிதிராவிடர் வசிக்கும் பகுதிகளில் உள்ள, 1,250 கோவில்களுக்கு, தலா 2 லட்சம் ரூபாய்; கோவில்களில் உள்ள 143 குளங்களை சீரமைக்க, 84 கோடி ரூபாய் வழங்கப்பட்டு உள்ளது.

மூன்று கோவில்களில் புதிதாக, 2.71 கோடி ரூபாய் செலவில் குளங்கள் அமைக்கப்பட்டு வருகின்றன.

சமயபுரம், திருவெண்ணையநல்லூர், திருபாற்கடல், தாராபுரம், அரியலூர் மற்றும் சென்னை கீழ்ப் பாகத்தில் உள்ள ஆறு கோவில்களில், 8 கோடி



ரூபாயில், ராஜகோபுரங்கள் கட்டப்பட்டு கும்பாபிஷேகம் நடத்தப்பட்டு உள்ளது.

மேலும், ஆறு கோவில்களுக்கு, 28.7 கோடி ரூபாயில், ராஜகோபுரங்கள் கட்டும் பணி நடக்கிறது. புதிதாக, 15 கோவில்களில், 25.9 கோடி ரூபாயில் ராஜகோபுரங்கள் கட்டப்பட உள்ளன.

நாள் முழுதும் அன்ன தானம் வழங்கும் திட்டம், எட்டு கோவில்களில் நடந்து வருகிறது. நடப்பாண்டு மேலும், மூன்று கோவில்களுக்கு இத்திட்டம் விரிவுபடுத்தப்படும்.

அன்னதான திட்டம், 756 கோவில்களில் நடந்து வருகிறது; நான்கோறும், 82,000 பேர் பயன்பெற்று வருகின்றனர். மூன்று ஆண்டுகளில், ஹிந்து அறநிலைய துறைக்கு சொந்தமான, 5,577 கோடி ரூபாய் மதிப்புள்ள, 6,140 ஏக்கர்

நிலம் மீட்கப்பட்டுள்ளது.

மேலும், 73 கோவில்களில், 257 கோடி ரூபாயில் திருமண மண்டபங்கள் கட்டப்பட்டு உள்ளன. பக்தர்கள் வசதிக்காக 17 தங்கும் விடுதிகள் கட்டும் பணி, 70.5 கோடி ரூபாயில் நடந்து வருகிறது.

அர்ச்சகர்கள் மற்றும் பணியாளர்களுக்கு, 83.6 கோடி ரூபாயில், 48 குடியிருப்புகள் கட்டப்பட்டு வருகின்றன.

கோவில்களில் உள்ள 123 பசுமடங்கள், 20.6 கோடி ரூபாயில் மேம்படுத்தப்பட்டுள்ளன.

ஓய்வு பெற்ற நீதிபதிகள் தலைமையில் குழுக்கள் அமைக்கப்பட்டு, ஆறு கோவில்களுக்கு சொந்தமான நகைகள் உருக்கப்பட்டு, 344 கிலோ தங்க கட்டிகளாக மாற்றப்பட்டு, 191 கோடி ரூபாய் மதிப்பில், வங்கியில் முதலீடு செய்யப்பட்டு உள்ளது.

ஒரு கால பூஜை திட்டத்தில், தலா 2 லட்சம் ரூபாய் வீதம், 2,000 கோவில்களுக்கு அரசு மானியமாக, 40 கோடி ரூபாய் வழங்கப்பட்டு உள்ளது.

இத்தகைய பணிகளை மேற்கொள்ளும் ஹிந்து அறநிலைய துறையையும், அரசையும், முதல்வரையும் பக்தர்கள், பொதுமக்கள் மனமுவந்து பாராட்டி வருகின்றனர்.

இவ்வாறு அறிக்கையில் கூறப்பட்டுள்ளது.

‘மக்களுடன் முதல்வர்’ திட்டம் விரிவாக்கம்

ஜூலை 11-இல் தொடங்கி வைக்கிறார் ஸ்டாலின்

சென்னை, ஜூலை 4: ‘மக்களுடன் முதல்வர்’ திட்டத்தின் விரிவாக்கத்தை தருமபுரி மாவட்டத்தில் ஜூலை 11-ஆம் தேதி தொடங்கி வைக்க உள்ளதாக முதல்வர் மு.க. ஸ்டாலின் தெரிவித்துள்ளார்.

‘மக்களுடன் முதல்வர்’, பள்ளிகளில் காலை உணவுத் திட்டம் ஆகியவற்றின் விரிவாக்க நிகழ்வுகளில் எம்.பி.க்கள், எம்.எல்.ஏ.க்கள் உட்பட மக்கள் பிரதிநிதிகள் அனைவரும் பங்கேற்க வேண்டுமென முதல்வர் கேட்டுக் கொண்டுள்ளார்.

இதுகுறித்து அவர்களுக்கு முதல்வர் வியாழக்கிழமை எழுதிய கடிதம்: பொதுமக்கள் அன்றாடம் அணுகும் அரசுத் துறைகளின் சேவைகள் விரைவாகவும் எளிதாகவும் சென்று சேரும் வகையில், மக்களுடன் முதல்வர் திட்டம் கடந்த ஆண்டு டி.ச. 18-இல் தொடங்கப்பட்டது. அதன் மூலம், 8.74 லட்சம் மனுக்களுக்



குத் தீர்வு காணப்பட்டுள்ளது. நகரப்பகுதிகளையும் இந்தத் திட்டம் தொடங்கப்படுகிறது.

மக்களுடன் முதல்வர் திட்டத்தின் விரிவாக்கத்தை, தருமபுரி மாவட்டத்தில் ஜூலை 11-ஆம் தேதி தொடங்கி வைக்கவுள்ளேன். இந்தத் திட்டம் விழுப்புரம் மாவட்டம் நீங்கலாக (விக்கிரவாண்டி இடைத்தேர்தல் காரணமாக) மற்ற அனைத்து மாவட்டங்

களிலும் விரிவாக்கப்படும்.

காலை உணவுத் திட்டம்: பள்ளி மாணவர்களுக்கு காலை யில் உணவு அளிக்கும் திட்டம் கடந்த 2022-ஆம் ஆண்டு தொடங்கப்பட்டது. இதன் கீழ், 14 லட்சத்து 40 ஆயிரத்து 351 பேர் பயன் பெற்று வருகிறார்கள். இந்தத் திட்டத்தால் காலை உணவு தயாரிக்கும் நேரமும் பொருட்செலவும் குறைவதுடன், குழந்தைகளின் ஆரோக்கியம், கற்றல் திறன் அதிகரித்துள்ளதாக தனது அறிக்கையில் திட்டக் குழு தெரிவித்துள்ளது.

இந்தத் திட்டத்தின் நோக்கம் அனைத்துத் தரப்பு மாணவர்களையும் சென்றடையும் வகையில், ஊரகப் பகுதிகளைச் சேர்ந்த அனைத்து அரசு உதவி பெறும் தொடக்கப் பள்ளிகளில் ஒன்று முதல் ஐந்தாம் வகுப்பு வரை பயிலும் மாணவர்களுக்கும் காலை உணவுத் திட்டம் விரி

வாக்கம் செய்யப்பட உள்ளது. இந்தத் திட்டத்தை முன்னாள் முதல்வர் காமராஜரின் பிறந்த தினமாக கொண்டாடப்படும் கல்வி வளர்ச்சி நாளில் (ஜூலை 15) திருவள்ளூர் மாவட்டத்தில் தொடங்கி வைக்க உள்ளேன்.

அனைவரும் வாருங்கள்: மக்களுடன் முதல்வர் மற்றும் காலை உணவுத் திட்டங்களின் விரிவாக்க நிகழ்வுகள் தமிழ்நாடு முழுவதும் நடைபெறவுள்ளன. இந்த நிகழ்வுகளில் சட்டப்பேரவை, நாடாளுமன்ற உறுப்பினர்கள் அனைவரும் பங்கேற்க வேண்டும். தங்களது தொகுதிகளுக்கு உட்பட்ட பகுதிகளில் இதற்கான ஏற்பாடுகள் செய்யப்பட உள்ளன. இரண்டு திட்டங்களின் விரிவாக்க நிகழ்ச்சிகள் தொடர்பாக உரிய அறிவுரைகள் அனைத்து மாவட்ட ஆட்சியர்களுக்கும் ஏற்கெனவே வழங்கப்பட்டுள்ளன என்று முதல்வர் கூறியுள்ளார்.

(Above) Source: Dinamani,
5 July 2024, p. 1

(Right) Source: Dinamani,
4 July 2024, p. 3

ஆதிதிராவிடர் - பழங்குடியின படைப்பாளர்களுக்கு உதவித் தொகை: விண்ணப்பங்கள் வரவேற்பு

சென்னை, ஜூலை 3: ஆதிதிராவிடர் மற்றும் பழங்குடியின சமுதாயத்தைச் சேர்ந்த படைப்பாளர்கள், உதவித் தொகை பெற விண்ணப்பிக்கலாம் என்று தமிழக அரசு தெரிவித்துள்ளது.

இது குறித்து, மாநில அரசு வெளியிட்ட செய்திக் குறிப்பு:

ஆதிதிராவிடர் மற்றும் பழங்குடியினர் கலை இலக்கிய மேம்பாட்டுச் சங்கத்தின் மூலம் ஒவ்வோர் ஆண்டும் சிறந்த எழுத்தாளர்களின் படைப்புகளில் 11 படைப்புகள் தேர்வு செய்யப்பட்டு அவை வெளியிட தலா ரூ.1 லட்சம் உதவித் தொகை வழங்கப்பட்டு வருகிறது.

இந்த உதவித் தொகையை நிகழாண்டில் பெற விண்ணப்பிக்கலாம். எழுத்தாளர்களுக்கு வயது வரம்பு இல்லை. கதை, கட்டுரை, கவிதை, வரலாறு, புதினம் என எது

வாகவும் இருக்கலாம். ஆனால், தமிழ் மொழியிலேயே படைப்பு இருக்க வேண்டும். படைப்புகள் 90 பக்கங்களுக்கு குறையாமல் இருக்க வேண்டும். தகுதியுள்ள விண்ணப்பதாரர்கள் அதற்கான விண்ணப்பங்களைத் தொடர்புடைய மாவட்ட ஆதிதிராவிடர் மற்றும் பழங்குடியினர் நல அலுவலகங்களிலும், ஆதிதிராவிடர் நல இயக்குநரகத்திலும் வேலைநாள்களில் பெற்றுக் கொள்ளலாம்.

மேலும், tn.gov.in/forms என்ற இணையதளத்தில் பதிவிறக்கம் செய்யலாம். விண்ணப்பிக்க கடைசி தேதி ஜூலை 31. பூர்த்தி செய்யப்பட்ட படிவங்களை ஆதிதிராவிடர் நலத்துறை இயக்குநர், சேப்பாக்கம், சென்னை-05 என்ற முகவரிக்கு அனுப்பி வைக்கலாம் என்று தமிழக அரசு தெரிவித்துள்ளது.

‘புதுமைப்பெண்’ திட்டத்தில் ரூ.1,000 பெற

அரசு உதவி பெறும் பள்ளி மாணவிகளும் விண்ணப்பிக்கலாம்

➤ சென்னை மாவட்ட ஆட்சியர் அறிவிப்பு

● சென்னை

புதுமைப்பெண் திட்டம் விரிவுபடுத்தப்பட்டுள்ளதால், அரசு உதவி பெறும் பள்ளியில் படித்து உயர்கல்வியில் சேரும் மாணவிகளும் மாதம் ரூ.1,000 பெற கல்லூரி மூலம் விண்ணப்பிக்கலாம் என்று

சென்னை மாவட்ட ஆட்சியர் ரஷ்மி சித்தார்த் ஜகடே தெரிவித்துள்ளார்.

இதுகுறித்து அவர் நேற்று வெளியிட்ட செய்திக்குறிப்பு:

பெண் கல்வியை போற்றும் விதமாகவும், மாணவிகள் உயர்கல்வியில் சேருவதை ஊக்கப்படுத்தும் வகையிலும் முதல்வர் ஸ்டாலின் தொடங்கிவைத்த ‘புதுமைப்பெண்’ திட்டம், சிறப்பாக செயல்படுத்தப்பட்டு வருகிறது.

இத்திட்டத்தின்கீழ், அரசு பள்ளிகளில் 6 முதல் 12-ம் வகுப்பு வரை படித்து உயர்கல்வியில் சேரும் அனைத்து மாணவிகளுக்கும் உயர்கல்வி முடிக்கும் வரை அவர்களது வங்கிக் கணக்கில் மாதம் ரூ.1,000, சமூகநலத் துறையால் நேரடியாக செலுத்தப்படுகிறது.

இதன்மூலம் சென்னை மாவட்டத்தில் 11,015 மாணவிகள் மாதம் ரூ.1,000 பெற்று வருகின்றனர்.

கடந்த ஆண்டுவரை அரசு பள்ளி மாணவிகள் மட்டுமே இதில் பயன் பெற்றனர். இந்நிலையில், 2024-25-ம் கல்வி ஆண்டு முதல், அரசு உதவி பெறும் பள்ளிகளில் 6 முதல் 12-ம் வகுப்பு வரை தமிழ்வழி கல்வியில் படித்த மாணவிகளும் பயன்பெறும் வகையில் இத்திட்டம் விரிவுபடுத்தப்பட்டுள்ளது. இதன் மூலம், அரசு உதவி பெறும் பள்ளி மாணவிகளுக்கும் உயர்கல்வி முடிக்கும் வரை அவர்களது வங்கிக் கணக்கில் மாதம் ரூ.1,000 நேரடியாக செலுத்தப்படும்.

எனவே, சென்னை மாவட்டத்தில் உள்ள அரசு உதவி பெறும் பள்ளிகளில் பயின்று தேர்ச்சி பெற்று உயர்கல்வி பயிலும் மாணவிகள், ‘புதுமைப்பெண்’ திட்டத்தில் பயன் பெற, அந்தந்த கல்லூரியின் சிறப்பு அலுவலர் மூலம் விண்ணப்பித்து பயனடையலாம். இவ்வாறு அதில் கூறப்பட்டுள்ளது.

146 பழங்குடியின இளைஞர்களுக்கு பணி நியமன ஆணை: முதல்வர் வழங்கினார்

சென்னை, ஜூலை 6: பழங்குடியினர் மேம்பாட்டுத் திட்டத்தின் கீழ் திறன் மேம்பாட்டுப் பயிற்சி பெற்ற 146 பழங்குடியின இளைஞர்களுக்கு பன்னாட்டு மற்றும் இந்திய முன்னணி நிறுவனங்களில் பணிபுரிவதற்கான பணிநியமன ஆணைகளை முதல்வர் மு.க.ஸ்டாலின் சனிக்கிழமை வழங்கினார்.

சென்னை தலைமைச் செயலகத்தில் பழங்குடியின இளைஞர்களுக்கு பணிநியமன ஆணை வழங்கும் நிகழ்ச்சி நடைபெற்றது.

அதில், முதல்வர் மு.க.ஸ்டாலின் பங்கேற்று 146 பழங்குடியின இளைஞர்களுக்கு பணிநியமன ஆணைகளை வழங்கினார். ஆணைகள் வழங்கப்பட்ட 146 பேரில் 106 பேர் ஆண்கள், 40 பேர் பெண்கள் ஆவர்.

பன்னாட்டு நிறுவனமான ரானே ஆட்டோமோட்டிவ் இந்தியா பிரைவேட் லிமிடெட், தமிழத்தில் உள்ள தலைசிறந்த இந்திய நிறுவனங்களான சாந்திகிரீஸ் லிமிடெட், ஹெச்.டி.ஃபைனான்சியல் சர்வீஸ், டி.ஐ.குன் கேபிடல் மோட்டார்ஸ் பிரைவேட் லிமிடெட் போன்ற நிறுவனங்களின் மூலம் நேர்முகத் தேர்வுகள் நடத்தப்பட்டு அவர்களின் கல்வித் திறன் மற்றும் தனிப்பட்ட திறமை



சென்னை தலைமைச் செயலகத்தில் பழங்குடியினருக்கு பணி நியமன ஆணைகளை சனிக்கிழமை வழங்கிய முதல்வர் மு.க.ஸ்டாலின். உடன் ஆதிதிராவிடர் நலத் துறை அமைச்சர் என்.கயல்விழி செல்வராஜ், வளர்ச்சித் துறை ஆணையர் நா.முருகானந்தம் உள்ளிட்டோர்.

ளின் அடிப்படையில் கணினி மூலமான தானியங்கி கட்டுப்பாட்டு பிரிவில் 67 பேரும், வாடிக் கையாளர் தொடர்பு மேலாண்மைப் பிரிவில் 79 பேரும் பணியாற்றத் தேர்ந்தெடுக்கப்பட்டுள்ளனர்.

திறன் மேம்பாட்டுப் பயிற்சி: தமிழக அரசின் சார்பில் விரிவான பழங்குடியினர் மேம்பாட்டுத் திட்டத்தின் கீழ், பழங்குடியின வேலையில்லா பட்டதாரி இளைஞர்கள் 450 பேரைத் திரட்டி திருச்சி, சேலம் மற்றும் சென்னை மாவட்டங்களில் வேலைவாய்ப்பு குறித்த விழிப்புணர்வு கூட்டம் நடத்தப்பட்டது.

அக்கூட்டத்தின் முடிவில் தகுதிவாய்ந்த 200 பழங்குடியின இளைஞர்கள் தேர்வு செய்யப்பட்டனர்.

அவர்களுக்கு 2024, பிப்ரவரி 13-இல் சென்னை, கலைவாணர் அரங்கத்தில் நடைபெற்ற விழாவில், இளைஞர் நலன் மற்றும் விளையாட்டு மேம்பாட்டுத் துறை அமைச்சர் உதயநிதி ஸ்டாலின் திறன் மேம்பாட்டுப் பயிற்சி அளிப்பதற்கான ஆணைகளை வழங்கினார்.

பெங்களூரில் உள்ள என்டிடிஎஃப் என்ற பயிற்சி நிறுவனத்தின் மூலம் அவர்களுக்கு 3 மாதம் பயிற்சி வழங்கப்பட்டது.

நிகழ்ச்சியில், ஆதிதிராவிடர் நலத் துறை அமைச்சர் என்.கயல்விழி செல்வராஜ், வளர்ச்சித் துறை ஆணையர் மற்றும் முதல்வரின் கூடுதல் தலைமைச் செயலர் நா. முருகானந்தம், ஆதிதிராவிடர் மற்றும் பழங்குடியினர் நலத் துறைச் செயலர் க.லட்சுமி பிரியா, தமிழ்நாடு திறன் மேம்பாட்டுக் கழக மேலாண்மை இயக்குநர் இன்னசென்ட் திவ்யா, பழங்குடியினர் நல இயக்குநர் எஸ். அண்ணாதுரை, ஆதிதிராவிடர் மற்றும் பழங்குடியினர் நலத் துறை கூடுதல் செயலர் ஆர். உமாமகேஸ்வரி உள்ளிட்ட உயரதிகாரிகள் பங்கேற்றனர்.

Source: Dinamani, 7 July 2024, p. 9

புதுமை திட்டங்களால் நகரமயமாக்கலில் தமிழகம் முன்னணி: அரசு பெருமிதம்

சென்னை, ஜூலை 11- 'நகராட்சி நிர்வாகத் துறை பணிகளால், நகரமயமாக்கலில் இந்தியாவிலேயே தமிழகம் முன்னணி மாநிலமாக திகழ்கிறது' என, தமிழக அரசு தெரிவித்துள்ளது.

அரசு செய்திக்குறிப்பு: இந்தியாவின் நகர்ப்புற மக்கள் தொகை, 1991ல் 25.71 சதவீதம் என இருந்தது. கடந்த 2011ல், 31.16 சதவீதமாக உயர்ந்தது. அதேநேரம் தமிழகத்தில் நகர்ப்புற மக்கள் தொகை, 2011ம் ஆண்டில் 48.45 சதவீதமாக உயர்ந்து, நகரமயமாதலில் தமிழகம் முன்னணி மாநிலமாக திகழ்கிறது.

சீர்மிகு நகரத் திட்டம்

இதன் காரணமாக, ஊராட்சிகள் பேரூராட்சிகளாகவும், பேரூராட்சிகள் நகராட்சிகளாகவும், நகராட்சிகள் மாநகராட்சிகளாகவும் வளர்ச்சி பெறுகின்றன.

நகராட்சிகள் மற்றும் பேரூராட்சிகளில், அடிப்படை கட்டமைப்புகளை மேம்படுத்த, ஆண்டுதோறும் 1,000 கோடி ரூபாய் ஒதுக்கீட்டில், 'கலைஞர் நகர்ப்புற மேம்பாட்டு திட்டம்' செயல்படுத்தப்படுகிறது.

சென்னை, கோவை,

விரைவில் 3,000 பேர் நியமனம்

கடந்த மூன்று ஆண்டுகளில், மாநகராட்சி மற்றும் நகராட்சிகளில், 1,405 பேருக்கு பணி நியமன ஆணைகள் வழங்கப்பட்டுள்ளன. உள்ளாட்சி அமைப்புகளில் பணியாளர் பற்றாக்குறையை போக்க, 2,500 பேரை தேர்வு செய்ய, அண்ணா பல்கலை வழியாக தேர்வு நடத்தப்பட்டுள்ளது.

தேர்வுத்தாள்களை மதிப்பிடும் பணி நடந்து வருகிறது. இவர்களுடன் மேலும், 3,000 பேர் விரைவில் தேர்வு செய்யப்பட்டு, நகராட்சிகளில் நியமனம் செய்யப்பட உள்ளனர் என, அரசு தெரிவித்துள்ளது.

மதுரை, சேலம், தஞ்சாவூர், வேலூர், தூத்துக்குடி, திருநெல்வேலி, திருப்பூர், திருச்சி, ஈரோடு என, 11 மாநகராட்சிகளில், சீர்மிகு நகரத் திட்டம் 10,890 கோடி ரூபாய் மதிப்பில் செயல்படுத்தப்படுகிறது.

சென்னை மாநகராட்சி தவிர, மீதமுள்ள 20 மாநகராட்சிகள், 138 நகராட்சிகளில், 11,872 கி.மீ., நீளமுள்ள சேதமடைந்த சாலைகளை, நான்கு ஆண்டுகளில் சீரமைக்க, நிதி ஒதுக்கப்பட்டுள்ளது.

நகர்ப்புற உள்ளாட்சிகளில், பல ஆண்டுகளாக குவிந்திருந்த திடக்கழிவுகள், 'பயோமைனிங் முறையில் அகற்றப்படுகின்றன. அந்த நிலங்

களில் சுற்றுச்சூழலை மேம்படுத்த, மரங்கள் நடப்படுகின்றன.

இதுவரை, 41 உள்ளாட்சி அமைப்புகளில் மீட்கப்பட்டுள்ள, 127.84 ஏக்கர் நிலத்தில், 1.66 கோடி ரூபாய் மதிப்பில், நாவல், நெல்லி, கொடுக்காப்பூளி, பாதாம், வேம்பு, புளியமரம், புங்கன்மரம் என, 57,505 மரங்கள் நட அனுமதிக்கப்பட்டு உள்ளன; இதுவரை 56,958 மரங்கள் நடப்பட்டு, சிறப்பான முறையில் பராமரிக்கப்படுகின்றன.

விருதுகள்

தூய்மை கணக்கெடுப்பு மாநில தரவரிசைப் பட்டியலில், தமிழகம்

22வது இடத்தில் இருந்தது. கடந்த ஆண்டுக் கான தர வரிசை பட்டியலில், 10வது இடத்திற்கு உயர்ந்துள்ளது.

தரவரிசை

ஒரு லட்சத்துக்கு அதி கமான மக்கள் தொகை கொண்ட நகரங்கள் தரவரிசையில், திருச்சி மாநகராட்சி மாநில அளவில் முதலிடம் பெற்றுள்ளது.

ஒரு லட்சத்திற்கும் குறைவான நகரங்களின் தரவரிசை பட்டியலில், செங்கல்பட்டு மாவட்டம், மறைமலை நகர் நகராட்சி முதலிடம் பெற்றுள்ளது.

தெற்கு மண்டலத்தை சார்ந்த மாநிலங்களில் உள்ள நகரங்களில், 15,000த்துக்கும் குறைவான மக்கள் தொகை கொண்ட, நகரங்களின் தரவரிசை பட்டியலில், கீழ்வேலூர் பேரூராட்சி முதலிடம் பிடித்துள்ளது.

திராவிட மாடல் ஆட்சியில், புதுமையான திட்டங்களால், புல்வேறு பெருமைகளை பெற்று, நகராட்சி நிர்வாகத் துறையின் பணிகளால், நகரமயமாக்கலில் தமிழகம் இந்தியாவிலே முன்னணி மாநிலமாக திகழ்கிறது.

இவ்வாறு, அதில் கூறப்பட்டுள்ளது.

ஜி.பி.எஸ்., முறையில் உட்பிரிவு பட்டா முதற்கட்டமாக 4 மாவட்டங்களில் அமல்

சென்னை, ஜூலை 16- புவிசார் தகவல்களுடன், ஜி.பி.எஸ்., முறையில் நிலங்களின் உட்பிரிவு பட்டா வழங்குவதற்கான புதிய திட்டம், விரைவில் அறிமுகமாக உள்ளது. பட்டா பெறுவதில் உள்ள சிரமங்களை தடுக்க, அரசு பல்வேறு நடவடிக்கைகளை எடுத்து வருகிறது. குறிப்பாக, நிலத்தின் ஒரு பகுதியை விற்பனை செய்வோர், 'சர்வேயர்' வாயிலாக முன் கூட்டியே அளந்து, உட்பிரிவு செய்ய வேண்டும்.

தானியங்கி முறை

இதன் அடிப்படையில் பத்திரப்பதிவு முடிந்ததும், தானியங்கி முறையில் பட்டா பெயர் மாற்றம் மேற்கொள்ளப்படும். இத்திட்டத்தை முறையாக செயல்படுத்துவதில், கிராம நிர்வாக அலுவலர், வருவாய் ஆய்வாளர்கள் நிலையில், பல்வேறு தலைவீடுகள் ஏற்படுவதாக கூறப்படுகிறது. அதனால், புதிதாக வழங்கப்படும் பட்டாவில், சொத்து குறித்த விபரங்களை துல்லியமாக குறிப்பிட, வருவாய் துறை முடிவு செய்துள்ளது. இதுகுறித்து, வருவாய் துறை அதிகாரி ஒருவர் கூறியதாவது:

தற்போதைய நிலவரப்படி, சர்வே எண்ணுக்கு உட்பட்ட நிலம் பல்வேறு பாகங்களாக பிரித்து விற்பனை செய்யப்படுகிறது. இந்த பாகங்களை நில அளவை யாளர் அளந்து, அதன் நான்கு எல்லைகளையும் அடையாளப்படுத்துவார். அதன்பின், 'மேனுவல்' முறையில் நில அளவை வரைபடம் தயாரிக்கப்படும். இதில், அந்த உட்பிரிவின் நான்கு பக்கத்திலும் உள்ள சர்வே எண்கள் அல்லது உட்பிரிவுகள் விபரம் மட்டும் குறிப்பிடப்படும்.

புவிசார் தகவல்கள்

இந்த நடைமுறையை, மொத்தமாக மின்னணு மயமாக்கும் வகையில், அந்த நிலத்தின் ஜி.பி.எஸ்., எனப்படும், புவிசார் தகவல்கள் சேர்க்கப்படும். அத்துடன், அட்சரேகை, தீர்க்க ரேகையில் இருந்து அந்த நிலம் எவ்வளவு தொலைவில் அமைந்துள்ளது என்ற விபரங்கள், 'டிஜிட்டல்' முறையில் சேர்க்கப்படும். மேலும், எப்போது அங்கு நில அளவை

செய்யப்பட்டது என்பது உள்ளிட்ட கூடுதல் தகவல்களும் சேர்க்கப்படும். முதல்கட்டமாக, விருதுநகர், நாமக்கல், பெரம்பலூர், ராணிப்பேட்டை மாவட்டங்களில் இத்திட்டம் செயல்படுத்தப்பட உள்ளது. உட்பிரிவு பட்டா மட்டுமல்லாது, புதிய பட்டா வழங்குவதிலும், ஜி.பி.எஸ்., முறை படிப்படியாக அறிமுகப்படுத்தப்பட உள்ளது. இதன்படி, உட்பிரிவு பட்டா கையில் இருந்தால் போதும்; அதில் சம்பந்தப்பட்ட நிலம் எங்கு அமைந்துள்ளது என்ற விபரங்களை, பொதுமக்கள் கணினி வாயிலாக எளிதில் அறியலாம். இவ்வாறு அவர் கூறினார்.

(Above) Source: Dinamalar, 16 July 2024, p. 2

(Right) Source: Dinamalar, 3 July 2024, p. 2

92,422 பழைய கட்டடங்களின் வரைபடங்கள் டிஜிட்டல் மயம்

சென்னை, ஜூலை 3- நகர், ஊரமைப்பு துறையான டி.டி.சி.பி.,யில், 92,422 கட்டுமான வரைபடங்கள், கட்டட அனுமதி ஆவணங்கள், டிஜிட்டல் முறைக்கு மாற்றப்பட்டுள்ளன. த மி மு க த் தி ல் , சென்னை பெருநகர் பகுதிக்கு வெளியில் உள்ள பகுதிகளில் கட்டட அனுமதி நடவடிக்கைகளை, டி.டி.சி.பி., முறைப்படுத்துகிறது. இதில், 10,000 சதுரடி வரையிலான கட்டடங்களுக்கு, உள்ளாட்சி அமைப்புகளே ஒப்புதல் வழங்குகின்றன. புதிதாக கட்டடம் கட்ட அனுமதி வழங்கும் பணிகள், ஒற்றைச் சாளர முறைக்கு மாற்றப்பட்டு உள்ளதால், இது தொடர்பான ஆவணங்கள் இயல்பாகவே டிஜிட்டல் முறைக்கு வந்து விடுகின்றன. ஆனால், பழைய

கட்டட அனுமதி ஆவணங்கள் மேனுவல் பிரதிகளாகவே உள்ளன. கட்டுமான திட்ட அனுமதி தொடர்பான பணிகள் ஆன்லைன் முறைக்கு மாற்றப்பட்ட நிலையில், பழைய வரைபடங்களை விரைவாக பயன்படுத்த முடிவதில்லை. இதுகுறித்து, வீட்டுவசதி, நகர்ப்புற வளர்ச்சி துறை அதிகாரி ஒருவர் கூறியதாவது: சென்னை பெருநகர் வளர்ச்சி குழுமமான சி.எம்.டிஏ.,யில், 1989 முதல் 2005 வரையிலான காலத்து கட்டட வரைபடங்கள், திட்ட அனுமதி ஆவணங்கள், டிஜிட்டல் முறைக்கு மாற்றப்பட்டு உள்ளன. இதே போல, டி.டி.சி.பி.,யில், இதுவரை ஒப்புதல் அளிக்கப்பட்ட திட்ட அனுமதி வரைபடம், ஆணைகள்

உள்ளிட்ட ஆவணங்களை டிஜிட்டல் மயமாக்க முடிவு செய்யப்பட்டது. இதற்காக, 20.23 லட்சம் ரூபாய் ஒதுக்கப்பட்டது. இந்நிதியை பயன்படுத்தி வரைபடங்களை டிஜிட்டல் மயமாக்கும் பணிகள் துவங்கின. இதன்படி, தற்போதைய நிலவரப்படி, 92,422 கட்டட வரைபடங்கள், ஆவணங்கள் ஸ்கேன் செய்யப்பட்டு டிஜிட்டல் முறைக்கு மாற்றப்பட்டுள்ளன. பழைய வீடு வாங்குவோர், அந்த கட்டடம் குறித்த உண்மை நிலவரம் அறியவும், புதிய கட்டட அனுமதி கோரி வரும் விண்ணப்பங்களை ஆய்வு செய்யவும், இந்த வரைபடங்கள் பேருதவியாக இருக்கும். இவ்வாறு அவர் கூறினார்.

159 ஆண்டு பத்திரங்கள் டிஜிட்டலுக்கு மாற்றம்

சான்றிட்ட நகல் பெறுவது எளிதாகிறது

சென்னை, ஜூலை 1-
பதிவுத்துறை துவங்கிய
காலம் முதல், தற்போது
வரையிலான 159 ஆண்டு
களில் பதிவான அனைத்து
பத்திரங்களும், டிஜிட்டல்
முறைக்கு மாற்றப்பட்டு
உள்ளதால், சான்றிட்ட
நகல்களை எளிதாக
பெறலாம்.

தமிழகத்தில் சொத்து
விற்பனை தொடர்பான
பத்திரங்கள், சார் - பதி
வாளர் அலுவலகம்
வாயிலாக பதிவு செய்
யப்படுகின்றன. பத்திரப்
பதிவு பணிகள் படிப்
படியாக ஆன்லைன்
முறைக்கு மாற்றப்பட்டு
வருகின்றன.

'ஸ்டார் - 2.0' சாப்ட்
வேர் வருகையால்,
சொத்து பரிமாற்றம்
குறித்த விபரங்களை ஆன்
லைன் முறையில் உள்ளீடு
செய்வது கட்டாயம்.

இதன் அடிப்படையில்,
சரிபார்ப்பு முடிந்து நேரம்
ஒதுக்கும் போது, அச்சிடப்
பட்ட பத்திரங்கள் பதிவு
செய்யப்படும். இவ்
வாறு பதிவாகும் பத்திரம்,
அதன் இணைப்பு என,
அனைத்து பக்கங்களும்
ஸ்கேன் செய்யப்பட்டு
கணினியில் பதிவேற்றப்
படும்.

இதில், கணினிமய

சொத்து வாங்குவோர், 159 ஆண்டுகள்
வரையிலான முந்தைய ஆவணங்களின்
பிரதிகளை, ஆன்லைன் முறையில் எளிதாக
பெறலாம். சார் - பதிவாளர் அலுவலகம்
தேடி அலைய வேண்டியதில்லை

மாக்கல் துவங்கிய காலத்
தில் பதிவான பத்திரங்கள்
மட்டுமே ஸ்கேன் செய்
யப்பட்டதால், அதற்கு
முந்தைய ஆவணங்கள்
மேனுவல் முறையிலேயே
பராமரிக்கப்பட்டன.

இந்நிலையில், சொத்து
விற்பனை தொடர்பாக
பதிவான பத்திரங்களின்
சான்றிட்ட பிரதிகளை,
கட்டணம் செலுத்தி
ஆன்லைன் முறையில்
பெறும் திட்டம் அமலாகி
உள்ளது.

ஆனாலும், கணினி
மயமாக்கலுக்கு முந்தைய
காலத்து பத்திரங்களின்
பிரதிகளை, மேனுவல்
முறையில் பெறுவதில்
சிரமம் ஏற்பட்டது.

இது குறித்து, பதிவுத்
துறை உயரதிகாரி ஒருவர்
கூறியதாவது:

சார் - பதிவாளர் அலு
வலகங்களில் பதிவான
அனைத்து பத்திரங்களும்
ஸ்கேன் செய்யப்பட
வேண்டும் என, அரசு உத்
தரவிட்டது. இதன்படி,

பதிவுத்துறை துவங்கப்
பட்ட 1865 முதல், 2009
வரையிலான காலத்தில்
பதிவான பத்திரங்கள்
முழுமையாக டிஜிட்டல்
முறைக்கு மாற்றப்பட்டு
உள்ளன.

எனவே, சொத்து வாங்
குவோர், 159 ஆண்டுகள்
வரையிலான முந்தைய
ஆவணங்களின் பிரதி
களை, ஆன்லைன் முறை
யில் எளிதாக பெறலாம்.
சார் - பதிவாளர் அலுவல
கம் தேடி அலைய வேண்
டிய தேவை இருக்காது.

மேலும், ஒரு சொத்து
பதிவுக்கு வரும் போது,
அது குறித்த முந்தைய
பரிமாற்றங்களை, சார் -
பதிவாளர்கள் எளிதில்
கணினி தகவல் தொகுப்பு
வாயிலாக, உடனுக்கு
டன் பார்ப்பதற்கான வச
தியை ஏற்படுத்துவதில்,
இது ஒரு முக்கிய முன்
னேற்றமாகவும் அமைந்து
உள்ளது.

இவ்வாறு அவர்
கூறினார்.

(Above) Source: Dinamalar, 1 July 2024, p. 2

‘200 தொலைதூர சொகுசுப் பேருந்துகள் செப்டம்பருக்குள் பயன்பாட்டுக்கு வரும்’

சென்னை, ஜூலை 10: அரசு விரைவுப் போக்கு வரத்துக் கழகங்களுக்கு புதிதாக கொள்முதல் செய்யப்பட்டுள்ள 200 தொலைதூர சொகுசு பேருந்துகள் செப்டம்பர் மாதத்துக்குள் பயன்பாட்டுக்கு கொண்டுவரப்படும் என போக்குவரத்துக் கழக அதிகாரிகள் தெரிவித்துள்ளனர்.

தமிழகத்தில் நெடுந்தூர பயணங்களுக்கு அரசு விரைவு போக்குவரத்துக் கழகம் சார்பில் பேருந்துகள் இயக்கப்பட்டு வருகின்றன. 2019-ஆம் ஆண்டுக்கு பிறகு இதுவரை புதிய பேருந்துகள் கொள்முதல் செய்யப்படாமல் இருந்து வரும் நிலையில், தொலைதூர பயணத்துக்காக 200 புதிய சொகுசு பேருந்துகளை வாங்க போக்குவரத்துத் துறை முடிவு செய்தது.

இதையடுத்து, அந்தப் பேருந்துகளில் இடம் பெற வேண்டிய அம்சங்கள் குறித்தும் பொது மக்களிடம் கருத்து கேட்கப்பட்டது. அதன் அடிப்படையில், பல்வேறு வசதிகளுடன் கூடிய சொகுசு பேருந்துகள் தயாரிக்கப்பட்டு தற்போது, அவற்றை பயன்பாட்டுக்கு கொண்டுவரும் பணியில் போக்குவரத்துக் கழகம் ஈடுபட்டுள்ளது.

பிஎஸ் 6 ரகத்தைச் சேர்ந்த 200 பேருந்துகளில், 150 பேருந்துகளில் கீழே 30 இருக்கைகள் மேலே 15 படுக்கை வசதி கொண்டதாகவும்

தயாரிக்கப்பட்டுள்ளன. எஞ்சிய 50 பேருந்துகள் முதியோர் மற்றும் பெண்கள் நலன் கருதி கீழே 20 இருக்கைகள் மற்றும் 5 படுக்கை வசதிகளுடனும், மேலே 15 படுக்கை வசதியுடனும் வடிவமைக்கப்பட்டுள்ளன.

தானாகவே தீயை அணைக்கும் எஃப்.டி.எஸ் எஸ் அமைப்பு, பேனிக் பட்டன், மின்விசிறி, திரைச்சீலைகள், சார்ஜிங் போர்ட், படுக்கை தடுப்புகள் என ஆம்னி பேருந்துகளில் உள்ள அனைத்து அம்சங்களும் இதில் இடம்பெற்றுள்ளன.

இதில் முதல்கட்டமாக 25 பேருந்துகள் முழுமையாக கட்டமைக்கப்பட்டு சென்னை யில் உள்ள அரசு விரைவு போக்குவரத்துக் கழக தலைமையக பணிமனைக்குக் கொண்டு வரப்பட்டுள்ளன. அங்கு ஆய்வு பணிகள் நடந்து வருகின்றன.

ஜூலை மாதம் இறுதிக்குள் சுமார் 60 பேருந்துகள் முழுமையாக கட்டமைக்கப்பட்டு பயன்பாட்டுக்கு வந்துவிடும். மீதமுள்ள பேருந்துகள் அனைத்தும் செப்டம்பர் 15-ஆம் தேதிக்குள் முழுமையாக பயன்பாட்டுக்கு கொண்டுவரப்படும். இவற்றை முதல்வர் ஒப்புதலுடன் போக்குவரத்து அமைச்சர் தொடங்கி வைக்கவுள்ளார் என அதிகாரிகள் தெரிவித்தனர்.

(Above) Source: Dinamani, 11 July 2024, p. 7

(Below) Source: Dinamani, 12 July 2024, p. 4

மின்வாரிய களப் பணியாளர்களுக்கான கைப்பேசி செயலி: விரிவுபடுத்த உத்தரவு

சென்னை, ஜூலை 11: மின்வாரிய களப்பணியாளர்களுக்கான கைப்பேசி செயலியை அனைத்து மின்வாரிய அலுவலகங்களுக்கும் விரிவுபடுத்த அதிகாரிகளுக்கு உத்தரவிடப்பட்டுள்ளது.

தமிழ்நாடு மின் உற்பத்தி, பகிர்மானக் கழகத்தில் தாழ்வழுத்த மின் இணைப்பு பிரிவில் களப்பணிகளை மேற்கொள்வோருக்காக ஆண்ட்ராய்டு கைப்பேசி செயலி (எஃப்.எஸ்.எம்) உருவாக்கப்பட்டுள்ளது. இதில், மின் இணைப்பைத் துண்டித்தல், மீண்டும் இணைப்பு வழங்குதல், பழுதான மீட்டர்களை

மாற்றுதல், புதிய மின் இணைப்புக்களை வழங்குதல் உள்ளிட்ட 9 சேவைகள் தொடர்பான தரவுகள், புகைப்படங்களை பதிவு செய்வதோடு சரிபார்க்கவும் முடியும்.

இந்தச் செயலி மூலம் களப்பணியாளர்களுக்கான பணிகளை உதவி பொறியாளர் ஒதுக்கீடு செய்ய முடியும். மேலும், மின் நுகர்வோரின் புகார்கள் சம்பந்தப்பட்ட உதவி பொறியாளருக்கு நேரடியாக சேர்ந்துவிடும். இந்தச் செயலியை சோதனை அடிப்படையில் 88 பிரிவு அலுவலகங்களில் பயன்படுத்த அனுமதி வழங்கப்பட்டிருந்

தது.

இந்தச் சோதனை வெற்றி பெற்றதையடுத்து, அனைத்து அலுவலக களப்பணியாளர்களையும் செயலியைப் பயன்படுத்துமாறு மின்வாரியம் அறிவுறுத்தியுள்ளது.

ஆக.1-ஆம் தேதிக்குள் அனைத்து களப்பணியாளர்களும் செயலியைப் பயன்படுத்துவதை உறுதி செய்து, அது தொடர்பான அறிக்கையைத் தலைமையகத்துக்கு அனுப்பி வைக்குமாறு தொழில்நுட்ப பிரிவு தலைமை பொறியாளருக்கு பகிர்மான பிரிவு இயக்குநர் அலுவலகம் உத்தரவிட்டுள்ளது.