



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.

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Tamilnadu Economy in News

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TN eyes schemes with \$410mn funding from WB

Stalin inaugurates Global Business Centre, expresses concern over interest rate for loans for developmental schemes

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
@ Chennai

CHIEF Minister MK Stalin on Tuesday said the state will be implementing several schemes with additional funding of \$410 million from World Bank through loans. He said this after inaugurating the Bank's expanded Global Business Centre in Taramani in Chennai which is now its largest office outside Washington.

Stalin said the funds would support a range of important schemes, including WE-SAFE, a new initiative focused on women's employment and safety, the Tamil Nadu Sustainably Harnessing Ocean Resources and Blue Economy (TN-SHORE) project and the second phase of the Tamil Nadu Pudhu Vazhvu project, aimed at rural development and poverty reduction.

He said seven major programmes with World Bank's funding of a total of \$1.12 billion is currently under imple-



Chief Minister MK Stalin inaugurating the expanded Global Business Centre of the World Bank in Chennai on Tuesday | EXPRESS

mentation, which act as an example of long, sustained collaboration. He views the state's relationship with World Bank as extending far beyond conventional financial support, the CM said. "This is not just about loans — it is a partnership in technology, policy-making, and knowledge," he noted. Stressing on the need

for World Bank's support in Tamil Nadu becoming a \$1 trillion economy by 2030, measures to address climate change, and achieve Sustainable Development Goals, Stalin, however, said there are also some challenges involved.

Pointing out that the interest rate for loans for develop-

mental schemes currently remain at 6% to 7%, he expressed hope that World Bank will offer novel, transferable loans in the future for the investments for socio-economic development.

The upgraded World Bank facility in Chennai will house more than 1,500 employees and serve 130 bank offices in

189 countries. Originally launched in 2001 with just 70 staff, the centre has grown into a critical global operations hub, offering services in finance, IT, procurement, risk management, and analytics.

Calling Chennai the institution's "second headquarters", World Bank Managing Director Shenggen Zhang praised Tamil Nadu's governance and economic trajectory. "Of the \$18 billion in World Bank projects active in India, nearly \$1 billion is concentrated in Tamil Nadu — our largest sub-national partner globally," Zhang said.

Union Cabinet Secretary T V Somanathan, a former World Bank employee and Tamil Nadu cadre bureaucrat, reflected on the state's evolving development trajectory. World Bank India Country Director Auguste Tano Kouamé, MPs Thamizhachi Thangapandian and Kanimozhi NVN Somu, and senior bureaucrats were present.

Source: *The New Indian Express*, 11 June 2025, p.4

Stalin unveils World Bank-funded projects for women, blue economy

Three Major Initiatives At \$409.79m

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Chennai: Tamil Nadu will soon launch three major projects worth \$409.79 million in partnership with World Bank, chief minister M K Stalin announced on Tuesday in Taramani.

He was speaking after inaugurating the revamped Global Business Centre, which houses more than 1,500 employees and provides support services to 189 countries through more than 130 World



GOOD START: CM Stalin opens Global Business Centre at Taramani

Bank offices worldwide. Among the upcoming initiatives is Women Employment and Security (WE-SAFE) project, which aims to bring more women into the work-

force, particularly in high-growth, non-agricultural sectors. "We have allocated ₹1,185 crore over the next five years for this scheme," Stalin said. Two other initiatives in

the pipeline include a project focused on sustainable marine resource management and the second phase of the Tamil Nadu Rural Rejuvenation Project.

Tracing TN's five-decade-long association with the World Bank, Stalin highlighted landmark projects - the Nutrition and Health Systems Projects, which helped make the state a national leader in maternal and child health. He also cited the success of the Vazhndhu Kaattuvom scheme, which benefited over 20 lakh rural families, created 1 lakh new enterprises, and generated 53,000 jobs for women.

"The World Bank's support for Tamil Nadu goes beyond mere loans—it reflects a

shared commitment to sustainable, equitable, and lasting progress. Together, we are building a future where no one is left behind," said Stalin. Other transformative projects include the urban development project, road sector project, the TNIAM-WARM irrigation initiative, and the coastal disaster risk mitigation programme. He also noted the \$190 million loan to support urban housing for the economically weaker sections.

Calling for lower interest rates on development loans, Stalin urged the Bank to continue backing TN's vision of achieving a \$1 trillion economy by 2030 through climate action, inclusive growth, and technological collaboration.

Source: *The Times of India*, 11 June 2025, p.5

Stalin flags 'high' interest rates for development loans; hopes for support from World Bank

Interest rates range between 6% and 7%, says Chief Minister; he adds that he expects World Bank to back investments that fulfil the socio-economic requirements of the people by providing loans

The Hindu Bureau

CHENNAI

Chief Minister M.K. Stalin on Tuesday said the interest rates for development loans were high, ranging between 6% and 7%. He expected the World Bank to support investments meant to fulfil the socio-economic requirements of the people.

In his speech after inaugurating the modernised Chennai Global Business Center of the World Bank Group at Taramani, he pointed to the World Bank's support for Tamil Nadu's efforts to deal with climate change, attain the UN Sustainable Development Goals, and empower women.

"I think we should look back on some of the challenges in reaching our targets. The interest rates for development loans are high, ranging between 6% and 7%. In the coming days, we expect the World Bank to support invest-



Development push: The World Bank Group's modernised Chennai Global Business Center that was inaugurated on Tuesday. R. RAGU

ments that fulfil the socio-economic requirements of the people, by providing loans," he said.

Mr. Stalin said the Tamil Nadu government would work with the World Bank on long-term goals to make Tamil Nadu a "model State". He also recalled the World Bank's support to the State in implementing development initiatives and welfare measures.

Long association

Union Cabinet Secretary T.V. Somanathan recalled his association with the World Bank since 1996 and spoke of how he had been part of several important

occasions for the World Bank unit in Chennai. The success of this office stood testimony to the attractiveness of India in general and Chennai in particular for the service sector globally, he said.

"This office is international in quality and Indian in cost structure. It is global in outlook and local in talent. It is cosmopolitan culturally, but conservative financially. I wish the World Bank Group and the Tamil Nadu government continued success in this endeavour," Mr. Somanathan said.

World Bank Group Managing Director and Chief

Administrative Officer Wencai Zhang said the World Bank and Tamil Nadu shared a rich history of collaboration. Together, the two had advanced development in areas such as rural livelihood and skills building, infrastructure, education, healthcare, and Smart Cities. "We are well-positioned to tackle future challenges and help the World Bank Group achieve its mission of ending extreme poverty and boosting shared prosperity on a liveable planet."

Serving 130 countries

World Bank Country Director for India Augustine Tano Kouamé said Chennai had grown to become the second largest footprint of the World Bank around the world, serving 130 countries. "In many ways, the growth of our presence in Chennai has been the mirror image of the growing importance of Tamil Nadu's economy and of Chennai as an investment destination," he added.

Source: *The Hindu*, 11 June 2025, p.6

Tamil Nadu sees a drop in microfinance sector's gross loan portfolio in fiscal 2025

Sanjay Vijayakumar
CHENNAI

The Gross Loan Portfolio (GLP) of the microfinance industry in Tamil Nadu has declined in fiscal 2025 due to anticipated ordinances and increased regulation of collection practices, according to CRIF High Mark, a credit bureau.

According to the data from CRIF, the GLP in the State declined by 19.6% to ₹46,800 crore in fiscal 2025, from ₹58,200 crore in fiscal 2024. On a quarter-on-quarter basis, the GLP fell 7.7%, from ₹50,700 crore.

Tamil Nadu (-7.7%, quarter-on-quarter basis), followed by Karnataka (-7% quarter-on-quarter basis), recorded a steep GLP decline.

Overall, the microfinance industry's GLP stood at ₹381.2 lakh crore, as of March 2025 – a 2.6% decline quarter on quarter and a 13.9% drop year on year. The Tamil Nadu government has proposed legislation aimed at fair collection and recovery practices, signalling further regulatory shifts, the im-



Anticipated ordinances and increased regulation of collection practices led to the drop. GETTY IMAGES/ISTOCKPHOTO

pact of which is yet to be seen, CRIF said.

In April, the Assembly passed the Tamil Nadu Money Lending Entities (Prevention of Coercive Actions) Bill, 2025. The Bill is aimed at protecting the economically weaker and vulnerable groups from coercive means of loan recovery by microfinance institutions and money-lending agencies.

"The fall in the GLP was in line with the national trend. There were numerous factors involved, including the elections, the impact of heat waves and cyclones in some parts, and over-leverage by bor-

rowers in certain pockets affecting recovery," said Mr. Mammen, executive director and CEO of Sa-Dhan, a self-regulatory organisation for the microfinance industry. The Tamil Nadu legislation excluded regulated entities.

Sa-Dhan has made a representation to the State government over the inclusion of all types of lenders under the coercive clause of the Bill, which could get misrepresented. "We have sought suitable amendments when the rules are framed to exclude regulated entities from the coercive clause," Mr. Mammen added.

Aditi Singh, chief strategy officer, Satin Credit Network Ltd., which has a portfolio of ₹227 crore in Tamil Nadu, said that during the initial discussions on the Bill, "we took a cautious approach by slowing down disbursements in Tamil Nadu to evaluate the situation on the ground. However, after assessing the situation and seeing there was normalcy at the ground level, we gradually resumed business operations".

T.N. government notifies law to prevent coercive recovery of micro-loans

Sanjay Vijayakumar
CHENNAI

The State government has notified the Tamil Nadu Money Lending Entities (Prevention of Coercive Actions) Act, 2025, which is meant to prevent coercive recovery of micro-loans by money-lending entities. The Assembly passed the legislation in April, and it received the Governor's assent on June 9.

The Act is aimed at protecting the weaker and vulnerable groups and individuals – especially farmers, women, and self-help groups – from the coercive recovery of loans by money-lending entities such as micro-finance institutions and money-lending agencies operating in Tamil Nadu.

It shall apply to all money-lending entities, including digital lending platforms, but not to banks, non-banking financial companies registered with the Reserve Bank of India, and co-operative banks and societies.

However, the provisions of the Act relating to coercive action against the borrower shall apply to non-banking financial companies registered with the RBI and co-operative banks and societies.

Loan for households

Micro-loan means a loan given to a household having an annual income of upto ₹3 lakh.

A household means an



The Act stipulates imprisonment and penalties depending on the violation of the coercive clause. GETTY IMAGES/ISTOCKPHOTO

individual family unit: husband, wife, and their unmarried son and daughter. A borrower is an individual or group of individuals or a self-help group or joint liability group, according to the Act.

Coercive action

Section 20 of the Act also lists what constitutes coercive action.

This includes obstructing or using violence against or insulting or intimidating the borrower or any of his family members.

Using the service of private or outsourced or external agencies to negotiate or urging the borrower to make payment using coercive and undue influence or seeking to take forcibly any document of the borrower, which entitles him to benefits of government programmes, any other vital documents, articles or household belongings also amounts to coercive action.

The Act stipulates imprisonment and penalties depending on the violation of the coercive clause.

sonment and penalties, depending on the violation of the coercive clause.

The government will appoint a Registering authority. The Act states that the Registering Authority can take complaints *suo motu* or receive and forward the same to the jurisdictional police. Rules laying down the procedure for registering complaints are yet to be notified, says advocate R. Thirumoorthy.

"The Act has exempted the regulated entities from its purview. However, the clause on penalty for coercive practice is made applicable to all, except banks. We only hope that this clause will not be misused by borrowers or law-enforcement agencies... We are also against any coercive practices in recovery and have given adequate instructions to that effect," says Jiji Mammen, executive director and CEO of Sa-Dhan, a self-regulatory organisation for the micro-finance industry.

Source: *The Hindu*, 16 June 2025, p.3

Source: *The Hindu*, 3 June 2025, p.2

TN is keen on maximizing economic potential of its long coastline, by focusing on shipbuilding, seafood processing and coastal tourism

MARINE DRIVE

Graphics: G Joy Theophilus



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Of late, there has been a growing buzz around the blue economy in Tamil Nadu power corridors. The phrase implies economic activities associated with the ocean, seas and coastal regions.

Tamil Nadu boasts of having the second longest coastline in India (after Gujarat). But the resource hasn't been tapped to a satisfactory extent. And that is something the TN govt is out to fix.

"As TN charts its course towards CM M K Stalin's ambition of a \$1 trillion economy, the Blue Economy presents exciting opportunities. Despite having the second longest coastline in India, our coast is underutilized from an economic standpoint. We are addressing this with urgency through the CM's vision," said T R B Rajaa, TN Minister for Industries. "We see the Blue Economy as a powerful tool to bring sustainable prosperity to our coastal districts, through investments that create large job opportunities for skilled and semi-skilled talents," he added.

The state's approach is strategic and focused on three key areas – shipbuilding, seafood processing and coastal tourism. Each has the potential to transform livelihoods and local economies.

"The key strategy is maximizing the potential of TN's long coastline. We could also tap the state's port facilities across its coast. Shipbuilding has drawn the attention of the Centre too.

The Centre has ambitious plans to make India among the top five shipbuilding nations by 2047. In February, during the Union Budget 2025, a key maritime sector announcement was the establishment of the ₹25,000 crore Maritime Development Fund (MDF) to support long-term investments in the sector. The other big ticket takeaway was the introduction of the revamped Shipbuilding Financial Assistance Policy (SBFAP 2.0) to encourage more participation in shipbuilding activities. With an improved outlay of ₹18,090 crore, this policy is aimed at strengthening domestic shipyards and enhancing their global competitiveness.

Tamil Nadu is also working on a Marine Transport policy which could be out in a month, and this could generate a lot of economic opportunities," said Darez Ahamed, MD & CEO, Guidance Tamil Nadu. In shipbuilding, just one anchor investor can unlock an entire value chain of MSMEs in welding, precision engineering, logistics and marine services.

The state has already initiated talks with global players to set up shipbuilding facilities in TN. As per sources, the order books of these operators are packed till 2032. On its part, the state must provide the infrastructure needed to help them to establish their units here. For every job created on the shopfloor of a shipbuilding company, seven jobs will be created outside.

In the seafood sector, TN is no longer content being a supplier of raw catch. The plan is to build end-to-end infrastructure for seafood processing, cold chains and export-quality packaging, ensuring that value addition happens in the state's fishing hamlets, creating better incomes and sustainable livelihoods for coastal communities.

Infrastructure, especially roads connecting the coastal belt, cold chains along the TN coast, availability of power for cold chains, mapping wasteland on the coast, utilizing it adequately for growth of marine food and processing industries, are some of the key areas TN should focus on, said a leading consultant for the marine food industry, on condition of anonymity.

"We will address all issues that have held back the growth of the seafood industry in TN, vis-a-vis neighbouring states including Andhra Pradesh, which accounts for ₹26,000 crore worth seafood exports as against TN's ₹8,000 crore. We would soon match the best performing states in this sector," a TN govt official said.

Coastal tourism is a major plus point. Tamil Nadu's coast is beautiful, diverse and rich in culture, but it remains largely unexplored. The state is developing a blueprint to unlock this through sustainable, community-led tourism, which will entail eco-friendly resorts, avenues for water-based recreational activities and support for local entrepreneurship. The aim is to make the coast a world-class destination; while keeping it rooted in tradition.

"To ensure this transformation is inclusive, we plan to skill the youth in coastal regions through initiatives under the Naam Mudhalvan programme. We want our coastal communities to be more than beneficiaries. They must be the driving force behind this change. Tamil Nadu's Blue Economy strategy is also about building a just, green and resilient future for our coastal communities, and we are committed to making it a reality," Rajaa said.

So, of the three segments that have got the special focus under the Blue Economy strategy, which one might get a head start? "We would like all three to take off big-time, since the opportunities are significant. But realistically, the first shipbuilding could take off in just about a year from now," says Guidance Tamil Nadu's Ahamed. That's just on the horizon.



Source: *The Times of India*, 9 June 2025, p 2

TN asks centre to release ₹2.6K crore in pending dues

State government has incurred expenses to procure paddy & fortify rice

B ANBUSELVAN @Chennai

THE Tamil Nadu government has requested the union government to release pending dues amounting to ₹2,670.64 crore. These dues relate to expenses incurred by the state for paddy procurement, rice fortification, and subsidies for ragi and sugar.

Of the roughly 2.25 crore ration cards in Tamil Nadu, the cost of supplying rice through the Public Distribution System (PDS) to 1.12 crore cards (covering 3.6 crore beneficiaries) is fully borne by the centre under the National Food Security Act (NFSA). Of the total outstanding dues of ₹2,670.64 crore, a sum of ₹2,181.88 crore has been carried over from the financial years 2016-17 to 2020-21. Additionally, ₹431.55 crore is pending as subsidy for ration cards that were migrated within Tamil Nadu during the same period.

In relation to the supply of fortified rice, the state government incurred an expenditure of ₹244.06 crore, of which the centre has released only ₹197.26 crore, leaving a balance of ₹46.80 crore. Food and Civil

GRAIN OF DISPUTE	
Scheme	Amount (in cr)
Pending food claim (2016-17 to 2020-21)	₹2,181.88
Intra state migration (NFSA)	₹431.55
Fortification of rice	₹46.8
Sugar subsidy	₹10.34
Ragi subsidy	₹0.07
TOTAL	₹2,670.64

Supplies Minister R Sakkaranpani submitted a memorandum on this matter to Union Minister for Consumer Affairs, Pralhad Joshi, on Wednesday.

According to official sources, the centre disburses funds to the state at regular intervals under various heads, including procurement, milling, and distribution of rice through the PDS. These disbursements are based on claims submitted via the online portal annavitran.nic.in. However, subsidy is generally not released for paddy that fails quality inspection by teams that include officials from the Food Corporation of India (FCI). Such rejected quantities typically account for 0.2% to 0.5% of total procurement costs. Funds are also often with-

held due to discrepancies in online data entries or categorisation of expenditures. These are usually released once the data is updated and validated.

In 2020-21, the state government raised a claim of ₹5,782.02 crore. However, due to mismatches in paddy/rice quantities recorded in the annavitran portal, the centre released only ₹4,617.29 crore and withheld ₹1,164.73 crore. The discrepancies have since been rectified and communicated to the union government, sources added.

The state government has also requested the centre to finalise the economic cost of rice for the Kharif Marketing Seasons for 2010-11, 2013-14, and 2014-15. The economic cost comprises the minimum support price for paddy, along with expenses related to milling, transportation, labour, and other charges involved in converting paddy into rice. However, the centre did not fully accept the proposals submitted. Similarly, the union government had reduced the final economic cost for paddy procurement in 2011-12, prompting the state to seek a revision.

Source: The New Indian Express, 28 June 2025, p.6

State planning panel's report lays roadmap for zero poverty by 2030

Tamil Nadu outpaces Europe in progress made on Sustainable Development Goals: Stalin

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
@ Chennai

THE Tamil Nadu's Vision for Sustainable Development Goals, a report submitted by the state planning commission, aims at eliminating extreme poverty and reduce the population below the poverty line in TN to zero by 2030.

"The major interventions of the state are employment generation schemes, housing facilities at an affordable cost, provision of health care, education, drinking water supply, sanitation and a good road network. TN is the first to introduce mid-day meals in schools which helped improve enrolment, reduce drop-outs and address poverty," the 634-page report submitted to Chief Minister MK Stalin said.

The document highlights the present status and outlines strategies and action plan of the state and its interventions to achieve 17 SDGs through numerous welfare schemes and policies.



State planning commission submitting the report to CM at the secretariat | EXPRESS

The report said Tamil Nadu has achieved a significant decline in poverty over the years. Based on the state-specific poverty lines, the poverty ratio in Tamil Nadu is much lower compared to the other states. TN aims to eliminate extreme poverty and reduce the population below the poverty line in Tamil Nadu to zero.

Listing out efforts taken to

ensure inclusive and equitable quality of education, the report suggested numerous strategies such as introducing vocational education from class 9, attracting more women students by providing hostel facilities in 500 polytechnics, increase colleges for women, improve access and quality of higher education in the state and make students employment-ready; in-

crease in number of job-oriented courses, etc.,

Giving importance to the promotion of organic farming, the document recommended ensuring seed sovereignty of farmers. Strengthening soil and ensuring water conservation measures, promoting a mixed farming approach for livelihood security, and launching a statewide intensive campaign on organic farming, ensuring availability of quality organic manure to farmers, launching special tribal agriculture programmes, etc. are the measures suggested in the report.

Congratulating the SPC for the report, CM MK Stalin, in a post on X, said, "Tamil Nadu outpaces Europe in the progress made on Sustainable Development Goals. With our SDG performance surpassing Europe's overall average and bold strides in rural jobs, EVs, and the knowledge economy, TN's one trillion dollar economy vision is well within reach."

Source: *The New Indian Express*, 10 June 2025, p.2

'World Bank Group's Chennai centre stands for operational excellence and innovation'

Sanjay Vijayakumar
CHENNAI

The Global Business Center of the World Bank Group (WBG) in Chennai stands for operational excellence and innovation, its Managing Director and Chief Administrative Officer Wencai Zhang said.

Mr. Zhang was in Chennai for the reopening of the World Bank Group's modernised Global Business Center at Taramani. In 2001, Chennai was chosen for establishing the centre after a rigorous global search, and it was the World Bank Group's largest centre outside the United States.

The Chennai Global Business Center employed over 1,500 staff and contractors as of March 2025, serving 189 member countries in over 130 World Bank offices globally.

"There are a lot of factors, including a deep talent pool and robust infrastructure, that led to our decision to set up our Global Business Center in



Wencai Zhang, Managing Director and Chief Administrative Officer of the World Bank Group, speaking to *The Hindu* on Tuesday. R. RAGU

Chennai," Mr. Zhang said during an interview with *The Hindu*.

Human resources

"Chennai is rich in human resources. Over the years, the State has enjoyed a relatively stable political environment. It has also provided safe and high-quality life," he noted.

"The World Bank also provides support to the State in infrastructure, social sectors, and human capital, among others. Over the years, both sides have developed trust and

strong cooperation. These are the basic factors that have made us choose Chennai," Mr. Zhang said.

He pointed out that the World Bank had provided financial support to the tune of \$4.7 billion for projects that had been completed in the State, while \$1 billion-worth projects were under implementation.

The centre will continue to provide essential corporate services across various domains, including finance, accounting, procurement, administration, knowledge management,

treasury, human resources, risk management, and information technology. These are very important corporate functions for the World Bank Group, Mr. Zhang said.

He also pointed out that the success of the Chennai centre served as a model for the World Bank Group to establish a similar centre in Sofia, Bulgaria, in 2019.

The Chennai centre has also done some innovative things, including the use of process automation and digital technology, Mr. Zhang said. Going forward, the Chennai centre can play a bigger role in terms of additional corporate functions, including data analytics and decision-making support, among others, as well as the innovative use of AI and digital technology, he said.

"Chennai is home to many global business centres. We are very confident of Chennai's future as a major hub. We have enjoyed excellent support from the State and Central governments," Mr. Zhang said.

Source: *The Hindu*, 11 June 2025, p.6

Kuruvai coverage in delta enhanced to over 5 lakh acres

T. Ramakrishnan
CHENNAI

With the comfortable storage of the Mettur dam and the forecast of a favourable Southwest Monsoon in the catchment areas of the Cauvery in Karnataka and Kerala, the Tamil Nadu government has set an enhanced target of over 5 lakh acres in the delta for the ongoing Kuruvai cultivation season.

Last year, the achievement was around 3.88 lakh acres, which was about 1.7 lakh acres short of what was covered during 2023-24.

Among the reasons for the reduced coverage in 2024-25 was the delay in the commencement of water release for irrigation from Mettur. As against the scheduled date of June 12, the release began only on July 28. Since the current situation is better, the government has decided to open the dam on June 12.

On Friday morning, the water level of Mettur stood at 113.41 ft against its full level of 120 ft.

Comfortable position

On the morning of Friday, the water level at **Mettur dam stood at 113.41 ft against its full level of 120 ft.** The storage was 83.349 tmcft against a total capacity of 93.47 tmcft

Cauvery realisation: Pattern of flows since 2018-19* (all in tmcft)

Year	Quantum realised	Overall excess or shortfall
2018-19	405.43	228.176
2019-20	275.401	98.151
2020-21	211.315	34.065
2021-22	281.058	103.808
2022-23	667.483	490.233
2023-24	81.418	-95.832
2024-25	305.6289	128.3789

*The Supreme Court, in February 2018, fixed the annual quantum of water – 177.25 thousand million cubic feet (tmcft) – to be realised by Tamil Nadu at Biligundulu on the Karnataka-Tamil Nadu border, as per the monthly schedule

at 113.41 ft against its full level of 120 ft.

Ample storage

The storage was 83.349 thousand million cubic feet (tmcft) against the total capacity of 93.47 tmcft.

On the corresponding day last year, the water level and storage were 44.88 ft and 14.739 tmcft, respectively.

“This time, the achievement in Kuruvai coverage can be as high as 5.6 lakh acres,” said an agricultural expert.

Going by the average of the immediately preceding

five years (2020-21 to 2024-25), the new normal coverage has been set at 4.77 lakh acres as against the traditional coverage of 3.24 lakh acres.

The government has also decided to continue with a special Kuruvai package with an allocation

of ₹58 crore for farmers in the delta. The scheme contains the provision of subsidies for mechanised paddy transplantation, certified quality seeds, bio-fertilizers, and micronutrient mixtures.

Cauvery panel to meet

Meanwhile, the Cauvery Water Regulation Committee (CWRC) will hold its deliberations on June 10.

As of now, the State's concern is to ensure that Karnataka complies with the monthly schedule of water release, as decided by the Supreme Court in the February 2018 judgment and by the Cauvery Water Management Authority in June and subsequent months.

The just-concluded water year (June 2024-May 2025) saw the State experiencing yet another year of excess realisation.

Since the Supreme Court's 2018 verdict, the State received less than its due of 177.25 tmcft only once (2023-24).



Ready for release: The government has decided to open the Mettur dam on June 12. E. LAKSHMI NARAYANAN

Cauvery water realisation during 2024-25 (in tmcft)

Month	Realised	Excess or shortfall	Month	Realised	Excess or shortfall
June	2.2519	-6.9381	Jan.	3.538	0.778
July	96.5429	65.3029	Feb.	2.0406	-0.4594
August	78.3974	32.4474	March	3.0639	0.5639
Sept.	27.615	-9.145	April	4.3305	1.8305
Oct.	39.7128	19.4928	May	9.8308	7.3308
Nov.	19.8243	6.0443	Total	305.6289	128.3789
Dec.	18.4808	11.1308			

Stored paddy worth ₹840 crore spoiled in five years in TN

B ANBUSELVAN @ Chennai

DESPITE ongoing efforts to expand storage infrastructure, Tamil Nadu suffered wastage of 3.72 metric tonnes (MT) of paddy/rice stored at direct procurement centres and warehouses from 2019-20 to 2023-24 at a minimum estimated financial loss of around ₹840 crore. TNIE obtained this data through Right to Information (RTI) Act requests made to the Tamil Nadu Civil Supplies Corporation (TNCSC). The actual financial loss, which was not fully disclosed by TNCSC, could be higher.

TNIE acquired this information after multiple RTI requests and appeals, following delays and denials from TNCSC. The data revealed that between 65,000 MT and 1.25 lakh MT of paddy/rice was lost annually due to various factors. Losses were particularly higher in the districts of Tiruvallur, Thanjavur, Nagapattinam and Pudukkottai.

In 2021-22, an alarming 1.37 lakh MT of paddy/rice was wasted across the state. During that year, a total of 43.27 lakh MT of paddy was procured, which was subsequently converted into 28.5 lakh MT of rice. The annual expenditure for paddy procurement is ₹5,000 to ₹6,500 crore depending on the minimum support price (MSP) and paddy cultivation.

Several factors contributed to these storage losses, including inadequate or poorly-maintained storage facilities — such as those with leaky roofs, cracked walls and open storage areas — improper drying of paddy, leading to high moisture levels; infestations by rodents and insects and rough handling during loading.

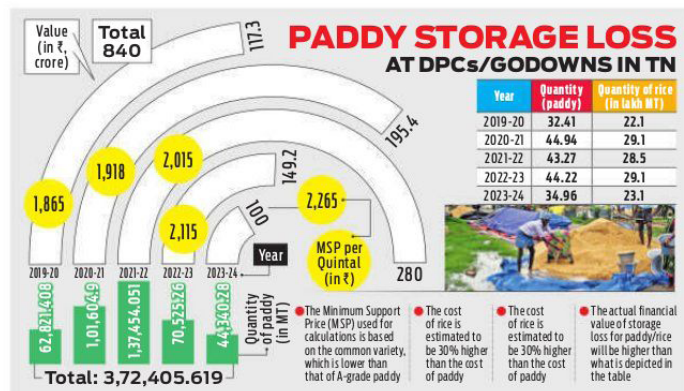
‘Storage losses have declined in recent years’

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

MOREOVER, delays in processing paddy into rice and exposure to adverse weather at open procurement centres in the delta districts, also contribute to such losses. TNCSC, the designated nodal agency for paddy procurement under the Public Distribution System (PDS) for both the state and central governments, procures paddy directly from farmers or through an authorised union government agency.

TNCSC officials stated that storage losses have declined substantially in recent years, with new facilities being constructed to mitigate these issues. “Losses caused by infestations, poor godown maintenance and administrative lapses are being recovered from the officials responsible. The permitted storage loss is 1%,” said one official. They further noted that TN's storage losses are comparatively lower than those in other states. Issues such as open storage and spoilage due to rainfall and adverse weather conditions have been significantly reduced over the past four years.

“We have implemented deadlines for transferring procured paddy from farmers to godowns



and rice mills at regular intervals. However, a large quantity of paddy at direct procurement centres (DPCs) is still damaged each year due to rain and unfavourable weather conditions. The permissible moisture content for paddy is 17%, but during the September-October monsoon, moisture levels often rise to 19-21% in the delta region,” explained an official.

According to official data,

Tamil Nadu currently has 259 operational godowns with a total storage capacity of 9.14 lakh MT, 123 buffer godowns with a capacity of 9.08 lakh MT, and 23 plinths with semi-covered sheds providing a capacity of 3.63 lakh MT.

To further reduce losses, TNCSC has proposed constructing six modern rice mills with a combined capacity of 2,700 MT. These mills will help address issues re-

lated to high-moisture paddy and open storage. The new facilities will include equipment to dry paddy with higher moisture content and package it into 100kg or 50kg rice bags. Of these, one mill with a capacity of 200 MT will be established in Thanjavur, while five mills with a capacity of 500 MT each will be set up in Thanjavur (2), Tiruvallur (2) and Cuddalore (1), said officials.

Source: *The New Indian Express*, 2 June 2025, p.1 and 5

TN min meets Union minister, seeks funds for mango farmers

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

Chennai: Food and civil supplies minister R Sakkarapani and DMK MP Kanimozhi met Union agriculture minister Shivraj Singh Chauhan and submitted a memorandum to protect Tamil Nadu mango farmers hit by dip in prices.

Sakkarapani urged BJP

govt to allocate funds to protect mango farmers.

Sakkarapani told reporters after the meeting that Tamil Nadu govt has asked Union govt to allocate 50% of the funds under the market intervention scheme.

“We have decided to provide funds to the tune of ₹62 crore for mango farmers.

Some ₹31 crore would be allocated by state govt and we have asked Union govt to provide the remaining 50% of the funds. This method has been followed in Karnataka and Andhra Pradesh. Union minister has responded positively to our demands,” Sakkarapani said.

On the crisis faced by man-

go farmers Sakkarapani said mango production has tripled in Krishnagiri, Salem, Vellore, Dharmapuri and Dindigul which resulted in prices dipping from ₹20/kg last year to ₹5/kg this year.

The minister said he had also urged Union govt to reduce the GST from 12% to 5% for mango pulp.

Source: *The Times of India*, 26 June 2025, p 5

Prices hit sweet spot as season ends

Around 200 Trucks Of Mangoes Arrive Daily

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

Chennai: Mango season is winding down, with the late-blooming rumani and neelam varieties starting to appear in markets. At least 200 trucks of several varieties of the summer fruit arrive every day, flooding the market with banganapalli, totapuri, rasalu, malgova, and mallika, along with the last few harvests of sindu-



MANGOES EVERYWHERE: Now is the best time to eat mangoes because the price is the lowest

ra and imam pasand.

“This year was a late start for mangoes. Good quality and quantity of mangoes started arriving in May. Summer showers boosted growth,” said

id S Srinivasan, who heads the Chennai Fruit Commission Agents Association. “This is the best time to eat mangoes because the price is among the lowest now,” he said.

At the wholesale market, banganapallis sourced from Nellore, Chittoor, and Bangarupalem cost ₹30 to ₹50 a kg. In retail markets, including supermarkets, the fruit is sold for ₹60 a kg. Many supermarkets are holding ‘mangofests’, offering discounts on varieties of mangoes, most of which are priced under ₹70 a kg.

Even cheaper are the totapuri variety, with premium quality available for ₹40-₹50 a kg in the retail markets. The price for these starts at ₹10 a kg in the local market. The sizes of varieties, including sindura and imam pasand, have come down, indicating the end of the season. These varieties are sold for ₹150 a kg at Koyambedu market. “We still

get these fruits, but the quantity has come down,” said Koyambedu fruit vendor K Jayaraman, who is also a member of the market management committee. “The occasional summer showers helped farmers. Rain adds moisture for mangoes to plump up, which improves taste and texture,” he said.

Meanwhile, the early harvests of rumani and neelam have also started arriving in the market. “It is in the early stages, so quality isn’t as good,” said Sarvesh R, who owns a grocery store in Anna Nagar. “It will take another three weeks for good quality rumani and neelam. Until then, banganapallis will be the mango of choice,” he said.

Source: *The Times of India*, 27 June 2025, p 5

Tamil Nadu seeks GI tags for five agricultural products

Sangeetha Kandavel
CHENNAI

The Tamil Nadu State Agricultural Marketing Board (TNSAMB) has sought Geographical Indication (GI) tag for five agricultural products, a move that is expected to benefit farmers involved in their production in the long run.

As per the Tamil Nadu Agriculture Budget 2025-26, a total of ₹15 lakh will be allocated to obtain GI for the five products – *Nallur Varagu*, a variety of millet (Cuddalore); *Vedharanyam Mullai*, (Nagapattinam); *Natham Puli*, (Dindigul); *Ayakudi Koyya*

(Dindigul), and *Kappalpatti Karumbu Murungai* (Dindigul).

Prior to filing the application for these products, extensive research and back-end analysis were conducted by the Madurai Agribusiness Incubation Forum, an initiative supported by NABARD and Tamil Nadu Agricultural University (TNAU).

A senior official from the TNSAMB said that farmers have been benefiting from the GI tags.

The *Nallur Varagu* is cultivated in the Nallur region of Kurinjipadi Taluk in Cuddalore. Traditionally, elders in villages recom-

mend this for convalescents and children due to its bone-strengthening as well as blood-sugar-regulating properties.

This millet variety is sown during July and August, and harvested between October and November. The crop matures in 90 to 100 days, with yields ranging from 800 to 1,200 kg/ha under rain-fed conditions, and up to 1,400 kg/ha with improved agronomic practices and inter-cropping.

Vedharanyam Mullai, is a culturally significant jasmine cultivated in the coastal region of Vedharanyam in Nagapattinam. The flow-

ers are highly valued for their intense natural fragrance, long shelf life, and remarkable ability to retain freshness and scent for up to 24 hours after harvesting. Cultivated commercially from February to September, with peak blooming from April to July, the flowers are harvested before dawn to preserve maximum freshness.

Ayakudi Guava, locally known as *Ayakudi Koyya Pazham*, is cultivated in the village of Ayakudi near Palani in Dindigul. It is grown in red loamy and sandy loam soils, which are well-drained and rich in organic matter, with a

pH range of 6.0 to 7.5.

The *Natham Tamarind* which comes from Natham Taluk in Dindigul has thick pulp, low fiber and seed content, high tartaric acid concentration, and natural long shelf life.

The last product, *Kappalpatti Karumbu Murungai* is well known for its exceptionally long, thick, and tender pods that resemble sugarcane. Cultivated over 3,500 to 5,000 acres, the crop has a short duration of 90-100 days, typically sown in September-October and harvested by December-January. Each acre yields 20-28 bundles, each weighing 50-65 kg.

Source: *The Hindu*, 22 June 2025, p.8

In Sirkazhi's villages, palm leaves are helping women weave peace into their lives

Nacchinarkkiniyan M.
MAYILADUTHURAI

At a modest training hall in Agani village near Sirkazhi, women sit cross-legged, their fingers gently folding strips of dried palm leaf. There's no hum of machinery, no urgency in the air – just quiet concentration and the occasional shared laugh. This is not a factory or a business hub, but something rarer: a place where rural women, many of them struggling with domestic problems, find focus, companionship, and relief.

The initiative is led by Valanadu Sustainable Agriculture Producer Company, a women-run farmer

producer company supported by the National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development.

Since launching a palm-leaf handicrafts training programme, the company has drawn in women from across Sirkazhi taluk – housewives, farm labourers, and informal workers aged 18 to 50 – offering not only skills, but also emotional space, its CEO Subhashini Sridhar said.

"The original idea was to help women supplement their income through palm leaf-based products such as baskets, garlands, puja trays, earrings, and phone holders. The raw material – palm leaves – is locally available and sus-



Finding solace: Women engaged in making palm leaf handicrafts at a training centre in Agani village run by the Valanadu Sustainable Agriculture Producer Company. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

tainable. While the target is to help each woman eventually earn around ₹5,000 a month, the real impact so

far has been psychological, not financial," she said.

"Many women come from households affected

by alcoholism and stress," said K. Malathi, a trainer who leads the sessions alongside G. Parvathy.



Many women come from households affected by alcoholism and stress

K. MALATHI,
a trainer

"Some are discouraged from leaving their house. But once they start working with the palm leaves, they feel calmer. That's why they stay."

The training sessions are modest – for every two months, about 30 women may begin in a batch, but only those truly interested continue. Roughly 20 persist. They either come to

the centre or take the materials home, working at their own pace. Though sales happen occasionally at temple stalls, especially near Vaitheeswaran Koil and Thirukkadaiyur, the group earns little at present. The company is planning to set up stalls at all temple festivals in the vicinity.

Rajeshwari V., an agricultural worker from Achapuram village, said, "My husband rarely comes home sober. I used to feel like I was breaking from the inside. Now, when I do this work, I feel peaceful. Even if I don't earn much, I've gained something else – mental peace."

Others echo the same

feeling. "You can't do this work if you're angry," said Subathra S. from Nanthiyannallur village. "Your mind has to be calm. That's how it teaches us to be still," she added.

The participants say the work builds not only skills but also solidarity. Caste and village boundaries dissolve over shared craft. "We sit together and talk. That itself is a kind of healing," said Priyadharshini from Agani village.

The company hopes to become a full-fledged cooperative one day. For now, though, it functions as a quiet support system – giving women a sense of purpose, creative outlet, and emotional relief.

Source: *The Hindu*, 26 June 2025, p.6

TN to restore 100 tanks in four districts at ₹111 crore

Project aims to improve water storage, increase agricultural productivity

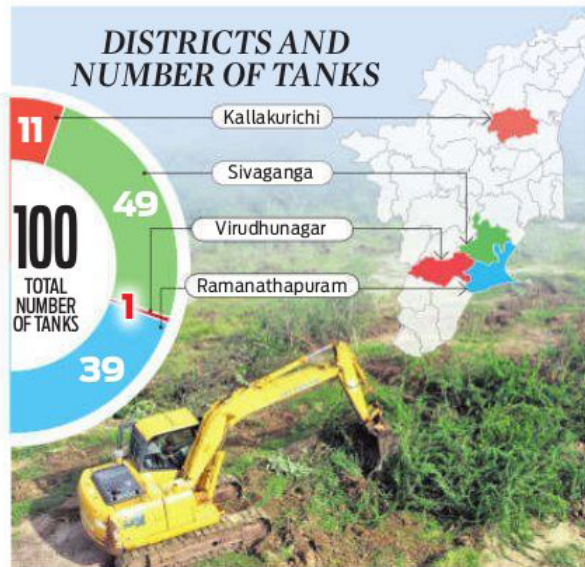
S GURUVANMIKANATHAN

@Chennai

IN a major push to strengthen irrigation facilities, the state government has granted administrative sanction to the Water Resources Department (WRD) to carry out repair, renovation and restoration (RRR) works in 100 water tanks across Kallakurichi, Sivaganga, Ramanathapuram and Virudhunagar districts. The initiative will be implemented under the Pradhan Mantri Krishi Sinchayee Yojana (PMKSY), which focuses on efficient use of water and expanding irrigation coverage.

The total cost of the project is estimated at ₹111.48 crore, with the state government contributing ₹10.56 crore. The remaining funds are expected from the union government. "A total of 89 tanks are located in the Madurai region covering Sivaganga, Ramanathapuram and Virudhunagar districts, while the remaining 11 are in Kallakurichi district under the Chennai region," a senior WRD official told *TNIE*.

As per the conditions of the scheme, to get funds from the centre, a government order has been issued declaring that all 100 tanks are free from encroachments. "WRD officials have inspected and certified that all 100 tanks are encroachment-free," the official said. Following this, a formal request for central funds has been sent. "We hope the funds will be sanctioned in the first week of July. Once the funds are sanctioned, we will float the ten-



The majority of the tanks are located in the Madurai region covering Sivaganga, Ramanathapuram and Virudhunagar districts | FILE PIC



We hope the funds will be sanctioned by the centre in the first week of July. Once the funds are sanctioned, we will float the tenders

WRD official

ders," the official added.

Explaining the significance of the scheme, another WRD official said, "The RRR programme aims to conserve catchment areas of tanks, improving water storage and sup-

ply channels and thereby increasing agricultural productivity, boosting groundwater recharge, and meeting local drinking water needs." The official pointed out that many of these tanks are in poor condition, with feeder channels either narrowed or collapsed, allowing only minimal flow into the tanks. "The project will help restore the tanks to their full capacity," he said.

The official further noted that RRR works have already been completed on 480 of the 645 tanks taken up earlier under the same scheme at a cost of ₹498.18 crore.

Source: *The New Indian Express*, 26 June 2025, p.4

Portal on livestock prices on the anvil

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @Chennai

ANIMAL Husbandry Secretary N Subbaiyan on Thursday announced the department is developing a new online portal to provide comprehensive information on prices of livestock, including cows, buffaloes, goats, sheep, pigs, and other animals.

Addressing reporters during an event at Madras Veterinary College, he said the portal will offer daily updates on livestock

prices with an aim to help farmers improve their earnings.

According to an official release, the Tamil Nadu Livestock Development Agency is building the portal, which will feature details of livestock available for sale in cattle markets and list animal prices across all districts. The initiative is expected to help farmers set competitive prices for animals sold in shandies (cattle fairs).

Meanwhile, the Tamil Nadu Veterinary and Animal Sciences

University, in collaboration with the Indian Veterinary Extension Forum, Puducherry, hosted a two-day conference titled 'Transforming Livestock and Rural Development: A Paradigm Shift in Teaching, Research and Extension' on Thursday.

At the event which will conclude on Friday, Subbaiyan stressed on the importance of stakeholder collaboration for sustainable growth in the livestock sector.

Source: *The New Indian Express*, 27 June 2025, p.6

As AP bans TN mangoes, traders shut shops in support of farmers

RAJALAKSHMI SAMPATH

@Vellore

OVER 100 shops in the Bharatharami area of Vellore district downed shutters on Friday in solidarity with the mango farmers, who have been reeling under losses following a ban imposed by the Chittoor district administration in Andhra Pradesh on allowing Totapuri mangoes from Tamil Nadu and Karnataka to enter AP.

However, when asked about the state's response to the traders' strike and the mounting distress among farmers, Water Resources Minister Duraimurugan offered a terse response stating that the Tamil Nadu government will take action,



The people of this constituency have been demanding a college for a long time, and today the chief minister has fulfilled it

Minister Duraimurugan

without elaborating further. He made the remark while addressing the press following the inauguration of a newly-built Government Arts and Science College at KV Kuppam in Vellore. The college was virtually inaugurated by Chief Minister MK Stalin on Friday.

Speaking at the event, Duraimurugan said, "The people of this constituency have been demanding a college for a long time, and today the chief min-

ister has fulfilled it." A request has also been made for a 100-bed hospital to be set up in the area, which would be taken up with the chief minister, he added.

However, the function was briefly disrupted when KV Kuppam MLA and AIADMK ally Poovai Jaganmoorthy rushed to the stage before the minister finished his speech. After Duraimurugan's address, Jaganmoorthy insisted on speaking and asserted that he had promised to establish the college and was actively pushing for a hospital. "As MLA of this constituency, I will continue to press the state government for additional concessions," he said.

Source: *The New Indian Express*, 21 June 2025, p.5

While Tamil Nadu might not dominate agricultural exports like its peer states, its USP lies in exclusive, high-grade regional produce



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Tamil Nadu has the distinction of being a frontrunner in exports, in electronics, textiles, leather, and automobiles. Simultaneously, the state has witnessed shrinking agricultural lands and increasing urbanisation, which has exerted stress on its agricultural exports. The area under horticultural crop cultivation such as vegetables, fruits, spices, aromatic crops, medicinal crops, flowers and plantation in the state is 16 lakh hectares contributing a total production of about 235 lakh tonnes. In the food grains segment, production of 130 lakh tonnes comprising rice, millets and pulses is

targeted for the current financial year. In exports, the state's share remained less than 5% over seven years, though it rose to the 7th position in 2024-25 from 9th in 2022-23. During 2024-25, TN recorded \$1.5 bn exports in the agriculture sector, as per data available with the NIRYAT portal of the Union ministry of commerce and industry. While Madhya Pradesh was just ahead at \$1.7 billion, Karnataka stood fifth with an export value of \$2.2 billion in the last fiscal (FY25). While Tamil Nadu might not be in a position to compete with states such as Maharashtra, Gujarat and Andhra Pradesh in the quantum of agricultural exports, it has unique, high-quality GI-tagged agricultural produce. The state has several unique agri, horti and floricultural offerings that can cater to the grow-

ing global demand, including turmeric, banana, tea, mangoes, jasmine, among others. Turmeric is among the most sought-after spices across the world, and TN is the third largest producer of the commodity in India. Popular for its utility in the manufacturing of curry powder, turmeric is well known for its medicinal value too. However, just 15% turmeric is exported from its hub in Erode that holds GI tag for Erode Manjal (Erode Turmeric). S Chandramohan, director and group president finance, TAFE, and past chairman of CII Tamil Nadu, says there is a potential for value addition. "Turmeric is used in Germany for various applications such as promoting skin health, supporting the immune system, aiding digestion and promoting general health." He adds, "Stakeholders in the agro space could consider tie-ups with enterprises specialising in Ayurvedic solutions. Adhering to quality control and communicating regional requirements to the farmers to ensure compliance will go a long way," he said. It's noteworthy that Tamil Nadu is the largest producer of bananas in India. About 30 varieties are grown in more than one lakh hectares across 12 districts mostly concentrated in Trichy, Theni, Tuticorin, Pudukkottai and Coimbatore. Manikutty Subramanian, director of Trichy-based TN Banana Producer Company says hardly 5% of banana from the state is exported. "We are mainly exporting the G9 variety of banana due to its low price. Of late, our native varieties such as Nendran and red banana are also seeing an interest among consumers in UAE and Saudi Arabia. Nendran is also exported in the form of dry banana, a ready to eat value added product with a shelf life of three to six months. We are urging farmers to tap the global market as it will double their income through foreign exchange. We believe that banana exports can move up to 20% over the years if there is special focus on increasing exports," he added. Tamil Nadu must focus on creating value-added products, inspire local entrepreneurs to build homegrown premium brands, launch Tamil Nadu agri-products on global e-commerce platforms, promote them in airports, trade fairs, and food expos. Anil Kumar SG, founder and CEO of Chennai-headquartered agri-value chain enabler, Samunnati says, "Imagine Tirunelveli or Theni mango juice in sustainable glass bottles, Pollachi coconut bites sold in airport lounges, or Nilgiris tea-infused chocolates/pastries crafted for global connoisseurs. There should be partnerships with global brands to enter new markets," he said. A category yet to be well-tapped in exports is flowers. TN is the largest producer of flowers in India, with a share of 20%, produces about five lakh tonnes of flowers per annum. Of this, cut roses are exported to Europe and east Asian countries, while jasmine is flown to the Middle East and UK. R Murthy, president of Flower Growers Association of TN says. "A floriculture park must be established at Kodaikanal on the lines of industrial parks for food and other manufacturing sectors. This park will be a game changer in exports because flowers can be processed and packed depending on the requirements of various countries," he adds.

Source: The Times of India, 16 June 2025, p 2

Stalin asks PM to help farmers hit by mango glut

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
@ Chennai

SEEKING the intervention of Prime Minister Narendra Modi to help the Tamil Nadu mango farmers, who are affected by the steep fall in prices and lack of demand from pulp-making industries, Chief Minister MK Stalin on Tuesday urged the union government to implement the Market Intervention Scheme (MIS) under PM-AA-SHA (Farmer Income Protection Scheme) for mangoes. The losses faced by farmers can be



compensated with funds equally shared by the centre and the state, the CM said.

In a letter written to the PM and Union Agriculture Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan, Stalin said the state government has estimated that ₹62.93 crore will be required to compensate farmers by paying them ₹2,766 for each tonne of mangoes.

The letter explained that the price has been arrived at by calculating the difference between the present market price of ₹5,000 per tonne (₹5

per kg) offered by pulp-making companies and the market intervention price (under MIS) of ₹7,776 per tonne (₹7.7 per kg).

The letter said the MI price was arrived at by taking ₹50,553 as input cost per hectare and an average yield of 6.51 tonnes per hectare. He urged the GoI to implement the scheme under a 50:50 cost-sharing model between the state and the centre to compensate for 2.27 lakh

tonnes of 'Bangalora' variety of mangoes.

The CM's letter comes amid widespread protests by farmers in Tamil Nadu's mango-growing districts of Krishnagiri, Dharmapuri, Vellore and Tirupattur who had to dump their produce on the streets as pulp-making companies, which are the primary purchasers of the 'Bangalora' variety, have either refused to buy the produce or were offering a paltry price of ₹5 per kg. **P5**



The state government has estimated that ₹62.93 crore will be required to compensate farmers by paying them ₹2,766 for each tonne of mango — MK Stalin, TN Chief Minister

Price of 'Bangalora' has fallen to ₹4K–₹5K per tonne this year

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

OPPOSITION parties have mounted pressure on the ruling DMK to compensate the farmers as done by the Andhra Pradesh government. Chief Minister M K Stalin, in a letter to Prime Minister Narendra Modi, stated that around 80% of the 'Bangalora' and 50% of the 'Alphonso' mango varieties cultivated in Tamil Nadu are used for pulp production. However, the price of the 'Bangalora' variety has fallen to ₹4,000–₹5,000 per tonne this year, compared to ₹7,000–₹8,000 per tonne last year.

Though this year's yield was high due to favourable weather, the availability of leftover stock from the previous year has disrupted the supply-demand balance, leading to a dip in demand from pulp manufacturing companies. Tamil Nadu cultivates mangoes on 1.46 lakh hectares and produces 9.49 lakh tonnes annually, making it the seventh-largest mango producer in the country.

The chief minister sought the union government's intervention on two other fronts to ease tensions between mango farmers and pulp manufacturers. He urged the centre to ensure strict adherence to the Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI) norms. He alleged that companies producing mango-based beverages often fail to meet the prescribed minimum pulp content. Stalin also demanded a reduction in the GST on mango pulp from 12% to 5%, saying the existing tax structure disincentivises large-scale production. A lower tax, he said, would help both manufacturers and mango growers.

Food Minister R Sakkarapani, who is also the minister in charge of Krishnagiri district—Tamil Nadu's leading mango-growing region—will hand over the letters to the Prime Minister and Union Agriculture Minister in person on Wednesday. Stalin also cited the recent decision of the union and Karnataka governments to compensate mango farmers under the Price Deficiency Payment Scheme and urged similar support for TN growers.

Source: *The New Indian Express*, 25 June 2025, p.1 and 7

Price crash leaves TN's mango farmers in a juicy mess



PULP FRICTION: With no buyers, mangoes are rotting in orchards in Madurai, Dindigul

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Mango farmers across Tamil Nadu are facing a ruinous season as procurement prices for the popular kallamai variety (also known as kilimooku or totapuri) have plunged from ₹20 per kg last year to just ₹4 per kg. Farmers blame the crash on pulp factories cutting purchases after a slowdown in juice manufacturing orders.

With tonnes of ripe mangoes left to rot in orchards across Dindigul and Madurai, farmers fear they won't be able to recover harvest costs.

C Jeeva, a farmer from Kesampatti, says this is the first time he is selling mangoes for less than ₹5 a kg. "And only because they're rotting in the field. Pulp factories say they have stock from last year, so there's no hope for the next season either," he says. Farmers from Madurai approached the collector twice this month over the price crash. Dindigul, one of the largest kallamai-producing districts after Krishnagiri, Salem and Dharmapuri, is also badly hit. Ratna Vel, who

heads a mango farmers' association, says the same issue occurred with sugarcane farmers in Andhra Pradesh but the govt stepped in with a minimum price for produce. "It's a temporary solution, but we need it. A cooperative union could also help," he says.

The Tamil Nadu Farmers Protection Association has asked the state govt to provide ₹50,000 per acre as compensation as the price crash could force many growers to quit cultivation. Pulp processors say the issue goes beyond demand and there is a drop in fruit quality.

"Farmers are using cultar, a growth regulator that shortens the maturation period from 90 to 60 days, which affects pulp quality," says S Palanisamy, managing director of Kurunji Agro Products in Dindigul. "This makes our product less competitive globally. Corporates are looking at sourcing pulp from South Africa. Also, the use of pulp has dropped drastically. Ten years ago, they used 15% pulp. Now it's down to 5%, replaced by synthetic mixes that mimic aroma and flavour."

Source: *The Times of India*, 11 June 2025, p 6

Procure mango at ₹20/kg, ryots urge TN govt

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE

@ Chennai

TAMIL NADU Vivasayigal Sangam, affiliated with the CPI, has urged the state government to immediately intervene and procure mangoes at ₹20 per kg, including subsidy, to safeguard mango farmers who are facing distress due to falling prices.

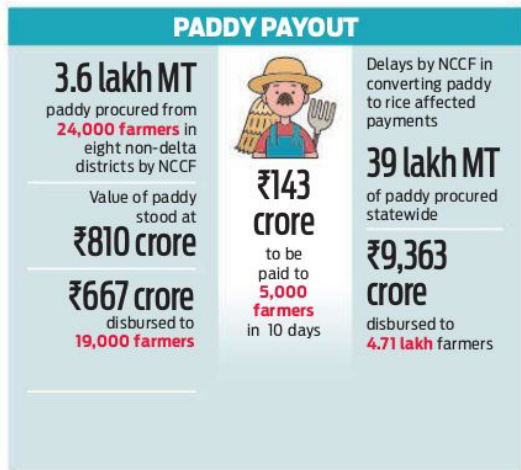
In a statement, the association's general secretary P S Masilamani said that due to a bumper harvest this year and lack of institutional procurement, mango prices have plummeted below ₹4 per kg, forcing many farmers to dump their produce on roads or leave the fruits to rot on trees.

With mango pulp factories largely run by private players and an oversupply across southern states, farmers are unable to get fair prices.

Masilamani pointed out that the Andhra Pradesh government has begun procuring mangoes at ₹12/kg, with an additional ₹4/kg subsidy.

He called on the state government to follow suit by involving the agricultural marketing department, setting up cold storage units, and eventually establishing state-run mango pulp factories to ensure price stability for growers.

Source: *The New Indian Express*,
19 June 2025, p.4



TN to foot central agency's ₹143 cr due to paddy farmers

B ANBUSELVAN @ Chennai

FOLLOWING the protests by farmers over delayed payments and the suspension of paddy procurement in eight non-delta districts during the peak of cultivation by the National Cooperative Consumers' Federation (NCCF), functioning under the union government's Department of Consumer Affairs, the state government has directed the Tamil Nadu Civil Supplies Corporation (TNCSC) to disburse the pending ₹143 crore directly to the affected farmers. The amount will later be recovered from the NCCF.

A total of ₹143 crore will be disbursed to around 5,000 farmers within the next seven to 10 days, officials said. NCCF had procured paddy from these farmers in the eight districts – Tiruvannamalai, Kancheepuram, Tirunelveli, Ramanathapuram, Vellore, Ranipet, Villupuram and Thiruvallur – outside the Cauvery irrigation region.

Tamil Nadu's decision to disburse the amount has followed a recent request from the union government, urging the state's intervention to resolve the issue.

According to officials, the NCCF had procured paddy worth ₹810 crore from 24,000 farmers, of which ₹667 crore has been paid to 19,000 farmers as of June 20. TNCSC, the agency responsible for paddy procurement under the central pool system, has also decided to take over the procurement operations from the NCCF in

these districts. The agreement between TNCSC and NCCF earlier allowed the latter to procure paddy at minimum support price (MSP) in the eight non-delta districts.

Under the terms of the agreement, the NCCF was required to convert the procured paddy into rice and deliver it to TNCSC, following which TNCSC will release the payment to NCCF.

Although the NCCF procured approximately 3.6 lakh metric tonnes (MT) of paddy from farmers, it failed to convert even 40% into rice. This disrupted the supply chain and delayed the payment cycle, according to officials.

Moreover, much of the paddy procured by NCCF remained stored in open Direct

Procurement Centres (DPCs), resulting in increased moisture content and storage losses during rains. As a result, the NCCF suspended the paddy procurement in eight districts. B Muruges, Managing Director (in-charge), TNCSC, told *TNIE* that all the paddy stocks have been cleared from the DPCs managed by NCCF. "As of June 22, both TNCSC and NCCF have jointly paid ₹9,396 crore to 4.71 lakh farmers. The pending dues of ₹143 crore will be settled within 10 days," said the official.

During the Kharif Marketing Season 2025-26, so far 39 lakh MT of paddy has been procured, compared to 29 lakh MT during the same period last year. "This year, paddy procurement is expected to exceed last year's figures by 8 to 9 lakh MT," added Muruges.



Tender coconut price jumps to ₹80

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Chennai: Dip in arrivals and unceasing demand for tender coconuts have resulted in a spike in its price, with each nut selling at up to ₹80 in parts of the city.

Vendors outside Semmozhi Poonga, Radial Road, and Anna Nagar were all selling at ₹70 to ₹80 per coconut, which is about ₹20 more than the usual rates at this time of the year. They said coconuts usually arrive from Theni and Pollachi regions, but this month, the supply dwindled.

G Muthukumar, a Koyambedu market wholesale association member, said the tender coconuts are taking time to mature in Pollachi and Theni districts. "As a result, there's a supply issue. The farm price increased from ₹40 to ₹50, and the market price touched ₹80 as vendors have to make ends meet. This can be due to prolonged summer heat too," he said.

Selvi Soruban, a tender coconut farmer with about 2,000 trees in Theni region, said Pollachi farms are currently ravaged by the Kerala Wilt and Spiralling White Fly infestation. "This has affected the entire supply network to cities. Luckily,



RESPITE FROM HEAT

such infestations haven't happened in Theni," she said, adding that Pollachi farms are selling a piece for ₹50 whereas Theni is selling them at ₹30. The vendors add a harvest cost of ₹10 and then profit is added during sales.

The city gets at least 100 truckloads of tender coconuts daily, with each truck carrying a maximum of 600. Vendors said since the heat is more harsh this time, the demand is still high for coconuts. "At least 100 pieces sell every day. The stock gets over by afternoon, but a new batch arrives only the next day. We have hiked the price by ₹15 since June," said K Jeevanandhan, a vendor selling tender coconuts outside Semmozhi Poonga.

In apps such as Zepto, one coconut, including checkout costs, goes at ₹151, up from ₹120 months ago.

Source: *The Times of India*, 24 June 2025, p 4

Source: *The New Indian Express*, 24 June 2025, p.4

Govt mulls new industrial estate; Stalin highlights MSME growth

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
@ Chennai

THE state government is actively considering a proposal from the Ambattur Industrial Estate Manufacturers Association (AIEMA) seeking the allocation of 1,000 acres of land to establish a new industrial estate within a 50 km radius of Chennai.

Delivering the inaugural address at the 16th edition of AC-MEE 2025, Chief Minister M K Stalin said the request submitted by AIEMA president RSS Satish Babu "will certainly be considered." Babu, in his remarks, highlighted the space constraints manufacturers face in Ambattur and stressed that a new estate on the city's outskirts would support the chief minister's goal of making TN a \$1 trillion economy.

Stalin noted that Tamil Nadu ranks third in the country for the number of registered Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs), with over 3.5



Chief Minister M.K. Stalin inaugurates the 16th edition of AC-MEE 2025, organised by Ambattur Industrial Estate Manufacturers' Association, at the Trade Centre in Nandambakkam on Thursday | *express*

million units generating 24.7 million jobs. He added that the state contributes 11.9% to India's manufacturing Gross Value Added (GVA) and leads in the production of motor vehicles, garments, and leather goods, while ranking second in textiles, machinery, and electronics.

Criticising the previous AI-ADMK government, Stalin said his government had allocated

₹6,626 crore to the MSME sector in just three years, compared to ₹3,617.6 crore in AIAD-MK's rule. The current year's allocation stands at ₹1,918.2 crore. The biennial AC-MEE exhibition, organised by AIEMA, has grown from 435 to 468 exhibitors and features 120 international brands.

Over 35,000 visitors are expected, with projected deals worth ₹750 crore.

Source: *The New Indian Express*, 20 June 2025, p.9

'Ideal location, talent pool and govt. support drove VinFast's decision to set up plant in T.N.'

Anirudh Parthasarathy
CHENNAI

Thoothukudi's strategic location, Tamil Nadu's talent pool, and government support were the key factors behind VinFast's decision to set up its manufacturing plant in the State, VinFast Asia CEO Pham Sanh Chau said.

The Vietnamese carmaker is set to begin the production of its VF7 and VF6 models at the Thoothukudi plant in July, while bookings will open in June.

'Visited six States'

During the Global Investors Meet in Chennai last year, VinFast inked an MoU with the Tamil Nadu government for an investment of ₹16,000 crore in



Pham Sanh Chau

multiple phases for manufacturing EVs in Thoothukudi.

Speaking to *The Hindu* in Hanoi recently, Mr. Chau said, "We visited six States and inspected 15 locations before we decided to select Thoothukudi. Since we want to serve not only the domestic market, but also the external market, we

need to be located very close to a seaport and an airport. Thoothukudi satisfies these requirements."

Mr. Chau said Tamil Nadu had an impressive pool of talent. VinFast Vietnam employed a large number of Indian engineers, the majority of whom were from Tamil Nadu, he said, adding that the State was also a hub for suppliers.

"The government of Tamil Nadu has been extremely helpful. Whenever we propose anything, they make the effort and satisfy our requirements. We cannot build a factory in 15 months without the kind, continuous and generous support from the government of Tamil Nadu...from Chief Minister M.K. Stalin himself, his Cabinet, and

especially Minister for Industries T.R.B. Rajaa. So, that is why...[though] we were approached by many State governments, we made a final call to invest in Tamil Nadu," he said.

Responding to Mr. Chau's comments, Mr. Rajaa said, "VinFast's integrated factory in Thoothukudi has laid the foundation for a new green industrial cluster in south Tamil Nadu. Along with the solar cell and green hydrogen projects, this factory will bring renewed economic vigour to the region."

According to him, the VinFast project is creating high-quality jobs for local youth through targeted upskilling under Naam Mudhalvan, while also enabling

a thriving MSME ecosystem to support the EV value chain.

"This cluster approach is focused on sustainability and inclusivity. It aims to transform Thoothukudi into a next-generation manufacturing and export hub. With its proximity to the port, the region is set to become a gateway for exports," he added.

According to him, Tamil Nadu's focus remains on equitable industrial development, and VinFast's investment stands as an example of how the government is creating global opportunities across the State, ensuring distributed growth.

(The writer was in Hanoi on the invitation of VinFast).

Source: *The Hindu*, 3 June 2025, p.2

4 sites identified for 2,000-acre city

Tidco Had Appointed 2 Consultants

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The proposed city would feature IT parks, fintech trade zones, research and development centres, hi-tech companies, banking, and insurance firms

Chennai: Tamil Nadu's hunt for a next-gen city is gaining pace. Tidco (Tamil Nadu Industrial Development Corporation) has zeroed in on four potential sites near Chennai for a 2,000-acre global city and sent the list to state govt for approval. The project promises to redefine planned growth with IT parks, fintech zones, and future-ready infrastructure supported by robust connectivity.

In the assembly this year, finance minister Thangam

Thennarasu announced that Tamil Nadu govt would develop a new city near Chennai over 2,000 acres, as the state is experiencing one of the highest rates of urbanization.

Following this, Tidco appointed two consultants to identify potential sites for the new city. "They have identified four places, but we cannot reveal the locations now. Two consultants are studying the pros and cons. Their preliminary report is being considered at present," said a senior official from Tidco.

Developing a successful

global city, on the outskirts of Chennai requires a comprehensive approach, said Sanjay Chugh, director at Anarock Property Consultants Pvt Ltd. He said the key objective would be to attract commercial offices and global capability centres, which would drive job creation and, in turn, stimulate residential, retail, and ancillary development. "Selecting the right peripheral location combined with integrated planning will position Chennai to develop a city that attracts investment and talent from

across the world," he said.

Urban planners point out that Chengalpet and Parandur are ideal locations due to their excellent connectivity and growth potential.

Chengalpet stands out for its strong rail and road connectivity and its proximity to the existing airport, while Parandur is expected to gain prominence with the upcoming airport and its potential development into an aeropolis. Parandur is also expected to be connected by metro in the coming years and linked to the harbour via the Outer Ring Road. It is also connected to the Chennai-Bengaluru highway.

"ECR and OMR are also options as the proposed 65-km-long sea bridge from Ennore to Poonjeri near Mamalapuram on ECR will boost connectivity between north

and south Chennai. Besides, OMR will also have good metro connectivity up to Navalur, which can be extended further," said S Sridharan, executive committee member, Credai National.

However, securing a single, uninterrupted 2,000-acre land parcel remains a significant challenge, as much of the land is privately owned and acquiring it would require substantial compensation from the govt. "Ideally, a global city could be developed in places such as Madurai, Thothukudi, which already has a harbour and airport, or Nagercoil, known for its favourable climate and natural resources but lower GDP," he said. "Decentralized growth can drive employment and balance regional development," said K P Subramanian, urban planning expert.

Source: *The Times of India*, 25 June 2025, p 5

Brownie points: Sipcot eyes defunct projects to set up new units

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State Industries Promotion Corporation of Tamil Nadu (Sipcot) is eyeing brownfield projects to be redeveloped for industrial projects. These are land parcels associated with defunct factories of state-owned companies and cooperatives. In an interview to TOI, Sipcot MD **K Senthil Raj** spoke about developments including enhancing the land bank for new industrial parks coming up across Tamil Nadu.

■ How is Sipcot utilising brownfield land parcels for new industrial projects?

We have identified a defunct spinning mill land located in a 68-acre parcel in Dharapuram, Tirupur district. We are looking for an operator that can set up its shop in the facility. It can be anything — from manufacturers of non-leather footwear to batteries, solar panels and more. We had



planned similar units in Villupuram, Karur and Erode, but Tamil Nadu Small Industries Development Corporation (Tansidco) wanted to utilise the land. So, those parcels have been given to Tansidco.

■ Which are the other land parcels Sipcot is looking at?

We took over the land parcel for a cooperative sugar mill, a non-starter at Gummidipoondi in Tiruvallur district, and gave it to a company that will manufacture forged wheels for the railway ministry. Another defunct unit of Tamil Nadu Industrial Explosives (TEL) at Katpadi in Vellore district was taken over by Sipcot. The 20-acre land parcel has been given to Aspire Footwear, which will set up a new greenfield non-leather footwear factory. We are looking at non-operational cooperative spinning or sugar mills that can be repurposed as new industrial units.



■ Is this a new model that Sipcot is evolving?

A: We can't say it is a new model because the basic and fundamental activity of Sipcot is to acquire land for developing industrial projects. It is on a scale of 1,000 acres to 2,000 acres. But, what we are doing here is that wherever land remains unutilised or a plant turns dead, we take it over and use it for industrial purposes. The idea is to revive the land parcels of defunct units of a state-owned entity and

offer it for industrial requirements.

■ Over the past five years, how many districts got new industrial parks?

In 2021, we had industrial parks in 20 districts. Now, Sipcot has its footprint in 34 districts with either an active industrial park or we are planning to acquire land for setting up a facility. Only four districts such as Chennai, The Nilgiris, May-

iladuthurai and Kanyakumari alone do not have Sipcot industrial parks.

■ What is the volume of land bank that Sipcot will add over the next few years?

We have more than 50 industrial parks spread over an area of about 50,000 acres. Of this, only 2,000 acres are vacant. We may be adding at least another 10,000 acres to the land bank required for industrial purposes in the next two years, which includes the land parcels for industrial parks that have been announced recently.

■ What are the new facilities being added to industrial parks?

Sector-specific common facilities are being created in industrial parks including labs, and cold storages. We are planning for a common effluent park at PM MITRA Park (Pradhan Mantri Mega Integrated Textile Region and Apparel Park) in Virudhunagar district.



Source: *The Times of India*, 23 June 2025, p 2

2 new Aavin dairies to double supply

Madhavaram, Acharapakkam Units To Open By March 2026

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Chennai: With Gujarat-based Amul slowly firming up its dairy footprint in Tamil Nadu, the state govt-run Aavin has begun ramping up its infrastructure in Chennai after several years.

Two new dairies — one in Madhavaram with a capacity of 10 lakh litres a day and another in Acharapakkam of 1 lakh litre capacity — are set to begin operations by March 2026, effectively doubling Aavin's cur-

RETAIL PRICES OF MILK IN CHENNAI



rent milk supply potential in Chennai to 22 lakh litres a day, said A Annadurai in response to a grievance letter from the Tamil Nadu Milk Dealers and Workers Welfare Union.

The move comes days after Amul managing director Amit Vyas told reporters here that the brand, already selling curd

in Chennai, will "slowly and steadily enter into the milk segment" through its plant in Chittoor.

Though Chennai, with a population of more than one crore, is a high-potential dairy market, Aavin's current daily sales in the city hover around just 11 lakh litres. Private dairi-

es, despite commanding higher prices, have a stronger presence. Many brands have increased prices by ₹2 to ₹3 thrice in the past year, without prior notice or justification.

"Aavin's Green Magic, a standardized variant, is in high demand. But it's restricted to monthly cardholders. At retail outlets, agents push the full cream 'premium' or toned 'nice' packs, which don't suit our morning coffee," said T Sadagopan, a resident-activist from Pattabiram. "Aavin should promote what consumers actually prefer, not what offers them higher margins."

Beyond sales, Aavin's response letter also addressed environmental concerns raised by the union. The Ambattur dairy, one of its key units, was flagged for polluting the Korattur lake. Aavin said that

its sewage treatment plant, earlier operating at 3.3 lakh litre a day capacity, is being upgraded to 7 lakh litres a day, with the new facility expected to go live by the end of 2025. Indian Institute of Technology Madras has certified the treatment unit's current output at 700 KLD, and formal approvals from the pollution control board for capacity expansion are under process.

On the procurement front, Aavin released ₹342.14 crore in procurement incentives since Dec 2023, directly credited to dairy farmers through cooperative unions. Dealers too have been seeking a revision in commission rates, which currently stand at ₹1.5 a litre for retail sellers and ₹2 for wholesale. Aavin has said the revision will be considered when milk prices are restructured.

Source: *The Times of India*, 22 June 2025, p 2

Why hundreds of goldsmiths in Tamil Nadu are leaving the craft

Coimbatore's Traditional Goldsmithing Industry Is Seeing Its Worst Crisis In Decades, Edged Out By High Prices, Falling Demand And Competition From Machine-Made Jewellery

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MNataraj, a goldsmith from Kempatty Colony in Coimbatore, stares out of his window at the once-busy street that's gone quiet of late. "Seven of the 10 artisans on my street have shut shop and quit the trade," he says.

Nataraj has been in the trade for 35 years and has seen many ups and downs, but says this is one of the worst crises yet. "A year ago, we made 500g of jewellery every week. Our handmade designs are unmatched in quality and finish. Now, we hardly make 30g a week," says the 50-year-old.

Soaring gold prices have pushed the traditional goldsmithing industry into one of its worst downturns. Orders for handmade jewellery have plummeted by nearly 70% in March and April, usually considered the high season, compared to previous years. "Artisans are struggling to make ends meet," says Nataraj. In Madurai alone, nearly 3,000 artisans have lost their jobs, according to industry estimates.

"Fifteen shops have shut in two years. Sales are down 60%," says B Sabarinath, president of Coimbatore Jewellers Association.

S M Kamal Hasan, president of the Coimbatore Goldsmiths' Association, says Coimbatore has 40,000 micro units, employing more than two lakh people. "Today, 30% of them can't afford school or college fees for their children. It's a crisis."

Goldsmiths in traditional hubs such as Selvapuram, Big Bazaar Street, Raja Street, Kempatty Colony, Nadar Street, and Telugu Street have now taken on other jobs.

Coimbatore, renowned for

its intricate, handmade gold ornaments featuring unique designs and sturdy craftsmanship, once attracted wholesale orders from Chennai, Bengaluru, Vijayawada and Secunderabad, which are now dwindling.

In April, the price of 22-carat gold stood at ₹8,510 per gram. It has now risen to ₹9,100. "If it crosses ₹1 lakh per sovereign, we'll lose the last of the middle-class buyers," says Sabarinath.

C Umapathi, a goldsmith from Manthakarakai in Villupuram, a district long recognised as a goldsmithing hub, especially known for its traditional nose pins and baby gold rings, says that after 25 years in the business, he was forced to shut his workshop five months ago. "I had 22 employees," says Umapathi, who now works as a gold appraiser at a bank.

"The steep rise in gold prices made it difficult for me to invest in raw material. I couldn't get a loan either. Most banks don't offer loans for purchasing gold, but rather for equipment. I had no choice but to close my business," he says. He adds that the 'Star Suvarnaka Suvridha' gold loan scheme, introduced when P Chidambaram was Union minister for finance, had greatly benefited



Pics: J Jackson



CRY FOR HELP: Goldsmiths believe that without govt intervention, the industry, which traces its roots to the Pandya and Thirumalai Nayakar periods, will disappear



goldsmiths.

"It supported artisans. The govt should consider bringing it back."

This isn't the first time the industry has faced such distress. In 2001, there was a wave of suicides among goldsmiths in Coimbatore, who were trapped in cycles of high-interest loans from private financiers.

S Thiagarajan, a goldsmith from Eluthani Kara Street in Madurai, says without govt intervention, the industry, which traces its roots to the Pandya and Thirumalai Nayakar periods, will disappear. "Gold jewel-

lery is no longer seen as an ornament. It has become a speculative investment in shares, paper gold and digital gold."

Thiagarajan suggests a Goldsmith Protection Act, similar to the one for handloom weavers, to ensure that at least 30% of the jewellery sold comes from handmade sources. Earlier, state initiatives such as minimum wage guidelines and gratuity schemes were proposed, but most never moved beyond policy drafts.

Despite plans for a gold jewellery-making park in Coim-

batores, local artisans say such projects are far removed from their current needs. "We need relief now," says a goldsmith from Raja Street.

The rise of machine-made jewellery, corporate showrooms, online gold investments, and gold savings schemes has further edged out traditional craftsmen. "We cannot compete with machines and brands offering lower margins and mass production," he adds.

Email your feedback with name and address to southpole.toi@timesofindia.com

“Fifteen shops have shut in two years. Sales are down by 60%”
B Sabarinath, president of Coimbatore Jewellers Association

Source: *The Times of India*, 26 June 2025, p 6

Framework for TN's first net-zero industrial park released

C SHIVAKUMAR @Chennai

SEEKING alignment of manufacturing ambitions with global climate targets, the state government in collaboration with the government of Singapore launched a framework to develop Tamil Nadu's first net-zero industrial park at Tiruvallur, on Wednesday. A net-zero industrial park is a manufacturing complex designed to minimise greenhouse gas emissions.

The Net Zero Industrial Park (NZIP) Framework, released by Industries Minister TRB Rajaa and Singapore Consul-General Edgar Pang, will embed sustainability principles into the design

and operation of future industrial hubs. The framework was jointly developed by the State Industries Promotion Corporation of Tamil Nadu (SIPCOT) and Singapore's Ministry of Trade and Industry.

The framework aims to embed sustainability principles into the design and operation of future industrial hubs, and offers a roadmap for governments and businesses to reduce carbon emissions across the industrial value chain.

Targeted at developing countries, with a special focus on Tamil Nadu, the NZIP framework is designed for light industries and manufacturing sectors



Minister TRB Rajaa and Singapore Consul-General Edgar Pang | EXPRESS

and offers a pathway by integrating renewable energy sources, advanced technologies for resource efficiency, and innovative waste management solutions.

However, it does not yet fully address the complex decarbonisation challenges of heavy industries such as metals, minerals, and petrochemicals. The future iterations of the framework may expand its guidance to include these sectors, which are among the largest contributors to industrial emissions globally. The Singapore University of Technology and Design (SUTD) led the technical drafting, supported by inputs from Enterprise Singapore, the Centre for Liveable Cities, and other national agencies.

At its core, NZIP framework draws on case studies from both countries and practical insights

from Singaporean companies operating in Asia.

In a social media post, Rajaa said, "This new initiative will help industries reduce emissions by 50% by 2030 and aim to reach net-zero by 2050, thus aligning us with the world's most forward-looking climate goals." This target of achieving net-zero emissions by 2050 is set in alignment with the Paris Agreement.

The detailed blueprint will guide every aspect of running the park including emissions accounting standards, infrastructure planning, and financing model, SIPCOT MD Dr K Senthil Raj said.

Source: *The New Indian Express*, 26 June 2025, p.2

Green energy corp'n to lease barren land for solar projects

S GURUVANMIKANATHAN
@ Chennai

IN a move to address the paucity of land for solar projects and meet the state's Renewable Purchase Obligation (RPO) targets, the Tamil Nadu Green Energy Corporation Limited (TNGECL) has decided to lease barren and unused agricultural lands from farmers for installation of de-

centralised, grid-connected and ground-mounted solar power plants.

A senior TNGECL official told *TNIE*, "We plan to take land under the Centre's Pradhan Mantri Kisan Urja Suraksha Evam Utthan Mahabhiyan (PM-KUSUM) scheme. For the planned solar panel capacity of 420 MW, we will need around 1,300 acres of land." In the first phase, the cor-

poration had already installed solar plants with a capacity of 3 MW in Ranipet and Vellore districts.

"We are waiting for approval from the Tamil Nadu Electricity Regulatory Commission to go ahead with another 11 MW. Once the lands are identified and approvals are received, tenders will be floated to select project developers," the official said.

Another official explained that these kinds of solar plants should ideally be located within a five-kilometre radius of power substations operated by Tamil Nadu Power Distribution Corporation Limited to avoid high cost of transmission power lines.

The official further said that the discom will sign a 25-year agreement with the developers to purchase power.

Source: *The New Indian Express*, 12 June 2025, p.4

HCL Foundation inks pact with govt to support 100 TN startups for three years

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
@ Chennai

HCL Foundation, the corporate social responsibility arm of HCLTech, has signed two agreements with the Tamil Nadu government to support entrepreneurship and strengthen vocational education in the state. The foundation signed a three-year memorandum of understanding (MoU) with StartupTN, an initiative under the Depart-



ment of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises, to support 100 startups through mentoring, incubation, and market linkages. "StartupTN operates across 10 verticals and currently has over 10,000 registered startups. This partnership will help scale and strengthen the ecosystem," said Sivarajah Ramathan, CEO and Mission Director of StartupTN.

HCL Foundation also renewed a five-year collaboration

with the Department of Employment and Training (DET), aimed at improving vocational training through curriculum upgrades, training programmes and the rollout of a mobile skill lab. The foundation said the dual partnerships will help empower youth, expand access to skills and promote inclusive economic growth. "By supporting startups and vocational education, we aim to drive long-term development across Tamil Nadu," said Dr Nidhi Pundhir, director of HCL Foundation.

Source: *The New Indian Express*, 14 June 2025, p.4

TN seeks consultants for Knowledge Tower

The tower, set to come up on 12.65 acres in Tiruvallur, is envisioned as a hub for high-value knowledge industries

C SHIVAKUMAR @ Chennai

THE Tamil Nadu Industrial Development Corporation Ltd (TIDCO) has invited consultancy proposals for the design and execution of a new "Knowledge Tower," a flagship infrastructure initiative that will anchor the upcoming Tamil Nadu Knowledge City in Tiruvallur, just north of Chennai.

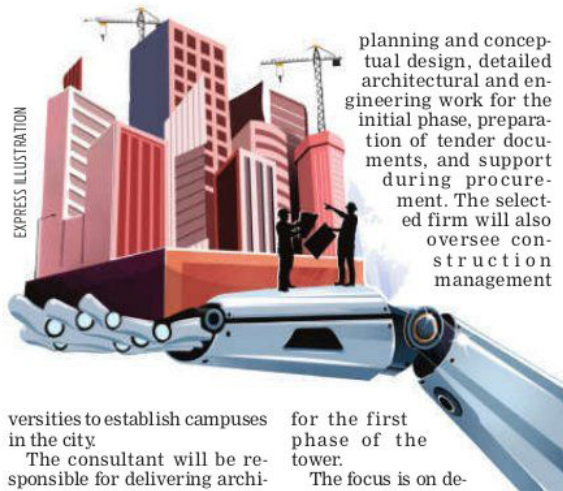
Spread on 12.65-acre within Phase 1 of the Knowledge City project, the proposed tower is envisioned as a hub for high-value knowledge industries, offering built-up space for research institutions, technology firms, and innovation-driven enterprises.

TIDCO has been tasked by the government with end-to-end responsibility for its planning and execution, including associated infrastructure.

The development is expected

to unfold in phases, with the initial stage comprising a minimum built-up area of one lakh square feet. Further expansion will be aligned with emerging demand and long-term strategic goals, suggesting a flexible, demand-responsive approach to growth.

The project is being developed in line with a broader master plan and Techno-Economic Feasibility Report (TEFR) for the Tamil Nadu Knowledge City, prepared by CBRE South Asia. The appointed consultant will be required to align their architectural and engineering proposals with these foundational documents to ensure design consistency and adherence to the overall vision for the site. The master plan for the Knowledge City has been completed, and the state government is currently in discussion with several national and international uni-



versities to establish campuses in the city.

The consultant will be responsible for delivering architectural, engineering, and project management services across the lifecycle of the project.

This includes the master

plan for the first phase of the tower.

The focus is on developing public plazas, ramps, open areas, bus shelters, common parking spaces, vehicular drop-offs, and other elements which will be devel-

oping and conceptual design, detailed architectural and engineering work for the initial phase, preparation of tender documents, and support during procurement. The selected firm will also oversee construction management

PROJECT HIGHLIGHTS

- Project spread across

12.65 acres

- One lakh square feet built-up area in initial stage
- Will offer built-up space for research institutions, technology firms, and innovation-driven enterprises

PARK TO INCLUDE

- Plazas ● Ramps ● Open areas ● Bus shelters ● Parking

oped or proposed in Phase 1. A pre-bid meeting will be held on June 11 and the last date for proposals is July 4.

Source: *The New Indian Express*, 4 June 2025, p.5

Pan-India firm bags ₹566-crore Broadway project

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
@ Chennai

THE ₹566.6 crore project to transform Broadway into a high-density, transit-oriented urban centre has been awarded to the Bridge and Roof Company (India) Ltd, which has operations spread across the country.

The project will see the development of a multimodal facility complex (MMFC) and the full-scale redevelopment of the iconic Kuralagam building. As part of this, the construction of the bus terminal is expected to be completed in 24 months. The work on the commercial towers and Kuralagam building will be completed within 30 months.

The initiative is being executed by Chennai Metro Asset



MTC buses seen moving back to back for service at Broadway bus terminus in Chennai | ASHWIN PRASATH

Management Limited (CMAML) - a joint venture between Chennai Metro Rail Limited (CMRL) and Tamil Nadu Industrial Development Corpo-

ration (TIDCO) - on behalf of the Greater Chennai Corporation (GCC).

The complex will have a built-up area of 1.1 lakh square

BUS TERMINAL IN 2 YEARS

- Foot overbridges
- Subways
- Internal walkways
- A shared air-conditioned concourse
- Stack-parking facilities
- EV charging stations
- A total of 30 elevators and 27 escalators across the complex.
- Parking provision includes space for 433 cars and 1,174 two-wheelers

metres, while the adjacent Kuralagam building will be spread on 22,794 square metres, featuring retail outlets on the lower levels and office space on

the nine floors above. The first basement of both buildings will serve as a concourse for both passengers and shoppers.

The bus terminal will be designed to handle up to 3,250 passengers during peak hours, with 73 bays - 36 on the ground floor, 23 on the first floor, and 14 at the Kuralagam end.

CMAML chairman MA Siddique, along with senior officials from GCC and Bridge and Roof Company, attended the contract signing. The Bridge and Roof Company (India) Ltd has had experience working in design, engineering and consultation, partnering with public and private Sectors in the country. As part of its ongoing projects, it is in the process of constructing an inter state bus terminal for the Government of Odisha.

Source: *The New Indian Express*, 5 June 2025, p.7



The trial run of the driverless metro train was conducted along a 9.1-km stretch from Poonamallee to Porur recently, as part of CMRL's Phase 2 expansion project | EXPRESS

CMRL inks ₹1,538-cr deal with Alstom for 32 driverless trains under Phase 2

Trains to undergo 14 months of testing and trials following first delivery in February 2027

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @ Chennai

THE Chennai Metro Rail Limited (CMRL) has signed an agreement to procure 32 driverless three-car Unattended Train Operation (UTO) trains consisting of 96 cars. Alstom Transport India will supply the first driverless metro train under the ₹1,538.35-crore contract by February 2027. This will be CMRL's final procurement for its

Phase 2 metro expansion project.

The contract, signed on Thursday by CMRL and Alstom, covers the supply of 32 fully automated three-car trains along with a 15-year comprehensive maintenance commitment. The driverless trains are expected to undergo 14 months of testing and integration trials following the initial delivery. Subsequent trains will

be delivered in phases between September 2027 and May 2028, according to CMRL.

"This is the third and final rolling stock package under Phase 2," CMRL said in a statement, adding that with this agreement, all major train procurement for the project is now complete. Deliveries for the earlier two contracts, also awarded to Alstom, are under way.

Manoj Goyal, director (Sys-

tems & Operations) at CMRL, and Parag Nandlal Gohel, customer director (South) at Alstom, signed the agreement in the presence of senior officials from CMRL, general consultant AEON, and Alstom.

The scope of work includes design and long-term maintenance of the new rolling stock. The trains are expected to be manufactured at Alstom's facility in Sri City, Andhra Pradesh.

Source: *The New Indian Express*, 6 June 2025, p.2

The new US tariff regime presents the state with a chance to outdo Asian rivals such as Thailand, Vietnam and Cambodia, and diversify our markets

MONDAY BRIEFING

VOC Port sets target of 50 mn tonnes in FY26

V O Chidambaram Port Authority aims to handle 50 million tonnes of cargo and 1 million TEUs (twenty-foot equivalent units) of containers this financial year. In 2024-25, the port handled cargo traffic of 41.7 million tonnes of cargo and 7,95,222 TEUs. To serve industries such as Vinfast, Vikram Solar and Tata Solar, besides plants in the furniture park and windmill blade sectors, VOC Port has charted out various capacity augmentation and ease of doing business initiatives to meet their logistics needs, the port said in a statement. **TNN**

Greenenvironment gets \$1 million in funding



Greenenvironment, a Chennai-based startup providing IoT solutions for water and energy management in buildings, has raised \$1 million from Zerodha founder Nithin Kamath's Rainmatter, a venture capital fund. The startup incubated at IIT-M research park focuses on water, energy and heating and cooling systems management. "The investments give us the confidence to follow our vision of building a sustainable future through smart water and wastewater management," its founder Varun Sridharan said in a social media post. **TNN**

Indian Bank launches new products for NRIs

Public sector Indian Bank has rolled out new savings account variants tailored for NRIs. The new product lineup features high-quality NRE savings accounts designed for the changing financial lifestyles and requirements of NRIs, the bank said in a statement. These products are packaged with top-tier debit cards with features including airport lounge access, personal accident cover and loyalty offers. Binod Kumar, MD & CEO, Indian Bank said, "Our latest offerings aim to enhance the relationship between the bank and our global Indian community." **TNN**

How TN can trump TARIFFS



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Is the glass half full or half empty? The Trump administration's tariff regime has created upheavals in world trade. Tamil Nadu, however, sees an opportunity both for its MSME sector as well as the big-ticket MNC investors. For the MSME sector — backbone of the state's export performance in competing with Thailand, Vietnam and Cambodia — it's a chance to find newer markets and products. For the MNC manufacturing investors, it's a chance to boost local sourcing thus growing the MSME vendor base.

"The ongoing tariff shifts and global realignments in trade may have opened a window of opportunity for Tamil Nadu's MSMEs in certain sectors," says industries minister T R B Rajaa. "While Vietnam and Thailand are often cited as alternatives, Tamil Nadu has a distinct edge. We have a

highly skilled talent pool and a mature manufacturing ecosystem across multiple sectors," he adds.

There's reason for this optimism. According to the latest NIRYAT data, Tamil Nadu's overall exports hit \$52 billion in FY24-25, up 19.5% from \$43.5 billion in FY23-24. Of this, \$18 billion is engineering goods including automotive components, \$14.6 billion is electronics and \$5.4 billion is ready-made garments. MSMEs are the backbone of exports in India — the number of exporting units increased from 52,849 in FY20-21 to 1,73,350 in FY24-25. And TN is the

third biggest exporting state after Gujarat and Maharashtra.

TN-based major manufacturers have been expanding to non-North American markets. Ashok Leyland, which saw a 52% jump in export volumes in Q4, has said it is targeting GCC (Gulf cooperation council) and African markets in a big way. TVS Motor, which saw a 22% jump in FY25 exports, is shipping to markets in South and South-east Asia, Latin America and Africa.

TN's export strategy ties in with its push to attract new investments. "We are pitching to companies around the world at a hectic pace to bring in large-scale investments and global supply chains," says Rajaa. "MSMEs are at the core of this growth story, and we encourage them to leverage emerging opportunities," he adds.

"Tamil Nadu has a wide range of MSMEs and our focus is to make the quality of products export worthy," says Atul Anand MSME secretary. "The state's large number of clusters helps with making these companies export worthy."

The good news is that TN's MNC investors are also looking at the tariff scenario as a window to increase local footprint. "While our shipments and exports to the US are continuing without disruption, we are looking at potential uncertainty in other regions where we operate, including Southeast Asia, home to our largest factories, and Taiwan," says Niranjan Nayak, MD, Delta Electronics India. Thailand is Delta's largest base of operations in addition to Taiwan and China. "Future attractiveness might be lower [in these regions] or there could be a degree of uncertainty and this gives us an opportunity to increase our manufacturing capability here in India because, based on the current tariffs, India is not in a significantly negative position," he says.

The state's MSMEs can look forward to domestic opportunities too. For, tariffs will affect the supply chains of all businesses, and big manufacturing will boost local sourcing to survive. That means new business for MSME vendors. "The tariffs will have a direct or indirect impact on everyone. Aligned with the 'Make in India' initiative, we are advancing our localization efforts right down to the smallest components so we don't get impacted by global scenarios," says Syed Sajjad Ali, MD, electrical sector, India, Eaton. Lower dependence on the global supply chain means "an upper hand in terms of cost reduction" and "the vendor base is happy to get into new business as volumes ramp up".

"We are seeing growing interest from international investors who are looking to diversify their sourcing beyond China," says Rajaa. Now, that has expanded to cover Southeast Asia. For Tamil Nadu, it can only spell opportunity.

Source: *The Times of India*, 2 June 2025, p 4

Presence of specialists in army-grade UAV tech, robust R&D, and a defence corridor offer TN an advantage in military drone market

DOUBLING DOWN ON DRONES

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The Union govt referred to Operation Sindoor, India's retaliatory strike to the Pahalgam terror attack, as a milestone in our journey towards technological self-reliance in military operations — in drone warfare, layered air defence, and electronic warfare. The operation boosted demand for drones manufactured by indigenous companies. Projections peg the size of the Indian drone market to hit \$11 billion by 2030, accounting for 12.2% of the global drone market. The ban on imported drones and the launch of PLI scheme for drones and drone components, notified by the Ministry of Civil Aviation on Sept 30, 2021, with a total incentive of ₹120 crore spread over three Financial Years, helped lay the groundwork for India's strides in the drone ecosystem.

Tamil Nadu is emerging as a key contributor in manufacturing drones for the armed forces, as well as building broader electronic defence systems, including UAV jammers and sophisticated payload delivery systems.

The state has notable companies, both start-ups and veterans, such as Dhaksha, Garuda Aerospace, Zuppa Geo Navigation, ePlane company, Big Bang Boom, Data Patterns, all of which are building strategic UAVs and related technologies. Many of these firms, which had quietly developed defence-grade technologies over the years, are seeing a surge in interest and keeping them busy with product demos on field in crucial areas. Sai Pattabiram, founder and MD of Zuppa, which makes small drones and auto-pilots, says they received 5X increase in order enquiries following Operation Sindoor: "The way drones were predominantly considered as a tool for surveillance has now changed," he said. Zuppa works closely with the ministry of defence and army units to develop systems suitable for the specific terrains and mission conditions.

Garuda Aerospace, known for agricultural drones, is also focusing on defence applications in recent months. "We are developing eight different drone platforms and collaborating with global players such as Lockheed Martin and Thales," said Agnishwar Jayaprakash, founder and CEO. "We have participated in emergency procurement rounds and held about 40 field demonstrations. Our focus now is to design based on ground-level operational needs and co-develop with defence forces."

Tamil Nadu is not the only drone manufacturing hub in India. The drone ecosystem spans Karnataka, Telangana, and Maharashtra, which benefit from the presence of public sector giants like HAL and DRDO. However, Tamil Nadu is attempting to close the gap. Since 2022, the state



READY TO DEFEND

Defence drone OEMs and electronic warfare system makers in TN see sharp post-Operation Sindoor demand

Tamil Nadu's defence advantage: Corridor status, EMS and auto mfg base, academic ecosystem and drone pilot training infra

Mod with TIDCO, TN UAV Corporation and other govt/pvt companies establishing four drone testing centres (out of seven) with up to 75% government funding

has ramped up its policy and infrastructure support for the sector:

Wing Commander P Madhusoodhanan, vice president of Aerospace and Defence at TIDCO, and CEO of TN UAV corporation, said, "The drone industry is at an inflection point. With military procurement expanding, we expect greater scale and sustainability." The ministry of defence is setting up four UAV testing and certification facilities near Sriperumbudur, expected to be operational by year-end. He said that these centres are focused on unmanned systems, electronic warfare and electro-optics, among the few of their kind in India and will reduce the testing cost in the state and spearhead development.

TN companies' role extends beyond making drones. Dr Shivaraman Ramaswamy, CTO of Big Bang Boom Solutions, which has AI and EW capabilities, said demand for its anti-drone systems

is rising. He added that the state has a suitable environment for manufacturing defence systems, with the advantage of using electronics manufacturing service and fabrication from engineering firms.

The presence of one of the country's two defence corridors, expertise in auto, aerospace and electronics manufacturing, vibrant research by educational institutions such as MIT, IIT-M, huge capacity for training drone pilots and training the trainers puts TN in a sweet spot in defence drones. Yet, challenges persist. The lack of indigenous supply chains remains a concern. Executives TOI spoke to said the Union govt should hold more consultation with the companies doing actual work and urged the state govt to facilitate consultation. Many press the need for handholding by armed forces in designing and developing the technologies as more important than subsidies.

Source: The Times of India, 23 June 2025, p 2

TN Pays ₹4,200Cr In Toll Annually, But Still Doesn't Have An Operational Expressway

Project | ECR widening
Section | Mamallapuram-Marakkanam
No. of lanes | 4
Length (km) | 62
Cost (₹ in crore) | 2,476.67
Start date | 12-05-2022
Scheduled completion | 05-12-2025



COMPLETED EXPRESSWAY PROJECTS IN OTHER STATES

Expressway	Construction launch	Operational length (km)
Ambala-Kotputli corridor	July 2020	313
Delhi-Mumbai Expressway (partly)	March 2019	800 out of 1,350
Amritsar - Jamnagar Corridor (Rajasthan Section)	April 2021	637
Hyderabad - Visakhapatnam Corridor (Suryapet - Khammam Section)	Dec 2019	60

REASONS FOR DELAY IN CHENNAI

- Land acquisition
- Shortage or stalled procurement of fly ash for construction
- Slow pace of work by underperforming contractors
- Ongoing cases before National Green Tribunal



Project | Bengaluru Chennai Expressway
Section | Sriperumbudur-Gudipala and a trumpet interchange
No. of lanes | 4/6
Length (km) | 106.8
Cost (₹ in crore) | 7,804.48
Start date | 30-05-2022
Scheduled completion | 23-08-2025

Timely completion eludes 14 NH stretches in city, suburbs

Pics: C Suresh Kumar & Ramesh Shankar R



Project | Chennai Port-Maduravoyal-Elevated Corridor
Section | Four packages
No. of lanes | 6
Length (km) | 20.935
Cost (₹ in crore) | 5,510.31
Start date | 23-11-2023
Scheduled completion | 20-05-2026

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States such as Maharashtra, Haryana, and Telangana are fast-tracking their expressway networks with projects such as the Delhi-Mumbai and Amritsar-Jamnagar corridors already partially open, but Tamil Nadu continues to lag behind — despite paying more than ₹4,200 crore

in tolls every year. The state has no operational expressway. In fact, Chennai, the state capital and a major gateway city, has fallen significantly behind on nearly every key highway project under National Highways Authority of India (NHAI).

The 262-km Bengaluru-Chennai Expressway, pegged at ₹17,000 crore and expected to cut travel time to under three hours, is now likely to miss its revised mid-2025 deadline. Though Karnataka completed its 72-km stretch and Andhra Pradesh is progressing steadily, Tamil Nadu's portion remains behind schedule.

Even older projects have not fared better. The existing Chennai-Bengaluru highway via Sriperumbudur was to be upgraded to six lanes a decade ago. Today, key sections remain four-laned. "We face repeated diversions, bad patches and accident risks, yet we pay the full toll," said S Yuvraj of Tamil Nadu Lorry Owners' Association who filed a police complaint against NHAI. He says the Sriperumbudur-Kancheepuram section saw only partial widening, with NHAI blaming contractors and bridge work for the delay.

Among the worst-performing projects is the ₹5,510 crore Chennai Port-Maduravoyal elevated corridor. Despite the relaunch in 2023 with much political attention, its financial progress stands at less than 5%. Officials say it suffers from compounded issues: limited work hours due to police restrictions, seasonal interruptions during Sept to Jan when the NGT prohibits piling in the Cooum River, and delays in reinstalling temporary plates post-monsoon. The earlier AI-ADMK govt stalled the project for years. After resumption, apart from demolishing old piers, only minimal construction took place.

Meanwhile, the East Coast Road (ECR) widening between Mamallapuram and Puducherry — originally discussed in the early 2000s — remains incomplete. D Srirangan, a resident of Kottivakkam, said, "If completed, it would ease congestion

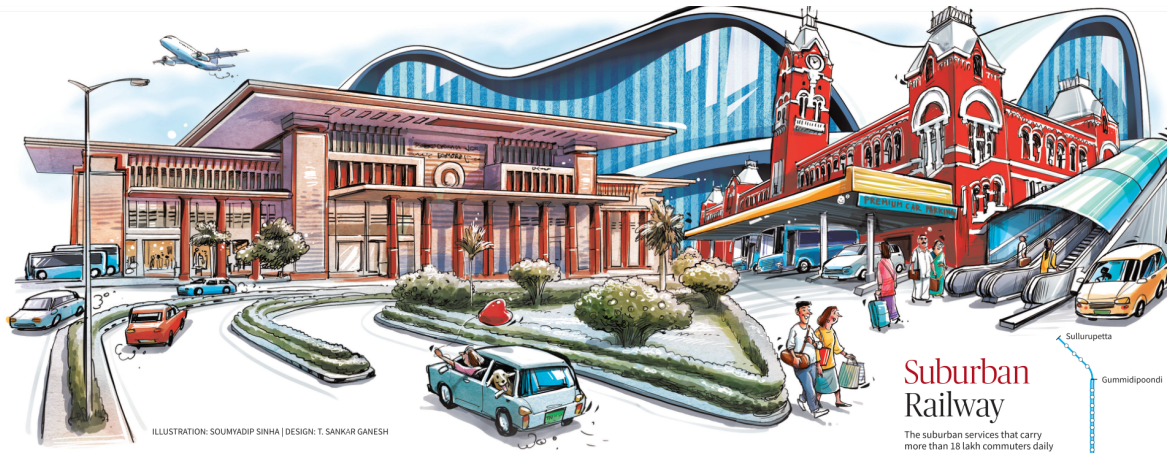
on GST Road (NH-45), the only functional southern corridor. As of now beyond Paranur toll plaza, the road narrows, leading to bumper-to-bumper traffic every weekend."

Other projects, such as the Tambaram-Tindivanam widening and Chennai-Tiruttani project, are also significantly delayed. NHAI data shows that of the 20 major stretches in and around Chennai, the work for 14 are behind schedule. While the total sanctioned cost for these projects is ₹24,116 crore, only ₹10,985 crore has been released. Financial progress across projects averages 45%.

Apart from land acquisition, another reason for delay, NHAI regional officer Virender Sambyal said, was increasing demands from local bodies for underpasses and service roads — often not feasible within expressway design norms.

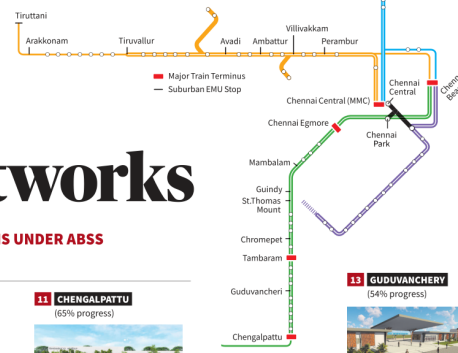
“LAND ACQUISITION DELAYS ARE THE BIGGEST HURDLE. THERE ARE CONSTANT DEMANDS FOR HIGHER COMPENSATION, AND LANDOWNERS GO TO ARBITRATION OR COURT— Virender Sambyal | NHAI REGIONAL OFFICER

Source: The Times of India, 25 June 2025, p 4



Suburban Railway

The suburban services that carry more than 18 lakh commuters daily remain the bridge between the suburbs and the city.



For nearly three decades, very few improvements were made to the primary urban-suburban rail network of Chennai. Although the MRTS and Metro Rail were introduced, the Metro has become more popular due to its superior services. Now, it seems that for the first time, there appears to be a focused effort to improve rail services in Chennai. Along with enhancements to the Metro, will the city have an enviable rail service in a decade?

Ride easy: reimagining Chennai's future rail networks

R. Srikanth
Sunitha Sekar

For nearly three decades, two facts at odds with each other, yet true, have coexisted in Chennai. While incremental additions have been made to the vast suburban railway network, the mass rapid transport system (MRTS) and the Metro Rail have been established. The Metro Rail, in particular, has revolutionised the core city travel.

In 1993, the metre gauge was converted into broad gauge for operating bigger trains and accommodating more city commuters. Since then, there have been very few attempts to improve the network or passenger amenities. In 2007, 14 years later, the MRTS service was started from Beach to Velachery. It created a scenic elevated traffic-free corridor, but the uptake was not as good as was anticipated. As a consequence, passenger amenities did not go far. In 2025, MRTS commuters still have to put up with badly-lit stations, unpaved paths, ill-maintained parking lots, leaky platform shelters, and the lack of clean public conveniences.

The suburban services that carry more than 18 lakh commuters daily remain the bridge between the suburbs and the city. The fare is the most affordable. For office-goers and traders coming from as far away as Arakkonam, Chengalpattu, and Sullurupetta in Andhra Pradesh, the suburban services are the only option to commute to the city without spending much time, or money. But, for a burgeoning city and its suburbs, there is always a demand for more: more lines, more services, and better passenger amenities.

The Metro Rail project has revolutionised intra-city travel; over the last decade or so, it has shortened distances within the city. With better passenger amenities, more attention to barrier-free access and better maintained stations and coaches, this system has become the daily commute option for many residents. The first phase created a 45-kilometre network comprising corridor-1 (Washermenpet to Airport) and corridor-II (Chennai Central to St. Thomas Mount). Other lines have been planned and anyone who visits the city today understands that Chennai is in the throes of development, largely on account of Metro Rail.

Finally, attention is being paid to the wholesome development of railway services in their entirety, in the last five years or so. Will the rail transport network in Chennai become vastly better a decade down the line? Here are some developments that could make things better for the city:

Central station

The iconic Dr. MGR Chennai Central Railway Station is the gateway for passengers arriving in the city. But it remains inadequate in terms of cleanliness and sanitation. Earlier attempts by Southern Railway to develop this station have borne no fruit, and the station is dirty. There have only been piecemeal improvements.



Egmore station

The proposed redevelopment of the Egmore station, the second railway terminal in the city, is at a cost of ₹735 cr.



AC train

The Chennai Division started running an air-conditioned suburban train in March this year, in the Beach-Chengalpattu section for commuters willing to pay a higher fare. Railway officials hope that the AC services will become popular. In fact, the Chennai Division has requested for the second AC train to be operated in the western section.

Tambaram sector

Plans to make Tambaram the third railway terminal. A halt station will also be constructed at Kilambakkam, nearby, funded by the T.N. government. This will help passengers coming to Kilambakkam from the third railway terminal. The project has not been completed as the phase 2 elevated corridor of Metro Rail linking the St. Thomas Mount station is set to be constructed above the MRTS line.

DETAILS OF REDEVELOPMENT OF SOME STATIONS UNDER ABSS

1. ST. THOMAS MOUNT (Inaugured)
2. SULLURUPETTA (Completed)

3. PARK (90% completed)



Cost: ₹10.68 crore

- Lifts
- Platform resurfacing, and a new facade

4. TIRUTTANI (85% completed)



Cost: ₹11.67 crore

- Bigger concourse
- Arch facade
- Bigger circulating area
- Paving of the parking space

5. GUINDY (75% completed)



Cost: ₹8.50 crore

- New booking counter
- Lifts
- Platform resurfacing

6. GUMMIDIPPOONDI (74% completed)



Cost: ₹15.62 crore

- New pedestrian plaza
- Station building
- New parking space
- Lifts

Fourth line

The Chennai Division completed the fourth line from Beach to Egmore at a cost of ₹275 crore. It will help to operate dedicated suburban and mail and express services on four lines.

7. MAMBALAM (72% completed)



Cost: ₹8.70 crore

- New booking counter on the western side
- Pedestrian plaza
- Replacing of the roofing shelter
- Wide parking area
- Lifts and escalators

8. JOLARPET (70% progress)



Cost: ₹15 crore

- New two-storey station building
- Additional platforms and shelters
- Bigger circulating area
- New foot overbridge

9. AMBATTUR (70% progress)



Cost: ₹10.48 crore

- New station building
- Canopy porch
- Arched entrance
- Platform resurfacing

10. TIRUVALLUR (68% completed)



Cost: ₹14.40 crore

- New concourse with porch
- New parking space
- Provision of new platform shelters
- Foot overbridge

11. CHENGALPATTU (65% progress)



Cost: ₹17.74 crore

- Construction of a two-storey administration building
- Paving of new pedestrian pathway
- New booking counter
- Retiring rooms
- Lifts

12. ARAKKONAM (63% completed)



Cost: ₹20.58 crore

- New station building
- Parking space
- Renovation of existing station building
- Lifts

Amrit Bharat Station Scheme

The Amrit Bharat Station Scheme (ABSS) could not have come at a better time. A total of 90 stations in the Southern Railway division were selected for redevelopment and 15 of them were from the Chennai Division. They are: Beach, Perambur, Tiruvallur, Arakkonam, Chengalpattu, Guindy, Ambattur, Mambalam, Park, St. Thomas Mount, Guduvancherry, Tiruttani, Jolarpet, Gummidiipoondi, and Sullurupetta. A senior railway official said that at first, 15 stations were selected, and then two more were added to the list. They are Chromepet and Thiruvallur. The ABSS is meant to improve the stations by showcasing local landmarks. It also seeks to improve approach roads and circulating areas; install food stalls, CCTV surveillance, and digital signboards; increase the length of platforms; and enhance the access for persons with disabilities through the Divyangyan scheme.

13. GUDUVANCHERRY (54% progress)



Cost: ₹14.80 crore

- Redevelopment of the existing building
- New entrance with elegant arches
- New parking space
- Lifts

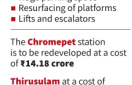
14. BEACH (44% progress)



Cost: ₹11.08 crore

- New pedestrian zones
- Parking space widening
- Resurfacing of all platforms

15. PERAMBUR (42% completed)



Cost: ₹15.86 crore

- New commercial building
- Replacement of the old platform shelter
- Huge parking space
- Resurfacing of platforms
- Lifts and escalators

The Chromepet station is to be redeveloped at a cost of ₹14.18 crore

Thiruvallur at a cost of ₹15.60 crore

Metro Rail

PHASE I EXTENSION

The phase I extension network has established seamless connectivity to some parts of north Chennai. It runs 9.05 km with one corridor (Washermenpet to Wimco Nagar).

PHASE II

The phase II project will establish a network of 120 km with three corridors: corridor-3 (From Madhavaram Milk Colony to Siruseri-SIPCOT), corridor-4 (From Light House to Poonamallee Bypass), and corridor-5 (From Madhavaram Milk Colony to Sholinganallur). When this network becomes fully operational, it will improve the commute since passengers will be able to change from Metro Rail's phase I network to phase II network and from phase II network to the suburban train and MRTS systems.

SOUTH EXTENSION

Chennai Metro Rail Limited has also planned to establish a southern side extension, from the Airport to Siruseri SIPCOT. 15.46 km



CMRL to construct skywalks, subways in 13 places for easy interchange between stations

At locations where phase I and phase II Metro networks meet, subways or skywalks will be built to connect both stations; the 118.9-km phase II with three corridors will be integrated with MRTS

TRACK TALES

Sunitha Sekar
CHENNAI

In three years, passengers alighting at Thirumayilai MRTS will be able to reach the nearest Metro station after a 50-metre walk through an elevated walkway.

To facilitate seamless connectivity for switching between Metro, MRTS and suburban networks, Chennai Metro Rail Limited (CMRL) will build skywalks and subways in 13 stations, officials said.

CMRL's 118.9-km phase II network, with its three corridors, stops at several key areas of the city, connecting the central business district, IT corridor, Marina beach, northern parts and western suburbs. This network, at many locations, will be intersecting with the 54-km phase I network.

The phase II network will also be integrated with the mass rapid transit system (MRTS), the suburban rail system in the city.

According to officials of CMRL, the phase II alignment has been planned in such a way that makes it convenient for commuters to hop off from one system to another.

Source: *The Hindu*, 22 June 2025, p.5



Convenient commuting: Under the phase II network of CMRL, some Metro stations have been planned close to suburban ones, and these stations will be bridged by skywalks. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

At Kilpauk, Thousand Lights, Nandanam, Koyambedu and St. Thomas Mount where the phase I and phase II networks meet, CMRL will link both stations with a subway. At Vadapalani and Alandur, the phase I and phase II stations will be connected by skywalks.

Similarly, at Villivakkam, Perambur, Chetpet and Kodambakkam, the Metro stations have been planned close to the suburban stations. In these locations, the stations will be bridged by skywalks.

"Between the phase I and phase II networks, we are providing direct paid-

to-paid area connectivity. This means, from the ticketing area of a phase I station, commuters can quickly go to the ticketing area of a phase II station. Having skywalks or subways and integrating different modes of transport is crucial as it will save a lot of time and the convenience of travel may also encourage more people to shift to public transport," an official said.

'Maintenance must'

K.P. Subramanian, former professor of Urban Engineering, Anna University, said it was equally important to ensure that these

skywalks and subways are well-maintained. "They should be built with roofing, escalators, elevators, be well lit, and should be monitored by CCTVs," he emphasised.

Balaji S., a frequent commuter of the Chennai Metro rail system, said he was glad that the new structures would make connectivity between stations easier, making commuting a bit less tiring. "I hope the distance between these stations don't exceed 200 metres. Only then, will it be easier. They should also display the timings of trains in these skywalks and subways," he added.

GERMAN ROBOTICS FIRM SETS UP TN UNIT WORTH ₹300 CRORE

CM Stalin opens two new industrial facilities worth ₹475 crore at Irungattukottai, Ranipet



Chief Minister MK Stalin inaugurating the facilities via video conference from the secretariat on Wednesday | EXPRESS

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @Chennai

CHIEF Minister M K Stalin on Wednesday virtually inaugurated two new industrial facilities – a robotics manufacturing unit by Germany's Agile Robots SE and an air separation plant by SOL India Pvt Ltd, the Indian arm of Italy's SOL Group – together accounting for investments worth ₹475 crore.

The Agile Robots facility, located at SIPCOT's Irungattukottai industrial estate, represents a ₹300 crore investment and is expected to create over 300 high-skilled jobs, an official release said. The plant will manufacture AI-powered robotic components for sectors, including automotive, consumer electronics, and healthcare.

"This is a proud addition to Tamil Nadu's growing AI-driven automation ecosystem," said Industries Minister TRB Rajaa, calling it a model for future investments that integrate technology, skilling, and employment.

Six engineering students were also awarded internship certificates by the CM at the launch under the state's Naan Mudhalvan skilling programme.

The move marks Agile Robots' first major manufacturing entry into India. The German firm specialises in combining robotics and artificial intelligence (AI) to deliver automation solu-



tions for global clients.

The second facility, a ₹175-crore air separation unit, was set up by SOL India Pvt Ltd at SIPCOT Ranipet. The joint venture between Italy's SOL SpA and India's SICGILSOL Pvt Ltd will produce industrial and medical-grade oxygen. The company had signed investment commitments during the state's Global Investors Meets (GIM) in 2019 and 2024. The Ranipet project, the foundation of which was laid in July 2023, was completed in under a year and has already created 20 direct jobs, the release said.

In his message on X, Stalin said, "Tamil Nadu is the only state where manufacturing contributes 25% to GSDP." He said the present "Dravidian Model" government is "where political will meets focused execution, propelling manufacturing-led growth".

Senior officials from both companies, including Karari Boxton, global head of Agile Robots SE; Renan Kolaippan, director of Agile Robots India; and Alcata Fiumelli Scaramariga, chairman and CEO of SOL India, attended the event at the secretariat.

Industries Secretary V Arun Roy was also present.

T.N. to establish new ranking list for higher education institutes

The Hindu Bureau

CHENNAI

The Tamil Nadu government has provided in-principle approval for establishing a State Institutional Ranking Framework (SIRF) – a ranking list for higher education institutions in the State.

According to a government order issued on Monday, the Tamil Nadu State Council for Higher Education (TANSCH), which had in a letter to the government earlier this month proposed to develop indicators for performance assessment of higher education institutions, will be the implementing authority of the ranking.

The government has agreed to sanction ₹75 lakh for implementing the SIRF, and ₹10 lakh to meet preliminary expenses such as forming an expert committee, stakeholder consultation, and software development.

The ranking will seek to "encapsulate holistic development of students in terms of skill acquisition, competency development, and professional readiness", besides ranking institutions on other metrics.

In the first phase of implementation, an expert committee would be formed for consultation with stakeholders across academia and industry to finalise indicators and evaluation metrics. These will be tested in 20 diverse in-

stitutions across disciplines. The indicators will then be refined based on feedback before the project is rolled out in full.

Such a move was necessitated as the current ranking frameworks, including the National Institutional Ranking Framework (NIRF), largely focused on indicators such as research output, faculty-student ratios and publication metrics. There was insufficient focus on student learning outcomes, overemphasis on number of publications and citations, heavy reliance on institutional self-reporting without verification, limited stakeholder engagement and absence of a level playing field, the order said.

A holistic outcome-based evaluation capturing aspects like problem solving, critical thinking, communication, teamwork and ethical reasoning would be a key feature of the SIRF. Institutional performance would be assessed through indicators such as internships, employability indices and alumni outcomes, besides seeking inputs from students, faculty, employers and alumni.

All submitted data will undergo verification and TANSCH will provide open access to its evaluation criteria.

For this, the Council will set up a digital platform for data submission, analysis, visualisation and reporting, the order added.

Source: The Hindu, 17 June 2025, p.2

Source: The New Indian Express, 5 June 2025, p.6

NIOT develops filter to save ocean's phytoplankton

Seawater intake of desalination plants harms these oxygen producers, say scientists

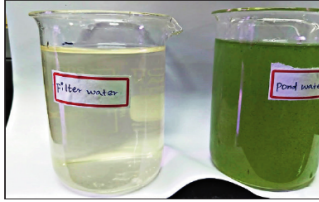
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Every drop of seawater drawn by desalination plants or power stations comes at an invisible cost — the loss of phytoplankton. These microscopic organisms absorb carbon dioxide and release oxygen, contributing to nearly 50% of Earth's supply. Now, scientists at the National Institute of Ocean Technology (NIOT) are testing a three-layer sand-based filter to separate phytoplankton from seawater before it enters desalination plant pipelines.

The aim is to prevent biofouling, which occurs when phytoplankton are drawn in, and reduce the use of chlorine, commonly used to kill these marine microorganisms but known to leave harmful residues in discharged water.

"When water is chlorinated to avoid biofouling, the phytoplankton die. But if we filter the phytoplankton at the source, we reduce damage to marine life and to the pipeline system," says Vijaya Ravichandran, group head, sea front development at NIOT, who is leading the project.

Still in its experimental stage, the setup was first tested in the lab and then in NIOT's test pond. The filter uses a combination of pebbles, graded sand and a 200-micron geosynthetic liner to trap most phytoplankton before water enters the intake system. Tests showed improvement in water clarity after filtration. The team is also studying whether fish feed on the phyto-



plankton that settle on the filter as it could reduce the need for manual cleaning.

The filtration unit is designed to attach at seawater intake points, before water enters treatment systems. Its potential applications include offshore setups such as the Metrowater desalination intake and ship ballast systems in Chennai. The team's next step is to scale up trials at NIOT's seafloor campus in Andhra Pradesh, while assessing long-term maintenance and flow-rate viability.

Researchers say nearshore waters have higher phytoplankton density due to nutrients discharged from land, which is essential for photosynthesis and cell formation. "The phytoplankton that comes along when one plant draws water may be minuscule, but there are many such desalination plants across the world," says Vijaya.

The filtration unit is designed to be attached at the seawater intake point before water enters treatment systems. Scientists say its application could extend to offshore setups such as the Chennai Metro Water desalination intake or even ship ballast water systems.

The team plans to scale up trials at NIOT's seafloor campus in Andhra Pradesh. They are also studying long-term maintenance and flow-rate viability.

Email your feedback with name and address to southpole.toi@timesofindia.com



CLEANING WHILE PRESERVING: The filtration system being tested in the NIOT pond. The unit is designed to attach at seawater intake points, before water enters treatment systems

₹3,858 cr. allocated for four-lane road projects, says government

The Hindu Bureau
CHENNAI

The Tamil Nadu government said on Sunday that ₹3,858 crore was allocated for the development of 448 km of four-lane roads and ₹2,207 crore for 1,681 km of two-lane roads under the Chief Minister's Road Development Scheme, which was launched in 2021.

"Currently, work is in progress on 383 km of four-lane roads, at a cost of ₹2,807 crore, and 357 km of two-lane roads at a cost of ₹709 crore," the government said in a press release.

Under the Comprehensive Road Infrastructure Development Programme, a total of ₹17,154 crore was allocated for projects to develop roads for 9,620 km, and ₹1,161 crore was allocated for 996 bridge/culvert projects, said the official release that listed the achievements of the Highways Department. Under the Urban Area Development Scheme, work to an extent of 164 km was carried out for ₹731 crore.

A total of 10 bypass roads have been laid at a cost of ₹307.8 crore.

Under the Tamil Nadu Road Infrastructure Development Corporation, the Vandalur-Walajabad Road was upgraded from a four-lane stretch to six lanes at a cost of ₹180.9 crore, and ₹1,372 crore was allocated

to transform 1,049 causeways into high-level bridges, the release further said.

As for projects with NABARD loan assistance and State funding, 278 bridges were constructed at a cost of ₹1,137.62 crore.

Eight road overbridges were constructed at a cost of ₹813.25 crore.

Under the Integrated Road Infrastructure Development Scheme, road projects for 2,264 km were taken up at a cost of ₹8,076 crore, and 69 bridge/culvert projects have been executed at a cost of ₹694 crore. Further, 134 causeways are being converted into high-level bridges at a cost of ₹763.80 crore, the release said.

Source: The Hindu, 23 June 2025, p.2

Source: The Times of India, 27 June 2025, p 6

TN has an opportunity for value-addition by turning cashew apples and grapes into alcoholic beverages

MONDAY BRIEFING

Chola MS General Insurance opens new zonal headquarters in New Delhi

Chennai-headquartered Cholamandalam MS General Insurance Company, a joint venture between the Murugappa Group and Mitsui Sumitomo Insurance Group, inaugurated its new zonal office at New Delhi. With north India currently contributing 21.6% to its overall business, the company aims to scale this to 30% across product lines spanning property, motor, and health insurance. This zone now services more than two lakh customers, the company said in a statement. Its managing director V Suryanarayanan said, "The launch of our zonal headquarters is a strategic step in our mission to deepen insurance penetration and become the preferred insurance partner in the north." -TNN

60% MSME retailers to invest in AI, ML: Zoho

The Indian retail sector is undergoing a transformation with 60% of businesses planning to adopt AI and ML by 2030 to stay competitive, and 44% betting on AI-powered personalisation to enhance the shopping experience for their customers, according to a report from Zoho. These findings were revealed in The Indian Retailer Survey, with the company surveying over 2,700 MSMEs across India to highlight key trends, opportunities, and challenges shaping the country's retail sector. -TNN

Rane (Madras) in pact to sell Velachery land parcel

Rane (Madras) Limited (RML) has entered into an agreement with Canopy Living LLP (A joint venture between Arihant Foundations & Housing Ltd and Prestige Estates Project Ltd) to sell 3.48 acres in Velachery. Total extent of land in Velachery is 4.50 acres and RML will retain the remaining portion of the land, where a new office will be constructed. This land monetization will achieve twin objectives of reducing debt as well as integrating city offices of various divisions to further unlock long-term cost synergies of the merger. -TNN

Can TN raise a toast with local wines?

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Amid the raging debate over toddy tapping in Tamil Nadu, a business idea that remains untapped is the state's potential to manufacture alcoholic beverages on the lines of Goa's feni as well as native varieties of wine. The state is among the frontrunners in the cultivation of grapes (third largest in India) and cashew (fifth largest), the raw material required for the production of such alcoholic beverages.

Take for instance, the Muscat Hamburg, popularly known as 'Cumbum Panneer Thratchai'. Grown in Theni, Dindigul and Coimbatore districts, the grapes record a minimum yield of 2.5 lakh tonnes per annum. While Theni dominates with 70% of total production, Dindigul and Coimbatore share 20% and 10% of the yield, respectively. K Mukundan, president, Surulipatti Grapes Growers Association said Tamil Nadu's lone winery at Cumbum relies significantly on the output of vineyards. "We cater to this winery which procures our locally grown grapes to make wine. One of the largest wine manufacturers in Maharashtra also sources our Muscat Hamburg grapes. What we are eyeing is production at scale in our state to target markets outside Tamil Nadu, domestic and overseas," he said.

Mukundan emphasises that the Cumbum Panneer Thratchai, a Geographical Indication (GI) tagged agricultural product, is a one of its kind grape variety that contains 50% of water. About 500 ml of juice can be extracted from one kilogram of the grape variety. "Its export potential for winemaking is substantial in view of the international demand. In the long run, we could test the overseas market for vintage wines (made through fermentation and aging)," he added.

So, where can the govt help? Initiating farmers into producing value added products and establishing quality control centres could be a start point. "Theni is home to Sipcot's food park and a dedicated space can be earmarked for wineries on the lines of Maharashtra. Farmer producer companies can be trained and assisted to set up manufacturing units.

Licenses must be given for new wineries targeting markets outside Tamil Nadu. This will be a win-win situation for farmers and wineries as the latter procure grapes locally at competitive prices, which will in turn benefit farmers. As scope for wine production booms, it will prompt more farmers to enhance area under grape cultivation," he added.

There's another opportunity waiting to be leveraged in the northern districts of TN. Cashew apples, when separated from cashew nuts are usually discarded in fields or repurposed as cattle feed. But the greater incentive might be in turning these apples into raw materials to make a feni-like alcoholic beverage. By virtue of the GI tag certification, only liquor made using cashew apples within Goa can be called 'feni'.

Data from the TN agriculture department shows cashew was grown in 83,556 hectares during 2023-24. Of this, the cashew hub of Cuddalore (29,342 Ha) and its neighbours Ariyalur (30,537 Ha) and Villupuram (3,214 Ha) account for 75% of its total production. Cuddalore has an average yield of 470 kg of cashew nuts per hectare, but, five times of its volume of cashew apple goes waste. Approximately 69,000 tonnes of cashew apple gets discarded in the district itself every year. Around 300 ml of juice can be extracted from one kilogram of cashew apple, according to cashew industry sources.

All India Cashew Association general secretary Ramakrishnan M said, cashew apples can be used to make feni-like drinks. "The challenge is obtaining a license to manufacture alcoholic products. The demand is considerable and Puducherry can be a launchpad for sale," he added.

N Chandramouli, CEO, TRA Research said, India's wine industry, while still small in overall volume, is growing steadily. Wine currently accounts for 2% of India's alcoholic beverage consumption. In 2023, India exported around \$2.9 million worth of still wine and an additional \$1.6 million of sparkling wine, translating to approximately 3,30,777 litres. "This upward trend in production and exports signals both increased domestic interest and emerging international demand. The success of pioneers such as Sula has shown that Indian viticulture, with sufficient investment and branding, can create products of both quality and global appeal. With creative branding and state backing, a distinctive TN cashew spirit could become a regional signature," he said.

The tailwinds from neighbouring states are encouraging. Three years ago, the amended Kerala Small Scale Winery Rules 2022 facilitated the production of low-strength liquor from selected agricultural items like fruits. A year later, Goa's excise department said it was writing to other states to make feni available there for sale, and also make it available at all duty-free shops.

When contacted, a senior official with the state agriculture department said that the demand for manufacturing wines and feni-like beverages involves policy decisions. However, demands of the stakeholders in the farming sector will be examined, the official added.

GI-TAGGED ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES

➤ In 2009, Feni, a famed Goan beverage, got its GI tag. A year later, the Nashik Valley wine of Maharashtra got GI-tagged. In 2021, Judima, a rice wine made by the Dimas tribe of Assam, was awarded the GI tag



Source: The Times of India, 30 June 2025, p 8

Number of rural workers who opt for farm jobs has dropped by 20%: planning panel report

According to the report, over 75% of men and 50% of women are employed in non-agricultural activities. Construction has emerged as the dominant sector for men, especially the youth

The Hindu Bureau
CHENNAI

A study by the State Planning Commission has revealed a structural shift in rural livelihoods, marked by a 20% decline in dependence on agriculture for employment since 2012. Young workers (aged 15-34) lead this transition, preferring non-farm jobs for better wages and more stability.

Four reports prepared by the State Planning Commission were submitted to Chief Minister M.K. Stalin at the Secretariat on Monday. Deputy Chief Minister Udhayanidhi Stalin, who is also the State Planning Commission's ex-officio vice-chairman, and executive vice-chairman J. Jeyaranjan submitted the reports to Mr. Stalin.

The study on rural non-farm employment indicated that over 75% of men and 50% of women were employed in non-agricultural activities. "Construction has emerged as the dominant sector for men, particularly the youth, while manufacturing remains the primary employer of women across all age groups," an official release said, quoting the report.

The study was carried



Vital policy inputs: Tamil Nadu Deputy Chief Minister Udhayanidhi Stalin, who is also the State Planning Commission's ex-officio vice-chairman, and executive vice-chairman J. Jeyaranjan handing over four reports to Chief Minister M.K. Stalin in Chennai on Monday. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

out in 12 villages of six districts with higher as well as lower rural non-farm economy. It pointed to a significant shift from agriculture, with an increasing number of workers involved in non-farm sectors, such as construction and manufacturing.

The other reports are 'Tamil Nadu's vision for sustainable development goals', 'Tamil Nadu's automotive future', and 'Reimagining Tamil Nadu - Path to knowledge economy'.

'Tamil Nadu's vision for sustainable development

goals' highlights the current status of the State and government intervention through welfare schemes. 'Tamil Nadu's automotive future' recommends the establishment of electric vehicle clusters, enhancing logistics infrastructure with roll-on and roll-off terminals and multimodal hubs, and expanding research and development through centres of excellence and skill parks.

'Reimagining Tamil Nadu - Path to a knowledge economy' focuses on two key pillars: Global Capability Centres and the future

of manufacturing. "It examines the current landscape and provides inputs on accelerating growth and redefining the manufacturing sector through innovation, technology, and sustainability. It also highlights the importance of strengthening the micro, small, and medium enterprises ecosystem as a key driver of economic resilience, while underscoring the need for inclusive growth with attention to social equity as a guiding principle for economic transformation," the release said.

Source: *The Hindu*, 10 June 2025, p.6

Non-farm jobs up 21 percentage points in 12 years in TN villages

NIRUPAMA VISWANATHAN
@Chennai

A state planning commission report on rural non-farm employment in Tamil Nadu, based on a detailed survey done in 12 villages across six districts, showed a sharp shift from agricultural employment to non-agricultural employment in 12 years between 2012 and 2024.

Rural non-farm employment (RNFE) rose by 21 percentage points from 57.1% in 2012 to 78.2% in 2024. The agricultural employment reduced from 42.9% to 21.8%. While Tamil Nadu's rapid urbanisation and the transformation from being an agrarian econo-



my is well-known, the report has thrown insights into the extent of this shift in the surveyed villages. It may be noted that the contribution of agriculture and allied activities to TN's Gross State Domestic Product (GSDP) shrunk from 17.6% in 2012 to 11.6% in 2023-24. Among non-farm sectors, construction is the preferred sector for male workers, particularly by younger workers, while manufacturing sector is preferred by women of all age groups.

Along with the shift, the report, however, highlighted that the percentage of those unemployed marginally increased from 4.8% in 2012 to 6.9% in 2024.

P7

Four times more income in non-farm jobs: Report

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

In 2024, the unemployment among those aged between 20 and 29 was particularly high at 16%. "Highly educated individuals across rural villages in TN are searching for suitable jobs," the report said. These 12 villages were chosen for a follow-up comparison since they were studied in detail in 2012. The villages were Subramaniapuram, Mullaiseval and Pattampudur in Virudhunagar district, Appaneri in Thoothukudi, Palamadai in Tirunelveli, Mathalamparai in Tenkasi, Perumanadu, Rethnakottai and

DISTRICTS	AGRI JOB SHIFT			
	% of Non Agri Households		Total Households	
	2024	2012	2012	2024
Virudhunagar	81.0	86.0	1,196	1,321
Tirunelveli	80.1	75.3	1,519	2,071
Pudukottai	64.5	73.7	1,352	1,778
Thanjavur	50.8	52.5	1,425	1,243

Pudunilavayal in Pudukkottai, and Serumakkanallur, Thirupayanam and Manaiyeripatti in Thanjavur. The shift from farm employment to RNFE is more pronounced among male workers. As per the report, over 75%

of male workers and 50% of female workers in the surveyed villages are now employed in non-agricultural activities.

The report credits the rise to the availability of non-farm employment in the state and an increased access to higher education. Additionally, the survey found non-farm workers to earn nearly four times more than agricultural labourers, and this higher income has also contributed to the shift. With respect to unemployment, 18.6% of the surveyed males were unemployed along with 13.3% of surveyed women in the 20 to 29 age

group in the year 2024. On whether the unemployment is due to lack of alternative non-farm employment, an official who was part of the survey, said, "Unemployment cannot be directly connected with the extent of non-farm employment in these villages. There are socio-cultural factors like caste and community that determine the number of women in the workforce." The villages are classified into High Rural Non Farm Employment villages and Low Rural Non Farm Employment Villages with the former having a relatively even lower dependence on agriculture than the latter.

Source: *The New Indian Express*, 10 June 2025, p.1 and 7

Conduct survey on child domestic workers in the State, say rights activists

Meghna M.
CHENNAI

Experts and child rights activists have stressed the need to survey the prevalence of child domestic workers in Tamil Nadu.

Recalling the murder of a 16-year-old girl who was employed as a domestic help in Aminjikarai, Josephine Valarmathi, chief functionary of the Tamil Nadu Domestic Workers Welfare Board, said: "Domestic workers are some of the most invisible labourers in the world. As they work behind closed doors, tracking child domestic workers and ensuring their safety is difficult."

Source: *The Hindu*, 13 June 2025, p.4

The International Labour Organisation (ILO) estimates that globally 17.2 million children are in paid or unpaid domestic work at the home of a third party or employer. Further, 67.1% of all child domestic workers are girls.

In another case, a 15-year-old girl from Jharkhand, who was engaged in domestic work in Madhavaram, was rescued by the police.

However, the employers were merely fined for violating labour laws, as domestic work is not considered hazardous in India.

The Child Labour (Prohibition and Regulation) Amendment Act, 2016,

prohibits engaging children below 14 years in domestic work, which it describes as hazardous.

According to the Act, adolescents aged 15-18 are allowed to work with certain conditions, which includes rest. Further, the employer is supposed to give notice to the inspector regarding the employment of the child.

According to child rights activists, there are two aspects that the State needs to address to prevent such exploitation. The first is having a uniform definition of a child. The second is the urgent need to survey child domestic workers.

TN to give 4% reservation in promotions for staff with benchmark disabilities

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
@ Chennai

THE state government has issued a Government Order (GO) providing 4% reservation in promotions for Persons with Benchmark Disabilities (PwBDs), along with instructions for its implementation. The move follows recommendations by a high-level committee that scrutinised a report submitted by a sub-committee formed to examine the matter. The committee was constituted in accordance with section 34 of the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (RPwD) Act, which states that the government can provide instructions on reservations in promotions from time to time.

According to the GO, the reservation will apply only to posts identified by the government in establishments where the cadre strength exceeds five, and where the posts fall within pay level 25. It will also apply to recruitment by transfer from a lower pay scale to a higher pay scale.

The 4% quota will be equally distributed among four categories of disabilities – persons with blindness and low vision, persons who are deaf and hard of hearing, persons with locomotor disabilities (including cerebral palsy, leprosy cured, dwarfism, acid attack victims and muscular dystrophy), and persons with autism, intellectual disability, specific learning disability, mental illness and multiple disabilities including deaf-blindness – with each group receiving 1% reservation.

The Welfare of Differently Aabled Persons Department, in consultation with other departments, will identify eligible posts for the reservation in line with the RPwD Act and notify them.

The GO also allows for exemptions in certain cases. As per section 34 of the Act, if the head of a department considers that the nature of work in an establishment is not suitable for PwBDs, they may seek exemption by submitting a detailed representation to the government.



Source: *The New Indian Express*, 26 June 2025, p.4

'Metal Town' workers long for a rescue vessel to stay afloat

P SRINIVASAN @ Tiruppur

THE lustre of 'Metal Town' in Tiruppur, a prominent centre for production of metal vessels in the state, is fading owing to a labour shortage in the industry. Anuparpalayam, once home to over 10,000 skilled hands crafting gleaming silver, brass, and copper vessels, is now losing its sheen as the younger generation is choosing the knitwear industry over metal production which pays little and offers no security or benefits.

Sources said vessels are sent to various parts of the state and nearby states too. Existing workers want their needs attended to and when *TNIE* visited the workplaces and spoke to workers, they raised their varied demands, ranging from better pay to power tariff concessions.

SP Venugopal, a vessel work-



P Murugesan is one of the workers feeling the pinch amid dwindling wages | EXPRESS

er from Anuparpalayam, said, "Vessel manufacturing is a cumbersome job. Most vessels here are handmade, but the wages we are paid is as low as ₹7 for producing 1 kg of silver vessels. Similarly, brass fetches ₹40/kg as wage. This is what

drives the youth to the knitting industry."

Another worker, P Prasath, said, "We have no job security. Although we have a welfare board, 80% of us do not have a membership card and therefore, no ESI or PF benefits. The

government should provide schemes to turn us into able entrepreneurs."

B Nagarajan, the supervisor of a metal vessel unit, said, "Our industry is already struggling due to concerns such as rising raw material cost. The government should provide us with schemes and incentives to promote our business. If the industry grows, workers will also benefit." S Yakob, the owner of a unit, said, "The government should provide concessions on power tariffs to promote our industry."

"A separate welfare board should be set up for vessel workers. Most workers do not have their own houses. Therefore, the government should build them apartments. Banks should easily provide loans to start new businesses. Workers will only come to this industry if such safety measures are put in

place. Only then will the industry survive and thrive," said S Selvaraj, general secretary of the Anuparpalayam Vessel Workers' Union (AITUC).

B Karthigaivasan, manager of the District Industries Centre, said, "There is a 'Kalaigarn Kaivinaai Thittam' scheme for vessel workers to start their own business. No educational qualification needed for this scheme. The applicant should be above 35 and have five years of professional experience. It provides subsidised loans upto ₹3 lakh."

K Senthilkumar, assistant commissioner of Labour (Social Security Scheme) in Tiruppur, said, "There is no separate welfare board for vessel workers. Steps will be taken to issue membership cards to those workers through a special camp. Appropriate awareness activities will be conducted."

Source: *The New Indian Express*, 11 June 2025, p.4



Breaking free: Fisherwomen take part at a meeting of the Fisherwomen's Federation at Kilinjamedu, a coastal village in Karaikal district of Puducherry. These women have challenged the highly patriarchal 'panchayat' system that makes decisions in fishing communities. M. MOORTHY

Where women turn the tide

In the coastal villages from Karaikal to Nagapattinam, women members of the fishing community are coming into their own, converting symbolic concessions to well-earned victories from a gender-based paradigm. They have edged themselves into the centre of the traditional village power unit vested with men; they hope to lead these panchayat bodies soon, writes **Nacchinarkkiniyan M.**

In the contiguous coastal hamlets of Tamil Nadu's Mayiladuthurai and Nagapattinam districts and Puducherry's Karaikal district, a quiet but resolute change is taking place with women finding their feet, even amid the patriarchal 'panchayat' system that makes decisions in fishing communities. For generations, public decision-making in these communities was controlled by men under the deeply entrenched 'panchayat' system, a structure unique to coastal fishing villages. Each week, male elders from different sections convene 'oor kootams' (village assemblies) that rule on issues ranging from domestic disputes to political matters. Though they are supposed to be open to all, these meetings have long excluded women. Their presence was considered inappropriate or even rebellious.

No woman has been appointed as a 'panchayat' yet and the structure remains rigidly patriarchal. However, sustained organising at the grassroots – largely by women and backed by NGO Social Need Education and Human Awareness (SNEHA) – is paving the way for a change. Once sidelined, women's collectives are recognised as serious stakeholders. Today, 'panchayats' are increasingly compelled to consult them before taking major decisions.

Redefining traditions

At Nambiyar Nagar in Nagapattinam, women were allowed, for the first time, to make announcements on the stage during the annual temple festival three years ago. This broke a long-standing barrier. At nearby Kameshwaram, the women's collective has installed a board declaring its opposition to 'nalangu' gifts, the customary offerings from women's families during rites of passage.

At Poompuhar in Mayiladuthurai, the community has pledged not to sell banned tobacco products or liquor, while opposing child marriage and usury. At Karaikal, women from local collectives join 'panchayats' from all 10 coastal villages in garlanding the statue of Singarevelar, a celebrated labour leader, who hailed from the fishing community. Seven coastal villages in Karaikal have kept liquor shops out of their communities, a major step in asserting control over public health and safety. Most notably, through sustained organising, women from all the three districts have compelled male 'panchayats' to declare their opposition to 'sambandhi seer', a form of dowry.

"Before joining the collective, none of us had bank accounts. Now, we all do. The only joint account our husbands have is with us," laughs K. Kalaimathi, president of the Fisherwomen's Federation at Kollidam in Mayiladuthurai.

The Fisherwomen Society, a government-recognised institution in coastal villages, was intended to function independently from male-run societies. Many still operate in parallel with the men's bodies, but years of sustained advocacy has enabled some of these institutions to become autonomous. Village fisherwomen associations also help in community savings. Members contribute ₹200-₹500 a month. The funds thus pooled are distributed in rotation. Financial matters are discussed at open forums, and leaders are elected democratically. "In microfinance groups, if one woman defaults, others suffer. Here, if someone struggles, others step in to help," says Ms. Kalaimathi.



Governments often reduce women's empowerment to schemes. What we need is lasting, structured dialogue, not token programmes. **JESU RETHINAM CHRISTY**, director, SNEHA

These collectives also promote livelihood through small-scale enterprises: production of spice mixes in Tharangambadi and Sirkazhi; detergents and sanitisers in Kollidam; and prawn pickles in Thirumullaivasal. These products are popular even abroad. "Earlier, when we gathered for meetings, men mocked us. Now, they ask us how we manage our finances so well," says M. Maheswari of Chinnamedu, Tharangambadi, while S. Deepalakshmi adds, "Financial independence has reduced our reliance on exploitative microfinance and loan sharks."

'Watershed moment'

D. Selvarani of Nambiyar Nagar, the first-ever woman trustee of the Neela Dhakshayini Temple, says the fisherwomen's movement has broken barriers. "They trusted me because of my involvement in the movement. This has never happened before in our village," she says.

T. Dravidha Selvi, vice-president of Thirupondil East Panchayat and resident of Kameshwaram village, recalls a watershed moment. "Last year, for the first time, we were invited to the 'panchayat's' oor kootam' to discuss a proposed SIPCOT project planned in our village. They listened to our views – only because they knew we were part of the movement." Deepalakshmi of Chinnamedu explains, "Compared with earlier times, men think twice before scolding us. Domestic violence has declined. We speak confidently at grama sabha meetings. The very act of raising our voice at such a forum is a victory."

Nearly every fisherwoman who spoke to *The Hindu* expressed a strong desire to see women become 'panchayats' one day. They emphasised that true representation requires women having a seat at the table. "We don't just want to be heard, we want to decide," says C. Jeyanthi, a 65-year-old fisherwoman from Karaikal Medu.

Men, however, are still not warm to the idea. R.M.P. Rajendra Nattar, who served as a 'panchayat' for 31 years at Keechankuppam in Nagapattinam, and is the president of the Indian National Fishermen Union, says, "In our fishing community, women often contribute as much as,

From Kollidam to Kodyakara, these villages have historically functioned as a single cohesive social unit. Their governance system is rooted in collective decision-making, says R. Sridhar, a research scholar at IIT-Delhi

if not more than, men. They are the backbone of both family and community life." While acknowledging the role of women's collectives in raising important issues, he maintains that most women do not aspire to become 'panchayats' themselves. "They trust that the existing male-led structure will safeguard their interests," he says. He believes that the 'panchayat' system should remain under men.

There are prominent fishing communities in this region – Pattinavars, Sembadavars, and Paratharajakulam, among others. From Kollidam to Kodyakara, these villages have historically functioned as a single cohesive social unit. Their governance system, rooted in collective decision-making, is centred around a network traditionally called the '64 villages'. The system is led by a head village and supported by sub-regional centres. This traditional structure pre-dates independence and has proven resilient and adaptable. "Panchayats" are chosen by voice vote every three years. Formal elections or hereditary succession also occur, depending on local practice. However, the system remains deeply patriarchal at its core," says R. Sridhar, a research scholar at IIT-Delhi, who has studied and worked among the coastal communities for several years.

Highlighting the double standards in customary practices, Ponni K., a fisherwoman from Chinnangudi in Mayiladuthurai, says, "In a love marriage, hefty fines are imposed on the family of a woman if she elopes. In Thazhambadi village, the penalty can go up to ₹50,000. In Chinnangudi, when a man marries outside the community, he may face a fine. But when a woman does the same, she is ostracised."

K. Vethavalli, former leader of the Karaikal Fisherwomen Federation, has won battles

through courts, including cases against 'panchayats' who ostracised women for allegedly defying traditional norms. "Our struggle is three-fold," she says. "We face resistance from our families, neglect from the government, and exploitation by private investors." She recalls the protests against private prawn cultivation in the late 1980s as a turning point. "We fasted and marched, despite having no support from our own households." Unlike neighbouring districts, Karaikal today has no large-scale shrimp farms, thanks to the women-led movement of that time.

Silencing the 'panchayats'

In another defining moment, Ms. Vethavalli stood up for a woman facing domestic violence. During the case, the focus shifted towards questioning the legitimacy of women's collectives in handling such matters – seen by some as a challenge to the 'panchayats'. Ms. Vethavalli walked into a 'panchayat' meeting alone. "I sat as an equal among the men. They fell silent. The dispute was resolved immediately. They had never seen a woman seated alongside them. It wasn't my courage; it was the strength of our movement," Ms. Vethavalli has received several awards for her community activism, including recognition from the Puducherry government's Social Welfare Department.

The strength of the women's movement lies in its tiered, interconnected structure, says P. Vanaja, who heads the gender justice division at SNEHA. "When we began, we only had village-level women's associations. But with the introduction of self-help groups (SHGs), they became our basic organising unit, focused on economic development," she says. Each SHG elects representatives to the Village Women's Coordination Association, which addresses intra-village issues and cultivates leadership. These women, in turn, are co-opted into the district-level Fisherwomen's Federation, which tackles larger systemic challenges – ranging from domestic violence and discrimination to threats from government projects and private industry. "Depending on the urgency or scale of an issue, joint campaigns and coordinated actions are launched across the three districts," Ms. Vanaja notes.

SNEHA director Jesu Rethinam Christy recalls the difficult beginnings. "In 1984, women would hide from us. We had to seek the permission of the 'panchayats' to speak to them." SNEHA initially focused on practical needs – access to water, electricity, bank accounts. Over time, its agenda expanded to domestic violence and child abuse. "Fisherwomen began stepping out and discovered their collective strength," she says. Their presence grew from village forums to district platforms. "After the 2004 tsunami, they led rebuilding efforts. 'Panchayats' began seeing them differently. They weren't dismissed, they were consulted." But she adds a cautionary note: "Governments often reduce women's empowerment to schemes. What we need is lasting, structured dialogue, not token programmes."

A. Indirani is a 68-year-old fisherwoman and leader of the Federation, hailing from Karaikal Medu. She says her dream is simple but urgent: to protect her coast. "If development projects continue to displace us, our children's future will be gone. The sea is our mother. We want our children to live in our villages, not to be pushed out by private greed. We fight not only for today but also for tomorrow."



Steely resolve: Fisherwomen at a meeting in Nagapattinam town to discuss issues pertaining to the community. The women's collectives have helped the fisherwomen become financially independent and empowered them to take decisions. M. MOORTHY



Our struggle is threefold. We face resistance from our families, neglect from the government, and exploitation by private investors. **K. VETHAVALLI**, former leader, Karaikal Fisherwomen Federation

Source: *The Hindu*, 8 June 2025, p.4

TNSTC enforces use of biometric attendance on 83,000 employees

N DHAMOTHARAN @Coimbatore

IN a bid to streamline payroll processing and prevent malpractices, the Tamil Nadu State Transport Corporation (TNSC) has decided to enforce the use of a biometric attendance system that was rolled out three years ago.

The software-based tool that can easily track the presence and working hours of employees will cover 83,000 employees, including drivers and conductors of the public transporter, in all its 260 branches.

“Based on the salary cycle, the biometric attendance system has been mandated in all the TNSC branches starting from June 21. At present, the biometric attendance system is in use in MTC Chennai,” sources added.

A biometric attendance system introduced in all the six TNSC corporations three years ago was not implemented properly in most of the branches, say sources.

Now, only a few employees use the biometric system, while others use the manual register for attendance in the branches.

A top officer from TNSC has now directed the heads of all corporations to ensure the compulsory functioning of the biometric attendance system in the branches. They were

also instructed to send biometric attendance details daily from the regional corporations to the Transport Secretary at the Secretariat.

The TNSC branches have been instructed to submit employee biometric attendance details to the headquarters. Consequently, conductors, drivers, technical staff, office staff, and officers in the branches will register their attendance using biometric equipment. Furthermore, officers have warned that if employees fail to register their attendance in the biometric, they allegedly might lose their salaries for specific days.

Recently, TNSC Coimbatore region held a meeting to discuss the implementation of biometric attendance at branches and issued a circular urging all branches to comply. A branch manager in Coimbatore told *TNIE* that 220 employees are based at his branch. He has instructed them to register their attendance biometrically starting Saturday.

“Some employees and union leaders who are close to top officers do not come to work regularly. When they do show up, they sign a manual register to cover their absence. This is a violation. So, TNSC has mandated the biometric system,” he said. A conductor from Tiruppur told *TNIE* that they have been instructed to register their attendance daily.



Source: *The New Indian Express*, 22 June 2025, p.7

HCL Foundation inks MoUs with T.N. govt. on vocational education, entrepreneurship

The Hindu Bureau
CHENNAI



Through this collaboration, we aim at supporting 100 startups over the next three years.

SIVARAJAH RAMANATHAN
CEO, StartupTN

HCL Foundation, which drives the corporate social responsibility agenda of global technology company HCL Tech in India, has signed two Memoranda of Understanding (MoUs) with two departments of the Government of Tamil Nadu.

One of the MoU is with StartupTN and the other with the Department of Employment and Training (DET), to enhance entrepreneurship and vocational education in the State. StartupTN, a platform under the Department of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises, Government of Tamil Nadu, promotes innovation and start-ups and operates as a registered Section 8 company.

“Through this collaboration, we aim at supporting 100 startups over the next three years – providing mentoring, incubation, market linkage, and liaison support to help them scale

and succeed,” said Sivaraman Ramanathan, CEO & Mission Director, StartupTN. This MoU for three years aims at fostering entrepreneurship among Tamil Nadu's youth, promote inclusive innovation and strengthen the State's start-up ecosystem.

The second MoU is a renewal of an existing collaboration and was signed between the Department of Employment and Training (DET), Government of Tamil Nadu, and HCL Foundation. The agreement was formalized by B. Vishnu Chandran, Director of Employment and Training, and Nidhi Pundhir, SVP of Global CSR at HCL

Tech and Director of HCL Foundation. This five-year initiative aims at strengthening the vocational education system in the State through several measures, including the deployment of a ‘Skill Rath’ (mobile lab and awareness unit) to increase outreach in communities, the upgradation of curriculum in select trades, training programs for both students and trainers of Government ITIs and the promotion of sports to encourage holistic development.

“As India advances in technological innovation, it is imperative that our youth are equipped with future-ready skills such as artificial intelligence, robotics, and other emerging technologies,” Mr. Chandran said. “By providing access to vocational education and supporting startups, we aim at creating sustainable opportunities that will contribute to the holistic development of the State,” said Nidhi Pundhir.

Source: *The Hindu*, 14 June 2025, p.4

Sold a dream, scammed then shipped

Despite Police Crackdowns, Fake Agents Continue To Lure Youth From Rural Tamil Nadu With Promises Of Overseas Jobs, Only To Leave Them Stranded Without Documentation Or Money

Vivanesh.Parthiban@timesofindia.com

It was only when he found himself trapped in a restaurant in Malaysia, his passport confiscated, that R Balasubramaniam, a parotta master from Pudukkottai in rural Tamil Nadu, realised his dream of a better life overseas had been hijacked by a fake job agent.

For the 29-year-old, the cost of that 'job' was ₹6 lakh — the average sum racketeers in Tamil Nadu charge young men and women from rural areas for employment in Singapore, Dubai, Eastern Europe, Laos and Myanmar.

Despite repeated raids, including a recent crackdown in Melur municipality of Madurai district, where hundreds of passports were seized from unregistered recruiting agencies, the illegal job network continues to flourish, particularly in villages around Trichy, Madurai, Kanyakumari and Tirunelveli, where thousands of hopefuls look abroad for better prospects.

"Even engineers fall for the scams," says a police officer from Madurai. "In Melur, we found that graduates were offered fake BPO jobs. Most never got placed. Their processing fee simply vanished."

The agencies, say police, lure victims with the promise of high-paying jobs abroad. They forge documents, use fake registration numbers, and in many cases, collect passports and large sums as 'processing fees' before disappearing. Police register cases and sometimes recover documents, but many of these investigations are quietly closed or settled without naming the culprits. This lack of transparency discourages victims from coming forward, and emboldens scamsters to continue.

A police officer says the agents often send workers on tourist visas, bypass-

ing formal channels. Once abroad, the workers become undocumented and unprotected. Many are forced to work at eateries, construction sites, or in cybercrime rackets (mainly in Myanmar and Cambodia). According to the Ministry of external affairs (MEA), all overseas job placements must be processed through registered agents via official portals, such as eMigrate.gov.in.

But on the ground, unlicensed agents operate with impunity, says a police officer.

"An Indian national can be recruited for a job abroad through a recruiting agent registered under the Emigration Act, 1983, or by an employer with a valid permit issued by the protector general of emigrants. But go to any tea shop or bus stand in rural Tamil Nadu, you'll find overseas job posters stuck everywhere," says Alwin Jose, an activist from Kanyakumari who works with migrant workers who have returned to India.

Those who return are forced into katta panchayats or informal settlements between trafficker and family rather than seek proper legal action, says Jose.

"Police don't pursue traffickers

SCAMSTER ALERT

THE PROBLEM

- Fake agents operate freely in villages
- Tourist visas used for illegal work
- Victims fall into debt with no legal safety net
- Poor coordination among police, protector of emigrants, and MEA
- No support system for returnees

WHAT'S NEEDED

- More awareness in rural belts
- Regional PoE help desks
- Legal aid for victims
- Crackdown on fake job ads

HOW TO IDENTIFY A FAKE AGENT

- Check if the agent is registered on eMigrate.gov.in
- Never accept a job on a tourist visa
- Avoid agents who work only through WhatsApp or social media
- Insist on a formal offer letter and a verified work visa
- Report suspicious agents to the nearest PoE office or local police



seriously," he adds. Kalidas Ramasamy of Tenaganita, a Malaysian human rights non-profit organisation, says most of those rescued are from rural Tamil Nadu.

Serbia, Romania and Poland are emerging as new hotspots, says Jose. Job-seekers are promised legal construction work but usually end up stranded, without wages or valid visas.

"These countries are harder to

'I JUST WANTED TO CLEAR MY DEBTS'

How a parotta master from Coimbatore was duped and kept captive

R Balasubramaniam, a Class IX dropout from Pudukkottai, spent years working in a parotta shop in Coimbatore. He had built a small house and conducted his younger sister's wedding, but in the process, had run up nearly ₹10 lakh in debt.

That was when he met 'Setha' through a cousin. Setha of Thanjavur district convinced him she was a job agent who had sent 20 people overseas. Her home doubled as an office. "There was no paperwork," says Balasubramaniam. "No registration, only WhatsApp success stories. Every day, she would bombard me with photos and videos of people she claimed she had helped."

She convinced Balasubramaniam he'd be sent to Malaysia for training, then to Singapore. Tempted by the promise of a hotel job that could help him clear his debt, Balasubramaniam paid her ₹2.5 lakh, which he managed through loans.

At Kuala Lumpur airport, a man named Kumar, who owned a restaurant, met him and took his phone away. "I was allowed to send only one monitored voice message a day to my family. Within days, it

became clear there was no job in Singapore. I was made to work in Kumar's restaurant in Malaysia. When I wanted to leave, he threatened me. He said I had to either pay a huge amount to Setha or work for free for three months."

Desperate, Balasubramaniam contacted the owner of the Coimbatore eatery where he had once worked, who put him in touch with Satheesh Kumar, who offered help for a price. Subramaniam's sister arranged ₹90,000. Satheesh shared contacts and directions that eventually led to Tenaganita, a Malaysian NGO that supports trafficking victims.

With help from Tenaganita staffer Kalidas Ramasamy, a rescue mission was launched, and after three weeks, Balasubramaniam was rescued from the restaurant and placed in a refugee shelter.

"The staff at Tenaganita said they never charge victims. That's when I realised Satheesh had cheated me too," says Balasubramaniam. His calls to Satheesh went unanswered.

He spent two months at Tenaganita. His tourist visa had expired by then. In March, he finally returned to Tamil Nadu. When he approached the protector of emigrants, he was asked to file two complaints: one in Thanjavur against Setha and another in Coimbatore against Satheesh.

"It's been three months. Nothing has moved. Setha and Satheesh have vanished," says Balasubramaniam.



Illustration: Shreed Akkaramambili

About 500 agencies are registered with PoE in Tamil Nadu, of which 200 are active and have renewed their licences.

The PoE office recently launched the "Paathu Ponga" (Be Aware) campaign, warning of job scams, particularly in data entry and IT-related fields in Southeast Asia, which often lead to cyber slavery.

"We've conducted awareness drives in Chennai and plan to expand to southern districts. We're also working on improving coordination between police and PoE offices to ensure victims get help in time," says Rajkumar.

Email your feedback to southpole.toi@timesofindia.com

Source: *The Times of India*, 25 June 2025, p 6

INITIATIVE HAS BEEN EXTENDED TO GOVT-AIDED SCHOOLS AS WELL

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

ENCOURAGED by the teacher, Dhanya, who was still learning the alphabets in Class 1 at that time, narrated her experiences to her mother, who then penned it down.

When the programme was launched in 2023, one of its goals, apart from cultivating a reading habit among students, was to nurture student writers. "We invited students across all classes and teachers to submit their stories for publication under the initiative in a structured manner last year and received nearly 1,500 entries. Of these, 51 have been selected and published now. In the previous two years, the department mainly relied on children's writers to bring out these books with only a handful of contributions from interested teachers and students," said an official of the Vasippuiyakkam team.

Creative team members say stories written by teachers have a special ability to resonate with children as teachers spend more time with them and understand their world. Among the published books is Anbulla Anitha written by K Muthukannan, a teacher who is also part of the creative team. The story is written in the form of a letter from a pair of cloth scissors at a textile mill to a former school dropout who once worked at the mill, before teachers helped her return to school. The story underscores the importance of education.



WHAT'S VASIPPUIYAKKAM?

- Launched (2023-24) on a pilot basis in 11 blocks across 11 districts
- Books categorised by reading levels: ■ Nulai (Enter) ■ Nada (Walk) ■ Oodu (Run) ■ Para (Fly)
- Books placed in classrooms for free reading or library periods
- Expanded statewide in 2024-25 to all government schools
- Over 174 titles published; nearly 4 crore copies printed

WHAT'S NEW IN 2025-26?

- 51 new books written by children and teachers – a first for the initiative
- Scheme extended to government-aided schools
- English translations of 30 Nulai level books introduced to promote English reading

Of the 51 books, 17 were written by students, one is a collection of poems by students and the rest were authored by

teachers. Stories of 28 children have been published so far in the three years. "There are three types of children's literature, those written about children, for children, and by children. At present, books written by children are scarce in Tamil. This initiative has created an opportunity

for students to write, with the department publishing their work in large numbers. Unlike books by adults, which often aim to deliver a message, children write to express joy and that makes their stories more enjoyable for the readers. We have ensured that books written by children are published with minimal interference from teachers or parents," said Muthukannan.

While government school children, especially from rural areas, might struggle to find opportunities to write and publish, this initiative opens the door for any government school student with an interest in writing to become a published author. "We aim to ensure that at least 90% of the books are authored by children themselves next year. Seeing their books in school libraries will inspire more students to pursue writing," he added.

This year, the initiative has been extended to government-aided schools as well. In addition to the 51 new books, 30 English translations of previously published Tamil titles are also being released to promote the habit of English reading as well.

3.1L new students enrol in govt, aided schools this year

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE

@Chennai

THE elementary education department on Wednesday said that 3.12 lakh students have enrolled in government and government-aided schools across Tamil Nadu from LKG to Class 8 so far this academic year. This includes 22,757 students in LKG and UKG, 2.25 lakh in Class 1, and 65,391 in classes 2-8. Among Class 1 admissions, 1.73 lakh students opted for Tamil medium, while 52,057 chose English medium.

The educational districts with the highest enrolment include Chennai (17,985), Chengalpattu (9,528), Tiruppur (9,385), Salem (8,573), and Tenkasi (8,019). Those with the lowest numbers are The Nilgiris (1,327), Dharapuram (2,082), Kovilpatti (2,544), Theni (2,559) and Oddanchatram (3,013).

Officials noted that total new admissions in primary and middle schools last year stood around 3.2 lakh and expect this year's admissions to cross four lakh as enrolment continues till August.

Apart from schemes like free educational kit items including

textbooks and uniforms and reservations in higher education for government school students, the absence of admissions under the Right to Education (RTE) Act in private schools this year has contributed to the increase in the enrolment, said officials.

This year, the state government did not notify admissions under the RTE Act in private schools, where 25% of seats are reserved for students from economically weaker sections, citing non-release of Samagra Shiksha funds from the central government. Under RTE, nearly 85,000 students are admitted every year in private schools and the government reimburses the fees to the schools.

"Teachers and educational officers have been instructed to identify and enrol all children aged five and above using health department data. We expect admissions to rise further," said an official from the elementary education department. In a post on X, School Education Minister Anbil Mahesh Poyyamozhi also congratulated education officials for the increase in enrolment figures.

Source: *The New Indian Express*, 19 June 2025, p.2

Source: *The New Indian Express*, 26 June 2025, p.7

Technical courses should be taught in Tamil: Guv

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

Chennai: Governor R N Ravi on Saturday said technical courses in Tamil Nadu should be taught in Tamil and not English. He interacted with Tamil scholars as part of his 'Think to Dare' series at Raj Bhavan in which he spoke about the repression faced by Tamils during British rule and its revival.

"Tamil, an ancient and rich language, suffered enormously during British rule. It was a deliberate attempt by the British to downgrade the mother tongues of the country. They destroyed our indigenous education system, industry, devastated our agri-



FOR TAMIL: Ravi opened Kamban Vanam in Raj Bhavan during the event

culture by heavy taxation making it unaffordable for farmers to continue agriculture," Ravi said.

Speaking about the impact of the British education system on Tamil, Ravi said, "In the English education system, the schools in which they set up didn't encourage Tamil. The schools were

mainly set up to infuse a sense of inferiority among us and to choose their education system. Through their education system they started to teach what they wanted us to learn. They taught that everything about the British and Europe were superior and what we had were inferior."

Ravi said the Swadeshi movement helped Tamil's revival. "Only the Swadeshi movement initiated the revival of Tamil language through poets and Tamil enthusiasts such as Bharathiyaar and T K Chidambarama Mudhaliar who carried out a virulent campaign against leaders speaking in English," he said.

Source: *The Times of India*, 15 June 2025, p.6

Govt schools reopen, nearly 2 lakh students enrolled in classes 1 to 5

Textbooks, notebooks and other items, procured at a cost of ₹1,141 crore, distributed on day 1

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @ Chennai

GOVERNMENT and government-aided schools across Tamil Nadu reopened on Monday after the summer vacation, with the first day of the academic year marked by the distribution of textbooks, notebooks, and other educational kit items to students. Chief Minister MK Stalin launched the distribution drive at the Lady Willingdon Government Model School in Chennai.

Speaking to reporters, School Education Minister Anbil Mahesh Poyyamozhi said that the government ensured timely delivery of learning materials this year by initiating the tender process early. "In previous years, though kits were distributed completely, there were delays of several months. On the chief minister's insistence, we made sure that all items, procured at a cost of ₹1,141 crore, were handed out on the very first day. This practice will continue in the years to come," he said.

As per a 2013 government or-



Chief Minister MK Stalin interacting with students of Lady Willingdon Government Model School in Chennai on Monday | EXPRESS

der, the Tamil Nadu Textbook and Educational Services Corporation handles the printing and procurement of kit items. These include bags, textbooks, laptops, sanitary napkins, bicycles, uniforms, footwear among others. Among five headmasters TNIE spoke to, three confirmed that textbooks had already been distributed, while two cited delays due to logistical issues. One headmaster noted that uniforms and slippers

had reached the district headquarters but had not yet been delivered to schools. However, he added that all materials are expected to reach students within a week. The minister also said that admissions under the Right to Education (RTE) Act have been delayed this year due to the non-release of Samagra Shiksha funds by the union government. He added that the state will soon unveil its education policy for schools. "While

the policy will address both school and higher education, the component for schools will be released soon," he said.

Drop in early enrolment

According to officials, nearly two lakh students have enrolled in classes 1 to 5 this year, compared to around 3.2 lakh last year. Despite the dip, enrolment in government and government-aided schools is expected to rise in the coming months, buoyed by schemes such as the breakfast programme. Final enrolment figures will be available by August, the minister said.

On concerns about a resurgence of Covid-19, the minister said the health department has assessed the current variant as mild and not a cause for concern at the moment. "They will alert us if the situation changes," he said. The minister also emphasised the importance of prioritising students' emotional well-being this academic year to help prevent incidents of conflict between students and teachers.

Source: *The New Indian Express*, 3 June 2025, p.2

'Smart' beginnings: TN returns to school today

Kids To Perceive Digital Intervention From Class I Itself; Improving Reading, Writing Skills Priority

Ragu.Raman
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Chennai: Digital intervention, along with improving reading, writing, and basic arithmetic skills, is the focus in the new academic year as state board schools will reopen on Monday after the summer vacation. With all govt primary schools equipped with smart boards, students will experience digital intervention from Class I onwards this year.

Ahead of reopening, city schools have spruced up their campuses and conducted teacher meetings to plan academic activities.

"Students will have a unique experience of digital intervention from Class I itself," elementary education director P A Naresh said. All primary schools are provided with smart boards, and middle schools have got hi-tech labs.

"Increasing enrolment,

OUT WITH THE OLD, IN WITH THE NEW

Govt, govt-aided school students will get free books on the first day itself

Textbook corporation has supplied 2.72 crore books to schools

Uniforms, school bags and other items are expected to be supplied by June

Transport department has issued an announcement stating students can travel with bus passes issued last year

A majority of CBSE and other board schools are scheduled to reopen from June 4 to 6



Parents and children throng a shop in Pondy Bazaar on Sunday to purchase school essentials

sustaining enrolled students, quality intervention, and zero tolerance to Pcos-related offences will be our main focus this year," he further said.

With already 1.85 lakh admissions in Class I in govt schools this year, enrolment could exceed four lakh as most parents will enrol their wards in June.

For Classes VI to VIII, the state govt has announced a new 'Thiran' initiative to improve reading, learning, and basic maths skills. "Improving reading and writing skills of students from Class VI to VIII in Tamil and English is our top priority. We have also instructed the teachers to use online resources for impro-

ving pronunciation and spoken language of students," school education director S Kannappan said.

To improve basic arithmetic skills, teachers were asked to focus on teaching tables and repeating them every day.

The state govt also announced curriculum and syllabus revision for all classes

starting from 2025-26.

However, citing pending dues from Union govt, the state govt has not conducted RTE admissions in private schools this year. About 70,000 students enrolled in 8,000 private schools every year.

Schools such as MCC Higher Secondary School in Chetpet are planning to take

foundational classes for exams such as NEET and JEE for students from Class IX and X during the new academic year.

"For the lower classes, we are going to concentrate on reading, writing, and spelling contests in the first month," said G Jebadoss Thinakaran, school headmaster.

Chennai corporation schools have set a target to increase admissions and improve performance in board exams. "Our priority is to improve our enrolment this year. We also want more top scorers in Classes X and XII board exams. We will try to implement the new initiative to improve reading and writing skills," said Padmaja R, headmistress of Chennai Girls Higher Secondary School in Saidapet.

Other board schools, including CBSE, are planning to reopen after the summer vacation, between June 2 and 6.

Source: *The Times of India*, 2 June 2025, p 3

TN to focus on school-specific plans to improve results

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @ Chennai

IN a bid to improve Class 10 and Class 12 state board results, the school education department has directed headmasters across Tamil Nadu to analyse the academic performance of their respective schools and prepare a roadmap for improvement.

A circular issued on Tuesday to all chief educational officers (CEOs) and district educational officers (DEOs) included school-specific and subject-specific performance data. They have been asked to review the district-level data, conduct meetings with headmasters, address grievances and chalk out blueprints to improve each school's performance. "Schools with low pass percentage can focus

on improving pass rates, while those with higher pass percentages can work on raising average marks," the circular stated. According to school department officials, it is for the first time that detailed data on performance of the schools have

been sent to districts for review this early. School education director S Kannappan told *TNIE* that micro-level data analysis was carried out this year earlier than usual. "Joint director-level officers have been appointed as monitoring officers to review the meeting of CEOs with headmasters every month and oversee the implementation of the action plan," he said.

Kannappan added that data review revealed several gaps in teaching. "In Vellore, over 1,000 students failed in Mathematics alone. Similarly, in some schools, students excelled in one subject but underperformed in others, pointing to issues in teaching methods," he said.

Notably, Vellore was among

the worst-performing districts in Class 10 results, with only 42 out of 242 schools achieving 100% pass results. In contrast, Sivaganga topped the list, with 175 of its 258 schools recording cent per cent pass rates. The DEOs and CEOs will take note of the performance of teachers as well. "The DEOs have been advised to form subject-wise WhatsApp group of teachers where the better performing teachers could guide and share their notes, teaching patterns that help students in better understanding the subject to other teachers," said Kannappan. Since the academic year has just begun, schools can increase focus on providing support to both schools and teachers to boost outcomes in the next board exams, he added.



Source: *The New Indian Express*, 25 June 2025, p.2



Students of Perunthalaivar Kamarajar Government Girls Higher Secondary School in Ambattur during the assembly | P JAWAHAR

417 CORPN SCHOOLS IN CHENNAI REGISTER 16K NEW ADMISSIONS

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
@ Chennai

AS another academic year gets rolling, Greater Chennai Corporation (GCC) schools have registered a total of 16,491 new admissions, from LKG to Class 12.

Marking the re-opening of the schools, Chief Minister MK Stalin on Monday inaugurated the distribution of school textbooks, uniforms, and other educational materials at Lady Willingdon Higher Secondary School, Triplicane, for govern-

ment and government-aided school students. Simultaneously, Hindu Religious and Charitable Endowments (HR & CE) Minister PK Sekarbabu distributed the items to corporation school students at Chennai Primary School in Cook Road, TVK Nagar.

The GCC runs a total of 417 schools - 206 primary, 130 middle, 46 high, and 35 higher secondary schools. These schools serve 1.12 lakh students, supported by 3,739 teachers and 140 permanent non-teaching staff.

In addition, 12,621 children are currently enrolled in kindergarten classes across 272 primary and middle schools.

To boost school attendance and engagement, the government continues to implement initiatives like the CM's Breakfast Scheme, the 'Happy Schooling' programme, and a ₹1,000 incentive for students who maintain 100% attendance. The curriculum is further provided with science tours, sports skill training, and other co-curricular activities.

2 from govt school score above 500 marks in NEET

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

Chennai: In the toughest NEET in recent years, two students from Govt Girls Higher Secondary School at Y Othakadai in Madurai have scored more than 500 marks with the help of their school teachers.

According to the officials, Kanniga from the Madurai school attained a score of 539 marks while Jegashreema scored 522 marks.

As of now, these scores were the highest marks obtained by govt school students. Around 8,000 students from govt schools appeared for the NEET exam this year.

Three other students Priyanka, Shuruthi and Ragghavi from the same school have scored 466, 350 and 310 marks respectively.

As many as four students are likely to get MBBS seats from this school, officials said.

While Jagashreema and Kanniga are likely to get the medical seat under state quota, the two other students are likely to get through 7.5% reservation for govt school students.

"The girls school with above 2000 strength have been doing well in preparing students for NEET. Due to the NEET crash coaching offered by teachers, many students from govt schools have scored above 400 marks in NEET this year," school education director S Kannappan said.

School education department is compiling the data of govt school students who have done well in the medical entrance test.

Source: *The Times of India*, 15 June 2025, p 2

Source: *The New Indian Express*, 3 June 2025, p.3

NEET toppers appeared for JEE to excel in physics & chemistry

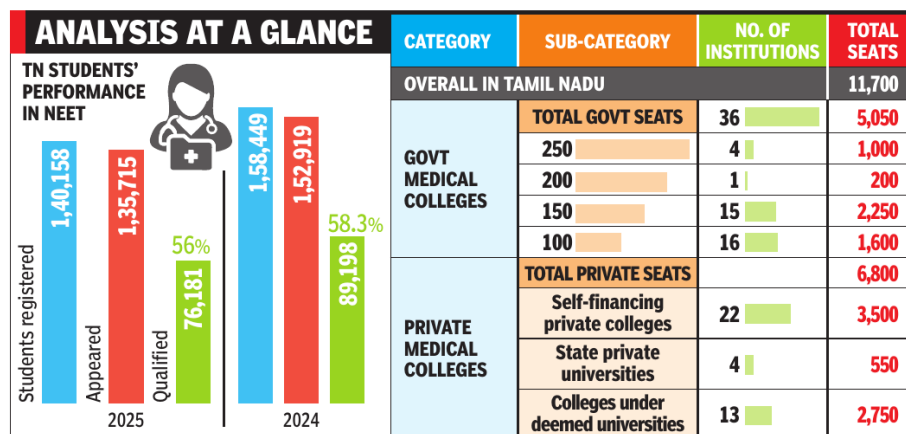
Six TN Students Listed Among Top 100 Appeared For JEE Too

Ragu.Raman
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Chennai: In a new trend, medical aspirants are appearing for the Joint Entrance Examination (JEE) to excel in physics and chemistry questions in the National Eligibility-cum-Entrance Test (NEET). All six students from Tamil Nadu who featured among the top 100 rankers in NEET this year appeared for the JEE as well. Three of them did so well that they secured seats in top IITs, including IIT Madras, IIT Kanpur and IIT Dharwad.

Tamil Nadu topper Soorya Narayanan S, who achieved the all-India 27th rank in NEET, had secured the all-India rank of 388 in the JEE (Advanced) exam this year.

"My son got a seat in electrical



engineering at IIT Madras in the first round. However, he wanted to pursue medicine. He is interested in studying either at JIPMER Puducherry or AIIMS New Delhi," said M Sankara Subramanian, Soorya Narayanan's father, who works as a Chief Ticket Inspector in railways. S Pugazhendi, who secured an all-India rank of 61 in the NEET exam, is undecided about whether to join AIIMS New Delhi or IIT Kanpur. He secured a seat in

electrical engineering. Rakesh A J, another top ranker who secured an all-India 78th rank in the NEET exam, is planning to join AIIMS New Delhi or JIPMER in Puducherry. "I got a computer science engineering seat at IIT Dharwad. But, I am interested in medicine," he said. Nagaraj, the father of Abhineet, who achieved an all-India 50th rank in NEET, said, "Those who prepare for JEE will be well-versed with physics and chemis-

try questions. Those questions are more tricky. Those students tend to do well in NEET." His son also scored 99.54 in the JEE (Main) exam.

This year, those who practised for JEE got higher scores in NEET as the physics and chemistry questions were lengthy and difficult. Some medical aspirants attempted only the physics and chemistry questions in the JEE exam.

Source: *The Times of India*, 15 June 2025, p 2

89% schools and 87% colleges in T.N. declared tobacco-free institutions

The Hindu Bureau
CHENNAI

In Tamil Nadu, 89% of schools and 87% of colleges have been declared tobacco-free educational institutions, according to the Directorate of Public Health and Preventive Medicine.

Issuing a press release in line with the World No Tobacco Day (WNTD) observed on May 31, T.S. Selvavinayagam, Director of Public Health, said Tamil Nadu had implemented comprehensive interventions focused on enforcement, awareness, capacity building, cessation services, and safeguarding institutions from tobacco exposure. This year, WNTD is observed on the theme

'Unmasking the appeal: Exposing industry tactics on tobacco and nicotine products', underscoring the urgent need to counter deceptive marketing strategies targeting children, adolescents, and vulnerable communities, the release said.

Listing key achievements in tobacco control (up to May 2025) in the State, the directorate said 45,865 out of 51,477 schools and 2,173 out of 2,484 colleges had been declared tobacco-free. To enforce Section 6 of the Cigarette and Other Tobacco Products Act and to protect the young, the directorate has asked district officials to ensure that all educational institutions mark the 100-yard tobacco-free zones by implementing the 'Yellow Line Campaign'.

"This year's theme reminds us that the battle against tobacco is not just about controlling consumption – it is about exposing the industries that profit by endangering lives," Dr. Selvavinayagam said.

In line with this year's theme, the Cancer Institute (WIA) Adyar organised a series of events, which included an awareness rally, sand sculpture, open mic, and announcement of awareness messages at Chennai Metro Rail stations, according to a press release. The department of Psycho-Oncology, WIA Adyar, along with HCL Foundation, organised the

awareness rally at Elliot's Beach, Besant Nagar, on Saturday. Nearly 1,000 people, including school and college students participated. R. Murugan, Assistant Commissioner of Police, Greater Chennai Police, Adyar Range, and T.G. Sagar, governing body member and former director, WIA, were present.

Sri Ramachandra Institute of Higher Education and Research (SRIHER) conducted an awareness rally to mark WNTD. Students, faculty members, and healthcare professionals participated. It has opened a cessation clinic as per WHO guidelines to overcome addiction of tobacco usage through counselling and supportive medication, a release said.

Source: *The Hindu*,
1 June 2025, p.8

Two schemes to aid 60k SC/ST kids reach full potential

SUBASHINI VIJAYAKUMAR
@ Chennai

IN order to aid its students in reaching their full potential, the state's Adi Dravidar and Tribal Welfare Department is set to implement two major initiatives, Social Labs and Learn-a-Lot, aimed at the over 60,000 students residing in school and college hostels run by it across Tamil Nadu. While Social Labs is aimed at students in college hostels, focusing on bridging academic, professional and interpersonal skill gaps, Learn-a-Lot has been designed for students

in school hostels, to enhance academic performance along with extracurricular, co-scholastic and life skills.

According to officials, most of the students in the Adi Dravidar and Tribal Welfare schools and hostels are from economically backward families earning less than ₹2.5 lakh per annum and are first-generation learners. Even though the schools and hostels address their academic needs, there is a gap in providing them with the necessary guidance required for them

to develop additional skills to unlock their full potential.

According to the Heckman Curve, the highest rate of economic returns comes from the earliest investments in children, officials said. We are intending to leverage this by introducing structured interventions through the Learn-a-Lot and Social Labs programmes that equip students with life skills, professional competencies and mentorship, they added. The Social Labs programme will be implemented in 174 college hostels, hosting ap-

proximately 12,910 students across the state. Its core focus is to foster employability, build self-esteem and create a mentorship ecosystem. Training modules will include functional English, personality development, professional skills (such as MS Office and Tally), arts and sports. The goal is to make students not just college-ready, but job-ready, officials said.

The Learn-a-Lot programme, to be implemented in 997 school hostels, covering around 44,500 students, will take a broader approach by combining academics with co-scholastic and life skill

components. It will ensure students get curriculum-based academic support to STEM education, digital literacy, fine arts, sports, value education and career guidance.

"The difference in both initiatives is due to the different stages of life that the students are in. We have designed the programmes to suit their specific needs. Both will follow a zone-wise implementation strategy with support provided online, in-person or in blended formats, depending on the location and infrastructure available," said an official.

Source: *The New Indian Express*, 2 June 2025, p.5

Soon, vans to ferry kids in tribal areas to school in six districts

SUBASHINI VIJAYAKUMAR
@ Chennai

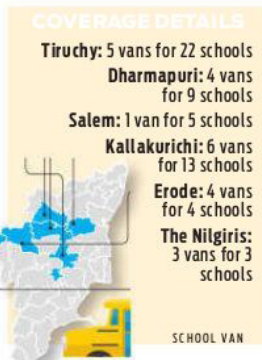
STORIES of children in tribal areas trekking long and dangerous forest paths to access education are still not uncommon. In an attempt to address this issue and improve access to schools in these regions, the Tribal Welfare Department will soon commence the operation of 23 micro vans covering 56 primary schools in six districts.

These vans will cover tribal areas of Tiruchy, Dharmapuri, Salem, Kallakurichi, Erode,

and the Nilgiris. The initiative, expected to benefit over 2,000 children, has been launched in response to the numerous challenges students face in reaching school every day, including lack of reliable transport and difficult terrain.

"One of the challenges we have observed in tribal areas is that students often do not return to school after long weekends or term holidays. This problem persists even though all tribal schools have residential facilities," said officials.

"The situation is further



worsened by harsh weather conditions and safety concerns along forest routes. These factors lead to students gradually dropping out or remaining absent for extended periods, which severely affects their learning."

The department recently issued a government order allocating ₹3.6 crore for the procurement of these vans. A pilot project was launched towards the end of the previous academic year, with micro vans operating to four schools in Kalvarayan Hills of Kallakurichi

district. According to the government order, the pilot initiative significantly improved student attendance, leading to the expansion of the initiative.

"We have formed clusters of nearby schools that can be covered by a single van. The scheme has been designed in such a way that it benefits the maximum number of children possible," said an official.

Operations of the vans are expected to commence within the next two months. They will be run with the help of NGOs in these districts, officials added.

Source: *The New Indian Express*, 30 June 2025, p.2

Tribal girl from Kalvarayan Hills clears JEE (Advanced)

The Hindu Bureau
CHENNAI

In a remote village tucked away in the Kalvarayan Hills, where dreams often struggle to take flight, 17-year-old A. Rajeshwari has carved out an extraordinary path. A student of the Government Tribal Residential Higher Secondary School in Karumandurai in Salem district, she has cleared the JEE (Advanced) 2025, an achievement that would earn her a seat in one of the Indian Institutes of Technology (IITs).

She is the first student from a government tribal residential school under the administration of the Adi Dravidar and Tribal

Welfare Department to secure admission to an IIT. Hailing from the Malayali tribal community, Ms Rajeshwari lost her father, Aundi, a tailor, to cancer a year-and-a-half ago. Since then, her mother, Kavitha, has been supporting their family of five by working as a daily-wage agricultural labourer.

Despite the odds, Ms. Rajeshwari scored an impressive 521 out of 600 in her Class XII exam and went on to secure an All India Rank of 417 in the Scheduled Tribe category in the competitive exam. According to her, this feat was made possible because of her teachers and the focused coaching pro-



A. Rajeshwari

gramme launched by the department. The initiative, which began for selected students at the end of Class XI, brought in expert teachers and subject specialists from Chennai to conduct daily online coaching sessions. "They took classes in the mornings and evenings, and

were always available to clarify students' question," said D. Vijayan, the headmaster of Ms. Rajeshwari's school.

Speaking to *The Hindu* over phone from the Government Tribal Residential School in Kumizhi, near Chengalpattu, where she is undergoing a training programme on soft skills, Ms. Rajeshwari, who studied in Tamil medium up to Class XII, expressed happiness over her achievement. "JEE Mains was in Tamil, so I found it easier. But JEE (Advanced) was in English, and that made it more difficult," she said.

After her Class XII Board Exam, Ms. Rajeshwari was

sent to a special training programme in Perundurai in Erode district to intensify her preparation for JEE (Advanced). "With the guidance of teachers and motivation from fellow students, I cleared the exam. Hopefully, I will get into IIT Madras or IIT Bombay. I want to pursue Aerospace Engineering," she said, adding: "Students from Tamil medium can overcome challenges and crack exams such as JEE with proper guidance and support from teachers."

"I am very happy and proud. Her achievement is a beacon of hope for many more students from remote areas, who now believe that they too can

reach the prestigious higher educational institutions," Mr. Vijayan added.

'Govt. to bear expenses'
Chief Minister M.K. Stalin on Monday congratulated Ms. Rajeshwari on her achievement and added that the Tamil Nadu government would bear her education expenses. "The true pride for the IIT would be when more daughters like Rajeshwari join them. This Dravidian model of governance would continuously work towards it," he said in a social media post.

AIADMK general secretary Edappadi K. Palaniswami also congratulated her.

Source: *The Hindu*, 6 June 2025, p.10

School Education Department steps up efforts to ensure students write supplementary examination

Meghna M.
CHENNAI

"Hello, this is the School Education Department. Do you need any help in taking the supplementary exam?" asks Rani (name changed), an operator with the department's helpline 14417. In an effort to ensure that students take up higher studies, the department has been calling up every student who has not passed the board exam and urging them to apply for supplementary exam.

"We have completed over 15,000 calls to Class XII students and have almost finished following up with Class X students," said an official from the School

Education Department.

Those working at the department's helpline would ask students whether they require help with fees or the application process for supplementary examination. They also ask whether the child needs extra coaching to clear the tests. "If the child is disabled, we enquire whether he/she requires a scribe and coordinate with the Chief Education Officer of that district to ensure that proper assistance is provided. Follow-ups are carried out regularly," Ms. Rani said.

The supplementary exam for Class XII students will begin on June 25, while for Class X and XI students,



The government must bear the fees of these exams. Students should receive help from psychologists to cope with the stress

S. PRABHAKARAN
General secretary, Tamil Nadu Post Graduate Teachers' Association

it will be held on July 4.

The department has instructed all government school principals to conduct coaching classes for the students. "We have prepared materials that are required to clear the exams. Since we are short on

time, we cannot teach them the entire syllabus again. Important topics and concepts are given a revision," said an official from the department.

However, students require more help than just coaching classes. While some are not even aware of these classes, others cannot write the exam due to family commitments. R. Ajish has to clear four papers in his Class X supplementary exam. "We plan to enrol Ajish at an Industrial Training Institute after he clears the exams. He's quite terrified of exams and requires more encouragement, which has been difficult to come by so far," said Usha, his mother.

S. Devi, however, will not be taking the Class X supplementary exam as she has to take care of her mother. "My dad has to work to provide for us and my grandmother is old. My sister and I have to care for my mother after she met with an accident," she said.

Tamil Nadu Post Graduate Teachers' Association (TNPETA) general secretary S. Prabhakaran said that there was a need to motivate parents and students on the importance of writing the supplementary exam. "The government must bear the fees of these exams. Students should receive help from psychologists to cope with the stress," he added.

Source: *The Hindu*, 8 June 2025, p.8

This year on, students in Adi Dravidar hostels to receive TAHDCO's *Polivu* personal care kits

N. Sai Charan
CHENNAI

Starting this year, nearly 50,000 school and college students residing in Adi Dravidar welfare hostels across Tamil Nadu will receive personal care kits (under the brand name *Polivu*) launched by the Tamil Nadu Adi Dravidar Housing and Development Corporation (TAHDCO).

According to official sources, a total of 1,331 Adi Dravidar hostels for school and college students are functioning in the State. Nearly 35,000 school students and 15,000 college students staying in these hostels are set to receive the *Polivu* personal care kits from this year.

In the previous academic year, TAHDCO had distributed such kits on a pilot-basis to students residing



Special package: Members of self-help groups engaged in the manufacturing of *Polivu* products at a unit in Ambattur in Chennai. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

in college hostels. Earlier, the Tamil Nadu government had provided financial assistance of ₹100 per month for school students, and ₹150 for college students, to purchase personal care products.

In a move aimed at ensuring the quality of these products and creating livelihood opportunities for women from Scheduled Caste communities, TAHDCO has decided to manufacture and distribute

these personal care products, replacing the financial assistance initiative, through a newly formed society under the *Polivu* brand, said official sources.

Vasanthi Kumaresan, State Project Manager (Schemes), TAHDCO, said that the products were made by 60 women from self-help groups, belonging to Scheduled Caste communities, at a manufacturing unit located in Ambattur in Chennai. The unit was established with financial support from the National Scheduled Caste Finance and Development Corporation (NSFDC).

Essential products

Each *Polivu* kit contains four 75 gm bath soaps, 200 ml hair wash shampoo, 200 ml coconut oil, 500 gm detergent powder, 150

gm detergent soap, and a toothbrush and a toothpaste. While coconut oil is being sourced and packed under the *Polivu* brand, the toothbrush and toothpaste are outsourced.

TAHDCO has proposed to include bamboo toothbrushes also in the kits in the future, as a sustainable alternative, Ms. Vasanthi said.

To be given thrice a year

The kits will be distributed thrice a year to ensure that the students in the Adi Dravidar hostels have access to essential personal care products and, thereby, promote hygiene and well-being.

The initiative also empowers women from Scheduled Caste communities and earn at least ₹15,000 a month, officials pointed out.

Source: *The Hindu*, 9 June 2025, p.2

Adi Dravidar, Tribal Welfare schools saw sharp decline in student strength in past decade

The Hindu Bureau
CHENNAI

The student strength in schools managed by the Department of Adi Dravidar and Tribal Welfare has witnessed a sharp decline over the past 10 years.

The Department runs 1,138 Adi Dravidar Welfare schools, including 833 primary schools, 99 middle schools, 108 high schools, and 98 higher secondary schools. In addition, it operates 320 Government Tribal Residential Schools, comprising 212 primary, 49 middle, 31 high, and 28 higher secondary schools equipped with food and lodging facilities.

According to official data for the academic year 2024-25, the student strength in Adi Dravidar Welfare schools stood at

Officials denied that the fall was due to poor infrastructure or teacher shortage

77,383. A decade earlier, in the academic year 2014-15, these schools had 1,23,147 students. This constitutes a 37.16% drop over 10 years.

A similar trend was seen in Government Tribal Residential Schools. In 2014-15, the student strength was 30,933. By 2024-25, it had dropped to 24,439 - a decline of nearly 21%.

Together, these schools had 1.23 lakh students in 2021-22. The figure declined to 1.14 lakh in 2022-23, 1.06 lakh in 2023-24, and 1.01 lakh in 2024-25. As of June 25 this academic year, enrolment stood at 98,124 in these schools.

When contacted, officials

acknowledged the significant reduction in student strength, and attributed it to various factors including migration of families to urban areas and increasing preference for private schools. However, they denied that the fall was due to poor infrastructure or shortage of teachers.

Since 2021, the department has spent ₹400.93 crore on infrastructure upgrades, including 119 smart classrooms, 174 smart boards, and 206 high-tech laboratories in these schools. Of the 4,938 sanctioned teacher posts, 4,003 are filled through regular appointment, while 729 are filled through school management committees. Steps are being taken to fill the remaining posts, officials added.

Source: *The Hindu*, 26 June 2025, p.6

TNEA 2025 rank list released; general category counselling set to commence on July 14

There will be 3 rounds for academic and general streams. Candidates will get five days to report to colleges after provisional allotment. Online counselling for special categories will be on July 7 and 8

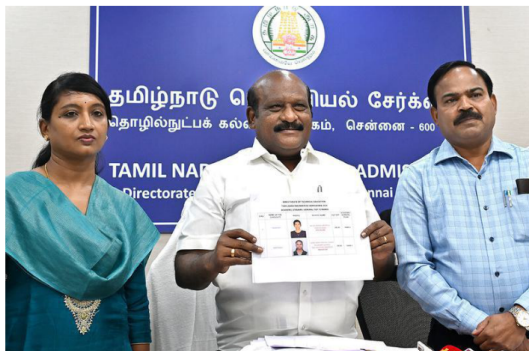
The Hindu Bureau
CHENNAI

The single-window counselling for undergraduate seats in engineering colleges affiliated to Anna University will start in Tamil Nadu on July 14 for the general category, Higher Education Minister Govi. Chezhaian said on Friday after releasing the Tamil Nadu Engineering Admissions (TNEA) 2025 rank list in Chennai.

The TNEA 2025 committee will conduct three rounds of counselling for the academic and general streams. However, there will be only one round for the vocational stream. Candidates may view their ranks at www.tneonline.org. They will get five days, until July 2, to approach the TNEA Facilitation Centres (TFCs) in case of any grievance. If government school candidates do not find their names, they may approach the nearest TFC to get their grievance redressed.

Candidates may also dial 1800-425-0110 to clarify doubts or send an e-mail to tneacare@gmail.com.

Online counselling for special categories - including sportspersons (2,446 applicants), persons with disabilities (473 candidates), and wards of ex-servicemen (1,361 applicants) - will be held on July 7 and



Set for admissions: Higher Education Minister Govi. Chezhaian releasing the TNEA 2025 rank list at the Directorate of Technical Education in Chennai on Friday. B. VELANKANNI RAO

8. Counselling for all students under the provisional horizontal reservation for government school students, the general stream, and the vocational stream will begin on July 14.

First round

In the first round of academic counselling, 39,145 candidates with a cut-off of 200-179 will participate. The last date for confirming acceptance of provisional allotment order to join and move upward is July 19. In the second round that will start on July 26, 25,376 candidates with a cut-off of 178.965-143.085 marks will participate. In

the final round that begins on August 7, 1,01,588 candidates with a cut-off ranging from 143 marks to 77.500 marks will participate.

Mr. Chezhaian said 2,41,641 of the 2,50,298 candidates who had paid the registration fee had been included in the merit list this year, 41,773 more candidates than last year. This year, 51,004 candidates had applied in the horizontal reservation category.

A total of 47,372 candidates were included in the merit list, 15,149 more candidates than last year. A total of 2,342 candidates were found eligible for the

vocational stream counselling and 8,657 applications were rejected.

Of the 2,41,641 candidates who will take part in the general category counselling, 1,32,582 are boys and 1,09,055 girls, besides four transpersons. In the vocational stream, one candidate is a transperson. Among the government school students, 524 candidates are in the vocational stream and 46,848 are in the general stream.

The counselling will end on August 26. Despite the late start this year, the counselling will conclude two weeks earlier than last year.

FIRST OF ITS KIND

TN higher edu council to release draft policy on academic, admin audit

BINITA JAISWAL @ Chennai

THE Tamil Nadu State Council for Higher Education (TANSCHE), a body entrusted to ensure the quality of higher education in the state, will soon release a draft model policy on academic and administrative audit of higher educational institutions (HEIs) in the state, which is expected to help track student and administrative performances in these institutions. The draft policy is likely to be released on Monday.

As part of the policy, the first of its kind, the quality and administrative health of HEIs will be closely monitored, covering aspects such as appropriate curriculum design, examination evaluation system, and performance of students as well as teachers. The policy will also recommend ways to measure the research performance of the HEIs by keeping track of the publications made by PhD scholars, patents filed by the institute, and consultancy work undertaken by it for industries.

The policy will require the HEIs to ensure if they have appropriate student support systems on the campus, if adequate actions are being taken to ensure safety of students, measures taken for their mental well-being, and mecha-

nisms in place to address grievances received from students of any kind. "The policy is designed to enhance transparency, administrative efficiency and academic performance and it applies to all HEIs in TN, however, state-run institutions will be our priority," said MP Vijayakumar, vice-chairman of TANSCHHE.

Notably, the TANSCHHE had recently released a draft model policy on technology usage in HEIs, which promotes digitisation of all services and facilities available in institutions.

According to higher education department officials, TANSCHHE is working on 12 such policies like policy on outcome-based education, infrastructure and equipment maintenance, among others, to improve the quality of HEIs and ensure accountability. The remaining 10 policies will be released in the next few months. Sources said TN also plans to link the release of a certain percentage of monetary grants to the HEIs on the basis of their adherence to these policies. The adherence to the policies will also be taken into account during the State Institutional Ranking Framework (SIRF) ranking.



Source: *The New Indian Express*, 7 June 2025, p.2

Source: *The Hindu*, 28 June 2025, p.8

Texts on time promise eludes visually impaired

Over 1K students of 10 govt schools for visually impaired yet to get Braille textbooks, rely on second-hand material

SUBASHINI VIJAYAKUMAR
@Chennai

RAJESH (name changed), a visually impaired student, recently joined Class XI at a government higher secondary school for visually impaired in the state. Having studied in a regular school until Class X, Rajesh had relied on audio recording of teachers and other reading aids instead of learning Braille. Now, for the first time, he is being introduced to Braille, a transition that has been challenging in itself. Making it more difficult is the fact that he is forced to use second-hand Braille textbooks passed down by former students. The repeated use has flattened the embossed letters, making them hard for him to feel and read.

Recently, on the occasion of schools' reopening, School Education Minister Anbil Mahesh Poyyamozhi announced that all government schools would re-

ceive textbooks on the first day of the academic year. However, the promise does not seem to have covered around 1,000 visually impaired students studying in the state's 10 government-run schools for visually impaired in different districts who now rely on second-hand textbooks or recordings of the teachers reading the lessons, to learn. More than 1,500 visually impaired teachers employed under the department are also waiting to get Braille textbooks.



EXPRESS ILLUSTRATION

The state government currently operates three higher secondary schools, three middle schools, and four primary schools for the visually impaired under the Department for the Welfare of Differently Abled Persons. According to teachers in these schools, Braille textbooks are frequently delayed by several months. "We breathe a sigh of relief if the textbooks arrive before the end of the term, which is rare. So, we preserve textbooks from previous batches and hand them over to new students," said a teacher at a government higher secondary school, on condition of anonymity.

While the Tamil Nadu Textbook and Educational Services Corporation is the nodal agency for textbook distribution in the state, Braille textbooks are printed by the National Institute for the Empowerment of Persons with Visual Disabilities (NIEPVD) and distributed

to the schools free of cost.

"When we ask for textbooks, they say there is a delay due to issues like paper shortages. The state once had a Braille press, but it was shut down. Reviving it could ensure timely supply of books for our students," the teacher added. Another persistent issue is the lack of mathematics textbooks. "I have been teaching for over 15 years and have never seen a Braille mathematics and science textbook beyond Class III. It has also stopped now. Higher secondary schools don't offer maths groups in Classes XI and XII, but even students till Class X don't have access to proper maths books. Schools run by NGOs provide Braille mathematics books and even maps to their students, while government schools are deprived of them," said another teacher.

Visually impaired teachers working in government schools also face similar challenges.

"Whenever the syllabus changes, we have to buy new Braille books, spending money out of our own pocket. I teach Tamil and the syllabus was reduced this academic year. I have to spend around ₹1,500 per book to get the new Braille textbooks as they cost about ₹4 per page," he added.

Meanwhile, sources at NIEPVD said they begin printing as soon as they receive textbook requests from government schools. The schools can expect to receive books within a few days, they said. On the lack of mathematics and science textbooks, they admitted that producing them using Nemeth code (the standard for Braille mathematics) has challenges and they are working on it. Officials also added that their new initiative to provide textbooks in more readable formats for students with low vision has not yet received proper response from all the schools.

Source: *The New Indian Express*, 16 June 2025, p.2

TN plans mental health counselling for those who fail to clear NEET

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
@Coimbatore

THE state government is planning to launch a special mental health counselling programme through 104 (helpline) for those who could not clear the NEET and board examinations, said Health Minister Ma Subramanian during an event at Coimbatore Medical College Hospital (CMCH) on Sunday.

The announcement came hot on the heels of six students from Tamil Nadu figuring in top 100 ranks in NEET UG 2025. However, the number of students who qualified in NEET in TN recorded a marginal dip of 2.2 percentage points in the results declared by the National

Testing Agency on Saturday.

Ma Subramanian said 1,35,715 students appeared for the NEET from TN, out of which 76,181 were deemed eligible. "Although it is not possible to provide seats to all eligible candidates, the government will give first preference to them while filling the seats. We have received 32,000 applications for the MBBS programme, and counselling will be held soon based on the NEET

score and guidelines provided by the Medical Counselling Committee and Tamil Nadu Medical Council," he said.

During the event, the health minister inaugurated several advanced medical facilities at



CMCH including an Intrauterine Insemination (IUI) - Assisted Reproduction Centre for treating infertility, an Emergency Care and Recovery Centre for intellectually disabled destitute patients, and a 10-bedded Mother-Newborn Intensive Care Unit (M-NICU). He also distributed somatotropin injections for patients receiving treatment for growth hormone deficiency.

The minister also attended a convocation ceremony at the Government Medical College and ESI Hospital in Varatharajapuram, where he presented degree certificates to 94 students.

Source: *The New Indian Express*, 16 June 2025, p.2

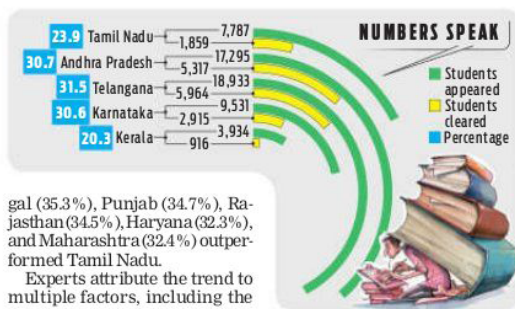
TN lags behind southern neighbours in JEE Advanced pass percentage

SUBASHINI VIJAYAKUMAR
@ Chennai

DESPITE being part of the southern region known for strong performance in JEE Advanced, Tamil Nadu continues to trail behind with only 23.9% of candidates who appeared from the state clearing the exam this year.

Of the 7,787 students from Tamil Nadu who appeared, only 1,859 qualified - a lower success rate compared to Telangana (5,964), Andhra Pradesh (5,317), and Karnataka (2,915), all of which recorded a pass percentage above 30%. Across the country, of the 1,80,422 candidates who appeared for the exam, 54,378 cleared it, showing that Tamil Nadu's pass percentage is also below the national average of 30.1%. Kerala performed marginally lower than Tamil Nadu with 23.3%, while Bihar recorded 20.6%. When compared to other states and union territories from which at least 1,000 students appeared for the exam, Tamil Nadu ranks third from the bottom above Kerala and Bihar.

However, in absolute numbers, a few more students from Bihar (1,876) cleared the examination. Many states including West Ben-



gal (35.3%), Punjab (34.7%), Rajasthan (34.5%), Haryana (32.3%), and Maharashtra (32.4%) outperformed Tamil Nadu.

Experts attribute the trend to multiple factors, including the dominance of the state board curriculum, broader access to higher education within Tamil Nadu, and a general lack of awareness about the exam. They also note that the number of candidates appearing for and clearing the exam has remained largely stagnant over the years.

Though the state government has revised the school syllabus to align better with national-level entrance exams, experts say it is unclear whether teachers and students have effectively adapted to the changes.

"JEE preparation requires in-depth understanding of concepts. Apart from Chennai and Coimbatore, even cities like Madurai lack quality coaching cen-

tres. In contrast, states like Andhra Pradesh and Telangana begin coaching early, giving students an edge," said B Pavan Kumar, a Physics professor and IIT-JEE coach.

S Vasuki Vinodhini, CMD of Kurukshetra IAS Academy, added that many students prefer top government and private engineering colleges within Tamil Nadu, which offer strong placements and research opportunities. She said the government is now working to increase awareness and support for government school students, particularly in rural areas, to improve participation and success in national entrance exams.

GOVT WILL BEAR TRIBAL STUDENT'S EDU EXPENSE: CM

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
@ Chennai

CONGRATULATING A Rajeshwari, a Malayali tribal girl from Karumandurai, a village in the Kalvarayan Hills, who secured an all-India rank of 417 under the Scheduled Tribe category in JEE Advanced, Chief Minister MK Stalin on Thursday announced that the state will bear the entire expenses for her higher studies. *TNIE* was the first to report the story.

The CM, in a post on his X handle, said, "I salute Rajeshwari, a student of the government residential school, for realising her father's dream even after his death. More girls like Rajeshwari joining the IIT will be a real source of pride for the institution. The DMK government will continue to work towards that." The state has been taking care of education expenses of gov-

ernment school students joining premier institutions like IITs since 2003. The government has also allocated ₹50 crore for the *Kalloori Kanavu* scheme in this year's budget to send 2,000 government school students from TN to premier institutions.

TNIE published a report about Rajeshwari on June 5, 2025



With the closing ST rank of the last tribal girl student to get admitted to IIT-Madras in 2024 being 1,691, officials are confident that Rajeshwari will certainly get an IIT seat.

AIADMK general secretary Edappadi K Palaniswami and DMK and AMMK leaders congratulated Rajeshwari on her achievement.

Source: *The New Indian Express*, 4 June 2025, p.2

Source: *The New Indian Express*, 6 June 2025, p.2

In a first, Pachamalai boy cracks CLAT, gets nat'l law univ seat

PEARSON LENEKAR SR @ Tiruchy

WHEN 17-year-old S Bharath from Thoonur village in the Pachamalai Hills walked into the student help desk at Government Model Higher Secondary School, Thuvakudi, on Friday to confirm his seat at Tamil Nadu National Law University (TNNLU), it marked a rare milestone as he is the first from his tribal settlement to clear

the Common Law Admission Test (CLAT) and gain admission to a national law college.

Bharath studied at the Government Tribal Higher Secondary School in Chinna Illupur and secured an All India ST rank of 964. He gained admission into the B.Com LLB (Hons.) course



S Bharath

at TNNLU through Tamil Nadu's 7.5% reservation for government school students. Accompanied by his teacher and father, he paid the ₹20,000 admission fee funded by the Adi Dravidar and Tribal Welfare Department.

"This is a meaningful moment for our school and com-

munity," said P Arjuselvam, the school HM. A state-level AD official confirmed that Bharath is the top CLAT performer this year, among students from the 28 Government Tribal Residential Schools in the state.

He completed Class 12 in the commerce stream with 356/600 and scored 353/500 in Class 10, both in Tamil medium. Despite CLAT being in English, he bridged the gap with consistent

coaching and a short-term orientation at TNNLU. Bharath lost his mother a decade ago. His father, a daily-wage mason, raised three children with the help of his parents. "He (Bharath) has inspired the rest of my kids," the father said.

After rewatching *Jai Bhim*, Bharath said, "This time, I saw it differently. I want to be a lawyer who stands up for people like us."

Source: *The New Indian Express*, 7 June 2025, p.2

TNGASA lookalike website clickbait students applying to govt arts colleges

N DHAMOTHARAN @ Coimbatore

STUDENTS are left in a flurry of confusion while applying online for postgraduate courses at Tamil Nadu Government Arts and Science Colleges (TNGASA), as a doppelganger website will pop up, probably in an attempt to poach some clicks off the official portal. Lakhs of students visit the website during admission time, said sources.

If you type 'TNGASA' on search engines, two domains will appear, the official one with '.in' extension and a lookalike with '.com' extension. The Directorate of Collegiate Education's (DCE) lethargy to purchase domains with other extensions is blamed as the reason behind the confusion. Students applying for Tamil Nadu Engineering Admissions also face a similar plight, with sources from DCE admitting that some-

one also purchased the '.in' domain, which will appear in the second spot on search engines. Officers who manage the portal did not purchase any domains except '.org', they added.

P Deepak, a student in Coimbatore, told *TNIE*, "Recently, I searched for the TNGASA website to apply for a postgraduate course. On it, two websites with the same name,

TNGASA, appeared. When I hurriedly clicked on the second website, which had a '.com' domain, except for the admission process, there were details of all arts and science colleges with advertisements offered by Google."

An assistant professor at a government college in Salem said several students who completed Class 12 faced the same trouble.

A web developer, P Naveen from Coimbatore, said that the DCE should have purchased other domains such as '.com', '.net' and '.org'.

"Since the department failed to do this, someone could have purchased the '.com' extension and then launched and operated a website with the same name. Practically, it is legal. The fault rests with the department, which neglected to acquire the domains priced under

₹5,000 annually," he said.

Government departments should form new websites with a '.gov' name, which would prevent private entities from misusing such websites, he added.

"When a second website appears with the same name, a large number of students will definitely visit the same website organically. Through this, the owner of the website can earn more money using Google AdSense," he explained.

Source: *The New Indian Express*, 28 June 2025, p.4

In Line With The Trend Of Declining Interest In Pure Sciences, 14% More Applications Received In 2025 For Engineering Counselling Compared To Last Year

Gruelling NEET & AI craze push applications for engg to five-year high

Ragu.Raman@timesofindia.com

Fixation with engineering touched a new high in Tamil Nadu as the number of candidates applying for counselling increased by 14% compared to the previous year. A gruelling NEET paper, a curiosity towards emerging technologies, a declining interest in pure sciences (BSc courses), and high capitation fees for management quota seats were cited as reasons for more applications towards engineering counselling this year.

The last date to apply for engineering counselling is June 6. With less than a day to go, Tamil Nadu Engineering Admissions (TNEA) received 2,95,134 applications. Among the applicants, 2,39,871 had paid their fees, while 2,14,005 uploaded certificates as of Thursday. Last year, 2,48,848 candidates registered online, while 2,09,653 submitted fees to participate in the counselling, which is open only to those who have paid the fees.

“Following the release of NEET answer key, there were more inquiries for management quota engineering seats. The daunting NEET experience could result in more applications for engineering,” said D Valavan, principal of Saranathan College of Engineering in Trichy.

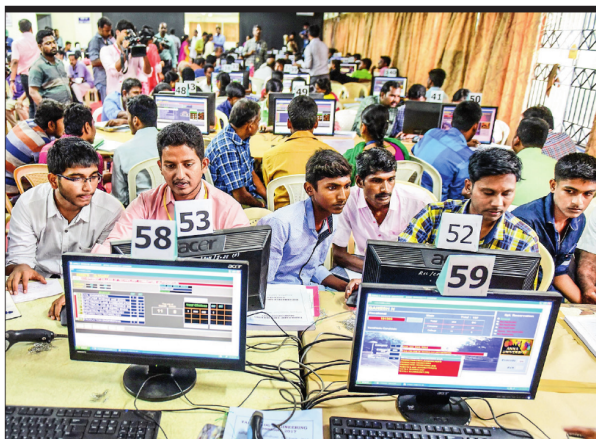
Career consultant Jayaprakash Gandhi attributed the preference for engineering over pure sciences as the main reason for more applications this year. “Colleges collect higher fees for management quota seats (in Physics/Chemistry/Mathematics). So, many students opted to go for counselling to join BE, BTech seats through govt quota, which costs comparatively less,” he said. The number of students opting for science stream in higher secondary schools has also increased compared to the last few years, he added.

Academicians have turned the focus on generative AI tools as a driver of the popularity of engineering courses. In the management quota admissions, more students opted for computer science engineering, information technology, AI and data science, and ECE courses this year. In engineering counselling, computer science engineering is likely to remain the top choice as BSc computer science was popular even among arts and science students.

The high preference for engineering counselling poses challenges four years down the line, vis-a-vis employability of candidates and availability of suitable jobs in the market. “Students will be gainfully employed, provided they come with sound engineering knowledge and are willing to skill themselves and adapt to evolving technologies in AI modules, development boards, and tools,” said K Shanmuga Sundaram, director, Centre for University Industry Collaboration, Anna University.

It’s a perspective that finds resonance among industry leaders too. “The world is increasingly turning technology-intensive. This offers outsized opportunities for engineers across disciplines of specialisation, thanks to rapid innovation occurring at the intersection of technology and businesses,” said Ramkumar Ramamoorthy, former CMD, Cognizant India, and partner at Catalinics, a tech growth advisory firm.

“No country attracted more than 500 Global 1,000 companies in a 10-year period except India,” he added. “This growing trend, coupled with strong investments in tech by Indian corporates and a thriving tech-driven startup ecosystem, will provide engineers with a platform to build their careers in their chosen disciplines of study,” he signed off.

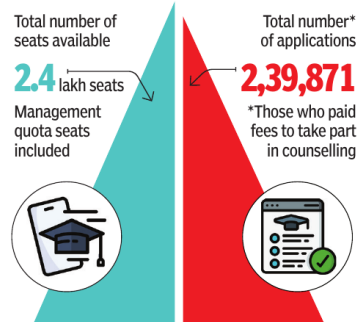


File Pic



EVOLVING CHOICES: In the management quota, more students opted for computer science engineering, IT, AI and data science, and ECE courses this year

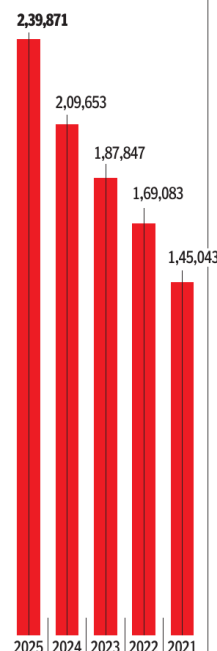
ACADEMIC INTEREST



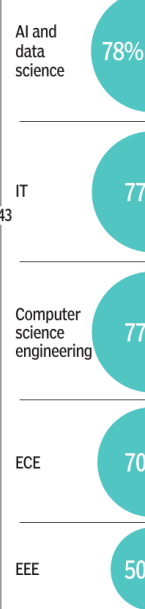
2025 SCHEDULE

- > Last date to apply | June 6
- > Assigning random number | June 11
- > Certificate verification | June 10 to 20
- > Engineering rank list | June 27

APPLICATIONS FOR ENGINEERING COUNSELLING IN THE PAST FIVE YEARS (those who paid fees)



PERCENTAGE OF SEATS FILLED IN THE COUNSELLING AFTER THREE ROUNDS LAST YEAR



Source: *The Times of India*, 6 June 2025, p 2

Now, teachers turn to tech tools to learn, innovate and teach

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Chennai: An app for cursive writing, another for e-books, and a portal for song creation — this is what a private network of about 28,000 teachers has been doing to upskill themselves and make learning a pleasant process for students.

Teachers part of this non-profit Universal Teachers Academy (UTA) help each other in coding, app development and using AI to take augmented and virtual reality (AVR) elements to schools. They have developed apps for cursive writing, song creation and interactive e-books.

Sitting in Salem, a govt schoolteacher, Prabakaran A, uses VR to teach students the five landscapes of the Tamil region — Kurinji, Mullai, Neithal, Marutham, and Palai. Using Eye-Jack.io platform, he inputs images of these landscapes on the portal and embeds a code onto them. When students scan the images, animated versions of flora and fauna found in these landscapes appear on screen.

The benefits do not stop there. A teacher from Thiruvallur, G Karthikeyan, designed an app for cursive writing and displayed it on the smart board in his class-

LEARNING MADE FUN

DEVICES USED TO TEACH STUDENTS



Smart boards



Tablets



Personal mobile phones



ALL AGOG: Students gather around for a study session

COMMONLY USED PLATFORMS	USAGE
MIT App Inventor, Educandy	Games, puzzles, to generate questions
Suno AI	"To generate audios, which can also be converted to songs"
ReadingEggs	To teach phonetic application of words
Runway.ai Leonardo.AI, fliky.ai	To generate videos
WebXR	To generate AR content
Lumi education	Game creation

room. "Students can not only grasp the concepts visually but also practise them in real time," he says.

UTA, functioning with the motto of 'teach, train, transform', has more than 28,000 teachers across the country as participants today. "We've trained more than 2 lakh teachers so far. The 3 to 4-day training happens after quarterly, half-yearly, and annual exams [during holidays]," Symon Peter Paul, an organizer of the group, says.

Besides him, UTA has

seven other organizers. They find sponsors to provide certificates to teachers. Senthil College of Education, Puducherry, provides accommodation, food, and refreshments for them. "We are a group of teachers who train ourselves....This boosts the confidence of teachers and instils a sense of fulfilment in them," says Rajmohan D, a govt teacher from Kallakurichi.

The tech has also found its way into e-books. Indira K, a teacher from Puducherry, uses Book Creator and

Heyzine to create books that embed explanation and animation videos of several "hard-to-grasp" concepts.

Some also use these apps to develop games for students — with or without coding. Gauyathire P, an organizer of UTA, makes use of portals such as Lumi.Education to design crosswords, puzzles, and picture identification games for her students. "Students themselves drag and drop the images on the portal. It helps them discern objects better," she says.

Source: *The Times of India*, 8 June 2025, p 4

ON SEP HIT LIST: COACHING CENTRES, CASTE ON CAMPUS

Ragu.Raman@timesofindia.com

The high-level committee headed by Justice D Murugesan to formulate a State Education Policy (SEP) for Tamil Nadu as a counter to Union govt's National Education Policy (NEP) has recommended banning all coaching centres and tuition centres running parallel to schools and colleges by individuals and private companies in Tamil Nadu.

"Schools and colleges might get redundant if proper action is not taken against such nefarious practices. These centres do not come under the purview of any govt regulatory body. This is for immediate attention for the govt to act on by creating a regulatory body with appropriate powers," Justice Murugesan's committee said in its recommendations submitted to state govt on July 1 last year. **TOI** accessed the report the state govt is yet to make public.

About two lakh students of Classes XI and XII take coaching for National Eligibility cum Entrance Test (NEET) for MBBS, Joint Entrance Examination (JEE) for IITs, and Common Admission Test (CAT). Several schools offer integrated coaching for students for competitive exams from Class VI. While implementing a blanket ban on private coaching looks impractical, the

recommendation is likely to stir the education pot.

The 550-page report also includes recommendations to stopping reimbursement funding for private schools under RTE admissions and fixing the age of three years for pre-primary schools as of July 31. It suggests inclusion of material in the school curriculum to address the evil of caste system. "The curriculum should engage with structures of inequality in society and work towards equality. For the social goal of the annihilation of caste, it is imperative that the curriculum addresses the evil in our society," the report said.

It proposes a body to regulate deemed to be universities in the state. The body will regulate their admission procedure, ensure a quota for students from within the state, fee structures determined by fee committees, emolument structures for teaching and non-teaching staff, adherence to the reservation policy of the state. It recommends restraining the entry of foreign universities as far as possible, as it poses "a great challenge to the present structure and concept of the universities in the state."

Other recommendations include common age for school entry as five years, no common exams till Class X, continuation of three-year UG and two-year PG courses, introducing four-year degrees as only honours and research degrees, continuing with the two-language formula, changing the selection criteria of school teachers, introducing open book exams, and introducing a mission for state higher education. SEP is against multiple entry and exits and suggests delaying the academic bank of credits. It also lays more importance on physical education.

NEP VS SEP

Education starts at the age of three	Only play activities for pre-schoolers
Replacing existing structure of 10 + 2 (Classes I-X + Classes XI-XII) with 5+3+3+4	To continue with existing academic structure
Common exams for Classes III, V and VIII	Only for Class X
Class I starts at six years old	Class I starts at 5 years old
Admissions to UG based on common entrance test	Based on Class XI, XII marks
Multiple entry and exits allowed	No multiple entry and exits
Three-language formula	Two-language formula
To abolish affiliation system after 15 years	To continue with affiliation system

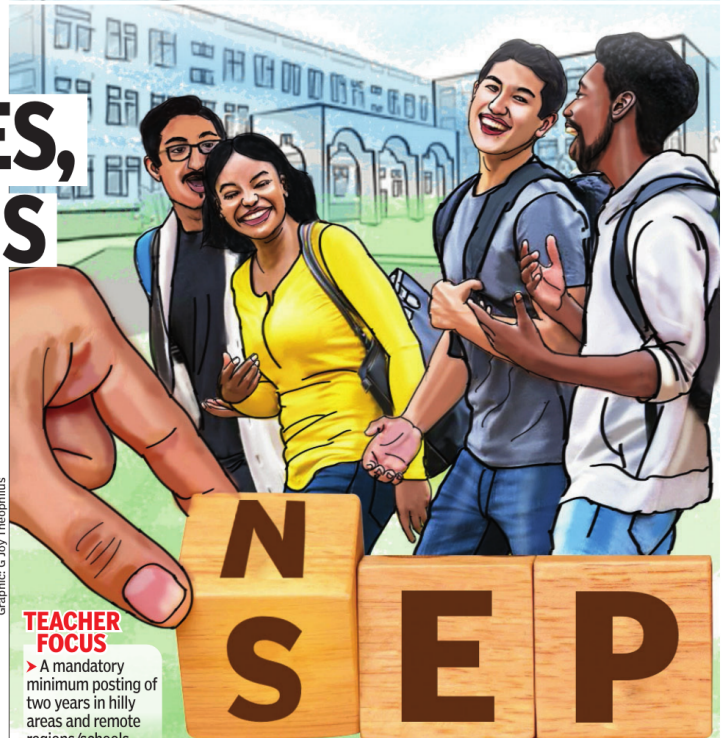
STATE RECOMMENDATIONS

School education

- Class I starts at 5 years old
- Four stages: Primary, Upper Primary, Secondary and Higher Secondary (5+3+2+2)
- To eliminate memorization, information sheets could be provided in open book assessment or closed book assessment
- Physical education periods should be expanded from two periods a week to four
- To appoint physical education teachers at primary level

Higher education

- A state higher education mission should be set up
- No entrance exams; marks obtained in Class XI, XII should be the basis for admissions to higher studies
- 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
- No permission for foreign universities



Graphic: G Jay Theophilus

TEACHER FOCUS

➤ A mandatory minimum posting of two years in hilly areas and remote regions/schools

➤ Teacher selection may be upgraded after consultation with stakeholders. Assessment in pedagogy should be prioritized rather than rote learning

➤ Tamil Nadu Dr MGR Medical university shall be upgraded as a Centre of Excellence with its own super-specialty hospital and college

➤ Anna University can be made an exclusive Technological University for Research and PG Courses in specialized fields

Source: *The Times of India*, 10 June 2025, p 4

Higher edu department to focus on improving placements in TN varsities

Universities told to identify skills required by industries in the region, train students accordingly

BINITA JAISWAL @Chennai

WORRIED over the poor placements in state universities, the higher education department has now decided to strengthen the placement cell in the varsities and monitor its performance.

The higher education department officials will now conduct regular meetings and video conferences with placement officers, registrars and even controllers of examinations to guide, improve and review the placement-related developments.

Expressing concern over the poor placements, higher education secretary C Samayamorthy has urged varsity officials to identify employment sectors

in regions surrounding the universities and their affiliated colleges and to provide training to students in those sectors and improve their placements.

"Various kinds of industries are coming up in the districts. Keeping in mind the skills required by the industries, we

can train our students accordingly and help them bag jobs. The varsities just need to identify the skills required in the region and Naan Mudhalvan will help in training the students," a senior higher education department official told *TNIE*.

University officials have also been directed to identify students with arrears in their final semesters and enable them clear their arrears in the subsequent attempt so that they get placed. The department has already issued a circular to help the slow learners and with this fresh direction the varsities have been asked to provide special attention to them.

Higher education department officials said though Naan Mudhalvan scheme provides an array of training programmes, the universities and affiliated colleges are not implementing the

scheme properly and not deriving benefit from it.

"In many universities, it has been noticed that permanent faculties are not getting involved in the implementation of Naan Mudhalvan scheme. We need to implement the scheme in full spirit to make our students industry ready and employable," the official added. He further stated that the commissioner of collegiate education has been entrusted with the duty to ensure participation of permanent teaching faculties in the faculty development programme of Naan Mudhalvan.

The varsities have also been directed to ensure that students are given proper guidance on job opportunities, internships, higher studies and research options available in their subject during the course period so that they can make correct choice regarding careers.



EXPRESS ILLUSTRATION

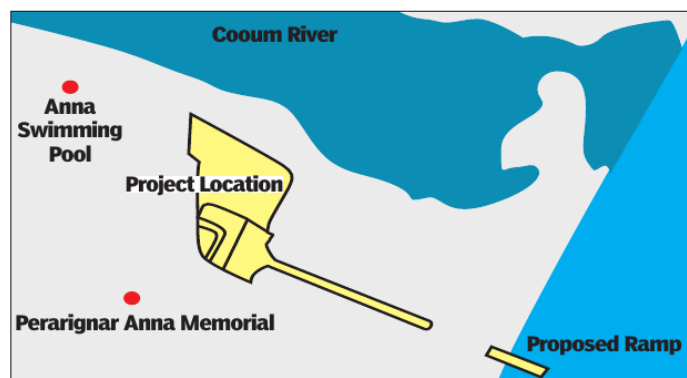
Source: *The New Indian Express*, 17 June 2025, p.2

Centre clears TN's ₹7cr sailors academy

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Chennai: Union environment ministry's expert panel has cleared Tamil Nadu's plan to build a ₹7-crore Sailors Academy near Marina. Proposed by Sports Development Authority of Tamil Nadu (SDAT), the facility will be developed on 2.7 acres at the mouth of Cooum River under CRZ-II norms, which permit regulated development in already urbanised coastal areas.

Project involves the construction of a single-storey training block with a total built-up area of 729 sqm. The building will contain classrooms, restrooms, and storage areas for gear, along with designated training zones. A 52-metre-long platform will connect the



MARINA PROJECT: This state-backed facility will target students

centre to the riverbank, and a 30-metre ramp will allow boats to be launched directly into the Cooum. The facility will also train participants in kayaking, rafting, tube boating, scuba diving, jet skiing, undersea walking, and glass-bottom boating.

Unlike most existing sailing initiatives confined to private clubs, this state-backed facility will target school and college students, especially those enrolled in govt sports hostels. Yachting Association of India will provide technical support for the initiative.

J Meghanatha Reddy, member secretary of SDAT, said the project was awaiting clearance for some time. "Now that we received the go-ahead, we will review the detailed plan and begin tender process. We aim to align its opening with Asian Youth Sailing Championships scheduled for January," he said.

The academy will follow coastal regulation restrictions, including a no-construction buffer of 20 metres from High Tide Line. Ground-water extraction and use of plastics are banned. The design includes provisions for solar power, rainwater harvesting, and solid waste management. Once operational, the site will have lifeguards and emergency communication systems in place.

Source: *The Times of India*, 10 June 2025, p.3

Cut through clutter: Tamil dataset to train AI models

Vaitheeswaran.B@timesofindia.com

Netizens engaging with AI models in Tamil or any regional language often come across incoherent translations, jumbled sentences, bizarre choices of words and poor grammar, but overlook them as the bables of a budding ecosystem. But not Raju Kandaswamy, a senior IT professional, who believes such errors throw a spanner in the works of Tamil's linguistic integrity.

"Current training datasets are heavily distributed in English language and therefore do not accurately represent Tamil language or its cultural context. Users over a period of time absorb and internalise these biases leading to slow erosion of cultural values," he said. An increasing number of people, including senior citizens, rarely pick up books and consume Tamil content only through the internet or through speech. In a world increasingly mediated by LLMs, involved in web searches, shopping and education, this creates a problem.

Kandaswamy is principal consultant at Thoughtworks in Coimbatore and part of AI Tamil Nadu, a non-profit community aiming to improve how AI models work in Tamil. The team is building a large-scale Tamil language dataset to train AI models, and is collaborating with authors and other organisations to curate large, high-quality datasets. Their plan is using these data repositories to fine-tune open-source models such as Meta's Llama and make it available for anyone to build Tamil-specific models.

He believes that these models can be used to deliver govt services, communicate welfare schemes, and enable vernacular education to the masses, especially the rural population. Abinaya Mahendiran, a natural language processing expert and member of AI Tamil Nadu, is leading the initiative named Vidhai. She too thinks it is crucial for preserving Tamil culture.

"Access to high-quality datasets in less represented languages is limited, and Tamil is no exception. Machine-translated content is often inaccurate. So, we collect original Tamil texts such as books, essays and articles from various sources, clean them, and annotate them with the help of volunteers, students, linguists, retirees, and teachers. A trove of Tamil books and printed material is yet to be

digitised," she said.

Today, many independent researchers and language enthusiasts are spending their own money to improve Tamil AI models. But as Abinaya notes, lack of computing resources and difficulty in mobilising volunteers are major barriers.

The Tamil Virtual Academy (TVA) has a digital library of more than 1 lakh books containing around 1.5 crore pages, spanning subjects from science to history. It is also developing tools like syntactic parsers, morphological analysers, and 'parts of speech' taggers, resources critical for NLP research. Yet, fragmented efforts, siloed developments, and fuzzy copyright guidelines hinder collaboration. A senior official confirmed that TVA could collaborate with AI technologists, but ambiguity around copyright and fair use remains a bottleneck.

Navaneeth Malingan, founder of AI Tamil Nadu, is attempting to bridge the ecosystem, by bringing together various elements -- from scouting for students volunteers and linguists to getting access to computing resources through corporate sponsorship. He says these kinds of models are crucial for delivery of govt services for locals, while commercial AI models will be useful

for most business cases. "The govt can use it to fill forms through voice, give instructions to farmers and teach Tamil to the younger generation. Various stakeholders including govt and companies should be brought together to build these models suitable for the use cases," he asserted.

The community is currently fine-tuning existing AI models to improve its performance in Tamil, but is ambitious about building one from scratch - albeit a small-domain focused model. It will use a tokenisation method inspired by Nannul, the 13th century Tamil grammar treatise, to better reflect the language's morphological structure instead of the currently widely used Byte-Pair Encoding (BPE) method. Tokenisation refers to the process of breaking down text into smaller units called tokens.

From adopting the printing press in the 1500s (the first in India), to adopting Unicode for the internet, Tamil has consistently been an early adopter of new communication technologies. Now, it should be able to find its place in the AI age.



KEEPING IT LOCAL: Members of the AI Tamil Nadu group at the Tamil computing conference

Govt. modifies norms for appointing Tamil medium candidates

Those who pursued education in Tamil medium will benefit from 20% preferential appointment in the Tamil Nadu government service

Dennis S. Jesudasan

CHENNAI

Candidates who did not attend Class I but pursued education under the Right to Education (RTE) Act with Tamil as the medium of instruction (up to the prescribed level) will benefit from the 20% preferential appointment in the Tamil Nadu government service.

This quota is meant for Person Studied in Tamil Medium (PSTM) candidates. The government recently modified the guidelines for this purpose.

According to the new guidelines issued for the Human Resources Management Department by Chief Secretary N. Muruganandam, candidates who could not join Class I, but who went to school under the RTE Act (from Classes II to VIII) with Tamil as the medium of instruction, can get preferential appointment if they meet other conditions.

The modification also allows preferential appointment to those who have studied in other States, with Tamil as the medium of instruction, and resumed their education (in Tamil) in Tamil Nadu. "They should obtain certificates from all the educational institutions,

Source: *The Hindu*, 9 June 2025, p.2



Easing guidelines: The State government recently modified the rules set for those who pursued education in Tamil. FILE PHOTO

The new norms also allow preferential appointment to those who studied in other States with Tamil as the medium and resumed studies here

one of the guidelines as "only those persons who have completed their entire education, right from their schooling up to the qualification prescribed in the relevant service rules" are eligible.

The decision is also expected to benefit those who might have gone to 'night schools' (which function from 6 p.m. to 9 p.m.) set up by the district administration. The order is expected to benefit candidates who did not have formal education from Class I, but completed their schooling under the RTE Act.

that their medium of instruction was Tamil up to the prescribed qualification," the order said.

The modification followed a March 2024 judgment of the Madras High Court and representations to the government in this regard. The High Court, in its judgment, modified

CM opens ₹198-cr multi-speciality hosp

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @ Vellore

CHIEF Minister M K Stalin on Wednesday inaugurated the newly-constructed Government Super Multi-Speciality Hospital, built at a cost of ₹197.81 crore, on the historic Pentland Hospital premises in Vellore. The launch marked the beginning of his two-day tour of Vellore and Tirupathur districts.

Spread over a land area of 2,15,278 sqft with a total built-up area of 3,77,263 sqft, according to a release, the seven-floor hospital is expected to serve as a major healthcare hub for Vellore and neighbouring districts.

As per the release, key facilities on the ground floor include the maternity ward, emergency department, emergency surgery theatre, paediatric emergency ward, outpatient department and radiology wing. The



Chief Minister MK Stalin, accompanied by ministers and officials, inaugurating the facility in Vellore | EXPRESS

Roadshow draws big crowd

Stalin, who arrived by train, was greeted by party cadres at Katpadi station. A roadshow followed, with enthusiastic crowds lining the streets en route to the hospital. He also briefly walked near Green Circle, waving at supporters

first floor houses the paediatric surgery department, paediatric ward, and blood bank. The second floor includes the paediatric



medicine and surgery department, adolescent ward, a medical simulation lab, and paediatric ICU. The third floor has the paediatric child welfare department, neonatal intensive care unit (NICU), and neonatal continuous care unit. Prenatal and postnatal care units, along with a maternity ICU, are located

on the fourth floor. While the women's welfare department is on the fifth floor, laboratories are the sixth floor. The seventh floor houses operating theatres and a post-anaesthesia care unit.

The hospital is equipped with 560 beds, 11 operation theatres, nine elevators, a modern kitchen, a sewage treatment plant, a high-voltage power room, and a mortuary.

In addition to the flagship hospital, the release said the CM also inaugurated public health infrastructure projects including new buildings for seven primary health centres (PHCs) and two sub-health centres, constructed at a combined cost of ₹7 crore. Following this, Stalin inaugurated a new party office named Kalaignar Arivalayam and unveiled a statue of former CM M Karunanidhi at Anaicut.

Source: *The New Indian Express*, 26 June 2025, p.4

Phase V of COVID-19 survey finds 97% seropositivity among the elderly in six districts across Tamil Nadu

The Hindu Bureau
CHENNAI

Phase V of the COVID-19 serosurvey, conducted among elderly persons in Chennai and five districts in April, has found a 97% seropositivity (presence of IgG antibodies to SARS-CoV-2).

Of all five phases of serosurveys taken up in Tamil Nadu, the latest one has recorded the maximum protective level of COVID-19 antibodies even after a three-year gap, as the last serosurvey was done in December 2021.

According to the Directorate of Public Health (DPH) and Preventive Medicine-State Public Health Laboratory (DPH-SPHL),

3,643 blood samples were collected from elderly persons as part of the Elderly Panel Survey conducted in Chennai, Tiruvallur, Tiruvannamalai, Tiruchi, Dharmapuri, and Kanniyakumari districts in April.

Preliminary analysis of 1,214 samples tested for SARS-CoV-2 IgG found the protective levels of immunity to be 97%. Considering the three-year gap before conducting Phase V of the serosurvey, the prevalence of protective level of SARS-CoV-2 IgG is "very high and significant", the DPH-SPHL said.

An effective vaccination drive by the State government may be responsible for the high level of protection against the SARS-



The Government Medical College and Hospital in Thoothukudi is getting ready to handle any increase in COVID-19 cases. N. RAJESH

CoV-2 virus. In addition, natural infection and sub-clinical infection due to the weakened Omicron sub-lineage of SARS-CoV-2 may have also enhanced the development of antibodies. Owing to the high seroprevalence of antibodies, the virus could not cause sev-

ere illness, while deaths were almost nil in the State, it said.

'Immunity has risen'
Health Minister Ma. Subramanian said the survey had shown that the immunity levels had increased in the State. "In

this situation, a non-virulent strain (of SARS-CoV-2) may not have much impact, but it is important for persons with co-morbidities, pregnant women, immunocompromised persons, and the elderly to take precautions while visiting public places," he said. Reiterating that there was no need to panic, he said the elderly, immunocompromised persons, persons with co-morbidities, and pregnant women should wear masks, wash their hands frequently, and maintain physical distance at public places.

In the first serosurvey, done in October 2020, the seroprevalence was 32%. This was followed by the second phase in April 2021

that recorded a seropositivity of 29%. Phase III in August 2021 and Phase IV in December 2021 found a seroprevalence of 70% and 87%, respectively.

SARS-CoV-2 IgG antibodies were detected from the community samples with the CLIA technology. Each phase of the serosurvey covered more than 25,000 samples selected by population-proportionate sampling across the State. Cluster pouches were used for uniformity in the sample collection process. The DPH-SPHL functioned as the apex laboratory for the State to provide lab training, logistics support, quality assurance, testing and reporting of the serosurvey.

Source: *The Hindu*, 12 June 2025, p.6

Covid-19 death toll rises to 37 with 5 new fatalities, including one from TN

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New Delhi: The death toll due to the present wave of Covid-19 in the country has touched 37, with five fatalities reported on Tuesday, which included two from Maharashtra and one each from Kerala, Tamil Nadu and West Bengal. The total number of Covid-19 cases has touched 4,026, with Kerala reporting 1,416 cases, followed by Maharashtra (494), Gujarat (397) and Delhi (393).

Of the 37 Covid-19 deaths reported in the country this year, a maximum of 10 have occurred in Maharashtra, which is followed by Kerala (9), Delhi (4), Karnataka (4), Tamil Nadu (3) and Uttar Pradesh (2). Gujarat, Madhya Pradesh, Punjab, Rajas-



'NO SEVERE SYMPTOMS': Of the 37 Covid-19 deaths reported in the country this year, a maximum of 10 have occurred in Maharashtra, which is followed by Kerala, Delhi and Karnataka

than and West Bengal have reported one death each.

Both the people who died in Maharashtra on Tuesday were women in their 70s with co-morbidities that included diabetes, according to information shared by the govt. The victim in Kerala was an 80-year-old man with

severe pneumonia, acute respiratory distress syndrome, diabetes, hypertension and coronary artery disease.

The deceased from Tamil Nadu was a 69-year-old woman with type 2 Diabetes Mellitus and Parkinson's Disease, while the one from West Bengal was a 43-year-old woman with co-morbidities that included acute coronary syndrome, septic shock and acute kidney injury.

"The present surge in Covid-19 isn't causing severe symptoms. Most people are either asymptomatic or have mild symptoms. Nonetheless, precaution is warranted as certain sections of the population, like the elderly and those with co-morbidities, remain at risk of complications if they con-

tract the infection," said a senior doctor.

"Whenever cases increase, we look at three things: transmissibility or how fast the disease is spreading, the ability of the virus or its variant causing the infection to escape immunity caused by previous infection or vaccination and the severity of symptoms in those affected by it," Dr Rajiv Bahl, director general of Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR), said in a recent interview.

Dr Arjun Khanna, who heads the pulmonology department at Amrita Hospital, Faridabad, said one of the key features observed in the present wave is that Covid-19 has become clinically more indistinct from other viral respiratory infections.

Source: *The Times of India*, 4 June 2025, p 9

State expands Japanese Encephalitis vaccination to seven more districts

Village Health Nurses will be involved in administering the vaccine to children aged 1-15. Health Minister Ma. Subramanian says a total of 32,64,099 children will benefit from the drive

The Hindu Bureau
CHENNAI

Tamil Nadu is scaling up Japanese Encephalitis (JE) vaccination to seven more districts. They are Kancheepuram, Chengalpattu, Tirunelveli, Tenkasi, Vellore, Nagapattinam, and Chennai.

According to the World Health Organization (WHO), the Japanese Encephalitis virus is spread by mosquitoes (especially *Culex tritaeniorhynchus*). Though symptomatic JE is rare, the case fatality rate among those with encephalitis can be as high as 30%.

Permanent neurological, cognitive and behavioural sequelae occur in 30%-50% of those with encephalitis, it has said.

The Health Department had already identified 14 districts — Cuddalore, Villupuram, Kallakurichi, Virudhunagar, Tiruchi, Tiruvarur, Madurai, Perambalur, Ariyalur, Thanjavur, Tiruvannamalai, Karur, Pudukkottai, and Tiruvallur — as endemic to Japanese Encephalitis.

Vaccination was taken up in these districts, and a total of 58,22,906 people have so far benefited from the drive.

The vaccination pro-



Vector-borne: According to WHO, Japanese Encephalitis virus is spread through mosquitoes. REPRESENTATIONAL IMAGE



Whenever we start seeing cases in a particular area, we expand the services. This is one strategy to reduce infant mortality rate

T. S. SELVAVINAYAGAM
Director of Public Health and Preventive Medicine

gramme would be expanded to seven more districts, and camps would be conducted at government and private schools and Anganwadi centres. Village Health Nurses, who are trained in immunisation, would be in-

involved in administering the vaccine to children aged 1-15.

Health Minister Ma. Subramanian said a total of 32,64,099 children would benefit, according to a press release.

T.S. Selvavinayagam, Director of Public Health and Preventive Medicine, said, "Whenever we start seeing cases in a particular district or area, we expand the services. This is one strategy to reduce infant/child mortality rate."

He added that the vaccine was supplied free by the Government of India.

In fact, a study taken up by Christian Medical College, Vellore, and the Di-

rectorate of Public Health and Preventive Medicine found that between 2022 and 2024, there was a noticeable increase in cases (more than five cases) in districts other than the 14 endemic areas such as Chennai, Kancheepuram, Chengalpattu, and Tenkasi.

From January 2022 to December 2024, 306 confirmed cases were reported in Tamil Nadu, with the majority of the patients aged 10-19. Chennai had the highest proportion at 40.5%, followed by Tiruvallur, 8.2%, and Tiruvallur, 6.2%.

The highest number of cases — 120 — occurred in 2022, followed by 112 in 2023, and 74 in 2024, the study's authors (Regina Elizebeth Joy et al) said in an article, "Epidemiological profile of JE in Tamil Nadu, 2022-2024: A secondary data analysis of IDSP". It was published in the *Tamil Nadu Journal of Public Health and Medical Research*.

The study recommended measures, including more vaccination coverage and monitoring, targeted public health interventions, geographically focused control measures, and investigation into urban risk factors and the need for pre-monsoon preventive measures.

Health department will start siddha fertility clinic, says min Ma Su

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

Chennai: The health department will start fertility clinics under the department of Indian medicine on a pilot basis, similar to allopathic fertility clinics, at the Govt Siddha Hospital in Chennai, health minister **Ma Subramanian** said on Saturday.

The minister, who took part in a yoga demonstration as part of International Yoga Day, said the state started three allopathic fertility clinics — one each in Chennai, Coimbatore, and Salem — recognizing the increasing prevalence of infertility and the need for improved access to affordable and high-quality fertility care, as well as further research into the underlying causes and effective prevention strategies.

"I read an article by a doctor from this institution who said textbooks of siddha medicine, written centuries ago, prescribe drugs to solve infertility. We will soon start a siddha clinic for fertility on this campus," he said.

The state is also working on legislation to set up a siddha university at Madhavaram. The Tamil Nadu Siddha Medical University

Tamil Nadu is the only state where there are govt-run colleges for five streams of Indian medicine and homeopathy

Bill, 2022, which was tabled in the state legislative assembly, was earlier withdrawn. The govt said it will undertake fresh legislation in tune with the provisions contained in the National Commission for Indian System of Medicine Act.

In 2021-2022, the govt announced it would establish a separate siddha university.

A bill passed by the Tamil Nadu assembly on April 28, 2022, was sent for the Governor's assent, but it was sent from Raj Bhavan for the assent of the President.

The Centre said certain provisions of the Tamil Nadu Siddha Medical University Bill, 2022, are not in accordance with the National Commission for Indian System of Medicine Act, 2020. "We will place the new bill in the coming assembly session," Subramanian said.

Tamil Nadu is the only state where there are govt-run colleges for five streams of Indian medicine and homeopathy. The govt will fill doctor vacancies in this stream soon.

Source: *The Times of India*, 22 June 2025, p 2

Source: *The Hindu*, 30 June 2025, p.5

750-bed paediatric hospital to come up at King Institute

₹487.66 Crore
Invested In
Seven-Storey
Building

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

Chennai: A 750-bed multi-specialty paediatric hospital will be built on six acres at the King Institute of Preventive Medicine and Research campus in Guindy, health minister Ma Subramanian said here on Sunday.

The hospital will be attached to a postgraduate and super-specialty paediatric institute that will function as a constituent medical college of Tamil Nadu Dr MGR Medical University. It will be the third hospital on the campus after Kalaingar Centenary Super-specialty Hospital

PROJECT DETAILS

Academic & clinical integration

The new hospital will be attached to a postgraduate and super-specialty paediatric institute, functioning as a constituent medical college of the Tamil Nadu Dr MGR Medical University



Funding and facilities

➤ The state has allocated ₹487.66 crore for the construction of a seven-storey hospital building spanning 3.15 lakh sq ft

➤ It will feature 100-bed intensive care units and house 20 departments

➤ The entire institute will be funded and run solely by the Tamil Nadu Dr. MGR Medical University

and the National Institute of Ageing.

The state has set aside ₹487.66 crore for construction of a seven-storey (including the ground floor) hospital building on 3.15 lakh sqft, with hostels and other medical infrastructure. "This is the highest allocation for a hospital in the state so far," said Ma Subramanian, who visited King Institute along

with senior health officials including health secretary P Senthilkumar to inspect the proposed site.

"We got the nod from the chief minister last week. Tenders will be allocated soon, and construction is likely to begin in Sept. The institute will be funded and run entirely by the university," he added.

The hospital will have 100-bed intensive care

units, pay wards, shared wards, and suites. University vice-chancellor Dr K Narayanasamy said the facility will have 20 departments, including 14 unique departments. These include medicine, critical care, surgery, gastroenterology, orthopaedics, neurology, nephrology, pulmonology, cardiology, urology, hemato-oncology, neurosurgery, plastic surgery, and an organ transplant unit.

"After the hospital is established, we will start postgraduate super-specialty courses in paediatrics, and the institution will serve as a centre of excellence for paediatric care in rare diseases. It will also undertake research to bridge the gap between academic learning and real-world paediatric healthcare delivery," he said. The new institute will also help the university take part in NIRF rankings, he added.

Source: *The Times of India*, 23 June 2025, p 6

TN to take up ₹3,360 cr worth sewerage projects in 14 corps

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

Chennai: As part of efforts to strengthen urban infrastructure, the Tamil Nadu govt is implementing underground sewerage work worth ₹3,360 crore across 14 municipal corporations under the AMRUT 2.0 scheme.

The Atal Mission for Rejuvenation and Urban Transformation (AMRUT 2.0), launched in Oct 2021, aims to ensure universal access to basic urban services such as water supply, sewerage, and sanitation. In TN, cities including Tirunelveli, Vellore, Dindigul, Salem, Cuddalore, and Nagercoil will benefit from the ongoing sewerage work.

More than 3,000 km of sewer pipelines will be laid, along with new sewage pump-



WORK IN PROGRESS: SWD work at PT Rajan Salai, KK Nagar

ping stations, enabling over five lakh households to shift from septic tanks to a direct underground drainage (UGD) network.

Officials from the Municipal Administration and Water Supply (MAWS) Department said the works are expected to begin within a month and will take around two years for completion

across districts. "Deadlines vary by corporation. The UGD network will also help prevent pollution of local rivers," said a senior official.

In total, more than 60 local bodies in TN have received project approvals under AMRUT 2.0, with a sanctioned cost of ₹14,688 crore, including ₹4,942 crore in central assistance.

Source: *The Times of India*, 9 June 2025, p 5

TN seeks retention of in-service quota for super-specialty in Round 2

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

Chennai: Health minister Ma Subramanian has sought the intervention of Union health minister J P Nadda to ensure that all 50% of seats earmarked for in-service candidates under the state quota are retained and made available in Round 2 of state-level NEET super-specialty counselling.

The first round of counselling for admission to super-specialty courses such as cardiology, nephrology, neurology, urology, cardiac, and vascular surgery, conducted by the medical counselling committee under the directorate general of health services (DGHS), ended on May 27.

As per the Supreme Court order, Tamil Nadu reserved 50% of seats in these courses in govt medical colleges of the state exclusively for govt doctors (in-service candidates).

While only 30% of candidates took the seats allotted to them, more than 70% of the 215 seats were vacant, officials said.

While the state does not have adequate candidates qualified to join the course, officials said the Centre must



DENIED OPPORTUNITY: Only 30% of seats allotted in the first round of NEET super-specialty counselling

While only 30% of candidates took the seats allotted to them, more than 70% of the 215 seats were vacant, officials said

consider in-service candidates if and when they reduce percentile scores in the subsequent rounds.

On May 29, the state selection committee formally requested DGHS to indicate the dates for the second round of counselling to allow the upgradation of seats for in-service candidates.

“However, it has come to our notice that the process

of surrendering the unfilled in-service seats to the All-India Quota is being considered, without conducting the mandatory second round of counselling at the state level. Such a move would effectively deprive our in-service candidates of their rightful opportunity to upgrade or participate in further counselling and would be contrary to the spirit and intent of the Supreme Court’s order,” Subramanian wrote.

He urged Nadda’s intervention to ensure that all 50% of seats earmarked for in-service candidates under the state quota are retained and made available in Round 2 of counselling.

Source: *The Times of India*, 12 June 2025, p 8

Association flays G.O. on dialysis services at PHCs through PPP model

The Hindu Bureau
CHENNAI

With the State government issuing an order to establish dialysis facilities in upgraded Primary Health Centres (PHC) and run them based on the Public Private Partnership (PPP) model, the Service Doctors' and Post-Graduates' Association (SDPGA) registered its objection to it.

The association has stated that dialysis is a tertiary care service that requires technicians under the supervision of physicians, and engaging private players to run dialysis units may lead to full-fledged privatisation in the future.

Under this, the Director of Public Health and Preventive Medicine has been given the responsibility to run the dialysis units based on the PPP model. In a statement issued on Wednesday, the association

Source: *The Hindu*, 26 June 2025, p.2

said that PHCs are focused on the primary prevention aspects of the health system.

As Tamil Nadu is witnessing an increase in cases related to non-communicable diseases that involve high blood pressure, diabetes, heart, and kidney ailments, PHCs should be strengthened for the early identification of risk factors to prevent further complications. Roping in a tertiary service will divert the PHCs from their main role, the association contended.

SDPGA said that engaging the private sector may lead to full privatisation. Currently, dialysis facilities are available in all district headquarters hospitals and medical college hospitals without private partners. SDPGA demanded the government to expand this system to taluk and non-taluk hospitals.

Deceased donor count crosses 100 in first five months of 2025 in Tamil Nadu

The Hindu Bureau
CHENNAI

Tamil Nadu is maintaining its momentum in organ donations by deceased donors, with the number of donors crossing 100 in the first five months of 2025. The State has recorded a total of 109 donors, as of May 31.

When compared to the same period last year, the number has remained relatively stable - there were 118 donors last year, according to officials of the Transplant Authority of Tamil Nadu (TRANSTAN).

It may be noted that Tamil Nadu had a record number of organ donors in 2024, at 268. It was the highest number to be recorded by a State in a calendar year since the deceased donor programme began in the country.

A total of 1,500 major organs and minor organs/tissues were retrieved and utilised, Dr. N. Gopalakrishnan, TRANSTAN's member secretary, said.

"The State continues to maintain its momentum in deceased donor organ donations. Of the 109 donors so far this year, 47 were from government hospitals," he added.

Brain death

While the majority of donors are those who had suffered traumatic brain injuries in road accidents, resulting in brain death,

Source: *The Hindu*, 4 June 2025, p.8

When compared to the same period last year, the number has remained relatively stable, according to TRANSTAN officials

the focus is also on brain death resulting from medical causes such as intracranial bleeding, Dr. Gopalakrishnan said.

While the number of deceased donor organ donations has been improving in the last few years, the long waiting list for organs, specifically kidneys, remains a cause of concern.

Spreading awareness

Looking ahead, TRANSTAN wants to focus on spreading awareness and sensitising the public on organ donation. It was with this goal in mind that a students' charter of deceased organ donation programme was recently launched at Madras Medical College, he said, adding that the initiative would be expanded to other medical colleges.

"Through this, medical college students can act as student ambassadors of the programme even before they become professionals, starting from their study period before they move on to the profession. Organ donation is a movement, and everyone in society has a role to play," he added.

No new infrastructure or posts sanctioned for 642 Health Sub Centres in T.N.

While giving administrative nod for establishing the HSCs, State govt. says Auxiliary Nurse Midwives working in PHCs will have to be redeployed as they are interchangeable with Village Health Nurses

Serena Josephine M.
CHENNAI

Tamil Nadu is set to see the creation of 642 Health Sub Centres (HSCs) in rural and urban areas. However, there is a catch – the facilities have been approved without new staff posts or basic infrastructure support. Instead, Auxiliary Nurse Midwives (ANMs) working in Primary Health Centres (PHCs) will be redeployed to the HSCs.

This decision has raised questions over the Health Department's handling of acute shortages of manpower, including around 3,000 vacancies of Village Health Nurses (VHNs)/ANMs, over the past four years while adding health infrastructure.

The State has 8,713 HSCs, with the norms prescribing one HSC for every 5,000-6,000 people. Establishing 642 urban and rural HSCs on the basis of population was one of the announcements made by the Health Minister in the Assembly earlier this year.

In line with this, a Government Order issued on June 13 stated that the Directorate of Public Health and Preventive Medicine had submitted a proposal for the creation of 642 HSCs on rationalisation as



On a par: The government said the posts of Village Health Nurses and Auxiliary Nurse Midwives carry similar pay scales.

per population norms in rural and urban areas “with no additional fund”. Each HSC has one VHN.

Based on the proposal, the State government, while giving administrative nod for establishing the HSCs (617 rural and 25 urban), stated that the creation of new posts will not be sanctioned, and ANMs had to be redeployed to the HSCs as the posts of VHNs and ANMs carry identical pay scales, and are interchangeable.

The available rent-free building or any government building should be utilised for the HSC and, for the most basic infrastructure such as fans and furniture, the existing infrastructure in the PHC

within which the HSC is located should be utilised. But this is not all. Electricity charges for the newly-created HSCs should be paid using the funds allocated towards electricity charges for the respective PHCs.

Unresolved shortage

As per official data, 2,013 posts of VHNs (of the 8,713 sanctioned posts) and 1,251 posts of ANMs (of the 2,057 sanctioned posts) are lying vacant, a source in the Health Department said.

“This shortage has remained unresolved for the last four years due to court cases. For a government that has strong legal teams, it is unacceptable

that legal issues relating to health manpower are not being resolved,” he said.

Redeploying ANMs from PHCs to HSCs would create additional vacancies in the PHCs. “As of now, 806 ANMs are in place. If around 600 of them are shifted, additional vacancies will arise in PHCs; not to mention there are many vacancies of staff nurses in PHCs,” he added.

“Every time we ask about this, court cases are cited for the delay in filling the VHN vacancies. As a result, maternal and child health services are getting affected. When the government has been successful in many cases, it should sort out this issue at the earliest. Instead of redeploying ANMs, the department should create new posts and fill the vacant posts of VHNs at the earliest,” said K.S. Manimegalai, State president, Tamil Nadu Government Health Women Union.

A health official said the vacancies would be filled once the case is vacated in the Supreme Court. “We have already filed the counter to vacate the stay, and are waiting for the judgment,” he said, adding that ANM redeployment would be done as per procedure and need.

Source: *The Hindu*, 26 June 2025, p.6

Many private hospitals in T.N. hit by acute shortage of Hepatitis B vaccine

Fall in supplies has made it hard for hospitals to vaccinate those at risk; this vaccine is recommended for infants, healthcare workers and those with weak immune system

Serena Josephine M.
CHENNAI

Private hospitals across the State have been facing a shortage of Hepatitis B vaccine over the past few months. The fall in supplies has made it difficult for many hospitals to vaccinate adults at risk, especially those on dialysis.

Hepatitis B vaccine is recommended for infants under the Universal Immunisation Programme (UIP), and for adults at risk such as healthcare providers and people with compromised immune systems. Inquiries with doctors in a number of districts, including Madurai, Tiruchi, Chennai, Erode, and Theni, revealed that there is a shortage of vaccines in many private centres.

A doctor in Madurai said, "We had reached a point where we were left with very few doses of the vaccine. We could not vaccinate newborn children, but got support from government facilities. We received a supply recently, but the quantity does not meet our demand. There has been an acute shortage of the vaccine for the last seven to eight months, and we are unsure of the reason. We have been continuously raising the issue with the manufacturer almost every week."

Multi-dose vials, which have 10 doses each, are used for healthcare workers since it is cost-effective, whereas, single dose vials are used for patients, she said.

"This is mainly recommended for patients visiting nephrology and oncology departments. Due to acute shortage for a few months, we could not vaccinate them," she added.



Multidose vials are used for healthcare workers, whereas single dose vials are for other patients.

Doctors in Erode pointed out the difficulty in vaccinating healthcare workers and patients on dialysis due to limited stock, as well as the increase in the cost of vaccines.

A year ago, the Chennai Liver Foundation wrote to the vaccine manufacturing company on the poor supply of vaccines. A little later, vaccines were supplied, prioritising the pentavalent ones meant for UIP, while those for adult usage trickled in now and then, according to Vivekanandan Shanmugam, its managing trustee. "We wrote to the Government of India and they, in response, acknowledged the short supply. They said vaccines would be supplied prioritising the pentavalent doses, and those for the high-risk population. We are not sure when this issue will be sorted out," he said.

Survey to check availability

There is a real shortage, and that is why the foundation has sent a survey form to all practitioners and gastroenterologists across India to assess the availability of the vaccine in their

centres, Dr. Vivekanandan says, adding: "This is a gross problem as vaccination is crucial to prevent liver cancers. The World Health Organisation recommends Hepatitis B testing and vaccination for all adults. But given the situation, we should try to test and vaccinate at least those at high risk such as healthcare workers, child-bearing women considering the risk of transmission from mother to child, immune-compromised persons, and those with co-infections such as HIV."

A government doctor said there was increased dependency on the government sector as private hospitals in tier-2 cities and semi-urban areas were facing the shortage of vaccines.

Another government doctor added that while the vaccine was freely available for the UIP, they were using the buffer stock for vaccinating patients such as those on dialysis.

T.S. Selvavinayagam, Director of Public Health and Preventive Medicine, said the government sector faced no challenges with procuring the vaccine. "We have 6.34 lakh doses. This is mainly for healthcare workers. Considering our monthly requirement of around 81,000 doses, this stock will last seven to eight months. We also have 2.62 lakh doses of pentavalent vaccine, which is part of the UIP. The pentavalent contains Hepatitis B, and we have supplies that will last over 1.5 months," he said.

He added that if there was any issue with the availability of vaccines in the private sector, people could reach out to Primary Health Centres, where vaccination would be provided as per the UIP schedule for free.

T.N. government initiates measures to roll out HPV vaccination for girls aged 14

Serena Josephine M.
CHENNAI

Moving ahead to implement its budget announcement, Tamil Nadu has initiated the process to procure Human Papillomavirus (HPV) vaccine for girls aged 14. This is to prevent cervical cancer, which is the second most common cancer in women.

The Tamil Nadu Medical Services Corporation (TNMSC) has floated tenders for the procurement, and the supply is most likely to reach hospitals in another three months.

One of the key budget announcements for 2025-2026, the State government plans to progressively provide HPV vaccination to all girls aged 14 years. It allocated ₹36 crore for the purpose.

In line with this announcement, the Health Department constituted a State Advisory Committee in April for the rollout of the HPV vaccination programme.

The committee, which has the Health Secretary as its chairperson, comprises officials and experts. The directors of School Education, Public Health and Preventive Medicine, Medical and Rural Health Services, Medical Education and Research, Institute of Child Health, and Institute of Obstetrics and Gynaecology are among its members.



Proactive steps: ₹36 crore has been allocated by the T.N. govt. to provide HPV vaccination to all girls aged 14. M. SRINATH

Experts, including those in the field of HPV vaccination projects, and representatives from technical/partner agencies are also a part of the committee.

"The State Advisory Committee has discussed all modalities, including protocols for vaccination. Based on its recommendations, we have gone ahead with the procurement of vaccines. The TNMSC has floated the tenders to procure them," T.S. Selvavinayagam, Director of Public Health and Preventive Medicine, said.

He added that the programme would be initiated by vaccinating girl aged 14 (students of Class IX) in government and government-aided schools.

"Prior to vaccination, we will start creating awareness among children and their family mem-

bers," he said.

Another official said it would take another three months for the supply to reach hospitals.

Cancer Institute (WIA), in a year of launching its HPV vaccination initiative at its screening centre at Villupuram Government Hospital and Chennai, has so far administered around 3,500 doses of HPV vaccine, according to Jayashree Natarajan, Gynaecologic Oncologist and Associate Professor, Cancer Institute (WIA).

"The numbers are more in Chennai owing to high awareness levels," she said.

Cervical cancer is the second most common among women after breast cancer. However, it is still the most prevalent cancer in some rural areas, she said, adding: "Vaccination is not going to prevent cervical cancer alone. It will prevent pre-invasive lesions that progress to cancer."

There are no concerns regarding the safety of the vaccines, she says.

"HPV vaccination programmes have been implemented in places such as Canada, Australia, New Zealand, and the United States. These countries have brought down the cervical cancer rates through screening and vaccination," Dr. Jayashree said.

Source: *The Hindu*, 21 June 2025, p.4

Source: *The Hindu*, 15 June 2025, p.3

Number of strays surges, but corp'n halts neutering drives

Only 1 In 3
Among The
1.8 Lakh Strays
Sterilized

Swedha.Radhakrishnan
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Greater Chennai Corporation (GCC) has stopped performing Animal Birth Control (ABC) surgeries for three weeks citing maintenance work and revisions to the diet plan for sterilized dogs amid a dangerous surge in the stray dog population, increasing risk of dog bites and rabies. The civic agency's survey in 2024 counted at least 1.81 lakh stray dogs, of which only 27% were sterilized—leaving around 1.32 lakh dogs fertile. The number of strays surged from 57,000 in 2018 to 1.81 lakh in 2024. Soon after the survey, GCC decided to open 10 new ABC centres to increase the number of sterilization surgeries and vaccinations. While this has not materialised, operation theatres in four existing centres have been shut down for maintenance.

Residents in neighbourhoods—especially in the suburbs and densely populated pockets—report packs of aggressive strays roaming freely. “We have not seen any dog-catching drive here. All we see are new litters. Dogs are increasingly aggressive, and bites have been reported from our area,” said M Gnanaprakasam of Senniyamman Koil Street in Tondiarpet.

GCC officials said they had paused surgeries based on recommendations of veterinary professionals posted at ABC centres by the Tamil Nadu Animal Welfare Board (TNAWB). “They suggested better maintenance and dietary changes for dogs. Earlier, packed foods were given, but the TNAWB recommended including cooked

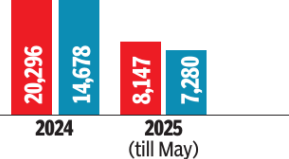
Pics: A Prathap



DOGGED PURSUIT

TRAP NEUTER RETURN

Total Dogs Caught
ABC* surgeries
(*Animal birth control)



RABIES VACCINE

➤ Efficacy depends on vaccination timing, correct dosage, and proper wound care

➤ Severe Wounds (Category III,

sometimes category II) or severe bites need immediate vaccination and rabies immunoglobulin (RIG)

➤ Transdermal bites/scratches (puncture skin, bleed) | **Animal licking eyes, nose, mouth, broken skin, or mucous membranes** | Any direct contact with bats

➤ Complete all vaccine doses — intramuscular: Days 0, 3, 7, 14, 28; intradermal: Days 0, 3, 7, 28).

➤ Do not skip doses even if wounds heal or aren't visible

TRANSMISSION RISK FACTORS

BITE SITE | Higher Risk Areas: Bites

on head, neck, face, fingers, or toes (due to shorter nerve pathways/more nerve endings)

Severity: Deep bites or contact with mucous membranes/broken skin increase risk



VIRAL LOAD | Higher Load = Higher Risk: More virus in animal saliva (common in later stages of rabies) increases transmission likelihood and can shorten incubation

ESSENTIAL POST-EXPOSURE CARE

➤ Always treat biting animals as potentially rabid

➤ Wash wounds with soap, running water for 15 mins, apply antiseptic

foods,” said GCC Commissioner J Kumaragurubaran.

The board has advised palatable, watery foods such as cooked chicken and rice, in prescribed quantities, said Shruti Vinod Raj, a member of TNAWB. “In some pounds, milk and chapati were being given, but many dogs are lactose intolerant,” she said. Dogs must be kept for five days after surgery, she said adding issues identified will be reported for corrective action.

But, residents are worried. In Jan, the GCC Commissioner announced that the stray dog population would be controlled through minimally-invasive laparoscopic surgeries. However, nothing has happened since, said V Sandhya, of Anna Nagar. “Without urgent action, this could turn disastrous,” she said.

At least 20,000 stray dogs are caught annually, of which only 15,000 to 16,000 are sterilized. This means it would take at least eight

years for GCC to sterilize the existing population of dogs, residents pointed out.

Officials say five new ABC centres will be opened in a couple of months, and the rest will be operational by Nov. “The number of kennels at existing centres will be increased from 100 to 200, and cages from 40 to 150. In each of the new centres, we plan to conduct around 30 sterilization surgeries per day,” said GCC Veterinary Officer Dr J Kamal Hussain.

Source: *The Times of India*, 24 June 2025, p 2

TN launches statewide waste collection drive

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

Chennai : Tamil Nadu govt has launched a massive state-wide waste collection and recycling drive on the occasion of World Environment Day. This initiative marks the inaugural phase of the state's latest cleanliness campaign spearheaded by the Clean Tamil Nadu Corporation Limited (CTCL).

As part of this ambitious drive, waste was collected from 1,100 government offices across Tamil Nadu, including the secretariat, greater Chennai corporation (GCC), directorates of municipal administration and rural development, district collectorates, and town panchayats.

The collected waste included a variety of material such as plastic, electronic waste, metal scraps, paper, glass, and unusable wooden items. The initiative was im-

plemented following strict government-issued guidelines, with designated officers overseeing the segregation and handover of waste to authorized collectors.

To ensure effective monitoring, a dedicated control room was established at the GCC premises. The deputy chief minister personally visited the facility, reviewed the progress, and provided key directives. He was joined by the chief secretary, additional chief secretary, officials from the special programme implementation department, the Chennai corporation commissioner, and other senior govt officers.

So far, approximately 250 metric tonnes of waste have been collected under this initiative. All collected materials will be processed using advanced technologies for recycling and reuse, adhering to environmental regulations.

Source: *The Times of India*, 7 June 2025, p 8

In one day, 300 tonnes of waste from govt offices

The Drive Was Part Of 'Thooimai Iyakkam'

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Chennai: Tamil Nadu govt on Thursday collected over 300 metric tonnes of waste from 1,100 govt offices across the state, including the state secretariat. The initiative, launched under the "Thooimai Iyakkam" (Cleanliness Movement), coincided with World Environment Day on June 5 and marks the beginning of a larger, phased campaign.

Deputy CM Udhayanidhi Stalin said the initiative was kicked off in all 38 districts. "We have created a war room in GCC's headquarters to monitor the activities," he said, adding that the drive will also expand to



PLANNING THE FUTURE: Deputy chief minister Udhayanidhi Stalin reviewed the clean up drive from the control room in Chennai

colleges, hospitals, and schools in the next ten days.

The drive was spearheaded by the newly established Clean Tamil Nadu Company Limited (CTCL), which aims to streamline the collection, recycling, and reuse of waste across state departments. Offices of district collectors, corporations, municipalities, panchayat unions, and various other departments participated in the effort, handing over pre-segregated waste including plastic, e-waste, metals, paper, glass, and unusable furniture.

Udhayanidhi said the initiative must be a long-term one,

seeking support from members of the public. Officials said all collected waste will be processed in the composting centres and will either be recycled or reused. The special projects department also released guidelines to all govt offices to carry out cleaning drives every week and segregate the waste.

Udhayanidhi said measures to improve the initiative, including funding, will be discussed.

Earlier this week, the govt released a video on solid waste management awareness featuring actor Yogi Babu on waste segregation and disposal.

Source: *The Times of India*, 6 June 2025, p 5

TN govt invites applications to empanel waste recyclers

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

Chennai: In a move that will formally recognise and integrate Resident Welfare Associations (RWAs), NGOs, and community-based groups into Tamil Nadu's solid waste management ecosystem, the state govt has invited applications to empanel waste collection and recycling agencies.

The Clean Tamil Nadu Company Limited (CTCL), under the Special Project Implementation Department, is spearheading the initiative as part of its 'Thooimai Iyakkam' or Clean Movement. The aim is to build an integrated, sustainable, and decentralized waste ma-



nagement system across both urban and rural areas.

The empanelment will cover agencies involved in collecting, processing, and recycling all types of solid waste. Selected firms will be authorised to support local bodies and coordinate with informal waste workers while adhering to environmental regulations.

Officials said this is a step

towards creating a robust circular waste economy while ensuring scientific handling, accountability, and social inclusion. Applications and related documents can be submitted at: <https://thooimaimission.com/partnerships>

Raman of Panneer Nagar RWA, in Mogappair, who segregates waste daily, said empanelling vendors and publishing their details online will encourage more people to hand over recyclable waste directly to them. "At the moment, people get information only through social media. A formalised system will help reduce the volume of waste going to landfills," he said.

Source: *The Times of India*, 2 June 2025, p 5

'Moms exposed to air pollution; kids prone to cavities'

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

Chennai: Breathing in smoke and pollution from cooking fires and cigarettes, even before birth, may weaken oral health for children, resulting in cavities.

The research, conducted in TN as part of the Household Air Pollution Intervention Network (HAPIN) trial, found exposure to polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons (PAHs) — toxic chemicals released by burning wood, charcoal, and tobacco — may significantly raise risk of early childhood caries (ECC), or tooth decay. Researchers discovered that higher PAH exposure during the first and third trimesters of pregnancy, as well as during infancy, was associated with a 35%-39% increased risk of tooth decay in preschoolers. PAHs, found in smoke from biomass stoves and secondhand tobacco smoke, may interfere with tooth development and alter the oral microbiome, leading to long-term dental damage. "These pollutants compromise tooth quality during development and change the bacterial environment in the mouth," said lead author Dr Sneha Patil, a paediatric dentist and public health

FINDINGS

WHAT THEY DID

Researchers measured PAH levels in pregnant mothers' urine and their babies' urine at six months

WHAT THEY FOUND

- Many children in the study had cavities, with over half having visible holes
- If mothers had higher PAH levels during their first and third trimesters, their children were about 9% more likely to get cavities
- Higher PAH levels in babies at six months increased their cavity risk by about 8%. Children with the highest overall postnatal PAH exposure had 35-39% more cavities than those with the lowest exposure

WHAT IT MEANS

The study suggests that early-life PAH exposure, including during pregnancy, is linked to a higher chance of developing cavities. This problem is worsened by exposure to secondhand smoke and biomass cooking, highlighting a critical need to reduce these exposures to protect children's oral health

vels of two specific PAHs — naphthalene(2-NAP), and pyrene(1-PYR). They also checked 712 children's teeth, when they were aged between 3 and 5, to measure cavities, after verifying family background and children's diet.

"Air pollution studies have not included dental outcomes," said senior author, Kalpana Balakrishnan, Dean of Research at Sri Ramachandra Institute of Higher Education and Research. "We found links in air pollution with birth weight and mental health, but we are now discovering newer areas of health it affects," she said.

At least 67% of children had dental caries. Among them, 33% had cavities, or holes in the teeth. Children can experience pain, sensitivity, and discomfort that can disrupt their eating habits, leading to potential nutritional deficiencies and affecting their overall growth.

Source: *The Times of India*, 7 June 2025, p 2

120 tonnes of waste removed from Thamirabharani river

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

Tirunelveli: More than 120 tonnes of waste, primarily ritual waste, were removed along a stretch of the Thamirabharani river near Papanasam in Tirunelveli district in a 21-day clean-up drive, which concluded on Wednesday.

Activists blame the rising trend on advice given by some priests and astrologers who claim that discarding belongings of the deceased into the river ensures peace for the departed soul.

Led by 74-year-old environmental activist B Moorthy, a retired assistant director of statistics, the campaign was supported by local NGOs and volunteers. The bulk of the waste comprised 93.8 tonnes of wet clothes, largely attributed to items discarded after thithi rituals.

SAVING A RIVER

Types and Quantity of Waste Collected

➤ Wet clothes | **93.8 tonnes**

➤ Stones | **3.5 tonnes**

➤ Metal scraps | **1,720 kg**

➤ Glass items & photo frames | **975 kg**

➤ Plant debris | **23.5 tonnes**

➤ Plastic waste | **4,540 kg**

➤ Footwear | **580 kg**

➤ Sanitary waste (napkins, diapers) | **255 kg**



FLTH REMOVED: The clean-up was taken up for 21 days

➤ Oil lamp residues | **120 kg**

➤ Broken mud pots | **1,800 kg**

➤ Discarded deity idols | **3.5 tonnes**

The team also retrieved 3.5 tonnes of stones, 23.5 tonnes of plant debris, and large quantities of plastic (4,540kg), metal scraps (1,720kg), footwear (580kg), glassware and photo

frames (975kg), sanitary waste (255kg), and oil lamp residues (120kg). Additionally, 1,800kg of broken mud pots and 3.5 tonnes of discarded deity idols were recovered from the five-

km stretch downstream of the Papanasam temple. Moorthy, who was involved in river clean-up efforts for over 15 years, said that waste collection during this sea-

son consistently crossed 100 tonnes recently. "Despite the local administration placing bins and awareness boards, people continue to throw ritual waste directly into the river," he said. Officials attempted to tackle the issue with periodic announcements and by appointing contractors to collect reusable clothes left behind. However, items linked to death rituals are still commonly dumped into the river.

"We've tested water samples downstream of the temple — the pollution levels are too high for the water to be considered potable," Moorthy added. Moorthy received the Tamil Nadu govt's Green Champion Award in 2023 for his conservation work.

"What we need now is sustained govt support and regulation to end these harmful practices," he said.

Source: *The Times of India*, 14 June 2025, p 6

T.N. notifies greater flamingo sanctuary at Dhanushkodi

It spans 524.7 hectares and is part of the Gulf of Mannar Biosphere Reserve. The move aims to preserve a critical stopover point along the Central Asian Flyway for migratory wetland birds

The Hindu Bureau
CHENNAI

The Tamil Nadu government has officially declared a greater flamingo sanctuary at Dhanushkodi in Ramanathapuram district.

Chief Minister M.K. Stalin inaugurated the sanctuary via video conferencing at an event organised by the Departments of Environment, Climate Change and Forests in Chennai on Thursday to celebrate World Environment Day.

Thangam Thennarasu, holding additional charge as Minister for Environment, R.S. Rajakannapan, Minister for Forests, and Supriya Sahu, Additional Chief Secretary to Departments of Environment, Climate Change, and Forests, participated in the event.

The move aims to preserve a critical stopover point along the Central Asian Flyway for thousands of migratory wetland birds.

The sanctuary spans 524.7 hectares and encompasses both revenue and forest lands within Rameshwaram taluk.

The designated area, part of the ecologically



Rich in biodiversity: According to the recent 2023-24 Wetland Bird Survey, the Dhanushkodi region recorded over 10,700 wetland birds, representing 128 species including herons, egrets, sandpipers, and both greater and lesser flamingos. L. BALACHANDAR

sensitive Gulf of Mannar Biosphere Reserve, is home to a variety of ecosystems, including mangroves, sand dunes, mudflats, and marshes.

These unique features support a rich biodiversity, from migratory birds and marine life to nesting sea turtles.

A Government Order (G.O.) issued on June 4, by Ms. Sahu, noted that according to the recent 2023-24 Wetland Bird Survey,

the Dhanushkodi region recorded over 10,700 wetland birds, representing 128 species including herons, egrets, sandpipers, and both greater and lesser flamingos.

Ecologically crucial

Mangrove species such as *Avicennia* and *Rhizophora* dominate the Dhanushkodi lagoon, providing essential breeding grounds and natural defenses against coastal erosion.

The sanctuary status is expected to encourage responsible ecotourism, generate local employment, and raise public awareness about wetland conservation, the G.O. said.

T.M. Anbarasan, Minister for Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises, Srinivas Reddy, Principal Chief Conservator of Forests (Head of Forest Force), Rakesh Kumar Dogra, Chief Wildlife Warden, also participated.

Source: *The Hindu*, 6 June 2025, p.10

Anna University study calls for transition from old shuttle looms to cut noise pollution

The Hindu Bureau
CHENNAI

A recent study conducted by Anna University's Centre for Environmental Studies (CES) has identified the use of outdated shuttle looms as the main cause of excessive noise pollution from the power loom industry in Tamil Nadu.

Home to around 5.68 lakh power looms, Tamil Nadu has the highest concentration of power looms among the Southern States.

The study was commissioned by the Tamil Nadu Pollution Control Board

(TNPCB) following a *suo motu* case initiated by the Southern Bench of the National Green Tribunal on the persistent noise pollution at Tharamangalam in Salem district.

The study recommends transition to shuttle-less looms, along with soundproofing measures, to bring the noise levels to the permissible residential standards. The TNPCB tasked the CES with carrying out a study to identify suitable technology to mitigate noise from power looms. The final report, submitted on November 19, 2024, was recently presented to stakeholders at a



Reducing risks: The study recommends replacing the conventional looms with shuttle-less looms and installing soundproof barriers made of transparent materials on doors and windows to reduce ambient noise at a distance of 6 metres to 7.5 metres from the loom.

meeting organised by the TNPCB.

According to the report, the primary contributor to the elevated noise

levels is the shuttle mechanism in the conventional looms. The CES recommends replacing them with shuttle-less

looms and installing soundproof barriers made of transparent materials on doors and windows to reduce ambient noise at a

distance of 6 metres to 7.5 metres from the loom. The study also raises concern over the prolonged exposure of workers to

high decibel levels, often above the permissible occupational limits.

Long-term effect

Despite the health risks, many loom operators remain unaware of the long-term effect of noise exposure. Some have become desensitised to the noise, while others fear that acknowledging the problem may jeopardise their livelihoods. The study calls for mandatory use of personal protective equipment like earplugs, along with awareness programmes and regular medical camps.

At the stakeholder

meeting, officials of the Department of Handlooms said an immediate shift to shuttle-less looms across the board would be unfeasible and would place a substantial burden on small-scale weavers and the government. To facilitate gradual modernisation, representatives of the Tamil Nadu Small Industries Development Corporation and the Small Industries Development Bank of India suggested a funding model that combines government subsidies, long-term bank loans, and partial contributions from entrepreneurs.

Source: *The Hindu*, 4 June 2025, p.8

Muthupet mangrove cover increased by 2,057 hectares in the last three years

The Hindu Bureau
CHENNAI

Muthupet, a coastal town located in the Tiruvallur district of Tamil Nadu, has witnessed a notable transformation over the past few years in its mangrove cover.

Muthupet is home to the largest mangrove forest in the State, spanning 120 sq.km along the Palk Strait. According to an official document, the mangrove area in Muthupet has grown by 2,057 hectares from 2022 to 2025.

The Muthupet wetland complex, encompassing six reserved forests, is an ecosystem that supports diverse wildlife, including over 100 species of migratory water birds like Lesser Flamingos and Spot-Billed Pelicans.

Natural shield

These mangrove forests, dominated by *Avicennia marina*, act as a natural shield against storm surges, tsunamis, sea-level rise, and coastal erosion.

They also play a key role in the ecology of the Cauvery delta, and the hydrology of several important distributaries.

A major driver behind this revival has been the active involvement of the local community, particularly the

fishing families living in villages surrounding the wetland, along with the Forest Department.

The restoration activities, which have been ongoing since 2001, have adopted various techniques to opti-

Muthupet is home to the largest mangrove forest in the State, spanning 120 sq.km along the Palk Strait

mise mangrove growth. According to Supriya Sahu, Additional Chief Secretary to Departments of Environment, Climate Change and Forests, the fishbone technique, introduced in 2004, has been a game-changer. This design allows for better tidal water flow, essential for mangrove establishment, by creating a network of canals that disperse seeds naturally.

'Step-type canals'

In 2023-24 alone, 350 hectares were treated using this method, with a new trial of "step-type canals" aimed at increasing propagule survival rates.

"Under the Green T.N. Mission, in Muthupet alone we have planted more than 12 lakh mangrove propagules creating 1350 hectares of new plantations here," Ms. Sahu wrote on social media platform X.

According to the official note, between 2022 and 2024, Muthupet saw a total of 1,350 hectares of new mangrove plantations, with another 707 hectares undergoing restoration.

Source: *The Hindu*, 30 June 2025, p.5

Deep trouble: Groundwater level dips in 13 dists

S GURUVANMIKANATHAN
@ Chennai

A total of 13 districts in Tamil Nadu have recorded a fall in their groundwater level in May compared to May last year, according to data compiled by the Water Resources Department (WRD) for 37 districts barring Chennai.


The sharpest fall was witnessed in the delta district of Thanjavur, where the groundwater level has gone down by 2.51 metres. While the availability was at 1.9 metres in May 2024, it dropped to 4.41 metres in May this year. This is despite ample rain in the monsoon and Karnataka releasing more water in Cauvery due to bountiful rains, which ensured adequate release of water for irrigation in the delta region.

A senior official from WRD told *TNIE* that despite availability of river-based irrigation systems in the delta and western regions, many of the farmers still use borewells due to easy availability, leading to faster depletion of groundwater levels.

In Erode and a few other western districts, officials said farmers prefer growing high-value crops such as turmeric, betel vine, banana, and vegeta-

NUMBERS AT A GLANCE			
District	Water Level (May 2024)	Water Level (May 2025)	Fall (m)
Thanjavur	1.90	4.41	2.51
Mayiladuthurai	2.42	3.34	0.92
Krishnagiri	4.52	5.40	0.91
Tirunelveli	4.57	5.46	0.89
Cuddalore	4.28	4.95	0.67
Pudukkottai	6.40	6.94	0.54

The sharpest fall was witnessed in Thanjavur, where the groundwater level has gone down by 2.51 metres | FILE PIC



bles, which are water intensive. As a result, the use of groundwater in these areas is very high, they added.

In the remaining districts, the groundwater level either remained same or marginally improved, according to WRD. Studying Chennai's groundwater levels comes under the purview of Chennai Metropolitan Water Supply and Sewerage Board.

Officials said that though awareness programmes are conducted to explain the adverse environmental impact, checking over-extraction of groundwater remains a major challenge for the state government. Besides, the growing population and increasing need

for more water are also reasons for groundwater depletion, an official said.

It may be noted that the WRD has presented a proposal to carry out village-level study of aquifers in three districts for a more granular understanding of the issue so that localised plans can be devised to tackle the issue.

"To improve the situation, we (WRD) have taken steps such as building check dams, and desilting ponds, canals, and lakes to help recharge groundwater," the official added.

V Ravichandran, a farmer from Tiruvallur, said that changing weather patterns and erratic rainfall have worsened

the situation and have made farmers to rely on groundwater, which is also depleting fast. "Nowadays, we are facing irregular monsoons and climate change issues. In earlier times, we used to get rainfall spread over two to three months during the monsoon. But now, we see heavy downpours in a short span. This also affects groundwater recharge and leads to depletion," he added.

He urged the state government to take effective steps to promote rainwater harvesting across the state. "It is also essential to desilt small water-bodies like ponds and lakes to improve water storage and groundwater recharge," he added.

Source: *The New Indian Express*, 14 June 2025, p.4

Discarded fishing gear major cause of marine debris in 13 TN districts

S GODSON WISELY DASS @Thoothukudi

The theme for World Environment Day 2025 is "Beat Plastic Pollution", but assessment about beach litter across 64 coastal villages in 13 coastal districts of Tamil Nadu revealed Abandoned, Lost or Discarded Fishing Gear (ALDFG), as the main source of trash with an average density of 1.14 items/m². This highlights the need for strict implementation of Extended Producer Responsibility policies, and enhancing waste reception facilities.

Discarded fishnets, plastic nets, ropes, traps, buoys and other fishing gears, referred to as Abandoned, Lost or Discarded Fishing Gear (ALDFG), contribute to biodiversity loss, habitat degradation, entanglement and ingestion hazards for marine organisms and the deterioration of coastal environments. The study on assessment of beach litter, including Abandoned, Lost, or Discarded Fishing Gear (ALDFG) in 52 coastal villages, published in Elsevier's Marine Pollution Bulletin in February this year has established that discarded fishing gears constituted 47.46 % of litter, followed by plastics (39.64 %), and non-plastic items (12.9 %). During the study, the experts collected 6132 marine debris weighing 201 kg from the 1040-meter surveyed shoreline with 20 m per village in 13 districts. Pudukkottai recorded the highest litter concentration with 2.68 items/m², followed by Villupuram.

Also, recreational activities in the beaches accounted for debris of bottle caps (25%), food wrappers (19%), and plastic bags (12%) besides, non-



Discarded fishnets, plastic nets, ropes, traps, and buoys contribute to biodiversity loss, habitat degradation, and ingestion hazards for marine organisms | V KARTHIKALAGU

Pudukkottai, Villupuram most littered shorelines

During the study, the experts collected 6,132 marine debris weighing 201 kg from the 1,040-meter surveyed shoreline with 20 m per village in 13 districts. Pudukkottai recorded the highest litter concentration with 2.68 items/m², followed by Villupuram

plastic litters like paper, cardboard, and glass bottles, says the study by experts of Suganthi Devadason Marine Research Institute (SDMRI), Tamil Nadu Pollution Control Board (TNPCB) and Fishing Technology and Operations Team (NFIFO) of Italy.

Speaking to *TNIE*, JKP Edward, the corresponding author of the

study, said the survey indicates litter concentration is proportional to the fishing-related activities in the beaches. Claiming that commercial fishing is a major source of debris in coastal areas, he attributed the accumulation of debris to the accidental loss of gear and improper disposal practices.

Speaking to *TNIE*, Supriya Sahu, Additional Chief Secretary for Environment Climate Change & Forests, said that a pilot Discarded Fishnet Collection Centre was established at Kasimedu Fishing Harbour in Chennai in August 2024. Over 18.5 tonnes of marine litter and other ALDFG were collected until May, 2025 and ₹7.21 lakh incentive was given to fishermen.

Source: *The New Indian Express*, 5 June 2025, p.9

Police shooting range proposed at Kalvarayan Hills

Forest clearance sought for permanent facility to be constructed across 12 acres of kaadu poramboke land

SV KRISHNA CHAITANYA @Chennai

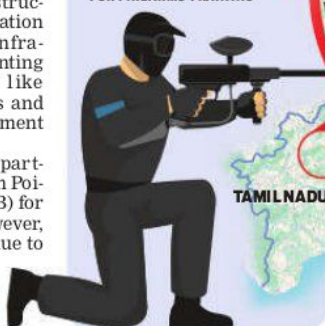
THE Kallakurichi district police department has proposed to set up a permanent shooting range in the Kalvarayan Hills reserve forest near Malliyampadi village and a formal application seeking forest clearance has been submitted. The shooting range is proposed on 12 acres of land classified as 'kaadu poramboke'.

As per the documents accessed by *TNIE*, the project involves the development of a modern police shooting training facility in survey no. 259 of Malliyampadi village, Chinnasalem Block, within the forest division of Kalvarayan Hills. The location has been specifically chosen due to its remote setting, minimal agricultural use, and natural terrain conducive to firearms training.

Officials say the area is classified as 'kaadu poramboke', indicating uncultivated forest land with no active human habitation or agricultural activity. "The initiative aims to enhance police preparedness by offering realistic training scenarios in a dedicated environment. The project includes the construction of firing bays, observation areas, and necessary infrastructure, while implementing eco-friendly measures like noise reduction barriers and sustainable waste management systems," officials said.

Initially, the police department had identified land in Poigunam (Survey No. 113/1B) for the training ground. However, it was found unsuitable due to its proximity to farmlands, and routine movement of local farmers. These concerns prompt-

THE LOCATION FOR THE SHOOTING RANGE AT KALVARAYAN HILLS HAS BEEN SPECIFICALLY CHOSEN DUE TO ITS REMOTE SETTING AND NATURAL TERRAIN CONDUCTIVE FOR FIREARMS TRAINING



ed the shift to the forest area. To compensate for the use of forest land, the Poigunam site will now be proposed as compensatory land for the forest department, in accordance with the

Forest Conservation Act. Authorities claim this swap ensures compliance with environmental guidelines while fulfilling training needs.

Despite assurances of minimal ecological disruption, the proposal has raised concerns among environmentalists about the precedent it may set for development in protected forests. They argue that forest reserves should be strictly conserved, especially in eco-sensitive areas. However, police officials maintain that the selected land is the bare minimum required for the range and was chosen after a evaluating environmental factors. "There is no suitable alternative," the proposal reads, stating it is crucial for the law enforcement infrastructure.

Source: *The New Indian Express*, 9 June 2025, p.2

Despite A 20-Year Ban, One Of The First To Be Imposed In Tamil Nadu, And Repeated Crackdowns Thereafter, The District Is Still Battling Single-Use Bottles And Bags

Why Nilgiris can't shake off its mountain of plastic

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In 2001, when Supriya Sahu, then Nilgiris collector, was on a visit to the Mudumalai Tiger Reserve, what caught her eye wasn't a tiger or an elephant, but a mound of garbage, full of plastic carry-bags. A child from the tribal community approached her and said matter-of-factly: "The elephants come here at night. They eat from this, even the plastic."

Soon after, Sahu imposed a ban on plastic carry bags, making the Nilgiris the first district in India to take such a step. Two decades on, however, the Nilgiris' plastic-free dream, possibly Tamil Nadu's best chance at its vision of becoming a plastic-free state, seems more distant than ever.

More than half the district is a reserve forest, and as tourist footfalls rise, so does the plastic they leave behind.

"Tamil Nadu has made major strides in tackling plastic pollution, but we're still far from a complete solution. Decades of dependence on plastic bags can't be undone overnight," says Sahu.

Though the movement began in the Nilgiris, Sahu says the work is ongoing. "We're surrounded by states that haven't banned plastic, but Tamil Nadu stands out. We're the only ones to ban carry-bags of all microns. It's a tough fight, but we're making progress."

While the plastic ban was initiated in the Nilgiris in 2001 by Sahu, collector J Innocent Divya continued the battle to keep the blue mountains



green.

Taking inspiration from the Nilgiris, in 2019, the state banned 19 categories of single-use plastics, 2020 court order and a barred one- and two-litre plastic water bottles in the Nilgiris. Flying squads were engaged to check the use of banned items. Also, dump yards in Ooty and Coonoor, the two largest municipalities, were converted into efficient waste management parks.

The Covid-19 pandemic and the increased use of plastic items in personal protective equipment were a setback. Also, the district's efforts continue to be hampered by inconsistent enforcement and a widespread lack of awareness, particularly among tourists. V Sivasdas, managing trustee of social organisation

NEST, says the problem lies in public indifference. "Unsegregated garbage dumped by the roadside attracts wild animals and creates health hazards," he says. Rohit Jain, member of the Ooty Citizens Forum, calls for a centralised waste disposal system in Ooty and suggests installing CCTV cameras in public areas to catch those who litter. "The fines collected could fund better waste management," he says. Nilgiris collector Lakshmi Bhavya Tanneeru says enforcing the plastic ban remains difficult due to limited legal backing. "We're doing our best at the district level such as issuing gazette notifications and imposing fines but the law is unclear, making enforcement legally complex," she says. To curb the inflow of banned plastics, women volunteers from self-help groups (SHGs) are stationed at check posts to screen tourists. "But tourists question their authority, which puts undue pressure on these volunteers," she says.

The biggest challenge, she adds, is with tourist buses. "Inspect-

ing all 50 passengers would cause traffic jams. So instead, we've made travel agents accountable. A district-level notification now allows us to fine agents who bring in tourists carrying banned plastic." Tour operators from other districts and states have been instructed to keep garbage bins in their buses and hand over collected waste at designated centres near the bus stands. The Tamil Nadu State Transport Corporation (TNSTC) has also been directed to screen passengers for banned plastic items before boarding.

Revenue officials inspect shops and warehouses for banned plastics and impose fines when needed. However, roadside littering, especially in ghat sections, is rampant. Several wild animal deaths have been reported due to plastic ingestion. "All we can do is promote responsible disposal," says Lakshmi. "But we are met with a lack of civic responsibility among the public."

B J Krishnan, former member of the Western Ghats Ecology Expert Panel, says Tamil Nadu's anti-

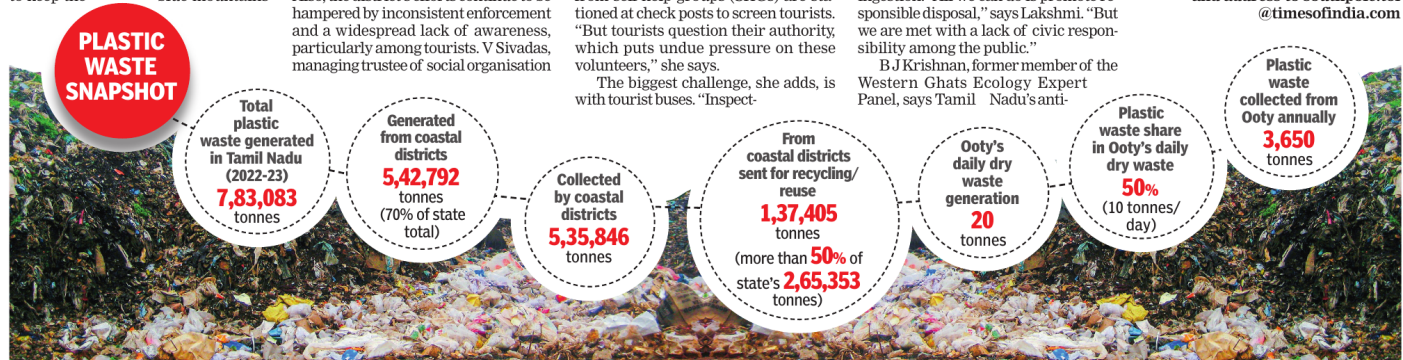
plastic programme is ahead of many states but needs stronger legal backing. "Enforcement must be supported by law, ideally through legislation under the Environmental Protection Act," he says. "The court's order on the plastic ban could also be used to strengthen this. While our per capita plastic use is lower than in developed countries, legal support is needed for lasting impact."

Sahu says the govt hasn't issued licences to manufacture banned plastic items since the ban was enforced. More than 200 illegal plastic production units have also been shut down. "To tackle plastic pollution, we launched the 'Manjapai' campaign that has gained momentum," she says. Under an annual maintenance contract, the govt installed 200 manjapai vending machines across Tamil Nadu. In coastal areas such as Besant Nagar and Neelankarai in Chennai, it has launched the Blue Brigade, a team that engages shopkeepers and spreads awareness about plastic pollution. "We're urging district collectors to strictly enforce the ban, and inspections are ongoing," says Sahu.

Another initiative is the fishnet programme in coastal regions. "We're asking fishermen not to discard old nets into the ocean," she says. In the past five months, 17 tonnes of discarded fishnets have been collected, preventing them from polluting the sea. The govt has compensated fishermen with ₹7 lakh through recycling partners.

Speaking on World Environment Day, chief minister M K Stalin reminded citizens that keeping Tamil Nadu plastic-free is a shared responsibility and urged people to treat cloth bags and water bottles as everyday essentials, just like their phones.

Email your feedback with name and address to southpole.toi@timesofindia.com



Source: The Times of India, 11 June 2025, p 5

TN floats tenders to set up 118-acre eco-park in MRC

Despite Govt Takeover, MRC Still Controls Entry, Exit To Campus

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Chennai: Nearly 10 months after it took over the 160-acre Madras Race Course campus at Guindy, the govt has floated a ₹25-crore tender to hire a consultant to prepare a detailed feasibility report (DFR) for an eco-park on 118 acres.

The DFR must be finalised within 10 months of the award of tender. It will have the landscape plan with 3D views and walkthroughs, following which the horticulture department will execute the project. The DFR will also estimate the cost.

Govt sources said they envisaged a forest experience area, flower tunnel, bonsai garden, and glass houses with exotic plants in the eco-park. It will also feature gazebos, footpaths, irrigation, garden illumination, a cafeteria, and a children's play area.

Director of the horticulture



74-YR LEASE TERMINATED: Madras Race Course campus at Guindy

ture department, Kumaravel Pandiyan, said they will start with flower beds soon, followed by the irrigation system. "We have also decided to plant neem, pungam, poovarasu, and venmab trees across the campus," he said.

In Sept 2024, the state revenue department claimed possession of the 160-acre property terminating a 74-year-old lease of Madras Race Club (MRC). Months later,

118 acres, valued at about ₹4,800 crore, was handed over to the horticulture department for the eco-park.

Despite this, the MRC authorities continued to manage the premises. GCC dug three ponds on the campus but did nothing else.

When TOI visited last week, MRC did not permit entry on the campus. MRC's chief security officer Kennedy said the club only managed the

premises and was in "discussions with the govt" about the maintenance. "The ponds too were not maintained. Nobody came here since they were dug, and we are managing it," he said.

The horticulture director said only 118 acres, which comprises the green area, was maintained by the horticulture department. The rest of the campus, including the buildings, was retained by the revenue department.

Despite repeated visits to the Chennai Collectorate, TOI could not meet district revenue officer S Geetha or collector Rashmi Siddharth.

With MRC controlling entry and exit to campus, how will the public access the eco-park? Horticulture department officials said such issues will be resolved in the coming months. "We got possession in Sept only after some resistance. It will be sorted," said V Dakshinamoorthy, horticulture department secretary.

Source: *The Times of India*, 23 June 2025, p 4

'Several shrimp farms set up on eco-sensitive zone of Pulicat bird sanctuary'

According to a study conducted by researchers from the Save Ennore Creek campaign, farms on at least 173 acres in Thangalperumbalam have been set up in violation of coastal regulation rules

ECO WATCH

Geetha Srimathi
CHENNAI

A study has found that several shrimp farms in Thangalperumbalam, a revenue village located within the eco-sensitive zone of the Pulicat Bird Sanctuary in Tiruvallur district, have been set up in violation of coastal regulation rules.

The study, conducted by researchers from the Save Ennore Creek campaign, found that at least 309 acres (roughly equivalent to 34 cricket stadiums) in the village have been occupied by shrimp aquaculture farms. Of these, farms in 173 acres were set up in violation of environmental buffer norms that govern such activities within eco-sensitive regions.

Livelihoods in the village revolve around cattle rearing, agricultural labour, and hand-picking prawns. These activities rely heavily on communal resources such as *meikkal poromboke* (grazing lands), *kachuveli* (floodplains), and the Kosasthalaiyar-Pulicat wetlands.

As per the Coastal Aquaculture Authority (CAA) guidelines, a minimum dis-



Livelihood at stake: Agricultural labourers flag the increase in the salinity levels in farmlands over the last four to five years.

tance of 50-100 metres must be maintained between the shrimp farms and agricultural land. However, the study documented that at least 50 acres of aquaculture farms were located within this restricted buffer.

Additionally, the CAA Act, 2005 (amended in 2023), prohibits aquaculture farms within 100 metres of waterbodies. Despite this, 110 acres of shrimp farms were found operating within the buffer zone of the Kosasthalaiyar river.

A further 13 acres fell within both agricultural and river buffer zones, compounding the illegality of their operations.

Only 178 acres of the to-

tal 309-acre farm area, owned by eight operators, have valid CAA registrations, the study found. Nine acres fell under non-renewed registrations, while 60 acres on private lands have no registration at all.

Encroached land

Meanwhile, a total of 62 acres of farms were built on encroached common land, which by law cannot be converted into private aquaculture farms.

The study points out that the CAA had approved registrations for farms in violation of its own siting regulations. Out of the nine registrations granted in Thangalperumbalam, eight allowed farms to be

established on areas that include prohibited zones near agricultural land or the Kosasthalaiyar river.

The encroachment of *meikkal poromboke* and traditional cart tracks by shrimp farms has drastically reduced access to grazing lands. This had affected not only Thangalperumbalam residents, but also cattle herders from the surrounding villages such as Kadapakkam and Sirupazhaverkadu, who traditionally used these lands for open grazing, the study said.

Mary, a resident of Thangalperumbalam, said access to poromboke was access to local sustenance and development.

Agricultural labourers flagged the increase in salinity levels in farmlands over the last four to five years.

"The salinisation of our local food security is caused by the illegal siting of farms within agricultural land buffers; these should be removed," said S. Devan, a resident of Thangalperumbalam.

Ecologically, the illegal expansion of aquaculture poses a threat to the Pulicat Bird Sanctuary, as the use of bird scare devices within these zones turn protected bird species into perceived pests.

Indian jackal spotted for 1st time at Pallikaranai marsh

Oppili.P@timesofindia.com

Chennai: Bird watchers at Pallikaranai marshland were surprised last week when they spotted an Indian jackal, marking the first-ever recorded sighting of the species in core areas of the wetland. Chennai district forest officer V A Saravanan confirmed the sighting and said jackals are known to adapt well and co-exist alongside human settlements.

Wildlife experts previously recorded jackals in several parts of Chennai, including the islands behind Theosophical Society, Blue Cross Road, Besant Nagar, Guindy National Park, and Nammangalam Reserve Forest. With this sighting, Pallikaranai marshland now joins the list as a habitat for the elusive species.

Conservationist K V R K Thirunaranan, who has been monitoring the marsh's fauna for years, said, "This is a positive sign of improving biodiversity." Another key factor contributing to the presence of jackals here is the abundance of food. The marsh provides ample



CALL OF THE WILD: Arrival of the jackal signals Pallikaranai marshland's growing role as a sanctuary for urban wildlife

prey, including fish and crabs. Notably, jackals have been observed feeding on African catfish, an invasive species. This helps control the population of this invasive fish, contributing to ecological balance.

The arrival of the jackal signals the marshland's growing role as a sanctuary for urban wildlife and adds urgency to the call for its protection. As urban sprawl threatens green spaces, sightings such as this highlight the ecological significance of wetlands and the complex interdependence of species that inhabit them, say experts.

While jackals are prima-

rily nocturnal hunters, they may become active during the day when females feed their newborns. G Kamaraj, a biologist from Vandalur Zoo, said jackals were once found in large numbers, especially in rural areas where paddy fields were abundant.

They play an important role in the ecological food chain by controlling the rodent population, which forms a significant part of their diet. This, in turn, helps farmers reduce crop loss. Even today, their wailing howls can be heard in the countryside—a reminder of their quiet presence near human habitations.

Source: *The Times of India*, 16 June 2025, p 4

Source: *The Hindu*, 13 June 2025, p.5

TN gives sanctuary to Greater Flamingos at Dhanushkodi

Establishment of sanctuary for the bird species on 525 ha of land in Ramnad dist notified

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE

@ Chennai

THE state government notified the establishment of Greater Flamingo Sanctuary at Dhanushkodi in Ramanathapuram on 524.78 hectares of land on the occasion of the World Environment Day on Thursday. This apart, the state forest department also reinforced its workforce with a major recruitment drive and the Tamil Nadu Pollution Control Board (TNPCB) certified industries under the Voluntary Green Rating of Industries initiative, a first-of-its-kind.

Marking the occasion, Chief Minister MK Stalin handed over the appointment letters along with the rating certificates to the industries. He also pledged his commitment to protecting the environment.

Speaking at the event, Stalin said, "Biodiversity and climate change are deeply interconnected. Tamil Nadu is leading the way as a state that not only understands this relationship but is also taking proactive steps in response."

"We aspire not merely to achieve a US \$1 trillion economy, but to ensure that it is environmentally sustainable. In driving this shift, we are empowering our young people with the skills and platforms they need," he added.



CM MK Stalin at the event organised on the World Environment Day | EXPRESS

The Greater Flamingo Sanctuary, located within the ecologically sensitive Gulf of Mannar Biosphere Reserve, is a critical stopover along the Central Asian Flyway. This region supports 128 bird species, including Greater and Lesser Flamingos. The area features diverse ecosystems – sand dunes, marshes, and mangrove forests like *Avicennia* and *Rhizophora*, which stabilise the coastline and provide habitats for marine life, including fish, crustaceans, molluscs, and nesting sea turtles. The notification issued by additional chief secretary Supriya Sahu aims to safeguard this biodiversity hotspot and promote responsible tourism, benefiting local communities in Ramanathapuram.

The forest department's recruitment drive was carried out through Tamil Nadu Public Service Commission to fill

1,947 vacancies, including 134 foresters, 621 forest guards, 232 forest guards with driving licence, and 960 forest watchers. After the examination conducted last year, TNPSC selected 1,411 candidates: 515 forest guards, 192 forest guards with driving licence, and 684 watchers. Today, during a World Environment Day event, as many as 1,238 of the 1,358 recruits who reported to their divisions received appointment letters. Additionally, 66 TAFCON recruits (36 watchers and 30 guards) attended, bringing the total to 1,304 participants. This infusion

Vital stopover

The Greater Flamingo Sanctuary, located within the ecologically sensitive Gulf of Mannar Biosphere Reserve, is a critical stopover along the Central Asian Flyway. This region supports 128 bird species, including Greater and Lesser Flamingos. The area features diverse ecosystems – sand dunes, marshes, and mangrove forests

sion of new staff will enhance forest surveillance, protect areas like the Dhanushkodi sanctuary.

Meanwhile, TNPCB has certified industries under the Voluntary Green Rating of Industries initiative. Launched by Stalin at the Climate Change Summit 3.0 in February, this programme evaluates industries on key indicators: Energy Security, Water Conservation, Clean Air, Sustainable Waste Management, and Green Initiatives.

Ratings range from Platinum (81-100) to Certified (15-20), assessed by certified third-party evaluators including Anna University's Centre for Environmental Studies (CES) and Centre for Climate Change and Disaster Management (CCCDM), CSIR-Central Leather Research Institute (CLRI), National Productivity Council (NPC), and National Institute of Technology (NIT) Tiruchy.

Honoured industries include Saint Gobain India Private Limited (Unit-1, Kancheepuram) and Rane Brake Lining Ltd (Trichy) with Platinum ratings, Jacobi Carbons India Private Limited (Coimbatore) with Gold, Nova Carbons India Private Limited (Tirunelveli) with Silver, and Kalpaka Chemicals Pvt Ltd (Thoothukudi) with Bronze, all evaluated by the respective institutions.



Source: *The New Indian Express*, 6 June 2025, p.4

With 2,000 hectares of replanted mangroves, Muthupet turns over a new leaf

S V KRISHNA CHAITANYA @ Chennai

IN one of the biggest campaigns aimed at fortifying Tamil Nadu's largest mangrove region, the state forest department has restored and planted mangroves across 2,057 hectares in the Muthupet region of Tiruvavur and Thanjavur districts between 2022 and 2025. Mangrove forests act as ecological buffer against climate change impacts such as storm surges,

Sunday Special

coastal erosion, and rise in sea level. The three-year campaign was spearheaded by the Tiruvavur Forest Division. The Muthupet wetland complex comprising 12,020 hectares is situated at the confluence of Koraiyar and Pamanaiyar rivers. It supports the largest stretch of *Avicennia marina* (grey or white mangroves), the species that accounts for 95% of the mangrove cover in the state. Other species like *Aegiceras corniculatum* (black mangroves) and *Rhizophora mucronata* (red mangroves) have also been reintroduced to enhance biodiversity. According to official records accessed by *TNIE*, 1,350 hectares

86,000 MAN-DAYS OF WORK GENERATED

Besides ecological benefits, the initiative has also boosted rural employment by generating over 86,000 man-days in plantation and canal formation work

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According to official records accessed by *TNIE*, 1,350 hectares



Newly-planted mangroves in the Muthupet wetland | EXPRESS

has been brought under new plantation and another 707 hectares has undergone restoration through desilting and canal repair. At 1,482 hectares, bulk of the intervention happened in Thanjavur, while Tiruvavur accounted for 575 hectares.

Tiruvavur DFO L C S Srikanth said the plantations have used both the "Fishbone Design" and "Box Design" canal models to enhance tidal water circulation that's critical for natural seed dispersal

and mangrove growth. "Over 1.2 million propagules and saplings were planted, supported by a canal network exceeding 380km in length," the DFO said.

Supriya Sahu, Additional Chief Secretary, Environment, Forests and Climate Change Department, told *TNIE* that restoration efforts have integrated local knowledge through Village Mangrove Councils (VMCs) in six villages, including Veerankoil and Thondiyakadu. **P7**

Muthupet mangroves vital habitat for birds

YEAR-WISE MANGROVE PLANTATION AND RESTORATION WORK CARRIED OUT IN TIRUVAVUR AND THANJAVUR DISTRICTS

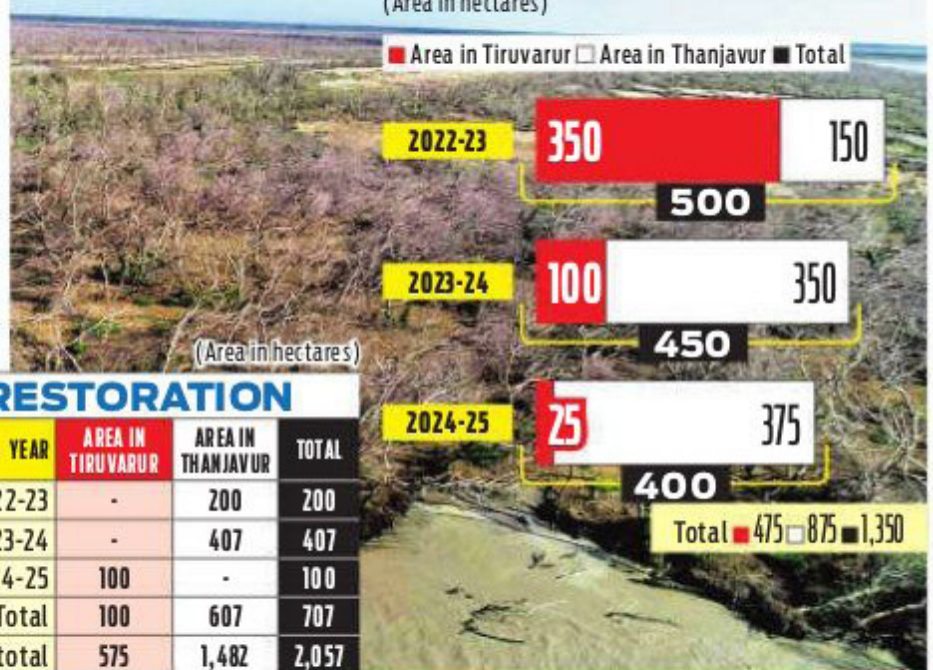
CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

THESE councils, based on joint forest management principles, ensure community involvement in canal maintenance and seed propagation.

"VMCs cover over 10,000 people across 16 fishing villages whose livelihood depends on the mangrove-rich canals. Their traditional expertise has played a key role in the success of restoration designs and the maintenance of hydrological flows," she said.

Srikanth said a scientific study based on satellite mapping and ground truthing was required to assess the exact extent of the degraded mangrove patches. "Based on our own site visits and inputs from local communities, we have identified 700 hectares of potential planting area and another 800 hectares for restoration. The government is providing all the support needed under the Green Tamil Nadu Mission."

Besides the ecological benefits, the initiative has also boosted rural



employment by generating over 86,000 man-days in plantation and canal formation work. In 2022-23 alone, nearly 31,000 man-days were recorded across four projects. The 2023-24 phase saw a further 32,397 man-days, reflecting the labour-intensive nature of eco-restoration.

Officials said Muthupet mangroves, part of the Point Calimere Ramsar site, provide vital habitat for over 100 species of migratory birds and serve as a nursery for fish. Their restoration is expected to improve biodiversity, boost fisheries, and enhance the region's climate resilience.

Source: *The New Indian Express*, 29 June 2025, p.1 and 7

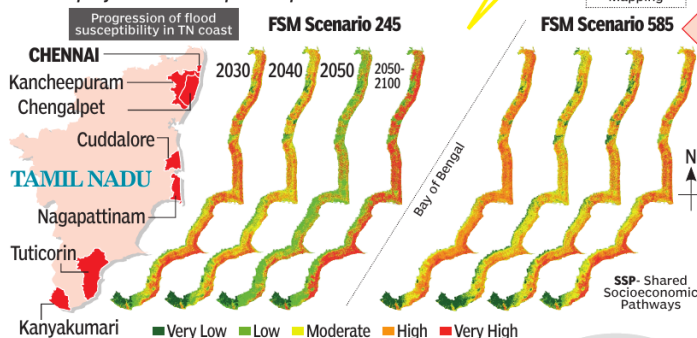
Flood Risk Up As Unchecked Growth, Climate Change Intensify Coastal Vulnerability

City's future in troubled waters

Due to fluctuations in rainfall patterns, situation will get better before taking a turn for the worse

WHAT'S WRITTEN IN THE STARS

Study in *Geoscience Letters* used satellite data, machine learning, climate projections to map flood-prone zones between 2030 & 2100



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Flood risk along Tamil Nadu's coast, extending up to 25 km inland including Chennai and its neighbouring districts, is set to intensify due to unchecked urban growth, land use changes, and erratic rainfall triggered by climate change, a new study warns.

The study flags Chennai, Cuddalore, Nagapattinam, Puducherry, Chengalpeta and Kancheepuram as both low-lying and high-risk zones. Results depict that risk of flooding will increase across all scenarios over the period of 2000–2100, with some decadal fluctuations. Flat terrain, sea proximity, and rapid urbanization make them especially vulnerable. Under future climate scenarios, particularly SSP370 and SSP585 representing moderate and high emissions, these districts are projected to shift to very high flood susceptibility zones, putting millions and key infrastructure at risk.

"Proportion of regions falling into

moderate to very high-risk categories increases in all climate change scenarios. In SSP585 scenario, both high and very high risk show a rise by 2050. After that, 91% of study area show very high and high vulnerability to floods," said Hazem Ghassan Abdo, corresponding author.

The study found elevation, rainfall, and land cover type to be the most critical factors influencing flood risk. In Chennai, sprawling construction and loss of natural drainage worsened flooding, especially during the north-east monsoon. "Flooding today isn't just about more rain, it's about intense downpours in short bursts, and the land simply can't empty the water fast enough. The vertical spread of clouds

FLOOD RISK
Coastal districts show high vulnerability
Inland urban expansion is increasing flood risk even in non-coastal zones
Western Ghats areas (Tirunelveli, Kanyakumari) remain less vulnerable due to elevation

VULNERABILITY AND TRENDS

► Flood risk is rising in all future climate scenarios (SSP126, 245 (low emission), 370 (moderate), and 585 (high) between years 2000 and 2100

► Areas at moderate to very high flood risk are expected to increase significantly

► Inland regions (up to 25km) that were once low-risk are becoming more vulnerable due to changes in land use and rainfall

RAINFALL PROJECTIONS

All four climate scenarios show fluctuation, overall increasing rainfall trends

SSP585 scenario shows the sharpest long-term increase, peaking at 5690.62 mm between the years 2050 and 2100 and leading to 91% of the area at high/very high flood risk

Rainfall peaks vary by decade, with some short-term declines (e.g., 2040 in the SSP245 moderate emission scenario and SSP585 worst-case scenario)

Projections indicate intensifying extreme rainfall events, especially toward 2100. (In SSP126 scenario when strong climate policies are in place and a shift towards sustainability, the projected rainfall is 3600.13mm by 2100)

CAUSES AND IMPACT

► Rapid urbanisation, industrial growth, and unplanned development are major drivers of increased flood risk

► Encroachments on water bodies worsen vulnerability

► Industrial hubs (Tuticorin, Chennai) show higher susceptibility due to altered land use

RECOMMENDATION

Defining buffer zones to limit construction in high-risk areas

is increasing due to rising atmospheric moisture, making future storms even more aggressive," said M V RamanaMurthy, former director of National Centre for Coastal Research.

Led by National Institute of Technology, Trichy, and published in *Geoscience Letters*, the study used satellite data, machine learning, and future climate projections to map flood-prone zones across TN coast under four emission scenarios. Chennai faces rising flood risk from the shrinking of water bodies such as Pulicat, Puzhal, and Chembarambakkam. Kancheepuram, Villupuram, Cuddalore, and Puducherry are seeing rapid shifts from vegetation to built-up zones. Cuddalore continues to face floods and cyclones, causing vegetation loss and waterlogging. Nagapattinam is battling coastal erosion and disaster-driven resettlements. In Vedaranyam, salt pan and aquaculture

expansion have destabilised the coast. Ramanathapuram's farmland turned to scrubland, Tuticorin is losing salt pans and fertile land to industry, and Kanyakumari is converting fallow land into settlements amid urban pressure.

The study used future rainfall and land use projections, forecasting sharp fluctuations and long-term spikes in rainfall. Under extreme scenarios such as SSP585, average annual rainfall may exceed 5,600mm by 2100. Land use forecasts also show a steady rise in settlements and a decline in forest cover, both increasing flood exposure across the coastal belt.

The study recommends flood maps to set development boundaries and prevent encroachment into vulnerable zones. "We've long assumed only areas within 500 metres to a few km of the coast are at risk. But this machine learning-based flood map is stark and alarming. Planners must treat it as a wake-up call and rethink coastal development..." said G Sundararajan, convener, Poovulagin Nanbargal.

Source: *The Times of India*, 27 June 2025, p 4

When sustainability and low carbon are goals, a factory sets an example

According to First Solar, a solar panel manufacturing factory located in the Sriperumbudur industrial belt, it employs the 'zero liquid discharge' system that enables the creation of solar modules in T.N. with the lowest water footprint in the world

ECO WATCH

R. Srikanth
CHENNAI

Among the hundreds of industries functioning in the Sriperumbudur industrial belt of Kancheepuram district, one factory seems to stand out as far as efficient use of water and sunlight is concerned. A solar panel manufacturer has pioneered the art of saving water through the 'Zero liquid discharge' (ZLD) project, with zero waste generation.

First Solar, a US-based wholly owned subsidiary of First Solar, Inc, operating within a water-intensive industry segment, is engaged in the manufacture of solar panels for Independent Power Producers (IPPs) located in the SIPCOT Industrial park of Pillaipakkam near Sriperumbudur.

The 3.30 giga watt (GW) solar panel manufacturing factory, spanning more than 130 acres, has actualised the mantra of 'reuse, recycle, and repurpose' in the manufacturing process through efficient use of wa-



Enhancing capacity: The company set up its own water treatment facility, resulting in the reduction of dependence on the reverse osmosis water from Koyambedu sewage treatment plant. M. SRINATH

ter and manufacturing waste.

N.L. Selvakumar, head, environment and recycling, First Solar, who is in charge of the ZLD system, said the factory floor, spanning more than 24 lakh sq.ft., needs water for two purposes – cooling the factory and manufacturing.

The company, which requires almost 3.60 million litres of water per day, had tied up with Metrowater to supply tertiary-treated re-

verse osmosis (RO) water from the Koyambedu sewage treatment plant for the factory's needs. But subsequently, the company set up their own water treatment facility (ZLD), resulting in the reduction of more than 50% dependence on the sourced RO water from Koyambedu plant.

The ZLD system, which has been set up and managed in-house, extracts water from the discharged

wastewater, and enables its reuse by producing 'ultra pure water' for the manufacturing and cooling processes, thereby drastically reducing the intake of water requirements.

The system has enabled the creation of solar modules in the State with the lowest water footprint in the world, compared to traditional polysilicon-based solar panel production, according to the company.

The factory, employing

more than 1,400 persons, has also set up a sewage treatment facility, which operates a Membrane Bio-reactor (MBR) sewage treatment plant that utilises the treated water for watering the garden. Over 80 kilolitres per day of treated water is being generated, Mr. Selvakumar added.

Clean electricity

Sujoy Ghosh, Country Managing Director, First Solar, says the company's commitment to the environment not only lies in water conservation but also in generating clean electricity. He said as part of this, the company had installed their own captive solar plants of 53.66 mega watt (MW) in southern parts of the State.

Mr. Ghosh further said the company's green footprint was 35% renewable energy, and ongoing solar projects promise expansion to 116.80 MW.

Unlike the manufacturing waste generated by polysilicon-based solar panel producers, the factory, which generates 2% of industrial wastes, recycles them into minerals to be used again for solar panels and crushed glass.

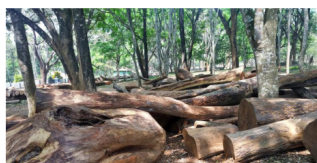
Source: *The Hindu*, 7 June 2025, p.3

T.N. govt. not to extend Rosewood Conservation Act

Geetha Srimathi
CHENNAI

Tamil Nadu will no longer have specific legislation to regulate rosewood exploitation, as the State government has decided not to renew the Tamil Nadu Rosewood Trees (Conservation) Act, 1994, allowing the legislation to lapse after its extended term ended in February 2025.

A recent Government Order (G.O.) issued by Supriya Sahu, Additional Chief Secretary, Department of Environment, Climate Change and Forests, said the legislation was enacted in 1995 to protect



Economic boost: The decision was taken to motivate farmers to take up planting of rosewood trees on their patta lands. FILE PHOTO

Dalbergia latifolia, commonly known as rosewood – a rare and valuable tree species whose numbers were declining due to illegal felling and trade.

Initially passed for 15 years, the legislation was

renewed in 2010 for another 15 years.

However, the government has decided that continuing the Act is no longer necessary. The Principal Chief Conservator of Forests (Head of Forest Force)

noted that prolonged restrictions on felling rosewood trees on patta lands have discouraged farmers from cultivating the species, despite its high market value. "If the restrictions are lifted, farmers will be greatly benefited by getting competitive and remunerative prices for the rosewood trees grown on their patta lands. This will motivate farmers to take up planting of rosewood trees in large numbers on their patta lands," the G.O. noted.

The Tamil Nadu government is currently pursuing the objective of bringing 33% of its total land area

under green cover, in line with the National Forest Policy. According to the G.O., incentivising rosewood cultivation on private lands aligns with this goal.

Srinivas R. Reddy, PCCF (Head of Forest Force), said existing environmental laws, such as the Tamil Nadu Preservation of Private Forests Act, 1949, and the Tamil Nadu Hill Areas (Preservation of Trees) Act, 1955, were sufficient to regulate the removal of rosewood from areas outside forest limits.

CONTINUED ON
» PAGE 8

From Page One

T.N. govt. decides not to extend Rosewood Conservation Act

Mr. Reddy stated that a separate rosewood-specific Act is no longer relevant or required, and that the legislation has proven counterproductive by preventing farmers from cultivating rosewood trees.

Experts, however, say the Tamil Nadu Preservation of Private Forests Act, 1949 and the Tamil Nadu Hill Areas (Preservation of Trees) Act, 1955 are not designed to address the conservation of individual species, like rosewood, in a targeted manner and the Acts do not offer specific incentives to private landowners to conserve rosewood, unlike the Rosewood Conservation Act, which explicitly regulated and penalised rosewood exploitation.

Ecologist Naveen Babu noted the species faced significant exploitation during both the colonial and post-colonial periods, and cautioned that repealing the specific Act could have adverse consequences.

Asked whether a mapping of rosewood trees on private lands had been carried out, the PCCF responded in the negative, stating the species is found primarily in estate areas within the Western Ghats, with some presence in forested regions of the Eastern Ghats.

Notably, *Dalbergia latifolia* is listed as a "vulnerable" species in the International Union for Conservation of Nature Red List of Threatened Species and in Appendix II of the CITES (Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora) list.

While the G.O. states farmers will benefit from cultivating rosewood, experts say that these trees take around 30 years to reach a substantial size. D. Narasimhan, former professor of botany at Madras Christian College, said that rosewood is a slow-growing tree that typically takes around 30 years to reach harvestable size, but it commands a high market value due to its quality and demand.

Moreover, mature rosewood trees are important genetic resources for plant breeding, and their continued depletion could seriously impact the species' gene pool. As large trees have already been heavily harvested for commercial use and are now rare in the wild, experts stress the need for a comprehensive inventory to assess the current population, including size classes, both in forests and on private lands.

Source: *The Hindu*, 29 June 2025, p.1 and 8

'Thooimai Mission' video launched for sustainable future

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

Chennai: Tamil Nadu govt on Sunday launched an awareness video as part of its flagship 'Thooimai Mission' to promote sustainable waste management and encourage public participation in keeping the state clean. The campaign includes the formation of a dedicated agency, Clean Tamil Nadu Company Limited (CTCL), to drive cleaning efforts and frame waste management policies.

Chief minister M K Stalin said cleanliness is not the sole responsibility of the govt and sanitation workers, and urged residents to segregate waste and dispose it responsibly. "If we mindlessly dump garbage and plastic thinking someone else will clean it, collect it, or sort it, that waste will find its way back to us in some form," he said in a statement.

He added the soon-to-be-launched Thooimai Mission would bring together all departments to work towards clean surroundings. The state already began onboarding



CAMPAIGN: Poster of the video had received backlash on social media for portraying the child with garbage on her head

NGOs for waste recycling and aims to make cleanliness a people-led movement through CTCL and Thooimai Mission, which will oversee special initiatives across districts.

The awareness video released as part of the campaign is set in a school and features actor Yogi Babu urging students and citizens to segregate waste and take individual responsibility. Music maestro A R Rahman shared the campaign video on his X handle and wrote, "Let's be responsible. Segregate to make our state clean. Protect our Ethirkaalam."



Vast tracts of aquaculture farms next to the Pulicat lake in Tiruvallur district | EXPRESS

'Land grab' by shrimp farms threatens Pulicat sanctuary

Report says 309 acres, including grazing land & floodplains, encroached

SV KRISHNA CHAITANYA @Chennai

A grassroots movement committed to protecting wetlands in Chennai has flagged large-scale violations and alleged land grab by aquaculture farms in the eco-sensitive zone (ESZ) of the Pulicat bird sanctuary in Tiruvallur district.

A report titled "Aquaculture Land Grab" released by the 'Save Ennore Creek Campaign' on Thursday claimed 309 acres, equivalent to 34 cricket stadiums, have been occupied by aquaculture farms, of which 62 acres are poramboke common lands classified as grazing grounds (Meikal poramboke) and floodplains (Kazhuveli poramboke).

The study area, Thangalperumbalam in Ponneri Taluk of Tiruvallur, is inhabited largely by Scheduled Caste communities. The residents largely rely on cattle rearing, agriculture, and fishing, all of which depend on access to common lands and the Kosasthalaiyar-Pulicat wetland system.

According to the Coastal Aquaculture Authority (CAA) Act, 2005 (as amended in 2023), aquaculture farms must not be established within 100m of rivers, creeks, backwaters, or agricultural lands. Section 13(b) prohibits farm siting in buffer

zones of waterbodies. Guidelines under Section 3 require that common property resources such as canals, creeks, and sea must not be used in ways that interfere with traditional activities like fishing. Despite these rules, the report found that 173 acres of shrimp farms are located within prohibited buffer zones – 50 acres near agricultural land, 110 acres near the Kosasthalaiyar River, and 13 acres in both zones.

When contacted, a senior bureaucrat from the Department of Environment, Forest and Climate Change said the government will look into the allegations. "A thorough check should be done on the veracity of the claims since many of these shrimp farms would be old and existing before the CAA Act came into force, and the land grab issues are dealt by revenue department," the official said. Tiruvallur collector M Prathap was not available for comments.

The report contended that of the nine operators registered by CAA, eight were registered despite the farms located within the prohibited buffer zones. According to the CAA website, 178 acres were registered with renewed certification. Local residents say farms have affected their access to grazing lands.

"By taking over poramboke lands, these farms are taking away our livelihood. The government should remove these," said Mary, a cattle-rearer of Thangalperumbalam.

Around 700 cattle are reared by women in the village, and they rely on the Meikal poramboke. Cattle rearers from nearby villages like Kadappakkam, Sirupazhaverkadu, and Edayankulam also use these common resources.

Farmers reported increased salinity in soil over the past four years. "The salinisation of our local food security is caused by the illegal siting of farms within agricultural land buffers. They should be removed," said S Devan, a resident.

The report documented bird habitats within the ESZ, including sightings of flamingos and painted storks. "Encroaching natural habitats of birds by allowing aquaculture ponds defeats the purpose of Eco-Sensitive Zone," said Durai Mahendran, president of the Tamil Nadu Fishermen Association.

K Bharathi of the South Indian Fishermen Welfare Association added, "Aquaculture farm operators not only encroach on commons but are threatening already vulnerable communities with false cases."

Source: *The Times of India*, 3 June 2025, p 3

Source: *The New Indian Express*, 14 June 2025, p.4

TN corpn awards first contract for 500 MWh battery storage system

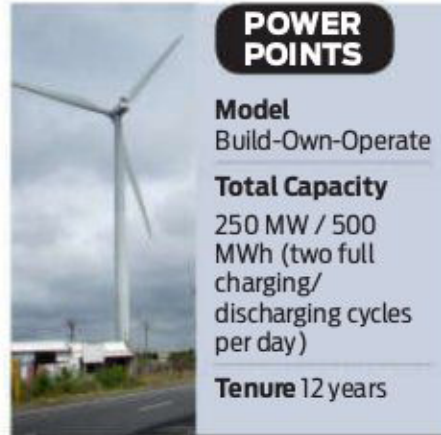
S GURUVANMIKANATHAN @Chennai

IN a major step towards augmenting clean and reliable power supply in Tamil Nadu, a first-of-its-kind contract for setting up 500 MWh Battery Energy Storage System (BESS) has been awarded to NLC India Renewables Limited (NIRL).

The project awarded by Tamil Nadu Green Energy Corporation Limited (TNGECL) is the first large-scale battery storage system to come up in Tamil Nadu after the state came up with an exclusive policy for energy storage systems.

Under the central government's Viability Gap Funding (VGF) Scheme, 30% of the capital cost for BESS will be provided as financial support. Tamil Nadu is among the six renewable energy-rich states that were allocated BESS capacities under the initiative alongside Gujarat, Karnataka, Rajasthan, Telangana, and Maharashtra. Officials said the battery system will help store surplus solar and wind energy, which are seasonal energy sources, and supply the power generated when needed, especially during night hours or cloudy days.

The award comprises development of three standalone BESS projects with a combined capacity



of 250 MW / 500 MWh, to be established at 400/230/110 kV Ottapidaram Substation, 400/230/110 kV Anpankulam Substation and 400/230/110 kV Kayathar Substation in Tamil Nadu.

A senior official from TNGECL said that large-scale tapping of renewable energy sources like solar and wind comes with its own challenges, including technology for storing power during lean seasons and managing the state's power grid, as these sources are not available throughout the year.

Speaking to *TNIE*, the official said, "Since renewable energy is not steady all the time, we are facing integration issues in the grid. To make better use

of the existing transmission lines even when solar or wind power is not available, battery energy storage systems (BESS) are the best solution."

He further said that storing solar power during the day will help supply clean electricity during evening hours when power demand is high. "This will reduce costs and also support clean energy usage beyond daylight hours, helping the state move towards low-carbon growth," the official added.

TNGECL has planned to set up 1,000 MWh of battery storage capacity in selected substations under the State's Viability Gap Funding (VGF) scheme. In the first phase, a 500 MWh BESS project has been awarded. Plans are under way to set up 4,000 MWh of battery storage in Tamil Nadu in the coming years.

According to NLC India, the projects will be executed under the Build-Own-Operate (BOO) model and have been awarded through a tariff-based competitive bidding process under the State Component of the Viability Gap Funding.

Under the current tender agreement, TN Power Distribution Corporation Limited will procure energy storage services from NIRL through a long-term Battery Energy Storage Purchase Agreement for 12 years.

Source: *The New Indian Express*, 23 June 2025, p.3

TN sends 15 mahouts & cavadis to Thailand for elephant care training

SV KRISHNA CHAITANYA @ Chennai

THE Tamil Nadu government has sent 15 mahouts and cavadis (assistants) to Thailand to take part in a training programme on elephant care and management. The team includes staff from the Mudumalai and Anamalai Tiger Reserves. They will attend a week-long training session commencing on Tuesday at the Thai Elephant Conservation Center (TECC) in Lampang.

The training of the 15 staff, who are accompanied by P Manikanda Prabhu, assistant director of Vandalur Zoo, forest veterinarian K Rajesh Kumar from Mudumalai and forest ranger M Megala, will cover elephant nutrition, health, behaviour, camp management, and bonding methods between elephants and handlers.

Supriya Sahu, additional chief secretary of the Environment, Climate Change and Forests Department, said this is the second group of mahouts and cavadis sent to TECC. The first group of 13 visited the cen-

tre in 2023. She said the purpose is to exchange methods and ideas related to elephant care.

Elephants in TN are maintained in forests camps located in areas such as Theppakkadu in Mudumalai and Kozhikamuthi in Anamalai, which are staffed by members of local tribal communities like the Malasars and Irulas. "Training is now given through instruction by retired handlers using traditional methods. They have, however, never been exposed to other elephant camps or training centres which adopt best practices with modern scientific approach," Sahu said. The state government expects the trained team to share their knowledge with other handlers after they return.



A mahout feeding an elephant at Theppakkadu camp in Mudumalai Tiger Reserve | EXPRESS

Name of the camp	No. of elephants	No. of mahouts	No. of cavadis	Contract basis
Mudumalai Elephant Camp	28	22	12	21
Anamalai Elephant Camp	26	15	16	19
Vandalur Zoological Park	2	-	-	2
Elephant Rescue & Rehabilitation Centre, Tiruchy	7	-	-	14
Total	63	37	28	56

Source: *The New Indian Express*, 17 June 2025, p.2

Tamil Nadu among States facing high to very high heat risk

The Hindu Bureau

CHENNAI

Tamil Nadu is increasingly at risk from extreme heat events, as 2024 was the hottest year on record globally and India endured its longest heatwave since 2010.

According to a recent study by the Council on Energy, Environment and Water (CEEW), Tamil Nadu ranks fifth among States with high to very high heat risk, with urban centres such as Chennai experiencing significant challenges from rising temperatures.

In fact, none of Tamil Nadu's districts falls under the very low or low heat risk categories. About 11% of the districts face moderate heat risk, while 43% are classified as high risk, and 46% fall under the very high heat risk category, indicating that much of the State is confronting severe and widespread heat vulnerability.

As per the study, over the past decade, heatwaves in Tamil Nadu's districts have lengthened by over three days, which has intensified impacts on public health, agriculture, and energy infrastructure. Chennai has witnessed an increase of four additional "very warm" nights per summer, driven largely by the urban heat island effect, where cities retain heat well into the night.

According to the CEEW study, national data from 1981 to 2022 shows that the frequency of very warm

Urban centres are experiencing significant challenges from rising temperatures

nights is increasing faster than very hot days, particularly in the last decade. Both terms refer to temperatures exceeding the 95th percentile of historical records. This trend is influenced by natural climate cycles such as El Niño and La Niña. For example, during strong El Niño years like in 1997 and 2016, very hot days and very warm nights were significantly more frequent.

Experts say rising nighttime temperatures are especially dangerous because they prevent the body from cooling and recovering after hot days, increasing health risks for vulnerable groups such as the elderly and children.

In Tamil Nadu, vulnerability to heat is exacerbated by the high prevalence of non-communicable diseases such as hypertension and diabetes. These conditions increase the risk of heat-related illnesses, placing additional strain on the State's healthcare system, the study says.

It recommends that States, districts, and cities move beyond a narrow focus on daytime temperatures while planning for heat risk, and incorporate additional dimensions of warm nights, humidity, demographic patterns, and health vulnerabilities.

Source: *The Hindu*, 2 June 2025, p.4

‘State media should improve its reporting on climate in mega cities like Chennai’

The Hindu Bureau

CHENNAI

The media in Tamil Nadu should improve climate reporting by creating a climate desk, publishing climate-related stories on a daily basis with climate-centric perspectives, including the viewpoints of marginalised communities, fact checking on climate-related solutions and training programmes, G. Sundarrajan of environmental organisation Poovulagin Nanbargal said.

Speaking at the ‘Editor’s Meet on Climate Change and Tamil Nadu’ organised by the organisation and the Chennai Press Club on Saturday, Mr. Sundarrajan said, “Chennai is the hottest megacity in India. Heat-induced deaths seldom get reported. The media has to play a key role in sensitising the government and shaping public policy for a safe future with holocene-like conditions.”

“Temperature stability has been crucial for the formation of nation states. This is a very crucial juncture in the history of the world, facing five problems – climate change, mass extinction, pandemic, pollution, and inequality. Humans have been the single factor responsible for mass extinction. In 2024, a temperature rise of 1.5 degrees Celsius was registered, which was a watershed moment. As a result of the

Source: *The Hindu*, 22 June 2025, p.5

It should cover marginalised communities’ voices on projects such as the proposed airport in Parandur, says Sundarrajan

climate change in 2024, a disaster was registered across the world every day,” he said, adding that Tamil Nadu ranked 12 in the climate vulnerability index.

Inclusive reporting

Stressing the need for better reporting of climate-centric perspectives in Chennai, Mr. Sundarrajan said the media in Tamil Nadu should include the viewpoints of marginalised communities in projects such as the proposed airport in Parandur.

The projected rise of 4 degrees Celsius will spell doom. At present, 29.1% of the Chennai Corporation area has been projected to be at a risk of inundation due to extreme precipitation in the city at a return period of five years (20 cm of rainfall), he said.

Pointing to the need to fact-check climate-related solutions, Mr. Sundarrajan said the media should question the policy on bus transportation and the delay in the implementation of metro rail projects in the city, which has had an impact on climate.

TN projects worth ₹399cr inaugurated

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Chennai: Tamil Nadu deputy chief minister **Udhayanidhi Stalin** on Wednesday inaugurated 102 completed urban development projects worth ₹399.81 crore and laid the foundation for 108 new projects valued at ₹975.63 crore at an event held at the Ripon Building in the city.

Addressing at the event, Udhayanidhi said, "it is not just about everything for everyone, but everything for every town."

He added that the DMK's vision for Singara Chennai was first articulated in 1959, when the party won the Chennai corporation elections. He credited former chief minister M Karunanidhi and chief minister M K Stalin for the city's sustained growth, by bringing projects like the metro rail and road infrastructure upgrades.

Of the 102 completed projects, 31 were implemented by the Greater Chennai Corporation, 2 by the CMWSSB, 35 by the directorate of municipal administration, 31

by Town Panchayats, and 3 by the TWAD Board.

Among the 108 new projects announced, 62 will be executed by the Greater Chennai Corporation, including ₹477 crore for road re-laying and ₹54 crore for canal improvements.

Four projects will be carried out by Metro Water, including underground drainage system (UGDS) works in North Chennai. Another 28 projects fall under the directorate of municipal administration and 14 under the town panchayats.

108 NEW PROJECTS

As part of the event, Udhayanidhi handed over appointment orders to 49 candidates selected by the Tamil Nadu Public Service Commission for posts in the TWAD Board.

He also flagged off 11 new urban service vehicles, including battery-operated cars, garbage trucks, and dog-catching vehicles, worth a total of ₹1.64 crore.

He awarded ₹7.26 lakh in cash prizes to 62 high-performing Class X and XII students from Chennai Corporation schools, along with 38 teachers and 14 headmasters.

Source: *The Times of India*, 14 June 2025, p 6

TN spent ₹38,000 crore to improve civic infra

THE Municipal Administration and Water Supply Department has spent around ₹38,000 crore on civic infrastructure projects, paving the way for rapid urbanisation, an official release said. This includes various initiatives that are completed and in progress.

The government has undertaken 71 drinking water projects at an outlay of ₹9,011 crore, benefiting over 1.2 crore people across urban and rural areas. In addition, 17 underground sewerage schemes have been implemented at ₹1,777.4 crore, along with UGD works worth ₹3,360 crore in 14 corpo-

Source: *The New Indian Express*, 9 June 2025, p.4



CM MK Stalin interacts with municipality workers in Chennai | FILEPIC

rations. Under AMRUT 2.0, improvement works on water bodies, sewer systems, and public parks were completed at ₹6,655.8 crore.

Breakfast scheme in all aided schools from July 15

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @ Chennai

THE state government is set to expand the Chief Minister's breakfast scheme to government-aided schools in urban areas in the state. With this, all government and government-aided schools will be covered under the scheme.

According to officials in the school education department, the expansion will be rolled out on July 15, marking the birth anniversary of former chief minister K Kamaraj, which is

also celebrated as Educational Development Day.

The elementary education directorate has sent a list of 1,416 schools, almost all of which are government-aided schools in urban areas to the district officials.

They have been asked to check if any school has been left out from this list and send a report to the directorate to facilitate the implementation of the scheme.

At present, 17.53 lakh students in 34,987 government and



government-aided schools are benefiting from the scheme. Launched in September 2022, it

was extended to all government schools by March 2023. In the 2024-25 academic year, the breakfast scheme was further expanded to include government-aided schools in rural areas.

In the latest budget, ₹600.25 crore was earmarked for the scheme while it is expected to increase further with the expansion. Under the scheme, students are provided breakfast items such as upma, kichadi, and pongal, accompanied by sambar.

Source: *The New Indian Express*, 27 June 2025, p.8

Chennai's 'She Toilets' vanish months after launch

₹4.5 Crore Project Was Launched In 2023

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WHERE TO GO?

Chennai: Launched with fanfare nearly two years ago by Greater Chennai Corporation (GCC), the 15 'She' mobile toilets have gone missing from the city's streets, leaving thousands of women without access to safe, usable public sanitation.

The ₹4.5 crore project, inaugurated by mayor R Priya in Sept 2023, was meant to address a long-standing urban gap: clean and accessible toilets for women in public spaces. Each

air-conditioned bus was equipped with four toilet cubicles, a common wash basin, and a sanitary napkin dispenser. Strategically planned for high-footfall areas like Chennai Central, Koyambedu, Guindy, and T Nagar, the facilities were to be rotated or stationed daily based on demand.

But on-ground reality paints a different picture. When TOI visited these locations on Saturday, there was no trace of the She Toilets. Most women, including regular commuters, college students, and even

traffic and railway police-women, said they never saw the buses. "She toilets? Not available," said a woman constable near Chennai Central, directing women to use the railway station washrooms instead.

In Guindy, a traffic police officer echoed the same. "The bus was spotted a few times initially, but it hasn't come back in months."

College students such as K Shwetha, a job seeker from Puducherry, said she often has to wait hours to reach home just to use a hygienic toilet.

"During menstruation, it's worse," added a group of second-year medical students from Sri Lalithambigai Medical College, who also said they avoid public toilets, even at metro stations, due to faulty locks or poor maintenance.

According to officials,

the mobile units faced technical issues early on. "Battery problems emerged due to the tank system running all day. Repairs weren't followed up," said a senior corporation source.

Chairperson of the GCC's standing committee (public health), Dr G Shanthakumari, admitted she saw the buses only twice in Kolathur and promised to act. "I'll set up a WhatsApp group with mechanical department staff and ensure they upload photos of She Toilet operations daily."

Women's rights advocates say the matter is urgent.

"With nearly 48% of women in higher education in Tamil Nadu, mobility increased. Lack of basic sanitation is a clear setback," said Esther Mariaselvam of ActionAid, urging the corporation to revive and maintain the service.

Source: *The Times of India*, 22 June 2025, p 5

TN gets ₹29.5cr in 8 years under Khelo India; key proposals ignored

Only Five Of Projects Accepted In Eight Years

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Chennai: In the past eight years, Tamil Nadu has got ₹29.5 crore under Khelo India, as compared to ₹605 crore for Gujarat, ₹509 crore for Uttar Pradesh, and ₹180 crore each for Himachal and Haryana. Rajasthan completed 15 indoor halls with football courts and tracks. Arunachal Pradesh completed 21 projects, including 18 indoor multi-purpose halls. Gujarat walked away with ₹580 crore for a single stadium.

Due to poor allocation and rejection of projects, Tamil Nadu could only complete synthetic tracks at Vandalur, Thanjavur, Erode, and Salem,

TAKING STOCK

- 12 projects of TN yet to be accepted
 - 8 are athletic track works
 - 3 multi-purpose indoor stadiums
 - 1 swimming pool
- Overall funds released to TN since 2016: ₹29.5 crore



Five projects under way in TN

- Four synthetic track works in Erode, Salem, Chengalpet, Thanjavur
- One swimming pool in Chengalpet

and a swimming pool at the State Sports University in Melakottaiyur during the past eight years. Last year, Tamil Nadu submitted 12 fresh proposals for major infrastructure projects, including multi-purpose stadiums in Cuddalore, Thiruvavur, and Tuticorin, and a hockey field in Tuticorin. Several others involve athletic tracks. None of these projects has been approved so far.

According to Khelo India's website, funding is based on project viability and the number of administrative districts, not on state quotas. But Tamil Nadu officials argue that identical projects in other states received swift approvals in large numbers, while theirs remain pending. "Indoor halls are being sanctioned for hilly states such as Himachal and Arunachal, which have fewer

medal-winning athletes and limited sporting disciplines. Tamil Nadu has more districts and broader participation in national events. What's the logic behind denying us funds," a senior sports department official asked.

At the 38th national games held this year, TN ranked sixth with 92 medals, including 27 golds — a 20% increase from 2023, when the state stood 10th.

"We compete in a wide range of disciplines—even winning silver and bronze in yoga-sanas. Yet our infrastructure needs are overlooked," the official added.

SDAT Chennai district coach D Vinod said indoor stadiums are crucial to train athletes for international indoor championships. "While Nehru Stadium has such training facilities, districts don't. We can develop more districts if we get funding," he said.

Congress MP Karti Chidambaram said this shows gross disparity in allocations, hurting the aspirations of youngsters in sports. "Tamil Nadu has done well in national games compared to many other states, and it deserves its rightful share. I will take this up in parliament," he said. In 2024, Tamil Nadu sports minister Udhayanidhi Stalin criticised the Centre on X, calling the Khelo India allocations "a great injustice" and accusing the BJP Union govt of discrimination against states that did not vote for it.

Source: *The Times of India*, 5 June 2025, p 4

CM opens 50 free drinking water ATMs at key locations

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Chennai: Chief minister M K Stalin on Wednesday inaugurated 50 free drinking water dispensing machines (Water ATMs) across key public spots at a cost of ₹6.04 crore. Launching the initiative at Marina Beach, he took the first sip from a unit installed near the swimming pool.

Installed by Metrowater, the machines are aimed at providing free, safe drinking water at busy locations including bus stands, parks, hospitals, markets, metro stations, schools, and beaches. Each ATM dispenses water in 1-litre and 150ml quantities and is equipped with IoT-based systems for real-time monitoring.

Water is stored in large-capacity plastic tanks (3,000 litres to 9,000 litres), similar to household Sintex tanks, and purified using ultra-filtration, carbon filters, and UV treatment before being dispensed from stainless steel containers. "Alerts will be sent automatically to engineers



POTABLE PUSH: Chief minister M K Stalin inaugurated 50 smart water ATMs across the city on Wednesday

ers if water levels drop, ensuring timely refills. The RO and UV membranes will be checked weekly, and filters replaced monthly," said a Metrowater official.

Metrowater has also set up CCTV surveillance and a centralised control centre to prevent vandalism and ensure round-the-clock monitoring. The machines will be operated and maintained for three years by contractors appointed by the board.

While residents welcomed the scheme, they cautioned that upkeep must not be ignored. Former chief minister J Jayalalithaa had launched Amma Kudineer in 2016 to offer 20 litres of free RO water daily to the economically weaker sections. However, by 2019, the units became defunct as the RO membranes were not replaced, and the annual maintenance contracts were not renewed.

Anna Nagar DMK councillor T V Shemmozhi, who also inaugurated a unit near Blue Star junction, said he would monitor the facility. "I will personally inspect the unit every week. If there are any issues, I will ensure they are fixed," he said.

Anna Nagar DMK councillor T V Shemmozhi, who also inaugurated a unit near Blue Star junction, said he would monitor the facility. "I will personally inspect the unit every week. If there are any issues, I will ensure they are fixed," he said.

Source: *The Times of India*, 19 June 2025, p 3

TN offers a hand to evicted residents of Madrasi Camp in Delhi

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
@Chennai

THE state government, on instructions from Chief Minister M K Stalin, on Sunday offered support, by way of livelihood assistance and other essentials, to families of the Madrasi Camp in South Delhi who may be looking to return to their native districts in Tamil Nadu.

The move follows the Delhi government's decision to relocate the families in the Madrasi Camp as the slum settlement is allegedly blocking the Barapullah drain near Nizamuddin Railway Station in South Delhi, resulting in waterlogging.

The Madrasi Camp comprises 370 slum dwellings and is pre-

dominantly inhabited by persons of Tamil Nadu origin.

"Tamil Nadu shall assist the residents of Madrasi Camp who choose to return to their native districts in TN. Comprehensive support, including assistance for livelihood and other essential needs, will be extended to them. This assistance will be facilitated through the offices of the district collectors concerned to ensure timely and effective implementation," an official release here said.

The "Tamil Nadu House" in New Delhi has been tasked with actively facilitating and overseeing the coordination efforts.

"Reaffirming its unwavering commitment to the welfare of persons of Tamil Nadu origin



Demolition works under way at the camp in Delhi | **SAVANTAN GHOSH**

residing outside the state, the Tamil Nadu government is in active coordination with the res-

idents of Madrasi Camp to ensure that every possible support is extended to them without de-

lay," the release added.

Following a directive from the Delhi High Court, 215 out of the 370 residents (Madrasi Camp) who were found eligible have been allotted houses, under the Delhi Development Authority (DDA), in Narela, Delhi.

Meanwhile, in Madurai, V Ramachandran, a member of the Information and Resource Centre for the Deprived Urban Communities – an NGO – submitted a petition to the CM, who is here (Madurai), seeking his intervention in ensuring the relocation of the Tamils evicted from Madrasi Camp.

"The residents, who have lived there (Madrasi Camp) for nearly 50 years, are being evicted without a proper rehabilitation plan.

This has impacted their livelihoods and children's education. The residents are willing to relocate to the resettlement site in Dwarka, Delhi. The Tamil Nadu government is requested to help the community in getting relocated to Dwarka," the petition said.

The NGO also urged the state government to introduce a scheme (Kalaingar Kappagam) to provide housing/shelter to people living on the streets and platforms. With the union government having stopped funding homeless shelters under the National Urban Livelihoods Mission (NULM), they stressed on the need for the state to step in by allocating funds through the scheme.

Source: *The New Indian Express*, 2 June 2025, p.4

Rules for nominating PwDs to TN local bodies framed

District-level committees to scrutinise applications; candidates should have completed 21 years on or before date of nomination

NIRUPAMA VISWANATHAN
@ Chennai

THE state government has framed rules for the nomination of persons with disabilities as members of the local bodies, after the state assembly passed two bills in April this year to amend the Tamil Nadu Urban Local Bodies Act, 2023, and the Tamil Nadu Panchayats Act, 1994. A district-level committee will scrutinise applications and finalise the eligible candidates, as per the new rules.

In case of town panchayats, municipal councils and municipal corporations, the district collector will be the chairman of the district-level committee, while the commissioner will chair the committee as far as the Chennai corporation is concerned. The district-level committee for nomination to rural local bodies (village panchayats, panchayat unions and district panchayats) will be chaired by the personal assistant (development) to the district collector.

In all the three cases, the District Differently Abled Welfare Officer (DDAWO) and one of the three representatives of registered organisations in the District Level Committee on Disability under the Tamil Nadu Rights of Persons with Disabilities Rules, 2018, nominated by the collector, will be members of the committees. For rural local bodies, town panchayats, municipal councils and municipal corporations, the assistant director (Panchayat) concerned will act as the convenor. The DDAWO is the convenor for the committee in Chennai corporation



which will also have on board the district collector and the secretary to council as members.

The rules state the district-level committee will scrutinise the applications forwarded, finalise the eligible candidate and send the recommendations to the government to the directors of the department concerned. In case of the city corporation, the recommended candidates will be sent to the government directly and for rural local bodies, the recommendations are to be sent to the district collector or inspector of panchayats.

To be eligible for nomination, the person with disability should be a resident of the municipality or the panchayat concerned and should possess a valid disability certificate obtained from the competent certifying authorities as per Rule

10 of the TN Rights of Persons with Disabilities Rules, 2018. They should have also completed 21 years of age on or before the date of nomination.

As per the rules, the nominated members are guaranteed rights under section 43 of the Tamil Nadu Urban Local Bodies Act and section 81 of the Tamil Nadu Panchayats Act.

Under this, members may be able to call the attention of the executive authority concerned, commissioner, secretary or chairperson to any neglect in the execution of panchayat or municipal work, or to any waste of municipal or panchayat property or to the basic needs and civic requirements of the locality. Every member will have the right to interpellate the president or chairperson in meetings on matters connected to administration and have access during office hours to the records of the municipality or panchayat after issuing due notice to the executive authority.

The two bills introduced by the Tamil Nadu government in the assembly to nominate persons with disabilities to the local bodies were subsequently given assent by the governor in June. Through this, a total of 650 PwDs will be nominated to urban local bodies, 12,913 PwDs will be nominated to village panchayats, 388 to panchayat unions, and 37 to district panchayats.

Earlier this month, Chief Minister MK Stalin had announced that in the first phase 3,634 differently-abled members will be nominated to local bodies and the application process will begin from July 1.

Stalin lays foundation for new infrastructure projects worth over ₹200 crore in 26 temples

The Hindu Bureau
CHENNAI

Chief Minister M.K. Stalin on Wednesday laid the foundation for 49 new infrastructure projects worth ₹217.98 crore in 26 temples under the control of the Hindu Religious and Charitable Endowments (HR&CE) Department. He also inaugurated 33 completed projects, including 16 temple-related works and 15 administrative offices, worth ₹21.5 crore through videoconference from the Secretariat.

The new projects include the construction of an *annadhanam* hall, a puja items sales centre, and vehicle parking facilities at the Subramanyaswamy Temple in Tiruttani; a water tank, community hall and staff quarters at the Subramanyaswamy Temple in Tiruchi; and an administrative building at the



Improving amenities: Chief Minister M.K. Stalin unveiling projects at the Secretariat in Chennai on Wednesday. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

Dhandayuthapaniswamy Temple in Palani. Other key projects are *rajagopurams*, marriage halls, temple tanks, staff quarters and compound walls at temples in Ramanathapuram, Madurai, Ariyalur, Cuddalore, Coimbatore, Tenkasi, and Krishnagiri districts.

The completed projects include new marriage halls, renovated temple tanks, and administrative enhancements such as As-

sistant Commissioner offices, multi-purpose buildings, *annadhanam* halls, and other facilities for devotees in various districts.

Deputy Chief Minister Udhayanidhi Stalin, HR&CE Minister P.K. Sekarbabu, Chief Secretary N. Muruganandam, and Additional Chief Secretary of Tourism, Culture and Religious Endowments Department K. Manivasan were among those present at the event.

Source: *The Hindu*, 19 June 2025, p.6

Source: *The New Indian Express*, 29 June 2025, p.4

CM launches Chennai Book Park at Central Metro station

It has a collection of 15,000 books from 14 publishers and retailers; similar facilities planned in city

The Hindu Bureau
CHENNAI

Booklovers of all ages, students, and job aspirants now have yet another destination to explore in the city, as Chief Minister M.K. Stalin on Tuesday inaugurated the 'Chennai Book Park' set up at the Central Metro station's concourse at a cost of ₹1.85 crore.

The book park has in its collection works published by KSL Media Limited, Tamil Nadu Textbook and Educational Services Cor-



Chief Minister M.K. Stalin inaugurating Chennai Book Park at the Central Metro station on Tuesday. AKHILA EASWARAN

poration, Kalachuvadu Publications Private Limited, Ahaguru Education Technology Private Limited, among others. "The Chennai Book Park has about 15,000 books. One can buy

books published by the Tamil Nadu Textbook and Educational Services Corporation. We also have books from 14 publishers/retailers under the same roof," said P. Shankar, Ma-

naging Director of the Tamil Nadu Textbook and Educational Services Corporation and Director of Public Libraries. The Central Metro station was chosen for the first book park in Chennai due to its connectivity and high footfall, he said. Based on the reception of this station's book park, similar facilities will be opened at places such as the Alandur Metro station, Mr. Shankar said.

The air-conditioned book park also has an event space for new book releases and a cafeteria.

Source: *The Hindu*, 11 June 2025, p.5

State's pregnancy registration system exposes Aadhaar tampering to hide child marriages

P. V. Sridvidya
KRISHNAGIRI

Six teenage mothers using tampered Aadhaar cards to show a higher age were discovered, thanks to the State government's Pregnancy and Infant Cohort Monitoring and Evaluation (PICME) system in Denkanikottai.

On Wednesday, a 17-year-old girl was intercepted by Collector C. Dinesh Kumar at the Comprehensive Emergency Obstetric and Newborn Care (CEmONC) centre at the government hospital. He felt she looked younger, though she insisted she was 18. "She didn't look 18. When I checked her ID, I noticed that she was 17 in March, when she got married, and was now two-months pregnant. An entry was made and a case under the Child Marriage Act and the POCSO Act will be registered," he said.

The Collector's visit followed the detection of six persons as underage mothers though their Aadhaar cards showed a different date of birth.

The PICME portal registers and tracks pregnancies to prevent infant and maternal deaths, and to bring all births into the institutional delivery system. PICME registration is mandatory to get a birth certificate.

Mismatch in data
According to Deputy Director of Health Services G. Ramesh Kumar, there had been six cases of underage mothers from Kelamangalam block. Two of them were carrying Aadhaar cards with dates of birth that did not match the ones shown on their Aadhaar ID on the UIDAI portal.

Identification mentioned her age as 14. Three Internet centres had abetted the forgery.

New system
The Health Department had since alerted the Tahsildar and the Collector. "Tampering was possible in the earlier system, where the PICME portal was manually fed using the ID produced by the mother. But on PICME 3.0, which is linked to the UIDAI portal, tampering is impossible," Dr. Ramesh said. Once the Aadhaar number is keyed in, it will reveal all the details. "An OTP is sent to the phone number seeded to the Aadhaar number, without which we cannot proceed into the PICME portal," said Sacharita, Block Medical Officer, Thally.

"I have apprised the UIDAI too about this, and complaints have been lodged against those Internet/photocopy centres and

the Aadhaar cardholders, spouses and their families. We are registering cases invoking both the Child Marriage Act and the POCSO Act," the officer added.

Last month, a man and his wife ended their lives after a case was registered against them for child marriage. Their 17-year-old daughter was married off to her maternal uncle, became pregnant, and underwent an abortion. "She had attempted suicide, and the private hospital where she was admitted alerted us. The girl was from a community we focus on in Bargur, because it has the highest incidence of teen marriages. Cases were registered against both families. That is how stringent we are in dealing with child marriages," the Collector said.

Typically, any teenage pregnancy that comes into the hospital system for the mandatory PICME registration is routed through an

AR entry at the hospital, where the police is intimated and a case is registered. The Health Department has been quietly intimating the police, and POCSO cases are being registered, Dr. Ramesh Kumar said.

"We've had experience of girls running off to Karnataka and Andhra Pradesh once the police get involved and then, tracking the pregnancies becomes difficult. It could also result in maternal mortality. So, we requested the police to wait till the mothers give birth to take action against their husbands and families," he added.

Between April 2024 and March 2025, a total of 545 cases of child marriage were registered, which included migrant women.

(Assistance for overcoming suicidal thoughts is available on the State's health helpline 104, TeleMANAS 14416, and Sneha's suicide prevention helpline 044-24640050)

Sanitation certificates can now be obtained on T.N. e-Sevai portal

The Hindu Bureau
CHENNAI

Sanitation certificates can now be obtained on the Tamil Nadu e-Sevai portal – <https://www.tnesevai.tn.gov.in>.

The Directorate of Public Health and Preventive Medicine, in a communication, said that the "issue of sanitary certificate service" was now live on the e-Sevai portal.

On May 29, Chief Minister M.K. Stalin officially launched the 'SimpleGov' initiative, marking the full transition to an online Sanitation Certificate system. All institutions are now required to apply or renew certificates exclusively through the e-Sevai portal.

Applicants should visit the portal, complete or up-

date their registration, upload all necessary documents, including the sanitation protocol, and submit a self-affidavit signed by the authorised person. On successful submission, the sanitation certificate will be auto-generated with

a validity of one year. As per a Government Order, the types of institutions required to obtain the certificates include schools, colleges, shopping malls, marriage halls, factories, including micro, small and medium enter-

prises, old age homes, children's homes, and working women's hostels.

These institutions are considered critical due to their high footfall, raising the need for hygienic conditions to prevent public health risks.

Irular family of 10 rescued from bonded labour in Vikravandi

Officials said the family had borrowed ₹50,000 from the kiln owner two years ago and were made to work even after repaying it

KRITHIKA SRINIVASAN
@Villupuram

AN Irular tribal family of 10, including four children, was rescued from bonded labour at a private brick kiln in Kalingamalai village near Vikravandi on Tuesday evening. Following the rescue, Villupuram Revenue Divisional Officer (RDO)

Murugesan issued Release Certificates and disbursed financial assistance of ₹30,000 to each member of the family on Wednesday.

According to sources, the National Adivasi Solidarity Council (NASC) had alerted senior officials earlier this week after receiving information about the family's plight.

A field-level verification by the council confirmed the presence of bonded labourers at the site.

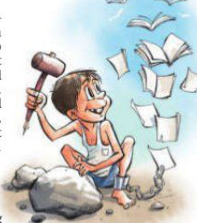
Acting swiftly, the matter was escalated to the Secretary of the District Legal Services Authority (DLSA), Justice Jaichandran. Subsequently, a coordinated team comprising the RDO, District Labour Welfare

Officer, Vikravandi Tahsildar, and personnel from Kandamangalam police station conducted a late-night operation on Tuesday to rescue the family. The team also lodged a complaint with the police against the kiln owner, identified as K Palani.

"We received a tip-off from a source, and it was heartening to witness the swift convergence of various government departments"
NASC Secretary K Krishnan

Official sources said the family had borrowed ₹50,000 from the kiln owner two years ago and had continued working at the kiln despite having repaid the amount through labour. The owner allegedly forced them to remain in bondage, claiming compounded interest had pushed the debt to ₹1 lakh.

Speaking to *TNIE*, NASC Secretary K Krishnan said, "We received a tip-off from a source, and it was heartening



to witness the swift convergence of various government departments — including the judiciary, revenue, and police — working together to secure the family's release within 24 hours. This shows that if the system truly works for the marginalised, it can bring light into many lives."

The rescued family has since been sent back to their native village in Cuddalore. However, the kiln owner is yet to be remanded, officials said.

Source: *The New Indian Express*, 27 June 2025, p.7

TN's cattle sport sees a bull run, records 50% jump compared to last year

B ANBUSELVAN @ Chennai

TAMIL Nadu seems to be embracing cattle sport like never before as the number of bovine sporting events, including Jallikattu and racing, jumped by 50% between January and May this year, compared to the same period last year.

According to official sources, a total of 352 events of Jallikattu (bull taming), Eruthu Vidum Vizha (bull racing), and Manju Virattu (bull chasing) were conducted across 19 districts involving approximately 1.14 lakh bulls. The figure for the same period last year was 214.

The tentative number of bulls that took part in these events may be 25,000 to 26,000, as one bull usually participates in four to five events.

Due to a lack of unique code to identify each participating bull, the official figure of 1.14 lakh participating bulls may be inflated, sources said. Around 41,000 bull tamers took part in these events across Tamil Nadu during the period.

Native bull breeds such as Kangayam, Umblachery, Alam-badi, Bargur, and Pulikulam took part in these events.

As per the last livestock census taken in 2019, Tamil Nadu had around 3.3 lakh indigenous bulls. "There seems to be a slight increase in the number of bulls in recent years. However, the exact figures will be known only when the 21st Livestock Census results are released in a few months," said an official from the Department of Animal Husbandry and Vet-

erinary Services.

The official noted that bull-taming events had traditionally remained unorganised, with no formal record of bulls, tamers, or spectators. Sources indicated that the animal husbandry department sent a proposal to build a comprehensive database that generates a unique identification code for each participating bull. "Currently, there is no mechanism to track the number of events in which a single bull may have taken part. A proposal has been submitted to the state government to address this gap. The portal will also help us identify district-wise bull populations and breeds that will be vital for conserving native breeds," the official said.

"The data can serve as a val-



uable resource for major policy decisions concerning native bull breeds and other related sectors," the official added.

Revenue and police department sources told *TNIE* that due to strict monitoring, nearly all events were conducted only after obtaining formal approval through the online portal www.jallikattu.tn.gov.in. "Unauthorised bull races in villages and towns, particularly in Vellore, Tiruvannamalai, and other northern districts, have been completely curtailed. This may explain the increase in the number of events that have been accounted for," explained an official.

Bull racing is traditionally conducted in Vellore, Tiruvannamalai, Ranipet, Krishnagiri, and Dharmapuri, while vada-

madu (a style of letting bulls run in open fields) is prevalent in Sivaganga and Pudukkottai districts. This year, of the total, seven to eight were vadamadu events, while 170 were bull racing events, and the rest were Jallikattu. About five bull tamers lost their lives this year, and over 200 spectators sustained injuries. The government organises Jallikattu in Alanganallur, Palamedu, and Avaniyapuram in Madurai district between January 14 and 17, while other enthusiasts organise similar events in their towns and villages in the rest of the state from January to May 31. Both spectators and bull tamers are insured, with coverage of up to ₹5 lakh per person and a total limit of ₹1 crore for 20 persons.

Source: *The New Indian Express*, 23 June 2025, p.4

TN told to submit draft policy for trans persons by July 21

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE

@ Chennai

THE Madras High Court on Monday granted a month's time to the Tamil Nadu government to submit the draft policy for the welfare of trans persons. Justice N Anand Venkatesh, while hearing a batch of petitions related to issues faced by the LGBTQIA+ community, granted the social welfare department time till July 21 to file the draft policy.

The judge questioned the inordinate delay in finalising and submitting the draft in the court so that it could be circulated to the stakeholders to elicit their views.

Earlier this year, the department had informed the court that it was decided to frame two separate policies - one for trans persons and another for members of the lesbian, gay, bisexual, queer and asexual (LGBQA+) communities. Despite

expressing reservations, the court had directed the department to file the draft policy by June 2. However, officials submitted on Monday that the draft was still being finalised, as it took time to get inputs from multiple departments.

Expressing displeasure over the delay, the judge commented that the court could only pass the order and it was up to the government to comply. He noted that the current situation in Tamil Nadu was most conducive for introducing inclusive welfare policies for these highly marginalised communities, and that the opportunity should not be allowed to slip away.

The case has been posted for further hearing on July 21.



Source: *The New Indian Express*, 10 June 2025, p.4

MTC to replace 100 old small buses with new BSVI-compliant vehicles

Tenders floated recently; last-mile connectivity from metro stations, vital locations to be improved

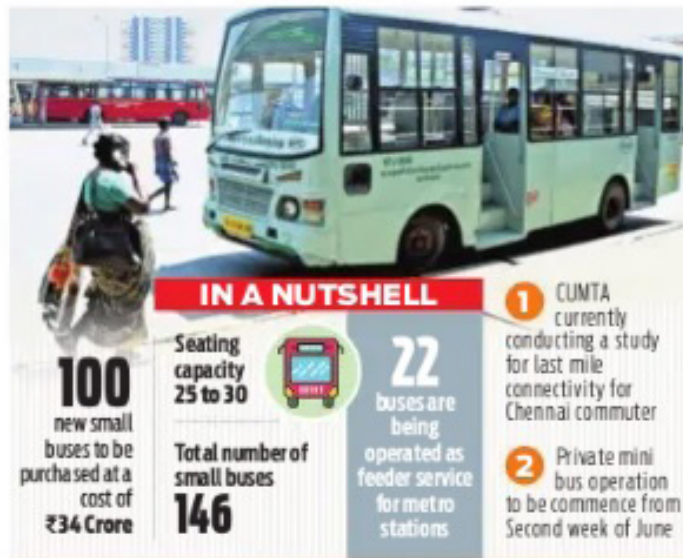
B ANBUSELVAN @ Chennai

WITH the private mini buses all set to start operations in Chennai from the second week of June, the Metropolitan Transport Corporation (MTC) has decided to replace 100 existing small buses with new ones.

The state-run transport body, which caters to Chennai and its suburban regions, will procure 100 BSVI-compliant mini buses at an estimated cost of ₹34 crore. Tenders were floated recently. These new vehicles will ply on existing routes and are intended to improve last-mile connectivity from metro stations and other key locations.

T PrabhuShankar, managing director of MTC, told TNIE the current fleet of small buses has been in use for 11 years. "These buses will be replaced with new ones. At this stage, we are not planning to expand the small bus fleet," he said.

To further strengthen last-mile connectivity, a joint study is under way with the Chennai



Unified Metropolitan Transport Authority (CUMTA). "Based on the study's findings, we will explore the possibility of expanding small bus services wherever necessary," he added.

Currently MTC operates 146 small buses in Chennai, includ-

ing 56 that connect interior areas with metro rail stations. Of these, 22 buses function exclusively as feeder services for the metro. The remaining small buses serve as general public transport, particularly in areas that cannot accommodate larger

buses.

According to regulations, standard MTC buses require a minimum road width of 40 feet. To provide connectivity in interior areas with narrower roads (20 to 30 feet wide), small buses were introduced in the city in 2013.

At present, small buses serve eight metro stations: Koyambedu, CMBT, Thirumangalam, Alandur, Chennai Airport, Wimco Nagar, Guindy and Little Mount.

MTC officials noted work is ongoing to develop new feeder routes for metro stations in high-demand areas. "CUMTA's study will also identify feeder routes for all metro stations. This initiative will benefit both MTC and metro rail services," they said.

Meanwhile, private mini buses approved by the state transport department will operate in seven zones within Chennai, as well as the Avadi and Tambaram city corporations. The designated route lengths will range between 10 and 20 kilometres.

Source: *The New Indian Express*, 8 June 2025, p.3

Half of pedestrians killed in '24 were hit by 2-wheelers

Sindhu.Kannan@timesofindia.com

Pedestrians in Chennai, who believe they are safe while treading the footpath or using marked zebra crossings are becoming victims of road accidents—often on account of reckless two-wheeler riders. Official data from 2024

shows that nearly half of the 185 pedestrian fatalities involved speeding bikes that either rear-ended the victims or collided with them while they were attempting to cross the road.

Around 47% of pedestrian deaths occurred near footpaths, while 30% were at pedestrian crossings—supposedly safe spaces. But shrinking carriageways due to ongoing metro rail, flyover, and storm-water drain works have forced cars and vans towards the edges of the road, pushing two-wheelers onto already narrow pedestrian spaces.

In many areas, footpaths have been overrun by hawkers and unauthorized commercial units—hotels, bars, textile stores, and kiosks. Only 16% of the roads have footpaths, and just 14% of them are wider than 1.5m, as recommended by Indian Road Congress guidelines for urban spaces.

Civic officials conduct occasional eviction drives, but encroachments return quickly. "The city's one and only pedestrian plaza is in poor shape. Nobody takes pedestrian welfare seriously," said D Ramakrishnan, an Adambakkam-based civic activist.

Even where pedestrian crossings exist, the time allotted for them to cross is short. "At many junctions, it's just 10 or 20 seconds. That's not enough, especially for the elderly," he said, citing the daily chaos in front of Little Mount Metro station as a case in point.

On OMR, the risk is compounded by infra disruptions. Many foot-overbridges have been dismantled for metro and bridge construction or are poorly maintained and dimly lit, prompting pedestrians to avoid them.

While Greater Chennai Traffic Police books about 2,500 stop line and signal jumping violations every month, enforcement has not solved the issue as structural changes are needed. "Traffic lights must be recalibrated to give adequate time for pedestrians to cross, and stop lines must be clearly visible," said transportation activist S Kamal.

Activists argue that real solutions lie in a policy shift that puts pedestrians ahead of vehicles. "What's needed is at-grade (road-level) crossings, protected paths, and lighting," he said. Despite Chennai being the first metro city with a non-motorized transport policy, implementation remains patchy.

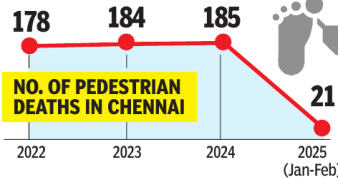
This year, state govt has allotted ₹200 crore to build 170km of high-quality footpaths, prioritising non-motorised transport across Chennai. GCC officials say they will identify high-footfall areas in the first phase.

47% of Deaths Took Place Near Footpaths, 30% At Crossings; Activists Call For A Change In Policy That Puts Walkers First



FATALITY COUNT

Only 16% of the roads have footpaths, just 1.4% of them are wider than 1.5m

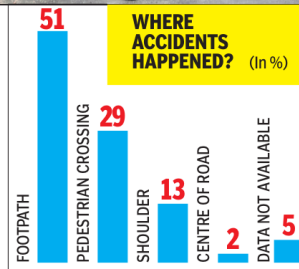


TOP REASONS FOR ACCIDENTS

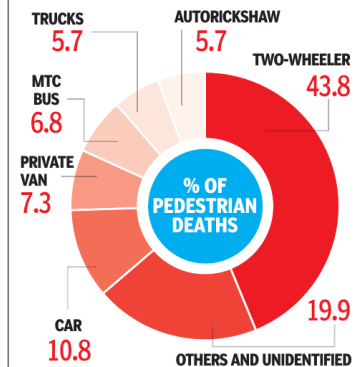
- Walkways get narrow due to infrastructure works
- Bikers riding on platforms
- Encroachers take over platforms
- Poorly maintained zebra crossings at signals
- Inadequate time to cross the road

PEDESTRIAN ACCIDENTS IN TN

YEAR	TOTAL ACCIDENTS	KILLED	GRIEVOUS INJURIES	MINOR INJURIES
2019	4,121	1,044	230	3,628
2020	8,979	1,540	600	7,643
2021	12,541	3,647	4,893	4,762
2022	15,054	4,427	5,194	6,443



VEHICLES THAT CAUSED ACCIDENTS



PEDESTRIAN COUNT (TOP 5 LOCATIONS) IN CITY

Pedestrian count per hour during peak hours

EGMORE RAILWAY STATION **7,161**

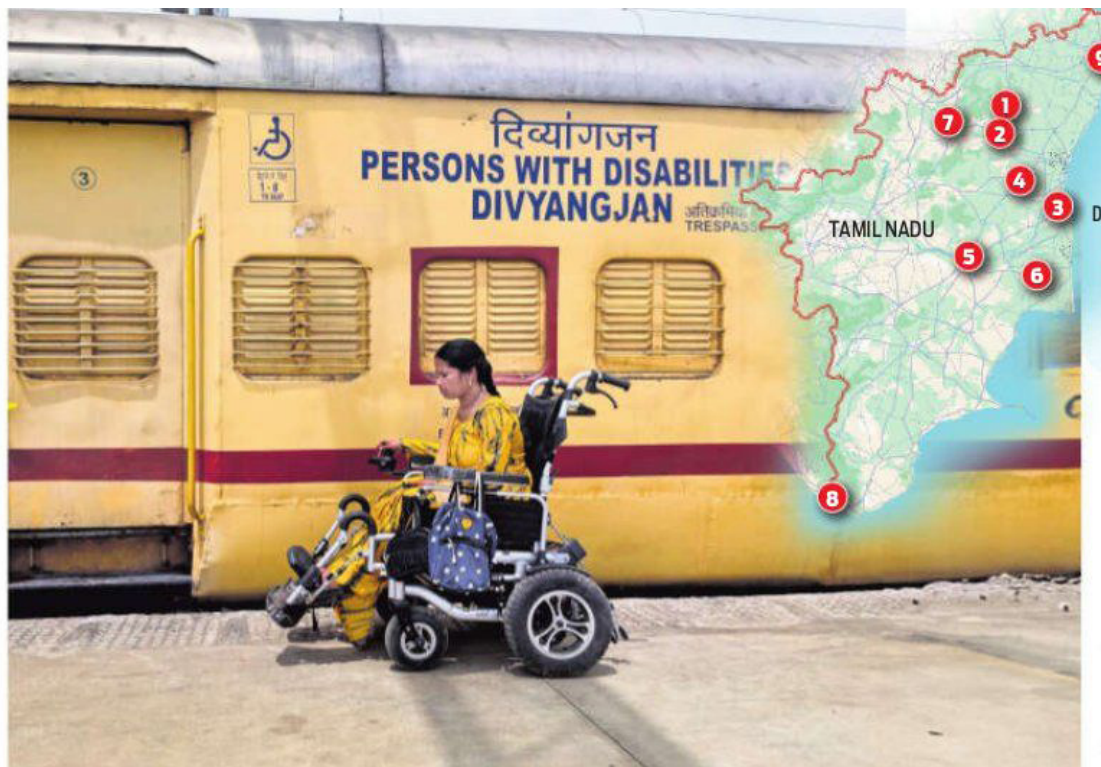
PERIYAR EVR SALAI Vs TAYLORS ROAD **5,660**

NUNGAMBAKKAM COLLEGE ROAD JUNCTION **4,856**

SOUTH USMAN ROAD IN FRONT OF T. NAGAR BUS STAND **4,773**

ARCOT ROAD NEAR MEENAKSHI COLLEGE **4,747**

Source: *The Times of India*, 12 June 2025, p 4



STATIONED AT DISADVANTAGE

On visiting the nine railway stations redeveloped under Amrit Bharat Station Scheme in TN recently, *TNIE* found none is fully accessible to disabled persons

On May 22, Prime Minister Narendra Modi virtually inaugurated 103 railway stations redeveloped under the ambitious Amrit Bharat Station Scheme (ABSS), of which nine were from Tamil Nadu, renovated at a cost of ₹66 crore.

While the scheme, launched in 2022, intends to redevelop over 1,300 stations in a phased manner, a key necessity of making these stations accessible to persons with disabilities (PwDs), which ought to have been taken on priority, has been largely given a miss in the nine stations in Tamil Nadu.

This is despite the Rights of Persons with Disabilities Act making it mandatory for all government buildings to be disabled-friendly and ABSS including the same in its scope of

work. Equipped with a checklist created with the support of the Freedom of Movement Support Coalition, a pan-India organisation working on transport equity, reporters of *TNIE* visited all the nine stations, often accompanied by PwDs, to check the improvements done in terms of accessibility.

Much to the disappointment, the reporters found that toilets were inaccessible or locked in all stations, Braille signs to help visually-impaired persons were absent in all stations, only one platform had step-free access in all stations, getting a wheelchair remains a struggle in eight stations, and tactile warnings were not installed as per standards in at least seven stations.

Non-availability of space and budget constraints was often cited as

the reason for lack of lifts or bridges with ramps. However, even minor inexpensive things were not installed. For instance, improper installation of hand railings, lack of access to wheelchairs at the entrance, and non-availability of designated parking spot, were noticed in at least five stations, indicating inadequate consultation with PwDs during the redevelopment planning.

Another indication of the same was the installation of polished granite flooring in many places, including ramps, which can make them unsafe for not only PwDs but also the elderly. Here is a status check of all the nine stations.

Officials from Southern Railway said works will continue under ABSS, and issues in any stations would be addressed at the earliest.

Source: *The New Indian Express*, 1 June 2025, p.2

Panel on cards to erase 'colony' from names of habitations, govt records

Discussions under way at level of senior officials to formulate plan and guidelines



K EZHILARASAN @ Chennai

AFTER Chief Minister MK Stalin made a socially significant announcement in April in the Assembly to remove the term 'colony' from the names of habitations of SC people in official records and public usage, the government machinery is now preparing for its implementation. The humongous exercise not only involves renaming lakhs of streets across TN, but also making changes in government records of individuals to capture those alterations.

Sources said discussions are under way at the level of senior officials in formulating a plan and guidelines. The government is inclining towards constituting a committee, which will include the ministers for municipal administration and rural development and senior officials from the departments concerned, to implement the work.

Deliberations are under way on whether to seek suggestions of names from people living in the respective localities through the staff at village panchayat, the block development officers and other revenue officials, who could then shortlist or choose one in accordance with guidelines to be suggested by the government.

"To guide this process, officials may provide a framework outlining certain conditions for suggestion of names. One such condition could be that the new name should be neutral and non-identifiable in terms of the residents' social background," a person involved in the discussions shared.

In addition to this, villages with names containing an explicit identifier of any of the SCs, especially in an undignified manner, are also expected to be renamed.

An alternative idea being floated is for officials to suggest a broad list of names, from which the residents can choose one for their street or locality.

The removal of the term 'colony' also involves the extensive process of updating addresses in all official documents of residents, including ration cards, Aadhaar cards, voter IDs, bank passbooks, etc. When contacted by TNIE, writer Imaiya, vice-chairperson of Tamil Nadu State Commission for SC and ST, said, "The new names could be inspired by flowers, ancient Tamil poets or even renowned scientists like Newton and Edison, and philosophers such as Socrates and Plato."



The removal of the term 'colony' also involves updating all official documents like EPIC, ration and Aadhaar cards | EXPRESS

Different names across TN: VCK

VCK MLA Sinthanai Selvan said, "In no way can the term 'colony' be justified. But the new names should not be common across the state. They should vary from village to village. Perhaps we can simply name the streets using their directions, under the name of the specific village unit."



The new names could be inspired by flowers, ancient Tamil poets or even renowned scientists like Newton and Edison, and philosophers such as Socrates and Plato

Imaiya, writer



Imaiya: Stigma of 13 centuries will be removed

K EZHILARASAN @ Chennai

SAHITYA Akademi award winning writer and vice chairperson of Tamil Nadu State Commission for SC and ST Imaiya said, once implemented, the "revolutionary" initiative to rename "colonies" used to denote habitations of SCs, being under taken, will be etched in history for removing the social stigma that has burdened the oppressed communities for about 13 centuries.

In an interaction with TNIE, Imaiya said, "Think of a situation when a person applies for a bank loan or a job. The manager or the recruiter (with a casteist outlook), upon seeing the word 'colony' in the address, may make him wait unnecessarily or even reject the application"

"The address in documents unnecessarily reveals one's caste to others. This amounts to a psychological attack on the oppressed community, and that's why we want it removed," he stressed.

According to him, the word 'Cheri' appears in Tholkappiyam, the ancient Tamil grammar text, and is also found in other texts such as *Agananooru*, *Kurunthogai*, and *Nattrinai*. "However, in them, cheri did not refer to a separate settlement for a particular group, but simply denoted as a general living area where everyone resided. In Silappathikaram, cheri and purancheri are used to mean the main and outer habitations respectively," he said.

Imaiya said it was around the 9th century that spatial segregation of habitations began to take shape, and during this period, the term 'Theendacheri' emerged in Tamil texts. "Over time, cheri came to be associated specifically with hamlets of Scheduled Castes. Eventually, cheri was replaced by 'colony' in official records and public usage," he said.

Source: *The New Indian Express*, 1 June 2025, p.4

Under PDS, TN to door deliver essentials to the elderly, disabled

B ANBUSELVAN @ Chennai

IN a first for the state, the Tamil Nadu government is gearing up to launch a door-to-door delivery service of essential commodities such as rice, sugar, wheat, palmolein oil and toor dal under the Public Distribution System (PDS) to cater to those facing difficulties in accessing the fair price shops for their supplies.

In the first phase, the scheme will cover around 15 lakh of the roughly 2.21 crore ration cardholders, focusing on those cardholding families that have only senior citizens aged 70 and above or persons with disabilities (PwDs) with no other family members available in a capacity to visit the shops for procurement.

Beneficiaries will include both Priority Household (PHH) and Non-Priority



First phase to cover 15L ration cardholders

In the first phase, the scheme will cover around 15 lakh ration cardholders, with the proposed home delivery expected to start in July or August, implemented by the cooperation department

Household (NPHH) cardholders. The proposed home delivery of commodities in Tamil Nadu, expected to start in July or August, will be implemented by the cooperation department using various vehicles such as maxi trucks, mini trucks and vans.

A similar scheme, which was launched in Andhra Pradesh by the previous YSRCP govern-

ment in 2021, was discontinued in May this year due to issues, including frequent failure of biometric authentication, irregularities in delivery and high operational costs.

Chief Secretary N Muruganandam recently held a detailed review meeting with officials from the civil supplies and cooperation departments at the secretariat. According to official sources, the final list of beneficiaries is being finalised at the moment.

An official said, "Since 2021, new ration card applications from PwDs have been categorised under PHH. With this scheme, all PwDs, whether they hold PHH or NPHH cards, will receive home delivery of their ration items." The items will be handed over at the beneficiary's doorstep after biometric authentication by the delivery agent, added the official. **P7**

'Initiative won't face logistical hurdles due to strong transportation network'

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

OFFICIALS further told *TNIE* that the state is proceeding cautiously, mindful of the challenges faced by a similar scheme launched in Andhra Pradesh in 2021 and discontinued in May this year.

Currently, Tamil Nadu has 24,800 full-time ration shops and 10,355 part-time shops catering to 2.21 crore ration cardholders.

"Cooperative societies managing ration shops have a robust transportation network for moving goods procured by the Tamil Nadu Civil Supplies Corporation. These societies manage 35,000 ration shops. Therefore, rolling out door delivery will not

2.21 crore TOTAL NUMBER OF RATION CARDHOLDERS

PHH & PHH-AAY (under NFSA): 1.12 crore, NPHH: 1.1 crore

THE DOOR DELIVERY SCHEME PROPOSES TO COVER:

- All persons with disabilities (PHH and NPHH)
- Senior citizens aged 70 and above

face any logistical hurdles," an official added. Besides supporting people who face barriers in accessing the PDS, the initiative is expected to aid in streamlining and improving the efficiency in usage of storage space, espe-

cially in warehouses, and thereby minimising losses since the door delivery of goods in bulk would be done within the first week of every month.

The state has issued over 18.45 lakh Antyodaya Anna Yojana (AAY) cards to the poorest households, each eligible to receive 35kg of rice per month, some of whom may become eligible for the door delivery scheme as well.

To overcome the difficulties faced by many of these beneficiaries living in remote places, the cooperation department already operates 2,494 mobile fair price shops, primarily serving residents in geographically challenging areas such as hilly regions or locations cut off by rivers and highways.

Source: *The New Indian Express*, 17 June 2025, p.1 and 7

TN govt turns down centre's order to distribute 3 months' ration at one go

Cites logistical issues in carrying large quantities of rice, limited storage space in ration shops

B ANBUSELVAN @Chennai

THE Tamil Nadu government has turned down the union government's directive to distribute three months' entitlement of rice and wheat in advance to NFSA (National Food Security Act) cardholders.

In May, the Union Food department had asked Tamil Nadu and other states to supply food grains for June, July, and August at one go to NFSA beneficiaries. It had directed the Food Corporation of India (FCI) to coordinate with the state government for advance lifting and distribution.

The centre attributed the decision to the need to avoid losses due to adverse weather conditions and other factors.

The directive from the Deputy Director of the Statistics division, Department of Food and Public Distribution, advised states to lift food grains in advance and ensure immediate distribution, citing the upcoming monsoon season and the anticipated logistical and storage challenges caused by adverse weather conditions such as floods.

Sources from the FCI told *TNIE* that while the state government initially agreed to lift food grains in advance from the FCI, it later decided

against the move. A few states, including Odisha and Madhya Pradesh, have already distributed three months' worth of rice at one go to beneficiaries. According to union government guidelines, the FCI is required to maintain sufficient food grain stocks to meet six months' demand.

The proposed advance lifting is expected to enhance rice storage capacity and help minimise storage losses at warehouses.

However, the Tamil Nadu Civil Supplies and Consumer

Protection department has raised several practical challenges in implementing bulk distribution. It has informed the centre that the existing system of monthly distribution will continue for now.

An official explained, "Antyodaya Anna Yojana (AAY) cardholders are entitled to 35 kg of rice per month. Distributing 105 kg at one time would pose serious logistical difficulties for beneficiaries in transporting such large quantities. Moreover, most ration shops are too small to store three months' worth of stock."

He further noted that many ration shops operate with only two rooms – one for billing and biometric authentication, and the other for issuing commodities.

"Since the Point of Sale (POS) machines are integrated with weighing scales, the sales personnel must press a button on the POS while weighing the items. With many shops staffed

by only one person handling both billing and distribution, managing three months' supply in a single go is not feasible," he said.

The official added that if the state government launched a home delivery of food grains for select beneficiaries, such initiatives can be implemented in future. Tamil Nadu has a population of 3.6 crore covered under the NFSA through 1.12 crore ration cards.

This includes 93 lakh Priority Household (PHH) cards and 18.45 lakh AAY cards. PHH cardholders are entitled to 5 kg of rice per person, with a maximum of 20 kg for a five-member family, while AAY cardholders receive 35 kg of rice per month. On average, the state receives 2.02 lakh metric tonnes of rice each month for distribution under NFSA.



FACT FILE

18.45 LAKH
PHH-AAY

A total of **1.12 CRORE** ration cards are issued to the poorest of poor people, vulnerable and other economically weaker sections

PHH card holders are eligible for **5kg** per member, if it's single member **12 kg** AAY cards are eligible for **35 kg** per month

3.6 CRORE Total population covered under National Food Security Act

93 LAKH Ration cards: PHH

BOTTLENECKS

- Cardholders won't be able to carry huge quantity of rice
- Limited storage space at ration shops
- The scheme cannot be implemented at ration shops manned by single member

- FCI is required to maintain sufficient food grain stocks to meet six months' demand
- The advance lifting is expected to enhance rice storage capacity & help minimise storage losses at warehouses

Source: *The New Indian Express*, 20 June 2025, p.8

81% of destitute people homeless for generations

PRAVEENA S A @ Chennai

THE Greater Chennai Corporation (GCC), in collaboration with the Madras School of Social Work, recently released the final report of a city-wide homelessness survey titled 'Data for Dignity'. While the survey identified around 13,529 homeless individuals across 2,837 locations in Chennai, the report recommends strengthening housing policies, enhancing social protection systems, addressing structural discrimination, and fostering community engagement.

The report, calling for coordinated inter-departmental action, was handed over to chief secretary N Muruganandam and officials from at least seven departments, including GCC, and TNUHDB, on May 29.

According to the report, of the total homeless population, around 51% that is 2,482 were part of family units. Moreover, a significant 80.66% of homeless population are generationally homeless noting they never had stable access to housing.

The report recommended government departments to invest in permanent housing within 2-3 km of their current locations, especially for families, who as per current practice often separated in gender-specific shelters.

With 58.26% of homeless families have children under 18 years, 25.89% have two children and 19.34% have one child, 5.1% (164) of them reported that their children had dropped out of school. While dropout rates are relatively low, continued monitoring and educational



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support remain critical, the report said. Common reasons cited for dropout was poverty, lack of interest, and inability to cope.

Only 10.78% of the children reached Class 11-12, and a mere 4.89% pursued college education.

The report urges immediate ward-level planning using mapping data and survey findings to develop micro-level interventions with the involvement of councillors, NGOs, GCC officials, and the homeless project team. Micro learning centres are proposed to prevent school dropouts among homeless children.

While 84.46% sleep on platforms/open areas, only 11% have access to toilets. The report said, contrary to popular belief, the problem is not a lack of toilets but a lack of functional ones. Many public toilets remain locked after 10 pm, forcing the homeless relieve themselves in open spaces.

As much as 56% have no PDS and majority have no access to pensions and bank accounts. Without documents, access to welfare schemes like ration items, healthcare (CMCHIS), pensions, education, and housing is blocked. The report suggests ward-level camps for issu-

ing government ID cards, supported by awareness drives. It also urged removal of residency requirements for ration cards.

With regard to health, around 97.6% of homeless families access health care services at government hospitals and substance abuse/ addiction is common among adolescents' boys and older men. It recommended deploying mobile health care units, organising health camps, and ensuring follow-up care and shelter reintegration, especially for elderly.

It also suggests working with NGOs for food and rental support for homeless, creating temporary night shelters, improving existing shelter services, and establishing de-addiction facilities within shelters.

Speaking to *TNIE*, M Antony Stephen, a MSSW professor said, "There needs to be greater focus on homeless families and children's education. The report's discussions held during the May 29 meeting included an assurance that a review meeting on the actions taken would be conducted once every three months. All that's needed now is executive will-if that is in place, the homeless can be ensured a dignified life."

Source: *The New Indian Express*, 21 June 2025, p.3

₹9,011 crore allocated for 71 drinking water projects, says govt.

The Hindu Bureau
CHENNAI

The Tamil Nadu government on Sunday listed the various measures undertaken by the Municipal Administration and Water Supply Department for the welfare of the people in the State. An official release said that an allocation of ₹9,011 crore has been made for 71 drinking water projects that would benefit 12.137 million people in four Municipal Corporations, 13 Municipalities, 49 Town Panchayats, and 10,565 rural habitations.

The State government has allocated ₹1,777 crore for 17 underground sewerage schemes in three Municipal Corporations, eight Municipalities, and six Town Panchayats. It has sanctioned ₹6,655 crore for drinking water-related works and the construction of parks in corporations and municipalities.

Under the Kalaigarnar Urban Development Scheme, ₹5,000 crore has been allocated to Municipalities and Town Panchayats, the release said.

Development projects

Further, under the *Namaku Naame* (Our Own) Scheme, with an allocation of ₹582 crore and public contribution of ₹183 crore, various development works have been undertaken.

Under the Urban Employment Scheme, job identity cards have been provided to 2,04,860 people.

Source: *The Hindu*, 9 June 2025, p.2

Various civic projects, including restoration of waterbodies, were completed in three phases, the govt. said

ple, with an estimated cost of ₹100 crore, and 12,71,006 man days generated. Under the Solid Waste Management Action Plan, 42,225 individual household latrines (IHHL), 545 public toilets, 614 urinals, 154 micro-composting centers, and 561 material recovery facilities have been established.

So far, in municipalities and corporations, under AMRUT 2.0, 446 underground drainage works, drinking water-related works, the construction of parks and restoration of waterbodies, besides improvement works, have been completed in three phases, at an estimated cost of ₹6,655 crore.

Under the Smart Cities Mission, 11 Corporations have been developed at an estimated cost of ₹10,639 crore. Under the Infrastructure and Development Fund, 28 new bus stand projects were approved, for a total cost of ₹968 crore. Of this, bus stands in Tiruchi, Namakkal, Sankarankoil, Colachel, Gudalur (Theni), and Melur have been completed.

Work on the remaining bus stands are nearing completion, the release said.

(Read the full story on: <http://bit.ly/3ZoYjkm>)



For last-mile connectivity: CM Stalin launching the minibus services in Thanjavur on Monday. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

Under new scheme, over 25,000 km of unserved areas in T.N. get minibus services

The Hindu Bureau
THANJAVUR

Chief Minister M.K. Stalin on Monday launched the new comprehensive minibus scheme to extend minibus services to 25,708 km of unserved areas across the State.

Mr. Stalin flagged off minibuses on various routes, under the scheme, during an event held at the Rajah Serfoji Government College grounds in Thanjavur. Transport Minister S.S. Sivasankar and other Ministers were present.

Permitted route

According to an official release, under the new scheme, minibuses are allowed to ply for a maximum permitted route of 25 km. Of this, at least 65% of the distance should be unserved areas.

Earlier, minibuses were allowed to ply for a maximum of 20 km, of which 16 km should be in unserved

Minibuses would be operated on 3,103 routes, including 2,094 new routes, across Tamil Nadu

areas. The minibus scheme was introduced in the State in 1997 for the benefit of the people residing in the areas not covered by the Public Transport Corporations/Private Mofussil bus operators.

The scheme has been modified for the benefit of more unserved areas.

Further, minibuses have been allowed to commence as well as end a trip at bus termini.

Existing minibus operators can switch to the new minibus scheme.

Under the scheme, minibuses would be operated on 3,103 routes, including 2,094 new routes and 1,009 migrations, across the State, the release further said.

Source: *The Hindu*, 17 June 2025, p.6

தமிழ் நாளிதழ்கள்



● மாநில திட்டக்குழு தயாரித்துள்ள 4 அறிக்கைகளை முதல்வர் ஸ்டாலினிடம் துணை முதல்வர் உதயநிதி ஸ்டாலின் நேற்று வழங்கினார். உடன் குழுவின் செயல் துணை தலைவர் ஜெயரஞ்சன், உறுப்பினர் செயலர் சுதா, தலைமைச் செயலர் முருகானந்தம், திட்டம் மற்றும் வளர்ச்சி துறை செயலர் ரமேஷ் சந்த் மீனா ஆகியோர்.

வாகன உற்பத்தி, அறிவுசார் பொருளாதாரம் உள்ளிட்ட

திட்டக்குழுவின் 4 அறிக்கைகள் முதல்வரிடம் சமர்ப்பிப்பு

துணை முதல்வர் உதயநிதி ஸ்டாலின் வழங்கினார்

■ சென்னை

மாநில திட்டக்குழு தயாரித்துள்ள 4 அறிக்கைகளை முதல்வர் ஸ்டாலினிடம், திட்டக்குழு துணை தலைவரும், துணை முதல்வருமான உதயநிதி ஸ்டாலின் நேற்று வழங்கினார்.

ஊரக பகுதிகளில் வேளாண்மை சாராத வேலைவாய்ப்புகள், நீடித்த வளர்ச்சி இலக்குகள், வாகன உற்பத்தி துறையின் எதிர்காலம், அறிவுசார் பொருளாதாரம் ஆகியவை தொடர்பாக 4 அறிக்கைகளை மாநில திட்டக்குழு தயாரித்துள்ளது.

சென்னை தலைமைச் செயலகத்தில் முதல்வர் ஸ்டாலினிடம் இந்த அறிக்கைகளை திட்டக்குழுவின் அலுவல் சார்துணைதலைவரான துணைமுதல்வர் உதயநிதி ஸ்டாலின் நேற்று சமர்ப்பித்தார்.

திட்டக்குழுவின் செயல் துணை தலைவர் ஜெ.ஜெயரஞ்சன், தலைமைச் செயலர் நா.முருகானந்தம், திட்டம் மற்றும் வளர்ச்சி துறை செயலர் ரமேஷ் சந்த் மீனா, நிதி துறை செயலர் உத்தரவிச் சந்திரன், திட்டக்குழு உறுப்பினர் செயலர் சுதா உள்ளிட்டோர் உடன் இருந்தனர். 4 அறிக்கைகள் பற்றிய விவரம்:

வேளாண்மை சாராத வேலைவாய்ப்பு

தமிழக ஊரக பகுதிகளில் வேளாண் சாராத பணிகளின் தன்மை மற்றும் அளவை அறியும் நோக்கில், ஆய்வு மேற்கொள்ளப்பட்டுள்ளது. 75 சதவீதத்துக்கும் அதிகமான ஆண் தொழிலாளர்கள், 50 சதவீதத்துக்கும் அதிகமான பெண் தொழிலாளர்கள் வேளாண்மை அல்லாத துறைகளில் வேலை செய்யும் நிலை இருப்பது ஆய்வில் தெரியவந்துள்ளது. கடந்த

2012-ம் ஆண்டுக்கு பிறகு, வேளாண் துறையின் சதவீதத்தில் 20 சதவீதம் குறைந்திருப்பதை இது காட்டுகிறது. இந்த ஆய்வின்படி, 15-34 வயது இளம் தொழிலாளர்களே இந்த மாற்றத்தின் முக்கிய காரணியாக உள்ளனர். அதிக ஊதியம், நிலையான வேலைவாய்ப்பு போன்ற வையிய வேளாண்மை சாராத வேலை வாய்ப்புகளை நோக்கி இளைஞர்களை ஈர்த்துள்ளன.

தொலைநோக்கு ஆவணம்

‘நீடித்த வளர்ச்சி இலக்குகளுக்கான தமிழகத்தின் தொலைநோக்கு ஆவணம்’ என்ற தலைப்பிலான ஆவணம் ஐக்கிய நாடுகள் சபையின் உறுப்பு நாடுகளால் ஏற்றுக்கொள்ளப்பட்டுள்ள, 2030-ம் ஆண்டுக்கான நீடித்த வளர்ச்சி இலக்குகளின் கீழ் உள்ள 17 இலக்குகள் வாரியாக அத்தியாயங்களை கொண்டுள்ளது. மாநிலத்தின் தற்போதைய நிலை, பல்வேறு நலத்திட்டங்கள், சிறப்பு முயற்சிகள் மற்றும் கொள்கை உருவாக்கங்கள் மூலம் அரசின் முன்னெடுப்புகளை இந்த ஆவணம் விளக்குகிறது.

வாகன உற்பத்தி துறை

திட்டக்குழு, தொழில் வழிகாட்டி நிறுவனம், ஆட்டோ கார் நிறுவனத்தின் நிபுணத்துவத்துடன் இணைந்து ‘தமிழகத்தில் ஆட்டோமோட்டிவ் (வாகன உற்பத்தி) துறையின் எதிர்காலம்’ என்ற அறிக்கை தயாரிக்கப்பட்டுள்ளது. மின்சார வாகனம், ஹைப்ரிட், ஹைட்ரஜன், சிஎன்ஜி மற்றும் டீசல் உள்ளிட்ட பல தொழில்நுட்பங்களை மேம்படுத்த வேண்டியதன் அவசியம் குறித்து இதில் கூறப்பட்டுள்ளது.

2030-ம் ஆண்டுக்குள் மின்வாகனம், பேட்டரி தொழில்நுட்பம், ஆட்டோமேஷன் ஆகியவற்றில் 2 லட்சத்துக்கும் அதிகமான தொழிலாளர்களின் நிறைவை மேம்படுத்துவதன் அவசியம் குறித்தும் கூறப்பட்டுள்ளது. ஆராய்ச்சி, மேம்பாட்டை விரிவுபடுத்துவது குறித்தும் பரிந்துரைக்கப்பட்டுள்ளது.

அறிவுசார் பொருளாதாரம்

தொழில்நுட்பம், புத்தாக்கம், நிலைத்த வளர்ச்சியை அடிப்படையாக கொண்டு உற்பத்தி துறையில் வளர்ச்சியை ஊக்குவிக்க வேண்டும் என்பதை ‘அறிவுசார் பொருளாதாரத்தை நோக்கி - வடிவமைக்கும் பாதை’ என்ற அறிக்கை பரிந்துரைக்கிறது. குறு, சிறு, நடுத்தர தொழில் நிறுவனங்கள் துறையை வலுப்படுத்துதல், வேலைவாய்ப்பு உருவாக்கம் மற்றும் பொருளாதார நிலைத்தன்மை ஆகியவை இதில் முக்கிய அம்சங்களாக உள்ளன.

ஒரு ட்ரில்லியன் பொருளாதாரம்

முதல்வரிடம் திட்டக்குழு அறிக்கைகள் சமர்ப்பிக்கப்பட்டது தொடர்பாக செப்தியாளர்களிடம் திட்டக்குழு செயல் துணை தலைவர் ஜெ.ஜெயரஞ்சன் கூறியதாவது: 2030-ம் ஆண்டுக்குள் தமிழகத்தை ஒரு ட்ரில்லியன் டாலர் பொருளாதாரமாக மாற்றும் தொலைநோக்கு திட்டத்தை முன் வைத்து இந்த அறிக்கைகள் தயாரிக்கப்பட்டுள்ளன.

தமிழகத்தின் தொழில் துறை வளர்ச்சி, சமூகநீதி மற்றும் அறிவுசார் பரிணாமத்தை ஒருங்கிணைக்கும் விரிவான செயல் திட்டமாக இந்த அறிக்கைகள் அமைந்துள்ளன. இவ்வாறு அவர் தெரிவித்தார்.

ஒருங்கிணைந்த வேளாண் வளர்ச்சி திட்டத்துக்கு ரூ.267 கோடி

சென்னை, ஜூன் 26: அனைத்து கிராம ஒருங்கிணைந்த வேளாண் வளர்ச்சித் திட்டத்துக்கு ரூ.267.15 கோடி நிதி ஒதுக்கி அரசு

உத்தரவிட்டுள்ளது. இதன் மூலம், 2 ஆயிரத்து 338 கிராம ஊராட்சிகளில் இந்தத் திட்டம் செயல்படுத்தப்பட உள்ளது.

இதுகுறித்து வேளாண்மைத் துறை சார்பில் வெளியிடப்பட்ட அரசு உத்தரவு:

சட்டப் பேரவையில் நிறைவேற்றப்பட்ட வேளாண் நிதி நிலை அறிக்கையில், கலைஞரின் அனைத்து கிராம ஒருங்கிணைந்த வேளாண் வளர்ச்சித் திட்டம் செயல்படுத்தப்படும் என அறிவிக்கப்பட்டது.

கூடந்த நான்கு ஆண்டுகளில் 10 ஆயிரத்து 187 கிராம ஊராட்சிகளில் இந்தத் திட்டம் செயல்படுத்தப்பட்ட நிலையில், நிகழாண்டில் 2,338 கிராம ஊராட்சிகளில்

நடைமுறைக்கு வரவுள்ளது. இந்தத் திட்டத்தின் மூலம் 9 லட்சத்து 36 ஆயிரம் விவசாயிகள் பயன்பெறுவர் எனவும், இதற்குத் தேவைப்படும் நிதி ஒதுக்கப்படும் எனவும் அறிவிக்கப்பட்டிருந்தது.

அதன்படி, திட்டத்தைச் செயல்படுத்துவதற்கான நிதிக்கு நிர்வாக ஒப்புதலை தமிழக அரசு அளித்துள்ளது என்று அரசின் உத்தரவில் தெரிவிக்கப்பட்டுள்ளது.

Source: Dinamani, 27 June 2025, p.9

வேளாண், உணவு சூழல் அமைப்பை மேம்படுத்த

தமிழக அரசுடன் சென்னை ஐஐடி புரிந்துணர்வு ஒப்பந்தம்

■ சென்னை

தமிழகத்தில், வேளாண் மற்றும் உணவு சூழல் அமைப்பை மேம்படுத்துவது தொடர்பாக, மாநில அரசுடன், சென்னை ஐஐடி இணைந்து செயல்பட உள்ளது. இதற்கான புரிந்துணர்வு ஒப்பந்தம் கையெழுத்தானது.

இது தொடர்பாக, மத்திய அரசின் பத்திரிகை தகவல் அலுவலகம் நேற்று வெளியிட்ட செய்திக்குறிப்பு:

தமிழகத்தின் வேளாண் மற்றும் உணவு பதப்படுத்துதல் துறையை மேம்படுத்தும் நோக்கில், மாநில அரசுடன், சென்னை ஐஐடி கூட்டு முயற்சியில் ஈடுபட்டுள்ளது. இதன் மூலம், தமிழகத்தில் நிலையான கிராமப்புற மேம்பாடு, வேளாண் வணிக கண்டுபிடிப்பு உள்ளடக்கிய பொருளாதார வளர்ச்சி ஆகியவற்றில் கவனம் செலுத்தப்படும்.

உணவு பதப்படுத்துதல் மற்றும் ஏற்றுமதியை மேம்படுத்துவதற்கான உயர் அமைப்பாக செயல்படும் தமிழ்நாடு உணவு பதப்படுத்துதல் மற்றும்

வேளாண் வணிகத்தில் கிராமப்

புற இளைஞர்களுக்கு திறன்

அளிக்கப்படும். விற்பனையுடன்

சங்கிலிகளை மேம்படுத்தி

உணவு வீணாவது குறைக்கப்

படும், சந்தை அணுகல், ஏற்றுமதி

திறன் மேம்படுத்தப்படும்.

புற இளைஞர்களுக்கு திறன்

அளிக்கப்படும். விற்பனையுடன்

சங்கிலிகளை மேம்படுத்தி

உணவு வீணாவது குறைக்கப்

படும், சந்தை அணுகல், ஏற்றுமதி

திறன் மேம்படுத்தப்படும்.

புற இளைஞர்களுக்கு திறன்

அளிக்கப்படும். விற்பனையுடன்

சங்கிலிகளை மேம்படுத்தி

உணவு வீணாவது குறைக்கப்

படும், சந்தை அணுகல், ஏற்றுமதி

திறன் மேம்படுத்தப்படும்.

புற இளைஞர்களுக்கு திறன்

அளிக்கப்படும். விற்பனையுடன்

சங்கிலிகளை மேம்படுத்தி

உணவு வீணாவது குறைக்கப்

படும், சந்தை அணுகல், ஏற்றுமதி

திறன் மேம்படுத்தப்படும்.

சாயிகளின் வருமானத்தை அதிகரிப்பதற்கும் மாநில அரசின் நடவடிக்கைகளை எடுத்துரைத்தார். இந்த கூட்டு முயற்சியின் நன்மைகளை குறிப்பிட்ட ஐஐடி இயக்குநர் வி.காமகோடி, ஆராய்ச்சி, பயிற்சி, தொழில்நுட்பம் மற்றும் சந்தைப்படுத்தும் திறன்கள் ஆகியவற்றின் மூலம் தமிழகத்தின் வேளாண் வணிகச் சூழல் அமைப்பில் செயல்பாட்டுத் திறன், சந்தைப் படுத்தலுல், நிலைத் தன்மையை மேம்படுத்தப்படும் என்றார்.

தமிழ்நாடு உணவு பதப்படுத்துதல் மற்றும் வேளாண் ஏற்றுமதி மேம்பாட்டுக் கழகத்தின் நிர்வாக இயக்குநரும், தலைமை நிர்வாக அதிகாரியுமான டாக்டர் கே. அழகுசுந்தரம், தமிழகத்தில் கிராமப்புற நுண் நிறுவனங்களை உலகளாவிய சந்தைகளுடன் இணைப்பதன் உத்தியோக முக்கியத்துவத்தையும், உணவு பதப்படுத்தும் துறையில் திறன் மற்றும் போட்டித் தன்மையை அதிகரிக்க கல்வி ஒத்துழைப்பை மேம்படுத்துவதையும் விளக்கினார்.

இந்தப் புரிந்துணர்வு ஒப்பந்தத்தின் மூலம், வேளாண் வணிகத்தில் கிராமப்புற இளைஞர்களுக்குத் திறன் அளிக்கப்படும். விற்பனையுடன் சங்கிலிகளை மேம்படுத்தி உணவு வீணாவது குறைக்கப்படும், சந்தை அணுகல் மற்றும் ஏற்றுமதி திறன் மேம்படுத்தப்படும். பேக்கேஜிங், பிராண்டிங், தயாரிப்பு சந்தைப்படுத்தலும் மேம்படுத்தப்படும். அரசு திட்டங்கள் மதிப்பீடு செய்யப்படும்.

புரிந்துணர்வு ஒப்பந்தம் கையெழுத்திடுகிற நிகழ்ச்சியில், ஐஐடி மின் மனு சந்தானம், மேலாண்மை ஆய்வுத் துறைத் தலைவர் சஜி மேத்யூ, தஞ்சாவூர் தேசிய உணவு தொழில்நுட்பம், தொழில்முனைவோர் மற்றும் மேலாண்மை நிறுவன இயக்குநர் வி.பழனிமுத்து, தமிழ்நாடு டாக்டர் ஜெ.ஜெயலலிதா மின்வளப் பல்கலைக்கழகத் துணைவேந்தர் என்.பெலிக்ஸ், தமிழ்நாடுகல்நடைமருத்துவ அறிவியல் பல்கலைக்கழகத் துணைவேந்தர் டாக்டர் கே.என். செல்வ குமார் உள்ளிட்டோர் பங்கேற்றனர் என்று கூறப்பட்டுள்ளது.

Source: Hindu Tamil Thisai, 18 June 2025, p.3

விண்ணப்பித்த நாளிலேயே பயிர் கடன் வழங்க தனி 'சாப்டவேர்' உருவாக்குகிறது கூட்டுறவு துறை

சென்னை, ஜூன் 22- தொடக்க வேளாண் கூட்டுறவு கடன் சங்கங்களில், விண்ணப்பித்த நாளிலேயே விவசாயிகளுக்கு பயிர் கடன் வழங்கப்பட உள்ளது. இதற்கான மென்பொருள் உருவாக்கும் பணி துவங்கியுள்ள நிலையில், அத்திட்டம் தற்புரியில் சோதனை முயற்சியாக செயல்படுத்தப்படுகிறது.

தமிழகத்தில் கூட்டுறவு துறையின் கீழ், 4,173 தொடக்க வேளாண் கூட்டுறவு கடன் சங்கங்கள் உள்ளன; இவை, விவசாயிகளுக்கு பயிர் கடன், நகை கடன் வழங்குவது, உரம் விற்ப்பு போன்ற பணிகளை மேற்கொள்கின்றன. அச்சங்கங்களில், 3 லட்சம் ரூபாய் வரை பயிர் கடன் வழங்கப்படுகிறது. இதற்கு, சங்கங்களில் விண்ணப்பித்த பின், ஆவணங்களை பரிசீலிப்பது

இத்திட்டம், முதற்கட்டமாக சோதனை ரீதியாக, தற்புரியில் மாவட்டத்தில் உள்ள 131 தொடக்க வேளாண் கூட்டுறவு கடன் சங்கங்களில் செயல்படுத்தப்பட உள்ளது. பின், மாநிலம் முழுதும் விரிவுபடுத்தப்படும்

உள்ளிட்ட பணிகளை செய்து, கடன் வழங்க ஒரு வாரத்துக்கு மேலாகிறது. இதனால், விவசாயிகள் குறித்த காலத்தில் பணம் கிடைக்காமல் சிரமப்படுகின்றனர்.

கணினிமயம்

இதையொட்டி, 'தொடக்க வேளாண் கூட்டுறவு கடன் சங்கங்களில், விண்ணப்பித்த அன்றே விவசாயிகளின் வங்கி கணக்கில் பயிர் கடன் வழங்கும் திட்டம் துவக்கப்படும்' என, கூட்டுறவு துறை அமைச்சர் பெரியமாருப்பன், சட்டசபையில் அறிவித்திருந்தார். தற்போது, அத்திட்டத்

தற்கான மென்பொருள் உருவாக்கும் பணியை, தமிழக மின் ஆளுமை முகமை வாயிலாக, கூட்டுறவு துறை மேற்கொண்டு வருகிறது.

இதுகுறித்து, கூட்டுறவு துறை அதிகாரி ஒருவர் கூறியதாவது:

'தொடக்க கூட்டுறவு சங்கங்கள் கணினிமயமாக்கப்பட்டு வருகின்றன. அந்த சங்கங்களில் பயிர் கடனுக்கு இணையதளத்தில் விண்ணப்பம் செய்யும் போது, விவசாயிகளின், 'ஆதார்' எண் கட்டாயம் கேட்கப்படும்.

அந்த எண்ணை பயன்படுத்தி, 'டி.என்.கிரெய்ன்ஸ்,

தமிழ் நிலம்' இணையதளங்களில் இருந்து விவசாயிகளின் நிலம் தொடர்பான ஆவணங்கள் பெறப்படும்.

மாநிலம் முழுதும்

அவை பரிசீலிக்கப்பட்ட பின், விண்ணப்பித்த அன்றே கடன் வழங்க ஒப்பந்தம் அளித்து, விவசாயி வங்கி கணக்கில் கடன் தொகை செலுத்தப்படும். இதனால், வீட்டில் இருந்தபடியே விண்ணப்பித்து, கடன் தொகை பெறலாம். அவைச் சல், தேர விரயம் போன்ற சிரமங்கள் இருக்காது.

இத்திட்டம், முதற்கட்டமாக சோதனை ரீதியாக, தற்புரியில் மாவட்டத்தில் உள்ள 131 தொடக்க வேளாண் கூட்டுறவு கடன் சங்கங்களில் செயல்படுத்தப்பட உள்ளது. பின், மாநிலம் முழுதும் விரிவுபடுத்தப்படும்.

இவ்வாறு அவர் கூறினார்.

Source: Dinamalar, 22 June 2025, p.2

நெல் விலையை குவிண்டாலுக்கு

ரூ.3,000-ஆக உயர்த்தி அறிவிக்க வேண்டும்

தமிழ்நாடு விவசாயிகள் சங்கத்தினர் வலியுறுத்தல்

■ சென்னை

நெல் விலையை குவிண்டாலுக்கு ரூ.3,000-ஆக உயர்த்தி அறிவிக்க வேண்டும் என்று முதல்வருக்கு, விவசாயிகள் சங்கத்தினர் வலியுறுத்தியுள்ளனர்.

இதுதொடர்பாக தமிழ்நாடு விவசாயிகள் சங்கத் தலைவர் எஸ்.குணசேகரன், பொதுச் செயலாளர் பி.எஸ்.மாசிலாமணி ஆகியோர் வெளியிட்டுள்ள அறிக்கையில் கூறியிருப்பதாவது:

முதல்வர் மு.க.ஸ்டாலின், ஜூன் 12-ல் மேட்டூர் அணையை திறந்து வைத்தபிறகு, சேலத்தில் நடந்த அரசு விழாவில், நெல் குவிண்டால் ஒன்றுக்கு சன்ன ரகத்துக்கு ஊக்கத் தொகை ரூ.156 சேர்த்து ரூ.2,545 ஆகவும், சாதாரண ரகத்துக்கு ஊக்கத்தொகை ரூ.131 சேர்த்து ரூ.2,500 ஆகவும் விலை கொடுக்கப்படும் என கூறியுள்ளார். இந்த அறிவிப்பு விவசாயிகளுக்கு பெரிய ஏமாற்றமாகும்.

2021-ம் ஆண்டு தேர்தல் வாக்குறுதியாக, ஆட்சிப் பொறுப்பேற்றவுடன் நெல் விலை ரூ.2,500 ஆக உயர்த்தி கொடுக்கப்படும் என அறிவிக்கப்பட்டது. விவசாயிகள் மகிழ்ச்சி அடைந்தனர். ஆனால், சொன்னபடி நிறைவேற்றாமல் 5-வது ஆண்டில் இந்த அறிவிப்பு வெளியாகியுள்ளது.

2023 முதல் மத்திய அரசு இதுவரை கொடுத்திருக்கிற விலை உயர்வு முதல் ரகத்துக்கு ரூ.349, இரண்டாவது ரகத்துக்கு ரூ.329 ஆகும். தமிழக அரசு முதல் ரகத்துக்கு ரூ.493, இரண்டாவது ரகத்துக்கு ரூ.397 கொடுத்துள்ளது. 2023-ம் ஆண்டு மத்திய அரசு முதல் ரகம் ரூ.2,203, சாதாரண ரகம் ரூ.2,183 என்று நிர்ணயித்தது. தமிழக அரசு வாக்குறுதிப்படி அப்போதே ரூ.2,500 கொடுத்திருந்தால் மேற்கண்ட மத்திய அரசின் மூன்றாண்டு விலை உயர்வையும் சேர்த்து முதல் ரகத்துக்கு

2,849, இரண்டாவது ரகத்துக்கு ரூ.2,829 இப்போது கிடைத்திருக்கும். தமிழக அரசு 3 ஆண்டுகளில் கொடுத்து வந்த ஊக்கத்தொகையையும் சேர்த்தால், சராசரி ஒரு குவிண்டால் நெல் ரூ.3,278 கிடைத்திருக்கும். ஆகவே இது விவசாயிகளுக்கு ஏற்பட்ட கூடுதல் இழப்பாகும்.

எனவே, மூன்று ஆண்டுகளில் விவசாயிகளுக்கு ஏற்பட்டிருக்கிற இழப்பு சராசரி ஒரு குவிண்டாலுக்கு ரூ.3,239. திமுக ஆட்சியின் வாக்குறுதி மீறலால் விவசாயிகளுக்கு கடந்த 3 ஆண்டுகளில் ஆயிரக்கணக்கான கோடி ரூபாய் இழப்பு. இதுதவிர, கரும்புக்கும் வாக்குறுதிப்படி விலை வழங்கப்படவில்லை. இதனால் விவசாயிகள் நம்பிக்கை இழந்து உள்ளனர். எனவே, நெல் குவிண்டால் ரூ.3,000 விலை அறிவிக்க வேண்டும். இவ்வாறு அறிக்கையில் தெரிவிக்கப்பட்டுள்ளது.

Source: Hindu Tamil Thisai, 15 June 2025, p.5

புதிய தொழில் பூங்காக்களை விரைந்து அமைக்க அறிவுறுத்தல்

சென்னை, ஜூன் 22- கள்ளக்குறிச்சி, தென் காசி உள்ளிட்ட பல்வேறு மாவட்டங்களில் அறிவிக்கப்பட்டுள்ள புதிய தொழில் பூங்காக்கள் அமைக்கும் பணியை விரைவாக முடித்து, தொழில் நிறுவனங்களுக்கு ஒதுக்கீடு செய்யுமாறு, தொழில் துறை அதிகாரிகளை, முதல்வர் ஸ்டாலின் அறிவுறுத்தி உள்ளார்.

முதல்வர் ஸ்டாலின், தொழில் துறை சார்பில் வெளியிடப்பட்ட அறிவிப்புகளின் நிலை குறித்து, சென்னை தலைமை செயலகத்தில் நேற்று முன்தினம் ஆய்வு கூட்டம் நடத்தினார். இதில், துறை உயரதிகாரிகள் பங்கேற்றனர்.

இது குறித்து, நிலை குறித்து, முதல் தொழில்துறை அதிகாரி

அமைக்கப்படும் இடங்கள்	
சின்னசேலம்	450
தென்காசி	150
சிவகங்கை	100
வேலூர்	250
திருப்பத்தூர்	125
(ஏக்கரில்)	

ஒருவர் கூறியதாவது: தொழில் துறையின் கீழ் இயங்கும் சிப்காட், வழி காட்டி உள்ளிட்ட நிறுவனங்களின் சார்பில், 20 அறிவிப்புகள் சட்டசபையில் வெளியிடப்பட்டன. மற்றும் கடந்த ஆண்டுகளில் வெளியிடப்பட்ட அறிவிப்புகளின் நிலை குறித்து, முதல் தொழில்துறை அதிகாரி

கேட்டறிந்தார். புதிதாக வெளியிடப்பட்ட அறிவிப்புகளுக்கு, இரு மாதங்களுக்குள் அரசிடம் ஒப்பந்தம் பெற்று அரசாணை பிறப்பிக்க வேண்டும் என்றும், புதிய தொழில் பூங்காக்களை விரைவாக அமைத்து, தொழில் நிறுவனங்களுக்கு மனைகளை ஒதுக்கீடு செய்யுமாறும் அறிவுறுத்தினார்.

தொழில்துறை சார்பில் அமைக்கப்படும் கட்டுமான பணிகளை, வரும் ஜனவரிக்குள் முடிக்குமாறும் அறிவுறுத்தினார். அதற்கு ஏற்ப, புதிய தொழில் பூங்கா உள்ளிட்ட ஏழு அறிவிப்புகளை செயல்படுத்துவதற்கு, விரைவில் அரசாணை பிறப்பிக்கப்பட உள்ளது. இவ்வாறு அவர் கூறினார்.

Source: Dinamalar, 22 June 2025, p.8

'60,000 தொழில்முனைவோருக்கு 5,000 கோடி ரூபாய் கடனுதவி'

'ஆக்மி 2025' கண்காட்சியில் ஸ்டாலின் தகவல்



■ தொழிற்பேட்டை உற்பத்தியாளர்கள் சங்கத்தின் 16வது சர்வதேச இயந்திரக் கருவிகள் கண்காட்சியை துவக்கி வைத்த முதல்வர் ஸ்டாலின். உடன், இடமிருந்து: குறு, சிறு மற்றும் நடுத்தர தொழில் நிறுவனங்கள் துறை கூடுதல் தலைமை செயலம் அதுல் ஆனந்த், அமைச்சர் அன்பரசன், ஆம்பத்தூர் தொழிற்பேட்டை உற்பத்தியாளர் சங்கத் தலைவர் சதீஷ்பாபு, 16வது சர்வதேச இயந்திரக் கருவிகள் கண்காட்சி 2025-ன் தலைவர் ரமேஷ். இடம்: நத்தம்பாக்கம், சென்னை.

சென்னை, ஜூன் 20- "பல்வேறு கயவேலை வாய்ப்பு திட்டங்களின் கீழ், கடந்த நான்கு ஆண்டுகளில், 59,915 புதிய தொழில்முனைவோருக்கு, 2,031 கோடி ரூபாய் மானியத்துடன், 5,209 கோடி ரூபாய் கடனுதவி வழங்கப்பட்டுள்ளது," என, முதல்வர் ஸ்டாலின் தெரிவித்தார்.

அப்பத்தூர் தொழிற்பேட்டை உற்பத்தியாளர்கள் சங்கத்தின் சார்பில், 'ஆக்மி 2025' சர்வதேச இயந்திர கருவிகள் கண்காட்சியை முதல்வர் ஸ்டாலின், சென்னை நத்தம்பாக்கம் வந்தக மையத்தில் நேற்று துவக்கி வைத்தார். வரும் 23ம் தேதி வரை நடக்கும் கண்காட்சியில், இயந்திர கருவிகள், வேர்

தொழில்நுட்பம், டிஜிட்டல் உற்பத்தி உள்ளிட்ட பல்வேறு துறைகளில், உள்நாடு மற்றும் வெளிநாடுகளில் நிறுவனங்களின் தவினதயாரிப்புகளை காட்சிப்படுத்தும் அரங்குகள் இடம்பெற்றுள்ளன.

திகழ்ச்சியில், முதல்வர் ஸ்டாலின் பேசியதாவது: தமிழகத்தில் தொழில் துறை மரபையும் வளர்ச்சி அணைத்து கொண்டிருக்கிறது. 35 லட்சத்துக்கும் மேற்பட்ட பதிவு செய்யப்பட்ட சிறு, குறு, நடுத்தர தொழில் நிறுவனங்கள் உள்ளன.

இதில், இந்திய அளவில் மூன்றாவது இடத்தில் இருக்கும் தமிழகத்தில், இந்தியாவின் வரம்பு வாக, 2.47 கோடி பேருக்கு வேலைவாய்ப்பு உருவாக உள்ளது.

பல்வேறு கயவேலை வாய்ப்பு திட்டங்களின் கீழ் கடந்த நான்கு ஆண்டுகளில், 59,915 புதிய தொழில்முனைவோருக்கு, 2,031 கோடி ரூபாய் மானியத்துடன், 5,209 கோடி ரூபாய் கடனுதவி வழங்கப்பட்டு இருக்கிறது.

வேலைவாய்ப்பை உருவாக்குவதில், வேளாண்மைக்கு அடுத்த இடத்தில் சிறு, குறு, நடுத்தர நிறுவனங்கள் உள்ளன.

இதில் கண்காட்சியில் காட்சிப்படுத்தப்பட்டு இருக்கும் தொழில்நுட்பங்களை பயன்படுத்தி, சிறுதொழில் நிறுவனங்கள் தமிழகத்திற்கு முன்னேற்றம் காண வேண்டும். அதற்கு, நிறுவனங்களுக்கு துணையாக அரசு உறுதியாக இருக்கும்.

இவ்வாறு அவர் பேசினார்.

'ஆக்மி 2025' கண்காட்சி

- ஸ்டீன் இயந்திரங்கள் மின்னணு ஒப்பீடு பார்க்கலாம்
- முறையிடாளர்களை சந்திக்க வாய்ப்பு
- உள்நாட்டு, வெளிநாட்டு நிறுவனங்களுடன் கூட்டு
- உடனடி கடன் வசதி.

புத்தொழில் நிறுவனங்களை ஊக்குவிக்க

ஐடிஎன்டி மையம் மூலம் தொழில் மேம்பாட்டு திட்டங்கள்

அமைச்சர் பழனிவேல் தியாகராஜன் தகவல்

■ சென்னை

புத்தொழில் நிறுவனங்களை ஊக்குவிக்கும் வகையில், ஐடிஎன்டி மையம் மூலம் தொழில் மேம்பாட்டுத் திட்டங்கள் செயல்படுத்தப்பட்டு வருவதாக தமிழக தொழில்நுட்பத் துறை அமைச்சர் பழனிவேல் தியாகராஜன் தெரிவித்துள்ளார்.

இதுதொடர்பாக அவர் வெளியிட்ட செய்திக் குறிப்பில் கூறியிருப்பதாவது: தமிழகத்தை உலகின் முதல் 10 புத்தாக்க மையங்களில் ஒன்றாக உயர்த்துவதை நோக்கமாகக் கொண்டு, தமிழ்நாடு தொழில்நுட்ப மையம் (ஐடிஎன்டி ஹப்) கட்டத் 2023-ல் உருவாக்கப்பட்டது. இந்த மையம், வளர்ந்து வரும் தொழில்நுட்ப புத்தொழில் நிறுவனங்களை முன்தொழில் வளர்காப்பம் (4 வாரகால திட்டம்), தொழில் வளர்காப்பம் (12 முதல் 18 மாதகால திட்டம்), தொழில் மேம்பாட்டு திட்டங்கள் (16 வாரகால திட்டம்) மூலம் ஊக்குவித்து வருகிறது.

பயிற்சி பட்டறைகள் அந்தவகையில், தொழில் முனைவோர் மற்றும் ஆராய்ச்சியாளர்களுக்கு வணிக ஆய்வுகளுக்காக முயல், வணிக யோட்பாடுகள் மற்றும் புத்தாக்க எண்ணங்களை செம்மைப்படுத்துவதற்காக பயிற்சி பட்டறைகள் முன்தொழில் வளர்காப்பம் (பேரூண்) மூலம் நடத்தப்பட்டு, 57 குழுக்கள் பயிற்சியை முடித்துள்ளன. அதேபோல, புத்தொழில்

நிறுவனங்கள் தங்களுடைய புகளை சரிபார்க்கவும், வளர்த்தெடுக்கவும் தொழில் வளர்காப்பம் (பாதுஃபைண்டர்) உதவுகின்றன.

புத்தாக்கம் சார்ந்த தொழில் நுட்பத்தை வளர்க்கும் விதமாக ஆய்வகங்கள், உற்பத்தி வழிகாட்டுதல்கள், நிதி திரட்டுதல் உள்ளிட்டவற்றை மேற்கொள்ளும் தொழில் வளர்காப்பம், தொடக்க நிலையில் உள்ள 56 புத்தொழில் நிறுவனங்களுக்கு உதவிபுரிந்து வருகின்றன. சந்தை அணுகல், மூலதனம், தொழில்நுட்பங்களை மேம்படுத்துதல் உள்ளிட்டவை மூலமாக புத்தொழில் முனைவோரிடையே போட்டித் தன்மையை அறிமுகித்தல், முதலீடுகளை ஈர்த்தல், நிறுவனங்களை விரிவாக்குதல் வளர்காப்பம் (4 வாரகால திட்டம்), தொழில் வளர்காப்பம் (12 முதல் 18 மாதகால திட்டம்), தொழில் மேம்பாட்டு திட்டங்கள் (16 வாரகால திட்டம்) மூலம் ஊக்குவித்து வருகிறது.

விண்வெளி தொழில்நுட்பம்

இதன்மூலம், 25 வளர்ச்சியடைந்த புத்தொழில் நிறுவனங்கள் பயன்பெறுகின்றன. அதேபோல, டிப்டெக், ரோபோட்டிக்ஸ், செமி கண்டக்டர், குவாண்டம், செயற்கை நுண்ணறிவு, மெய்நிகர் தொழில்நுட்பம், எலெக்ட்ரானிக் வாகன உற்பத்தி, விண்வெளி தொழில்நுட்பம், சைபர் பாதுகாப்பு, ஸ்மார்ட் சிட்டி உள்ளிட்டவைகளிலும் தமிழ்நாடு தொழில்நுட்ப மையம் தொடர்ச்சியாக கவனம் செலுத்தி வருகிறது. இவ்வாறு அதில் கூறப்பட்டுள்ளது.

Source: Hindu Tamil Thisai, 18 June 2025, p.5

காஞ்சியில் ரோபோட்டிக் உதிரிபாக ஆலை

முதல்வர் மு.க.ஸ்டாலின் திறந்துவைத்தார்

■ சென்னை

காஞ்சிபுரத்தில் ரூ.300 கோடியில் ரோபோட்டிக் பாகங்கள் உற்பத்தி ஆலையை முதல்வர் மு.க.ஸ்டாலின் நேற்று காணொலி வாயிலாகத் திறந்து வைத்தார்.

இது தொடர்பாக தமிழக அரசு வெளியிட்ட செய்திக்குறிப்பில் கூறியிருப்பதாவது: இந்தியாவிலேயே இரண்டாவது பெரிய பொருளாதாரம் கொண்டதாகவும், பல்வேறு துறைகளில் உற்பத்தி மற்றும் ஏற்றுமதியில் முன்னணி மாநிலமாகவும் தமிழகம் திகழ்ந்து வருகிறது. தொழில் முதலீடுகளை ஈர்ப்பதிலும், அதிக எண்ணிக்கையிலான வேலைவாய்ப்புகளை, குறிப்பாக பெண்களுக்கான வேலை வாய்ப்புகளை உருவாக்குவதிலும் தமிழக அரசு சிறப்பாக செயல்படுவதாக 2024-25-ம் ஆண்டுக்கான பொருளாதார ஆய்வறிக்கையில் புகழாரம் சூட்டப்பட்டுள்ளது குறிப்பிடத்தக்கது.

2024-25-ம் ஆண்டில் 9.69 சதவீத பொருளாதார வளர்ச்சியுடன் இந்திய அளவில் தமிழகம் முதலிடம் பெற்றுள்ளது. இதுகூடந்த 10 ஆண்டுகளில் இம்மாநிலம் அடைந்த அதிகபட்ச வளர்ச்சியாகும். அதிக எண்ணிக்கையிலான வேலைவாய்ப்புகளை உருவாக்கி, தமிழகத்தின் பொருளாதாரம் பரிஸ்ஸியன் டைவர் அளவுக்கு வளர்ச்சி பெறத் தேவையான முதலீடுகளை ஈர்க்க தமிழக அரசு பல்வேறு முன்னெடுப்புகளை மேற்கொண்டு வருகிறது.

ஜெர்மனியைச் சேர்ந்த அஜைல் ரோபோட்ஸ் எஸ்இ நிறுவனம், செயற்கை நுண்ணறிவு சார்ந்த



● காஞ்சிபுரம் மாவட்டம் இருங்காட்டுக்கோட்டை சிப்காட் தொழிற்பூங்காவில் ரூ.300 கோடியில் அமைக்கப்பட்டுள்ள ரோபோட்டிக் பாகங்கள் உற்பத்தி ஆலையை காணொலி வாயிலாக நேற்று திறந்துவைத்தார் முதல்வர் மு.க.ஸ்டாலின்.

ரோபோட்டிக் இயந்திர பாகங்கள் உற்பத்தித் தொழிற்சாலையை காஞ்சிபுரம் மாவட்டம் இருங்காட்டுக்கோட்டை சிப்காட் தொழிற்பூங்காவில் நிறுவியுள்ளது. ரூ.300 கோடி முதலீட்டில் உருவாகும் இந்த தொழிற்சாலையில், 300 உள்ளூர் பொறியாளர்கள் மற்றும் தொழில்நுட்ப வல்லுநர்களுக்கு வேலைவாய்ப்பு கிடைக்கும்.

ஆக்ஸிஜன் உற்பத்தி ஆலை

இத்தாலியைச் சேர்ந்த எஸ்ஓஎல் ஸ்பிஏ மற்றும் இந்தியாவின் சிக்ஸிஸால் ஆகிய நிறுவனங்களின் கூட்டு நிறுவனம் 'எஸ்ஓஎல் இந்தியா' நிறுவனமாகும். ராணிப்பேட்டை சிப்காட் தொழிற்பூங்காவில் அமைந்துள்ள இந்நிறுவனம், தொழிற்சாலைகள் மற்றும் மருத்துவ ஆக்ஸிஜன் உற்பத்தியில் ஈடுபட்டு வருகிறது. 2019-ல் நடந்த உலக முதலீட்டாளர்கள் மாநாட்டின் போது ரூ.100 கோடி முதலீடு மற்றும் 2024-ல் நடந்த உலக முதலீட்டாளர்கள் மாநாட்டின் போது ரூ.200 கோடி முதலீடு செய்யும்

வகையிலான திட்டங்களுக்கு இந்நிறுவனம் தமிழ்நாடு அரசுடன் புரிந்துணர்வு ஒப்பந்தங்களை மேற்கொண்டுள்ளது.

2023-ல் ராணிப்பேட்டை சிப்காட்டில் இந்த ஆலைக்கு முதல்வர் ஸ்டாலின் அடிக்கல் நாட்டிவைத்தார். தற்போது பணிகள் நிறைவடைந்து, ரூ.175 கோடியில் ஆலை நிறுவப்பட்டுள்ளது. இதில் 20 பேருக்கு வேலைவாய்ப்பு அளிக்கப்பட்டுள்ளது. இந்த இரண்டு ஆலைகளையும் முதல்வர் மு.க.ஸ்டாலின் நேற்று காணொலி வாயிலாகத் திறந்து வைத்தார்.

மேலும், பல்வேறு கல்லூரிகளைச் சேர்ந்த 6 மாணவர்களுக்கு உள்ளகப் பயிற்சி (Internship) அளிப்பதற்கான கடிதங்களையும் முதல்வர் வழங்கினார். இந்த நிகழ்ச்சியில், தொழில் துறை அமைச்சர் டி.ஆர்.பிரஜா, தலைமைச் செயலர் நா.முருகானந்தம், தொழில் துறைச் செயலர் வி.அருணராய், தொழில்வழிகாட்டி நிறுவன செயல் இயக்குநர் பு.அலர் மேல்மங்கை உள்ளிட்டோர் பங்கேற்றனர்.

Source: Hindu Tamil Thisai, 5 June 2025, p.1

சேலத்தில் ராணுவ தளவாட தொழிற்சாலை: ஐந்து மாதங்களில் அறிவிப்பு வெளியாகும்

சேலம் ஜூன் 21: சேலம் உருக்காலை வளாகத்தில் ராணுவ தளவாட தொழிற்சாலை அமைப்பது குறித்து 5 மாதங்களில் முறைப்படி தகவல் வெளியாகும் என மத்திய கனரக தொழில் துறை அமைச்சர் எச்.டி. குமாரசாமி கூறினார்.

சர்வதேச யோகா தினத்தை யோட்டி, சேலம் உருக்காலை வளாகத்தில் சனிக்கிழமை நடைபெற்ற நிகழ்வில், மத்திய அமைச்சர் எச்.டி. குமாரசாமி பங்கேற்று ஆலை அதிகாரிகள், தொழிற்சங்கத்தினர் மற்றும் ஊழியர்களுடன் சேர்ந்து பல்வேறு யோகாசனங்களை செய்தார்.

பின்னர் அவர் செய்தியாளர்களிடம் கூறியதாவது:

பாரத தேசத்தின் பண்டைய கலாசாரமான யோகாவை பிரதமர் மோடி உலகெங்கும் கொண்டு சேர்த்து வருகிறார். ஒவ்வொரு குடும்பத்தினரும் யோகாவின் அவசியத்தை உணர வேண்டும்.

சேலம் உருக்காலையை தொழில்நுட்ப ரீதியாகவும், சந்தைப்படுத்தும் வகையிலும் மேம்படுத்த தொடர் நடவடிக்கைகள் மேற்கொள்ளப்பட்டு வருகின்றன. இதற்காக வல்லுநர்கள் அடங்கிய 2 குழுக்களை அமைத்து ஆராய்ந்து வருகிறோம். கடந்த

மத்திய அமைச்சர் எச்.டி. குமாரசாமி



சேலம் உருக்காலையில் நடைபெற்ற யோகாசன நிகழ்ச்சியில் பங்கேற்ற மத்திய கனரக தொழில் துறை அமைச்சர் எச்.டி. குமாரசாமி.

2003-2004-ஆம் ஆண்டுகளில் சேலம் உருக்காலை ரூ. 180 கோடி வரையில் இயங்கியது. தற்போது சேலம் உருக்காலையின் வளர்ச்சி விதிக் குறைந்தது. சேலம் உருக்காலையை மீண்டும் மேம்படுத்தி லாபகரமாக செயல்படுத்த வேண்டும் என முதல்நோக்கம்.

இதற்காக பல்வேறு புதிய பொருள்

கள் உற்பத்தி செய்யப்பட்டு சந்தைப்படுத்தப்பட்டுள்ளன. சேலம் உருக்காலை வளாகத்தில் ராணுவ தளவாட தொழிற்சாலை அமைக்கும் திட்டம் முதல்கட்ட ஆலோசனையில் உள்ளது. இதுகுறித்து இன்னும் நான்கு அல்லது ஐந்து மாதங்களில் முறையான தகவல் வெளியாகும் என்றார்.

Source: Dinamani, 22 June 2025, p.7

நாட்டிலேயே 60% நகரமயமான மாநிலம் தமிழ்நாடு

சென்னை, ஜூன் 11: இந்தியாவிலேயே 60 சதவீதம் நகரமயமான ஒரே மாநிலம் தமிழ்நாடுதான் என்று துணை முதல்வர் உதயநிதி ஸ்டாலின் பெருமிதம் தெரிவித்தார்.

சென்னை மாநகராட்சி ரிப்பன் கட்டட வளாகத்தில் நகராட்சி நிர்வாகம் மற்றும் குடிநீர் வழங்கல் துறையின் சார்பில் அமைக்கப்பட்டுள்ள 4 ஆண்டு சாதனை விளக்க புகைப்படக் கண்காட்சியை துணை முதல்வர் உதயநிதி ஸ்டாலின் புதன்கிழமை திறந்து வைத்து, ரூ.399.81 கோடியில் முடிவடைந்த 102 திட்டப் பணிகளை பயன்பாட்டுக்கு திறந்து வைத்து பேசியதாவது:

இந்தியாவிலேயே 60 சதவீதம் நகரமயமான ஒரே மாநிலம் தமிழ்நாடுதான். மற்ற மாநிலங்களில் ஏதாவது ஒரு மாநகரம் மட்டும் தான் மிகப்பெரிய வளர்ச்சியை அடைந்திருக்கும். ஆனால், தமிழ்நாட்டில் மட்டும்தான் ஏராளமான மாநகரங்கள் வளர்ச்சியடைந்துள்ளன.

மாணவர்களுக்காக...

துணை முதல்வர் உதயநிதி ஸ்டாலின்



சென்னை ரிப்பன் மாளிகையில் புதன்கிழமை நடைபெற்ற நிகழ்ச்சியில் தூய்மைப் பணியாளருக்கு தமிழ்நாடு தூய்மைப் பணியாளர் நல வாரியத்தின் உறுப்பினர் அடையாள அட்டையை வழங்கிய துணை முதல்வர் உதயநிதி ஸ்டாலின். உடன், அமைச்சர்கள் கே.என்.நேரு, மா.கப்பிரமணியன், பி.கே.சேகர்பாபு, தயாநிதி மாறன் எம்.பி., மேயர் ஆர்.பிரியா, மாநகராட்சி ஆணையர் ஜெ.குமாரகுமாரன் உள்ளிட்டோர்.

சென்னை மாநகராட்சிப் பள்ளிகளில் படித்து 10, பிளஸ் 2 பொதுத் தேர்வுகளில் அதிக மதிப்பெண்கள் பெற்ற மாணவர்களுக்கும், அவர்களுக்கு உறுதுணையாக இருந்த ஆசிரியர்களுக்கும் அரசு சார்பில் ஊக்கத் தொகை வழங்கப்படுகிறது. அரசுப் பள்ளிகளில் படிக்கும் மாணவர்களின் உயர் கல்விக்கு உதவும் வகையில், தமிழ்

புதல்வன் திட்டம், நான் முதல்வன் திட்டம் உட்பட பல்வேறு திட்டங்களை அரசு செயல்படுத்தி வருகிறது. இந்தத் திட்டங்களை முறையாக பயன்படுத்தித் கொண்டு மாணவர்கள் தங்களது இலக்குகளை நோக்கி முன்னேறி செல்ல வேண்டும் என்றார் அவர்.

திட்டப் பணிகள்: முன்னதாக, ரூ.975.63 கோடியில் 108 புதிய

திட்டப் பணிகளுக்கு அடிக்கல் நாட்டி, தமிழ்நாடு குடிநீர் வடிகால் வாரியத்தில் தமிழ்நாடு அரசுப் பணியாளர் தேர்வாணையத்தால் தேர்வு செய்யப்பட்ட 49 பேருக்கு பணி நியமன ஆணைகளையும் துணை முதல்வர் வழங்கினார்.

மேலும், முதியோர் மற்றும் மாற்றுத்திறனாளிகள் கடற்க

ரைக்கு சென்று வர பேட்டரி வாகனங்கள், குப்பை அகற்றும் இயந்திர வாகனங்கள், நாய் பிடிக்கும் வாகனங்கள் என ரூ.1.64 கோடியில் 11 புதிய வாகன சேவையை தொடங்கி வைக்கும் வகையில், ஒட்டுநர்களுக்கு சாவி்களை அவர் வழங்கினார்.

தொடர்ந்து 10, பிளஸ் 2 பொதுத் தேர்வுகளில் சென்னை மாநகராட்சிப் பள்ளிகளில் பிளஸ் 2 அதிக மதிப்பெண்கள் பெற்ற 62 மாணவர்கள், அவர்களுக்கு உறுதுணையாக இருந்த 38 ஆசிரியர்கள் மற்றும் 14 பள்ளிகளின் தலைமையாசிரியர்கள் என மொத்தம் 114 பேருக்கு ரூ. 7,26,000 ஊக்கத் தொகையை வழங்கினார்.

இந்த நிகழ்ச்சியில், நகராட்சி நிர்வாகத் துறை அமைச்சர் கே.என்.நேரு, மக்கள் நல்வாழ்வுத் துறை அமைச்சர் மா.கப்பிரமணியன், இந்து சமய அறநிலையத் துறை அமைச்சர் பி.கே.சேகர்பாபு, மத்திய சென்னை மக்களவை உறுப்பினர் தயாநிதி மாறன், மேயர் ஆர்.பிரியா உள்ளிட்டோர் கலந்துகொண்டனர்.

Source: Dinamani, 12 June 2025, p.3

வளரும் துறைகளில் பெண்கள் பங்களிப்பை அதிகரிக்க ரூ.1,185 கோடியில் புதிய திட்டம்: முதல்வர் அறிவிப்பு

சென்னை, ஜூன் 10: வளர்ந்துவரும் துறைகளில் பெண் பணியாளர்களின் எண்ணிக்கையை அதிகரிக்கும் நோக்கத்துடன் ரூ.1,185 கோடி மதிப்பீட்டில் திட்டம் செயல்படுத்தப்படும் என்று முதல்வர் மு.க.ஸ்டாலின் அறிவித்தார்.

உலக வங்கியின் சென்னை சர்வதேச வணிக மையத்தை முதல்வர் மு.க.ஸ்டாலின் செவ்வாய்க் கிழமை திறந்து வைத்தார்.

இந்த நிகழ்ச்சியில் அவர் பேசியதாவது: உலக வங்கியுடனான நம் முடிவான ஒருங்கிணைப்பானது 1971-ஆம் ஆண்டிலிருந்து தொடர்கிறது.

தமிழ்நாடு விவசாயக் கடன் திட்டத்தைச் செயல்படுத்தும்போது, உலக வங்கியுடன் பிணைப்பு ஏற்பட்டது. அப்போது முதல் தமிழ்நாட்டின் உள் சுட்டமையடி, சுகாதாரம், கல்வி, பேரிடர் மேலாண்மை, நகர்ப்புற வளர்ச்சி போன்ற பலதரப்பட்ட துறைகளில் உலக வங்கி உறுதுணையாக இருந்து வருகிறது. உலக வங்கியுடனான நீண்ட தொடர்பு, நீடித்த நிலையான மேம்பட்டதக்கவளர்ச்சியை தமிழ்நாடு அடைய வேண்டும் என்ற ஆழ்ந்த அக்கணியின் வெளிப்பாடுதான் இது. வருங்காலத்தில் உலக வங்கி உதவியுடன் 40.97 கோடி டாலர் (ரூ.3,507.02 கோடி) மதிப்பிலான முக்கியத் திட்டங்களை தமிழ்நாட்டில் செயல்படுத்தப் போகிறோம்.

ஒரு டிரில்லியன் டாலர் பொருளாதாரத்தை அடைய வேண்டுமெனில் அது பெண்களின் பங்கு



சென்னை தரமணியில் உலக வங்கி சார்பில் அமைக்கப்பட்டுள்ள சர்வதேச வணிக மையத்தை செவ்வாய்க் கிழமை திறந்துவைத்துப் பேசிய முதல்வர் மு.க.ஸ்டாலின். உடன், மத்திய அரசின் அமைச்சரவைச் செயலர் டி.வி.சோமநாதன், தலைமைச் செயலர் நா.முருகானந்தம், உலக வங்கியின் மேலாண்மை இயக்குநர் வெங்கடபு ஜாங், இந்தியாவுக்கான இயக்குநர் அகஸ்டேடோனோ கோமே, சென்னை மையத் தலைவா கனில் குமார் உள்ளிட்டோர்.

தனிப்பட்ட திட்டமும் உலக வங்கியுடன் செயல்படுத்தப்பட்டு வருகிறது. இதுபோன்ற ஏராளமான திட்டங்கள் 1.12 பில்லியன் டாலர் அளவுக்கு செயல்படுத்தப்படுகின்றன.

கருக்கிப் பார்க்க முடியாதது: உலக வங்கி அளிப்பதை வெறும் சுருக்கி என்று கருக்கிப் பார்க்க முடியாது. அதையும் தாண்டி, நீடித்த நிலையான மேம்பட்டதக்கவளர்ச்சியை தமிழ்நாடு அடைய வேண்டும் என்ற ஆழ்ந்த அக்கணியின் வெளிப்பாடுதான் இது. வருங்காலத்தில் உலக வங்கி உதவியுடன் 40.97 கோடி டாலர் (ரூ.3,507.02 கோடி) மதிப்பிலான முக்கியத் திட்டங்களை தமிழ்நாட்டில் செயல்படுத்தப் போகிறோம்.

ஒரு டிரில்லியன் டாலர் பொருளாதாரத்தை அடைய வேண்டுமெனில் அது பெண்களின் பங்கு

விவசாயம் அல்லாத, வளர்ந்துவரும் துறைகளில் பெண் பணியாளர்களின் எண்ணிக்கையை அதிகரிக்கும் நோக்கத்துடன் அடுத்த 5 ஆண்டுகளில் ரூ.1,185 கோடி மதிப்பீட்டில் உலக வங்கி உதவியுடன் திட்டம் செயல்படுத்தப்படும்.

இரண்டாவதாக தமிழ்நாடு கடல் வளங்கள் மற்றும் நீலப் பொருளாதாரத்தை நிலையான முறையில் பயன்படுத்துதல் திட்டமாகும். மூன்றாவது தமிழ்நாடு கிராமப்புற புதுவாழ்வுத் திட்டத்தின் இரண்டாம் கட்டமாகும். உலக வங்கியுடன் இணைந்து இன்னும் பல திட்டங்களைச் செயல்படுத்தி தமிழ்நாடு மக்களின் தேவைகளை நிறைவேற்ற அரசு ஆர்வமாக இருக்கிறது.

அதற்கு அந்த வங்கியுடனான பிணைப்பு தொடர வேண்டும்.

எதிர்பார்ப்பு வளர்ச்சிக் கடன்களுக்கான வட்டி விகிதம் ஆண்டுக்கு 6 முதல் 7 சதவீதம் என்று அதிகளவில் இருக்கிறது. வரும் காலங்களில், புதுமையான மாற்றுதலுக்குரிய சுறுகலியை வழங்கி, மக்களுக்குத் தேவையான சமூக - பொருளாதார மேம்பாட்டுத் திட்ட முதலீடுகளுக்கு உலக வங்கி உதவியும் என்றார் அவர்.

இந்த நிகழ்வில், மத்திய அரசின் அமைச்சரவை செயலர் சோமநாதன், உலக வங்கியின் மேலாண்மை இயக்குநர் வென்சாய் ஜாங், இந்தியாவுக்கான இயக்குநர் அகஸ்டே, தலைமைச் செயலர் நா.முருகானந்தம், உலக வங்கியின் சென்னை மையத் தலைவா கனில்குமார் உட்பட பலர் பங்கேற்றனர்.

Source: Dinamani, 11 June 2025, p.5

தமிழக உணவுப் பதப்படுத்துதல் துறையை மேம்படுத்த சென்னை ஐஐடி- டிஎன்ஏபெக்ஸ் புரிந்துணர்வு ஒப்பந்தம்

சென்னை, ஜூன் 17: தமிழகத்தின் வேளாண் - உணவு சுற்றுச்சூழல் அமைப்பை மேம்படுத்த தமிழக அரசின் உணவுப் பதப்படுத்துதல் மற்றும் வேளாண் ஏற்றுமதி மேம்பாட்டு நிறுவனத்துடன் (டிஎன்ஏபெக்ஸ்) சென்னை ஐஐடி செவ்வாய்க்கிழமை புரிந்துணர்வு ஒப்பந்தத்தை மேற்கொண்டுள்ளது.

உணவுப் பதப்படுத்துதல், ஏற்றுமதியை மேம்படுத்துவதற்கான உயர் அமைப்பாக தமிழக அரசின் டிஎன்ஏபெக்ஸ் நிறுவனம் செயல்படுகிறது. இந்த நிறுவனம், தமிழக அரசின் குறு, சிறு, நடுத்தரத் தொழில்கள் துறையின் செயலர் அதுல் ஆனந்த் முன்னிலையில் சென்னை ஐஐடியுடன் உத்திசார் புரிந்துணர்வு ஒப்பந்தத்தில் கையொப்பமிட்டது.



தமிழக அரசின் குறு, சிறு, நடுத்தரத் தொழில்கள் துறையின் செயலர் அதுல் ஆனந்த், சென்னை ஐஐடி இயக்குநர் வி.காமகோடி ஆகியோர் முன்னிலையில் தமிழக அரசின் டிஎன்ஏபெக்ஸ் நிறுவனம் - சென்னை ஐஐடி இடையே செவ்வாய்க்கிழமை மேற்கொள்ளப்பட்ட புரிந்துணர்வு ஒப்பந்தம்.

இந்த நிகழ்வில் துறைச் செயலர் அதுல் ஆனந்த் பேசியது: சென்னை ஐஐடி மூலம் கிடைக்கப் பெறும் நிபுணத்துவத்தைக் கொண்டு, கிராமப்புற விநியோகச் சங்கிலிகள் திறப்பாக மாற்றப்படும். அறுவடைக்குப் பிந்தைய இழப்புகளைக் குறைத்தல், புதுமை மற்றும் ஒத்துழைப்பு மூலம் விவசாயிகளின் வருமானத்தை அதிகரித்தல் போன்றவற்றின் தமிழக அரசின் உறுதிப்பாட்டுக்கு இந்த ஒப்பந்தம் உறுதுணையாக இருக்கும் என்றார்.

சென்னை ஐஐடி இயக்குநர் வி.காமகோடி பேசியது: அன்றாட சவால்களைத் தீர்ப்பதில் ஐஐடி நிறுவனம் பன்முக வலிமையுடன் உள்ளது. இந்த கூட்டு முயற்சி மூலம் ஆராய்ச்சி, பயிற்சி, தொழில்நுட்ப மற்றும் சந்தைப்படுத்தும் திறன்கள் ஆகியவற்றில் தமிழக வேளாண் வளிக் கற்றுச்சூழல் அமைப்பின் செயல்பாட்டுத் திறன், நிலைத்தன்மையை மேம்படுத்துப்பதும் என்றார்.

முன்னதாக பேசிய டிஎன்ஏபெக்ஸ் நிர்வாக இயக்குநர் கே.அழகசுந்தரம், 'தமிழக கிராமப்புற நுண் நிறுவனங்கள் உலகளாவிய சந்தைகளுடன் இணைக்கப்படுவது அவசியம். உணவு பதப்படுத்தும் துறையில் திறன், போட்டித் தன்மை அதிகரிக்க ஐஐடி போன்ற கல்வி நிறுவனத்துடனான ஒத்துழைப்பு மூலம் இவை மேம்படுத்த முடியும்' என்றார்.

வேளாண் வணிகத்தில் கிராமப்புற இளைஞர்களுக்குத் திறன் அளித்தல்; உணவு வீணாவதைக் குறைத்து விநியோகச் சங்கிலிகளை மேம்படுத்துதல் சந்தை அணுகல்; ஏற்றுமதி திறனை மேம்படுத்துதல்; பேக்கேஜிங், பிராண்டிங், தயாரிப்புக்ளை சந்தைப்படுத்தலில் மேம்பாடு, அதிக தாக்கத்துக்கான அரசு திட்டங்களை மதிப்பீடு செய்தல் உள்ளிட்டவை இந்த புரிந்துணர்வு ஒப்பந்தத்தில் உள்ள குறிப்பிடத்தக்கவை சென்னை ஐஐடி சார்பில் தெரிவிக்கப்பட்டுள்ளது.

Source: Dinamani, 18 June 2025, p.3

4 லட்சம் மெட்ரிக் டன் மாம்பழங்களை கூழாக்க முடிவு

தமிழக அரசு தகவல்

சென்னை, ஜூன் 20: தமிழகத்தில் உற்பத்தி செய்யப்பட்ட மாம்பழங்களில் 4 லட்சம் மெட்ரிக் டன் பழங்களை கூழாக்க முடிவு செய்யப்பட்டுள்ளது. வேளாண்மைத் துறை உயரதிகாரிகள் தெரிவித்துள்ளனர்.

தமிழ்நாட்டில் சுமார் 1.46 லட்சம் ஹெக்டேரில் மா சாகுபடி செய்யப்பட்டு 9.5 லட்சம் மெட்ரிக் டன் உற்பத்தி செய்யப்படுகிறது.

மா உற்பத்தியானது கிருஷ்ணகிரி, திண்டுக்கல், தருமபுரி, திருவள்ளூர், தேனி, திருப்பத்தூர், சேலம், வேலூர், மதுரை ஆகிய மாவட்டங்களில் அதிக அளவு மேற்கொள்ளப்பட்டுள்ளது.

சாதகமான சூழல்: மா உற்பத்திக்கு ஏற்ற காலசூழல் நிகழ்வுகளால் இருந்தால் விளைச்சல் அதிகரித்துள்ளது.

முன்னெப்போதும் இல்லாத அளவுக்கு 4 மடங்கு விளைச்சல் உயர்ந்து இருக்கிறது. விளைச்சல் அதிகரிப்பு காரணமாக, மா விவசாயிகளிடம் இருந்து கனிகளை மொத்தமாகக் கொள்முதல் செய்யும் நடவடிக்கைகளும் கணங்கின.

மாம்பழக் கூழ் தயாரிக்கும் நிறுவனங்கள் விவசாயிகளிடம் இருந்து குறிப்பிட்ட அளவு கனிகளைக் கொள்முதல் செய்யும் முறையை மேற்கொண்டன.

4 லட்சம் மெட்ரிக் டன்: நிகழ்வுகள் தமிழக விவசாயிகளிடம் இருந்து கொள்முதல் செய்யப்பட்ட மாங்கனிகளில் 2 லட்சம் மெட்ரிக் டன் அளவுக்கு கூழாக்கப்பட்டுள்ளன.

மேலும், 2 லட்சம் மெட்ரிக் டன்னை கூழாக்கும் பணிகள் நடந்து வருகின்றன. ஜூன் மாத இறுதிக்குள் மா பருவம் நிறைவடையும் என எதிர்பார்க்கப்படுகிறது. அதற்குள்ளாக மாம்பழங்களைக் கொள்முதல் செய்து கூழாக்கும் பணிகளை சம்பந்தப்பட்ட நிறுவனங்கள் மேற்கொள்ளும் என தமிழக அரசு நம்பிக்கை தெரிவித்துள்ளது.

ரெடிமேட் ஆடை ஏற்றுமதி மே மாதத்தில் ரூ.12,876 கோடி

திருப்பூர், ஜூன் 18- நம் நாட்டின் ஆயத்த ஆடை ஏற்றுமதி, கடந்த மே மாதம் மட்டும், 12,876 கோடி ரூபாய்க்கு நடந்துள்ளது.

இந்தியாவின் ஒட்டுமொத்த ஆயத்த ஆடை ஏற்றுமதி, 16 மாதங்களாக தொடர்ந்து அதிகரித்து வருகிறது.

வளர்ந்த நாடுகளில், பசுமை சார்ந்த உற்பத்திக்கு முக்கியத்துவம் கொடுப்பதால், வர்த்தகர்களின் பார்வை, நம் நாட்டின் மீது திரும்பியுள்ளது.

அமெரிக்கா, ஐரோப்பிய நாடுகள், பிரிட்டன், ஐக்கிய அரபு நாடுகள், இது குறித்து ஆயத்த

ஏப்., - மே நிலவரம்

23 - 24	20,107
24 - 25	21,315
25 - 26	24,610

(ரூபாய் கோடியில்)

இந்தியாவுக்கு அதிக ஆர்டர் கொடுக்க துவங்கி உள்ளன. இதனால் ஒவ்வொரு மாதமும், ஆயத்த ஆடை ஏற்றுமதி அதிகரித்து வருகிறது. இது குறித்து ஆயத்த

ஆடை ஏற்றுமதி மேம்பாட்டு கவுன்சில் துணை தலைவர் சக்திவேல் கூறுகையில், "ஆயத்த ஆடை துறையின் நிலையான வளர்ச்சி, ஏற்றுமதியாளர்களுக்கு புதிய உற்சாகத்தை ஏற்படுத்தி வருகிறது.

"முந்தைய ஆண்டு களுடன் ஒப்பிட்டால், ஏப்., மாதம், 17.40 சதவீதமும்; மே மாதம், 13.80 சதவீத வளர்ச்சியும் கிடைத்துள்ளது. நடப்பாண்டில் திருப்பூர் பின்னலாடை ஏற்றுமதி, 50,000 கோடி ரூபாயாக அதிகரிக்கும் என்ற நம்பிக்கை ஏற்பட்டுள்ளது" என்றார்.

Source: Dinamalar, 18 June 2025, p.12

Source: Dinamani, 21 June 2025, p.5

திறப்பு விழா காணத் தயாராகும் அம்பத்தூர் தொழிற்பேட்டை நவீன பேருந்து நிலையம்!

சென்னை, ஜூன் 29: ரூ.13.85 கோடியில் சீரமைக்கப்பட்டு, நவீனப்படுத்தப்பட்ட சென்னை அம்பத்தூர் தொழிற்பேட்டை பேருந்து நிலையம் விரைவில் பொதுமக்கள் பயன்பாட்டுக்காக திறக்கப்படவுள்ளது.

அம்பத்தூர் தொழிற்பேட்டையில் 5 ஆயிரத்துக்கும் மேற்பட்ட தொழிற்சாலைகள் உள்ளன. இங்கு ஆயுட்பட்டாபிராயம், திருவள்ளூர், பூந்தமல்லி, ஸ்ரீபெரும்புதூர் உள்ளிட்ட சென்னையின் பல்வேறு பகுதிகளிலிருந்து தொழிலாளர்கள் பணிபுரிகின்றனர்.

இதனால் அம்பத்தூர் தொழிற்பேட்டை பேருந்து நிலையம் எப்போதும் பயணிகள் கூட்டத்தால் நிரம்பி வழியும். இங்கிருந்து கோயம்பேடு, பிராட்வே, பூந்தமல்லி, சென்ட்ரல், எழும்பூர், அண்ணா சாலை போன்ற பகுதிகளுக்கு மாநகர பேருந்துகள் இயக்கப்பட்டு வருகின்றன. மேலும் பேருந்து நிலையம் அருகே போக்குவரத்து பணிமனையும் உள்ளது.

ஆனால், தினமும் ஆயிரக்கணக்கான பயணிகள் வந்து செல்லும் அம்பத்தூர் பேருந்து நிலையம் எவ்வித நவீன வசதியும் இல்லாமல் இருந்து வந்தது. பேருந்துகள் உள்நேரம் வரும் பகுதியும் வெளியே செல்லும் சாலையும் குண்டும் குழியுமாக காணப்பட்டது. இப்பேருந்து நிலையத்தை சீரமைத்து நவீனப்படுத்த பல்வேறு தரப்பினரும்



புதிதாக மேம்படுத்தப்பட்டு வரும் அம்பத்தூர் தொழிற்பேட்டை பேருந்து நிலையத்தின் வெளிப்புறத் தோற்றம்.

சோரிக் கை விடுத்து வந்தனர்.

இந்நிலையில் சென்னை பெருநகர வளர்ச்சி குழுமம் சார்பில் ரூ.150.05 கோடி மதிப்பில் சென்னையில் திருவிசை நகர், தண்டையார்பேட்டை, கண்ணதாசன் நகர், முல்லை நகர், பெரியார் நகர், அம்பத்தூர் தொழிற்பேட்டை என 6 பேருந்து நிலையங்களை சீரமைக்க திட்டமிட்டு அதற்கான பணிகள் கடந்த 2023 நவம்பர்

மாதத்தில் தொடங்கப்பட்டன.

பணி நிறைவு: இத்திட்டத்தில், அம்பத்தூர் தொழிற்பேட்டை பேருந்து நிலையமும் ரூ.13.85 கோடியில் மேம்படுத்தும் பணிகள் தொடங்கின. பேருந்து நிலையம் முழுவதும் அகற்றப்பட்டு நவீன வசதிகளுடன் சுட்டுமா எப் பணிகள் மும்முரமாக நடைபெற்று வந்த நிலையில், தற்போது பெரும்பாலான பணிகள் முடிவடைந்துள்ளன.

நவீனப்படுத்தப்பட்ட இந்த

பேருந்து நிலையத்தில் பேருந்துகள் உள்ளே செல்லவும், வெளியே வரவும் தனித்தனி பாதை அமைக்கப்பட்டுள்ளது. மேலும், நேரக் காப்பாளர் அறை, கழிப்பிட வசதி, பயணிகள் அமர்வதற்கு இருக்கைகள் மற்றும் பேருந்து நிலையத்தை சுற்றி எல்.இ.டி. விளக்குகள் அமைக்கப்பட்டுள்ளன. மாற்றத்தினால்

றுத்திறனாளிகள் பயன்படுத்தும் வகையில் சிறப்பு வசதிகள் செய்யப்பட்டுள்ளன. பேருந்து நிலைய அலுவலகம் அமைந்துள்ள பகுதி முழுவதும் கண்ணாடி மானிகை போன்று பிரம்மாண்டமான முறையில் சுட்டமைக்கப்பட்டுள்ளது.

எல்.இ.டி திரைகள் மேலும் பேருந்துகள் டுறப்படும் நேரம், வருகை பற்றி பயணிகள் அறிந்து கொள்ளும் வகையில் எல்.இ.டி. திரைகள், வாகன நிறுத்துமிடம், கடைகளும் அமைக்கப்பட்டுள்ளன. கடந்த 2023-இல் தொடங்கப்பட்ட இப்பேருந்து நிலைய சீரமைப்பு பணிகள் 2024 ஆண்டு இறுதிக்குள் முடித்துமக்கள் பயன்பாட்டுக்கு கொண்டுவர திட்டமிடப்பட்டிருந்தது. ஆனால் பணிகள் மந்தததியில் நடைபெற்றதால் திறக்கும் தேதி தள்ளிப்போடப்பட்டது. தற்போது இப்பேருந்து நிலையத்தின் பெரும்பாலான பணிகள் முடிவடைந்த நிலையில், திறப்பு விழா காண தயாராக உள்ளதாக அதிகாரிகள் தெரிவித்தனர்.

இதுகுறித்து சென்னை பெருநகர் வளர்ச்சிக்குழு அதிகாரிகள் கூறும்போது, இப்பேருந்து நிலையத்தின் பணிகள் முடிப்பதில் தாமதம் ஏற்பட்டாலும், விளையில் முதல்வர் மூலம் இப்பேருந்து நிலையம் பொதுமக்கள் பயன்பாட்டுக்காக திறக்கப்படும் என்றனர்.

Source: Dinamani, 30 June 2025, p.3

பிராட்வே பல்நோக்கு ஒருங்கிணைந்த போக்குவரத்து முனையம்

சென்னை, ஜூன் 4: பிராட்வே பல்நோக்கு ஒருங்கிணைந்த பேருந்து முனையம்போக்குவரத்து வளாகம் சுட்ட மற்றும் குறளகம் சுட்டம் புதுப்பிக்க, சென்னை மெட்ரோ சொத்து மேலாண்மை நிறுவனம் ரூ. 566.59 கோடிக்கான ஒப்பந்தத்தை பிரிட்ஜ் அண்ட் ரூப் சம் பெனி-க்கு வழங்கியுள்ளது.

சென்னை மெட்ரோ ரயில் நிறுவனம் மற்றும் தமிழ்நாடு தொழில் துறை மேம்பாட்டுக் கழகம் இணைந்து உருவாக்கிய சென்னை மெட்ரோ சொத்து மேலாண்மை நிறுவனத்தின் தலைவர் எம்.ஏ.சித்திக் முன்னிலையில், சென்னை மெட்ரோ சொத்து மேலாண்மை நிறுவனத்தின் இயக்குநர் தி.அர்ச்சுனன் மற்றும் பிரிட்ஜ் அண்ட் ரூப் சம்பெனி-யின் பொறியியல்குழு பொது மேலாளர் சஞ்சய் பட்டாசார்யா ஆகியோர் சென்னையிலுள்ள மெட்ரோ தலைமை அலுவல



சென்னை மெட்ரோ சொத்து மேலாண்மை நிறுவனத்தின் தலைவர் எம்.ஏ.சித்திக் முன்னிலையில் மேற்கொள்ளப்பட்ட ஒப்பந்த திகழ்வில் மெட்ரோ சொத்து மேலாண்மை நிறுவனத்தின் இயக்குநர் தி.அர்ச்சுனன், பிரிட்ஜ் அண்ட் ரூப் சம்பெனி இந்தியா நிறுவனத்தின் பொறியியல்குழு பொது மேலாளர் சஞ்சய் பட்டாசார்யா உள்ளிட்டோர்.

கத்தில் இதற்கான ஒப்பந்தத்தில் கையொப்பமிட்டனர். 6,484 ஏக்கர் நிலப்பரப்பில் கட்டப்படவுள்ள இந்த பல்நோக்கு ஒருங்கிணைந்த போக்குவரத்து பேருந்து வளாகக் கட்ட

டம், மொத்தம் 1,08,290.01 சதுர மீட்டர் பரப்பளவைக் கொண்டது. இதில் இரண்டு அடித்தள நிலைகள், ஒரு தரைத்தளம் மற்றும் எட்டு மேல் தளங்கள் இருக்கும்.

அடித்தளம், தரைத்தளம் மற்றும் முதல் தளத்துடன் சுட்டப்படும் பேருந்து முனையத்தின் பணிகளை 24 மாதங்களுக்குள் சுட்டி முடிக்க திட்டமிடப்பட்டுள்ளது. அதே நேரத்தில், இதற்கு

மேலே உள்ள பல்நோக்கு ஒருங்கிணைந்த போக்குவரத்து வளாகம் மற்றும் குறளகம் சுட்டம் பணிகள் 30 மாதங்களுக்குள் நிறைவடையும் என சென்னை மெட்ரோ சொத்து மேலாண்மை நிறுவனம் தெரிவித்துள்ளது.

இந்த நிகழ்ச்சியில், பெருநகர சென்னை மாநகராட்சியின் துணை ஆணையர் வி.சிவசிரேஷ்ணமூர்த்தி, நிறுவனத்தின் திட்ட மேலாண்மை இயக்குநர் ரவி குமார், பொது மேலாளர் டி.ரவி, சென்னை மெட்ரோ ரயில் நிறுவனத்தின் தலைமை பொது மேலாளர் டி.விவீஸ்ஸ்போன் எலியாசர் (திட்டம், திட்டமிடல் மற்றும் வடிவமைப்பு), தலைமை பொது மேலாளர் டாக்டர் டி.ஜெபாசெல்வின்க்ளாட்சன் (ஒப்பந்தம் கொள்முதல் மற்றும் மேலாண்மை), திட்ட மேலாளர் ஜி.தனிகைசெல்வன் உள்ளிட்டோர் கலந்து கொண்டனர்.

Source: Dinamani, 5 June 2025, p.4

தேசிய அளவில் முன்மாதிரியாக செயல்படும் வ.உ.சி. துறைமுகம்

தூத்துக்குடி, ஜூன் 2: தூத்துக்குடி, வ.உ.சிதம்பரனார் துறைமுக ஆணையம் வளர்ச்சித் திட்டப் பணிகளை செயல்படுத்துவதில் தேசிய அளவில் முன்மாதிரியாக செயல்படுவதாக துறைமுக ஆணையம் தரப்பில் தெரிவிக்கப்பட்டது.

இதுகுறித்து வ.உ.சிதம்பரனார் துறைமுக ஆணையம் தரப்பில் வெளியிடப்பட்ட செய்திக்குறிப்பு:

தென்னிந்தியாவின் வர்த்தக இயந்திரமாகத் திகழ்ந்து வரும் வ.உ.சிதம்பரனார் துறைமுக ஆணையம், இந்த நிதியாண்டில் 50 மில்லியன் டன் சரக்குகளையும், 1 மில்லியன் சரக்கு பெட்டகங்களையும் கையாளும் இலக்குடன், சரக்கு கையாளுதலில் குறிப்பிடத்தக்க முன்னேற்றங்களை ஏற்படுத்தி வருகிறது.

இந்த இலக்கை அடையும் நோக்கில் ஏற்றுமதி, இறக்குமதி வர்த்தக தேவைகளை துறைமுகத்தின் மூலம் பூர்த்தி செய்வதற்காக பல்வேறு உள்கட்டமைப்பு மேம்பாட்டுப் பணிகளை வேகமாக செயல்படுத்திவருகின்றது.

இதில், உள்துறைமுகத்தில் கப்பல் வரும் சுற்று வட்டப் பாதையை ஆழப்படுத்தி விரிவாக்கும் பணி, வடக்கு சரக்கு தளம்-3 ஆழப்படுத்தும் பணி உள்ளிட்டவை



அடங்கும்.

தூத்துக்குடியில் உள்ள மின்சார வாகன உற்பத்தி நிறுவனமான வின்பாஸ்ட், ரூரிய மின் பலகைகள் மற்றும் அதன் உதிரிப் பாகங்களை உற்பத்தி செய்யும் நிறுவனங்களான விக்ரம் சோலார், டாடா சோலார், மர்ச் சாமான்கள் தொழிற்சாலை, காற்றாலை இறகு மற்றும் அதன் உதிரிப்பாகங்கள் தொழிற்சாலை, வரவிருக்கும் கப்பல் கட்டும் தொழில் நிறுவனங்கள், வாகன உபகரணங்கள் செய்யும் தொழிற்சாலைகள்

ஆகியவற்றின் தேவைகளை நிறைவு செய்வதற்காக பல்வேறு திறன் மேம்பாட்டு திட்டங்களையும், வர்த்தகத்தை எளிதாக்கும் முயற்சிகளையும் இத்துறைமுகம் செயல்படுத்தி வருகிறது.

மேலும், துறைமுகத்தினுள் வரும் பனமாக்கல் வகை பெரிய சரக்கு கப்பல்கள் மற்றும் சரக்குபெட்டக கப்பல்களை கையாளுவதற்கு வசதியாக துறைமுக நுழைவு வாயிலை அகலப்படுத்தும் பணி, கப்பல் வரும் வழித் தடத்தை ஆழப்படுத்தும் பணி ஆகிய பணி

கள் நடைபெற உள்ளன.

கிழக்கிந்திய கடற்கரையில் ஒரு பிரத்யேகமான கப்பல் கட்டும் தளம் மற்றும் பழுது பார்த்தல் வசதியை ஏற்படுத்தும் பணித் திட்டங்கள் மேற்கொள்ளப்பட்டு வருகின்றன. இதன் மூலம் கிழக்கிந்திய துறைமுகங்களுள் இத்துறைமுகம் முழுமையான கடல் சார் வர்த்தக மையமாகத் திகழும்.

இதுகுறித்து, துறைமுக ஆணையத் தலைவர் கசாந்த குமார் புரோஹித் கூறுகையில், தூத்துக்குடியின் எல்லா காலநிலைகளையும் தாங்கும் சுற்றுச்சூழல் அமைப்பு, கட்டுமானப் பொருள்கள் எளிதாக கிடைத்தல், துறைமுகங்கள், கப்பல் மற்றும் நீர்வழி போக்குவரத்து அமைச்சகத்தின் வழிகாட்டுதல், துறைமுகத் துறைகளுக்கு இடையே உள்ள சிறப்பான ஒருங்கிணைப்பு ஆகியவை இத் திட்டங்களை வேகமாக நிறைவேற்றுவதற்கான முக்கிய காரணங்களாக உள்ளன.

மேலும், உபயோகிப்பாளர்களுடன் துறைமுகம் அவ்வப்போது கலந்துரையாடி, துறைமுக மேம்பாட்டுத் தேவைகள் மதிப்பீடு செய்யப்பட்டு வருகின்றன. இதன் மூலம் இத்துறைமுகத்தினால் இந்தியாவின் கடல் சார் வர்த்தக வளர்ச்சி மற்றும் நிலைத்தன்மை இலக்கினை அடைய முடியும் என்றார்.

Source: Dinamani, 3 June 2025, p.13

அரசு பள்ளிகளில் 2,346 ஆசிரியர்கள் நியமனம்

ஜூலைக்குள் நிரப்ப நடவடிக்கை என அமைச்சர் அன்பில் மகேஸ் தகவல்

■ சென்னை

அரசுப் பள்ளிகளில் ஜூலை இறுதிக்குள் 2,346 இடைநிலை ஆசிரியர்கள் பணி நியமனம் செய்யப்படுவர் என்று பள்ளிக் கல்வித் துறை அமைச்சர் அன்பில் மகேஸ் தெரிவித்துள்ளார்.

பள்ளிக்கல்வித் துறை சார்பில் மாவட்ட முதன்மைக் கல்வி அதிகாரிகள் மற்றும் மாவட்ட கல்வி அதிகாரிகளுக்கான 2 நாள் ஆய்வுக் கூட்டம் சென்னையில் நேற்று தொடங்கியது. இதற்கு அமைச்சர் அன்பில் மகேஸ் தலைமை தாங்கினார். பள்ளிக்கல்வித் துறை செயலர் பி.சந்திரமோகன், எஸ்.எஸ்.ஏ.மாநில திட்ட இயக்குநர் மா.ஆர்த்தி, மாதிரி பள்ளிகள் உறுப்பினர் செயலர் சுதன், பள்ளிக்கல்வி இயக்குநர் எஸ்.கண்ணப்பன், தொடக்கக் கல்வி இயக்குநர் பி.ஏ.நேஷ், அரசு தேர்வுகள் இயக்குநர் நலதா, மாநில கல்வி

யியல் ஆராய்ச்சி மற்றும் பயிற்சி நிறுவன இயக்குநர் உமா, தனியார் பள்ளிகள் இயக்குநர் குப்புசாமி உள்ளிட்டோர் பங்கேற்றனர்.

திருநெல்வேலி, தூத்துக்குடி, கன்னியாகுமரி உள்ளிட்ட 13 மாவட்டங்களைச் சேர்ந்த கல்வி அதிகாரிகள் காலையில் நடைபெற்ற கூட்டத்திலும் திருச்சி, பெரம்பலூர், கடலூர், திருவண்ணாமலை உள்ளிட்ட 12 மாவட்ட அதிகாரிகள் பிற்பகல் கூட்டத்திலும் கலந்து கொண்டனர். கூட்டத்தில் அமைச்சர் பேசியதாவது:

பள்ளிக்கல்வித் துறையில் மேற்கொள்ளப்பட்டு வரும் திட்டங்கள், மாணவர்களுக்கான கல்வி உதவித்தொகை அனைத்தும் முறையாக சென்றடைகிறதா என்பதை அதிகாரிகள் தொடர்ந்து கண்காணிக்க வேண்டும். கடந்த ஆண்டு 10, 12-ம் வகுப்பு பொதுத் தேர்வுகளில் தேர்ச்சி விகிதம்

அதிகரிக்க நடவடிக்கை எடுத்த மாவட்ட முதன்மைக் கல்வி அதிகாரிகளுக்கும், ஆசிரியர்களுக்கும் பாராட்டுகள். தேர்ச்சி விகிதம் குறைந்த மாவட்டங்களில் காரணங்களை கண்டறிந்து சரிசெய்ய வேண்டும்.

கருணை அடிப்படையில் பணி வழங்கக்கோரி பெறப்படும் மனுக்களை உடனுக்குடன் ஆய்வு செய்து, பள்ளிக்கல்வி இயக்குநருக்கு அனுப்பி மறைந்த பணியாளர்கள் மற்றும் ஆசிரியர்களின் வாரிசுகளுக்கு பணிநியமனம் கிடைக்க வழிவகை செய்ய வேண்டும். போக்சோ வழக்குகளில் குற்றம் சாட்டப்பட்டவர்கள் விசாரணையை வினாறு நடுத்தி அதன் அறிக்கையை சம்பந்தப்பட்ட இயக்ககத்துக்கு அனுப்ப தொடர் நடவடிக்கை மேற்கொள்ள வேண்டும். மேலும், நிலுவையில் உள்ள நீதிமன்ற வழக்கு

கள் தொடர்பான கோப்புகள் மீது தனிக்கவனம் செலுத்தி உடனடியாக அதை முடிவுக்கு கொண்டுவர வேண்டும். குழந்தை திருமணம் நடைபெறாமல் தடுக்க சமூகநலத் துறை அதிகாரிகளுடன் இணைந்து தகுந்த நடவடிக்கை எடுக்க வேண்டும்.

தொடக்கக் கல்வி இயக்ககத்தில் ஜூலை இறுதிக்குள் 2,346 இடைநிலை ஆசிரியர்களை பணி நியமனம் செய்வதற்கான பணிகள் நடைபெற்று வருகின்றன. எனவே, நிலுவையில் உள்ள நீதிமன்ற வழக்குகளை வினாறு முடிக்க ஏற்பாடு செய்ய வேண்டும். இவ்வாறு அவர் பேசினார்.

இன்று (செவ்வாய்க்கிழமை) நடைபெறும் ஆய்வுக் கூட்டத்தில் சென்னை, காஞ்சிபுரம், செங்கல்பட்டு, திருவள்ளூர் உள்ளிட்ட 13 மாவட்டங்களைச் சேர்ந்த கல்வி அதிகாரிகள் பங்கேற்கின்றனர்.

Source: Hindu Tamil Thisai, 24 June 2025, p.8

கற்றல் நிலையை அறிய

அரசு பள்ளி மாணவர்களுக்கு மதிப்பீட்டுத் தேர்வு

செயலி வழியாக நடத்த பள்ளிக்கல்வி துறை அறிவுறுத்தல்

■ சென்னை

தனியார் பள்ளிகளில் இருந்து விலகி அரசுப் பள்ளிகளில் சேர்ந்த மாணவர்களின் கற்றல் நிலையை அறிவதற்கு மதிப்பீட்டுத் தேர்வு நடத்தப்பட உள்ளதாக தகவல்கள் கிடைத்துள்ளன.

தமிழக பள்ளிக்கல்வித் துறையின்கீழ் 37,553 அரசுப் பள்ளிகள் இயங்கி வருகின்றன. இவற்றில் சுமார் 52 லட்சம் மாணவ, மாணவிகள் படிக்கின்றனர். அரசுப் பள்ளிகளில் 2025-26-ம் கல்வியாண்டுக்கான மாணவர் சேர்க்கை கடந்த மார்ச் 1-ம் தேதி தொடங்கியது.

இதையடுத்து, பெற்றோர்கள் பலர் ஆர்வமுடன் தங்கள் பிள்ளைகளை சேர்த்தனர்.

அதன்படி நடப்பு கல்வியாண்டில் சுமார் 2 லட்சம் மாணவர்கள் வரை புதிதாக சேர்க்கப்பட்டுள்ளனர். இதற்கிடையே கோடை விடுமுறை முடிந்து பள்ளிகள் கடந்த ஜூன் 2-ம் தேதி திறக்கப்பட்டன. தொடர்ந்து பள்ளிகளில் மாணவ, மாணவிகளுக்கு கற்பித்தல் பணிகள் தீவிரமாக நடைபெற்று வருகின்றன. இந்நிலையில் நடப்பாண்டு தனியார் பள்ளிகளில் இருந்து விலகி அரசுப் பள்ளிகளில் சேர்ந்த மாணவர்களின் கற்றல் நிலையை அறிவதற்கு பள்ளிக்கல்வித் துறை முடிவு செய்துள்ளதாக தகவல்கள் கிடைத்துள்ளன.

இதுகுறித்து பள்ளிக்கல்வித்

துறை அதிகாரிகள் சிலர் கூறும் போது, “நடப்பு கல்வியாண்டில் தனியார் பள்ளிகளில் இருந்து விலகி ஆயிரக்கணக்கான மாணவர்கள் அரசுப் பள்ளிகளில் சேர்ந்துள்ளனர். அவ்வாறு அரசுப் பள்ளிகளில் 2 முதல் 5-ம் வகுப்பு வரை புதிதாக சேர்ந்த மாணவர்களின் அடிப்படை கற்றல் நிலையை அறிவதற்கு மதிப்பீட்டு தேர்வு (BASE LINE ASSESSMENT) நடத்தப்பட உள்ளது. இந்த மதிப்பீட்டு பணிகளை பள்ளிக்கல்வித் துறையின் டிஎன்எஸ்இடி செயலி மூலம் ஆசிரியர்கள் மேற்கொள்ள வேண்டுமென அறிவுறுத்தப்பட்டுள்ளது” என்றனர்.

Source: Hindu Tamil Thisai, 18 June 2025, p.2

தமிழகத்தில் புதிதாக 642 துணை சுகாதார நிலையங்கள்

அரசாணை வெளியீடு

சென்னை, ஜூன் 18: தமிழகத்தில் புதிதாக 642 நகர்ப்புற மற்றும் கிராமப்புற துணை சுகாதார நிலையங்கள் உருவாக்கி அரசாணை வெளியிடப்பட்டுள்ளது.

இது தொடர்பாக வெளியிட்டுள்ள அரசாணை: தமிழகத்தில் மக்கள் தொகைக்கு ஏற்ப புதிதாக 642 நகர்ப்புற மற்றும் கிராமப்புற துணை சுகாதார நிலையங்கள் அமைக்கப்பட உள்ளன. இதில் கிராமப்புறங்களில் 617 துணை சுகாதார நிலையங்களும், நகர்ப்புறங்களில் 25 துணை சுகாதார நிலையங்களும் உருவாக்கப்பட்டுள்ளன.

இந்த துணை சுகாதார நிலையங்களில் பணிபுரிய புதிய பதவி எதுவும் உருவாக்கப்படவில்லை. அதற்கு பதிலாக குறைவாக பணிகள் உள்ள ஆரம்ப சுகாதார நிலையத்தில் உள்ள செவிலியர்கள் தேவைக்கேற்ப இந்த துணை சுகாதார நிலையங்களில் பணியமர்த்தப்படுவர்.

ஆரம்ப சுகாதார நிலையங்களில் உள்ள மின்விசிறிகள், மேசைகள் மற்றும் நாற்காலிகள் போன்ற தற்போதைய உட்கட்டமைப்புகள் பயன்படுத்தப்படும். மேலும், புதிய துணை சுகாதார மையங்களுக்கு வாடகை இல்லாத அல்லது அரசு கட்டடங்கள் பயன்படுத்தப்படும்.

இதற்கான மின்சார கட்டணம் ஆரம்ப சுகாதார நிலையத்துக்கு ஒதுக்கப்படும் நிதியிலிருந்து பயன்படுத்திக் கொள்ளப்படும் என அதில் குறிப்பிடப்பட்டுள்ளது.

Source: Dinamani, 19 June 2025, p.2

ரூ. 150 கோடியில் ஸ்டான்லி மருத்துவக் கல்லூரியில் திட்டப் பணிகள்

சென்னை, ஜூன் 26: சென்னை ஸ்டான்லி அரசு மருத்துவக் கல்லூரியில் ரூ.150 கோடியில் திட்டப் பணிகள் நடைபெற்று வருவதாக மக்கள் நல்வாழ்வுத் துறை அமைச்சர் மா.சுப்பிரமணியன் தெரிவித்தார்.

அந்த மருத்துவக் கல்லூரியின் 82-ஆவது பட்ட நிறைவு விழா வியாழக்கிழமை நடைபெற்றது. இந்த நிகழ்ச்சியில் அமைச்சர் மா.சுப்பிரமணியன் கலந்துகொண்டு மாணவர்களுக்கு பட்டங்களை வழங்கி பேசியதாவது:

வடசென்னை மக்களின் மருத்துவ தேவையை ஸ்டான்லி அரசு மருத்துவமனைதான் பூர்த்தி செய்கிறது. ரூ.66.38 கோடியில் ஸ்டான்லி மருத்துவமனையில் உயர் சிறப்பு மருத்துவ மைய கட்டடம், ரூ.2.44 கோடியில் ஸ்டேட் செல் ஆராய்ச்சி மையம், ரூ.2.50 கோடியில் முழு உடல் பரிசோதனை மையம் தொடங்கப்பட்டுள்ளன.



சென்னை அரசு ஸ்டான்லி மருத்துவக் கல்லூரியில் மாணவிக்கு வியாழக்கிழமை பட்டம் வழங்கிய அமைச்சர் மா.சுப்பிரமணியன். உடன், வடசென்னை மக்களவை உறுப்பினர் கலாநிதி வீராசாமி, சட்டப்பேரவை உறுப்பினர்கள் ஐட்டிம் மூர்த்தி, ஆர்.டி.சேகர் உள்ளிட்டோர்.

என. மேலும், புனரமைக்கப்பட்ட மாணவர் நூலகம், கருத்தாங்கு கூடம், உணவு கூடம், திறன் ஆய்வகம், துறாண்டு நிர்வாக அலுவலகக் கட்டடம் உள்ளிட்ட பல்வேறு கட்டமைப்புகள் ஸ்டான்லி மருத்துவமனையில் திறந்துவைக்கப்பட்டுள்ளன.

கடந்த 4 ஆண்டுகளில் ஏராளமான திட்டங்கள் இந்த மருத்துவ

மனையில் செயல்படுத்தப்பட்டிருக்கின்றன. தற்போது ரூ.13 கோடியில் 5 தளங்கள் கொண்ட செவிலியர் பயிற்சி பள்ளி மற்றும் ரூ.22 கோடியில் செவிலியர் பயிற்சி பள்ளி விடுதிக்கான கட்டுமான பணிகள் நடைபெற்று வருகின்றன.

அதேபோன்று ரூ.112 கோடியில் 6 தளங்கள் கொண்ட தீவிர சிகிச்சை பிரிவு கட்டடம் அமைப்பதற்கான பணிகள் முன்னெடுக்கப்பட்டுள்ளன.

அந்தவகையில், ஸ்டான்லி மருத்துவமனையில் மட்டும் ரூ.150 கோடியில் பல்வேறு திட்ட பணிகள் நடைபெற்று வருகின்றன.

ஸ்டான்லி மருத்துவக் கல்லூரியில் படித்த பலரும் உலக புகழ் பெற்ற மருத்துவர்களாகவும், மத்திய அமைச்சர், சட்டப்பேரவை

உறுப்பினர், நாடாளுமன்ற உறுப்பினர் என பல்வேறு துறைகளில் சிறந்து விளங்குகின்றனர். பத்மபூர், பத்மபூஷண் உள்ளிட்ட பல்வேறு விருதுகளைப் பெற்ற சிறப்புக்குரிய வர்களை தந்த கல்லூரி இது.

தமிழகத்தைப் பொருத்தவரை 11,850 மாணவர்கள் ஆண்டுதோறு மருத்துவம் முடித்து வெளியில் வருகின்றனர். அவர்களில் 5,050 பேர் அரசு மருத்துவக் கல்லூரி மாணவர்கள்.

மருத்துவ படிப்புக்கு எல்லையே கிடையாது. எனவே, எம்பிபிஎஸ் பட்டத்துடன் நின்றுவிடாமல், மேற்கொண்டு படித்து உலக புகழ் பெற்ற மருத்துவர்களாக, மிகச் சிறந்த ஆராய்ச்சியாளர்களாக மாணவர்கள் வர வேண்டும் என்றார் அவர்.

இந்த நிகழ்ச்சியில் நாடாளுமன்ற உறுப்பினர் கலாநிதி வீராசாமி, எம்.எல்.ஏக்கள் ஐட்டிம் மூர்த்தி, ஆர்.டி.சேகர் உள்ளிட்டோர் கலந்துகொண்டனர்.

Source: Dinamani, 27 June 2025, p.5

கிண்டி கிங் வளாகத்தில் ரூ.488 கோடியில் குழந்தைகளுக்கான உயர் சிறப்பு மருத்துவமனை

சுகாதார துறை அமைச்சர் தகவல்

■ சென்னை

கிண்டி கிங் இன்ஸ்டிடியூட் வளாகத்தில் ரூ.488 கோடியில் குழந்தைகளுக்கான பிரதீபக பன்னோக்கு உயர் சிறப்பு மருத்துவமனை கட்டப்பட உள்ளது. கட்டுமான பணியை முதல்வர் ஸ்டாலின் செட்டம்பர் மாதம் தொடங்கி வைக்க உள்ளார் என்று சுகாதாரத் துறை அமைச்சர் மா.சுப்பிரமணியன் தெரிவித்தார்.

சென்னை கிண்டியில் உள்ள கிங் இன்ஸ்டிடியூட் வளாகத்தில் ரூ.487.66 கோடியில் குழந்தைகளுக்கான பிரதீபகமாக பன்னோக்கு உயர் சிறப்பு மருத்துவமனை கட்டப்பட உள்ளது. இதற்கான இடம் தேர்வு மற்றும் கட்டுமானப் பணிகள் குறித்து சுகாதார துறை அமைச்சர் மா.சுப்பிரமணியன் நேற்று ஆய்வு செய்தார். அப்போது செய்தியாளர்களிடம் அவர் கூறியதாவது:

கிண்டி கிங் இன்ஸ்டிடியூட் வளாகத்தில் ரூ.450 கோடியில் அதிநவீன வசதிகளுடன் கலைஞர் நூற்றாண்டு உயர் சிறப்பு மருத்துவமனை அமைக்கப்பட்டுள்ளது. தினமும் இங்கு 2,000-க்கும் மேற்பட்ட புறநோயாளிகள் சிகிச்சை பெறுகின்றனர்.

இந்த வளாகத்தில் தொடங்கப்பட்டுள்ள தேசிய முதியோர் நல மருத்துவமனையில் ஆயிரக்கணக்கான முதியோர் சிகிச்சை பெற்று பயன்பெறுகின்றனர்.

இந்த வளாகத்தில் சுமார் 6.5 ஏக்கர் நிலப்பரப்பில் தரைத்தளம் மற்றும் 6 தளங்களுடன் குழந்தைகளுக்கான பன்னோக்கு உயர் சிறப்பு மருத்துவமனையும் அமைய உள்ளது. கட்டுமானப் பணி மற்றும் அதிநவீன மருத்துவ உபகரணங்களை பொருத்த ரூ.487.66 கோடி நிதி ஒதுக்கப்பட்டுள்ளது.

கட்டுமானப்பணியை முதல்வர் ஸ்டாலின் வரும் செட்டம்பரில் தொடங்கி வைக்க உள்ளார். 2 ஆண்டுகளில் கட்டி முடிக்க திட்டமிடப்பட்டுள்ளது. தமிழ்நாடு டாக்டர் எம்ஜிஆர் மருத்துவ பல் கலைக்கழக நர்வாகத்தில் இந்த மருத்துவமனை செயல்படும்.

இவ்வாறு அவர் கூறினார். சுகாதாரத் துறை செயலர் செந்தில்குமார், தேசிய நலவாழ்வு குழும இயக்குநர் அருண் தம்புராஜ், தமிழ்நாடு சுகாதார அமைப்பு திட்ட இயக்குநர் வினீத், தமிழ்நாடு டாக்டர் எம்ஜிஆர் மருத்துவ பல் கலைக்கழக துணைவேந்தர் நாராயணசாமி, பதிவாளர் சிவசங்கீதா, கிங் இன்ஸ்டிடியூட் இயக்குநர் இந்துமதி, கலைஞர் நூற்றாண்டு உயர் சிறப்பு மருத்துவமனை இயக்குநர் பார்த்தசாரதி உள்ளிட்டோர் உடன் இருந்தனர்.

Source: Hindu Tamil Thisai, 23 June 2025, p.5

வேலூரில் ரூ.197.81 கோடியில் பன்னோக்கு உயர் சிகிச்சை மருத்துவமனை

முதல்வர் மு.க.ஸ்டாலின் திறந்து வைத்தார்



வேலூரில் பென்லேண்ட் அரக பன்னோக்கு உயர்சிறப்பு மருத்துவமனையைத் திறந்துவைத்த முதல்வர் மு.க.ஸ்டாலின். உடன், அமைச்சர்கள் துரைமுருகன், எ.வ.வேலு, ஆர்.காந்தி, மா.சுப்பிரமணியன் உள்ளிட்டோர். (வலது) திறக்கப்பட்ட உயர் சிறப்பு மருத்துவமனை.

வேலூர், ஜூன் 25: வேலூரில் ரூ.197.81 கோடியில் பென்லேண்ட் அரக பன்னோக்கு உயர் சிறப்பு மருத்துவமனையை முதல்வர் மு.க.ஸ்டாலின் திறந்து வைத்தார்.

வேலூரில் உள்ள பென்லேண்ட் அரக மருத்துவமனை வளாகத்தில் ரூ.197.81 கோடியில் பன்னோக்கு உயர்சிறப்பு மருத்துவமனை அடங்கியது. 7 தளங்களுடன் அடங்கிய இத்த மருத்துவமனையில் மொத்தம் 560 படுக்கைகள், 11 அறுவை சிகிச்சை அரங்குகள் உள்ளடங்கிய மருத்துவ உயர் சிகிச்சை பிரிவுகளும் உள்ளன.

இந்த மருத்துவமனையை மக்கள் பயன்பாட்டுக்காக முதல்வர் மு.க.ஸ்டாலின் புதன் கிழமை திறந்து வைத்து மருத்துவமனையின் புறநோயாளிகள் பிரிவு, மகப்பேறு சிகிச்சை பிரிவு ஆகியவற்றைப் பார்வைவிட்டார்.

முதல்வர் 'சாலைப் பேரணி'

வேலூர், திருப்பத்தூர் மாவட்டத்துக்கு 2 நாட்கள் அரகப் பயணமாக ரயில் மூலம் வந்த முதல்வர் மு.க.ஸ்டாலினுக்கு காட்பாடி ரயில் நிலையத்தில் அமைச்சர் துரைமுருகன் நலவளமயில் கட்சியினர் வரவேற்பு அளித்தனர்.

தொடர்ந்து, காட்பாடியில் இருந்து அரக பன்னோக்கு மருத்துவமனை வரை நடைபெற்ற சாலைப் பேரணியையொட்டி, பொதுமக்கள் சாலையின் இருபுறமும் தின்று வரவேற்பளித்தனர். வேலூர் கிரீன் எர்க்கிள் பகுதியில் இருந்து திரைத்துக்கு முதல்வர் சாலையின் இறங்கி நடந்து சென்ற மக்களின் வரவேற்பை ஏற்றுக் கொண்டார்.

மேலும், மாவட்டத்தில் தலா ரூ.1.20 கோடியில் அடங்கிய செர்க்காடு ஆரம்ப சுகாதார நிலையம், திருவலம் பேரூராட்சி ஆரம்ப சுகாதார நிலையம் அட்டம், பொன்னை அரக ஆரம்ப சுகாதார நிலையம், தொரப்பாடி நகர்ப்புற சமுதாய சுகாதார நிலையம், தலா ரூ.50 லட்சத்தில் அடங்கிய ஒடுகத்தூர் ஆரம்ப சுகாதார நிலையம், ஊஞ்சர் ஆரம்ப சுகாதார நிலையம் ரூ.60 லட்சத்தில் அடங்கிய வேலூர் மாநகராட்சி லட்சுமிபுரம் நகர்ப்புற சுகாதார நிலையம், தலா ரூ.30 லட்சத்தில் அடங்கிய பேர்ணாம்பட்டு நகர்ப்புற துணை சுகாதார நிலையம், அணைக்கட்டு மகமதுபுரம் துணை சுகாதார நிலையம் என மொத்தம் ரூ.7 கோடியில் அடங்கிய 9 ஆரம்ப, துணை சுகாதார நிலைய அட்டங்களுக்கும் கானொலிக் காட்சி மூலம்

முதல்வர் திறந்து வைத்தார்.

நிஷிச்சிமில், நீர்வளத் துறை அமைச்சர் துரைமுருகன், பொதுப் பணித் துறை அமைச்சர் எ.வ.வேலு, கைத்தறி, துணிநூல் துறை அமைச்சர் ஆர்.காந்தி, மருத்துவம், மக்கள் நலவாழ்வுத் துறை அமைச்சர் மா.சுப்பிரமணியன், சிறுபான்மையினர் நலத் துறை அமைச்சர் எஸ்.எம்.நாசர், மக்களவை உறுப்பினர்கள் எஸ்.ஜெகதீசன், அரக்கோணம், டி.எம்.சுதிர்ஆனந்த் (வேலூர்), சட்டப்பேரவை உறுப்பினர்கள் ஏ.பி.நித்தகுமார் (அணைக்கட்டு), பசார்த்தியேன் (வேலூர்), அமலா விஜயன் (குடியாத்தம்), ஜே.எஸ்.ஸ்வரூப்பன் (ஆற்காடு), மாநகராட்சி மேயர் சுஜாதா ஆனந்தகுமார், மாவட்ட ஊராட்சிக் குழு தலைவர் மு.பாபு, வேலூர் மாவட்ட ஆட்சியர் வி.ஆர்.சுப்புலட்சுமி உள்ளிட்டோர் பங்கேற்றனர்.

Source: Dinamani, 26 June 2025, p.2

முதல்வரின் விரிவான காப்பீட்டுத் திட்டத்தில் 81 லட்சம் பேர் பயன்

சென்னை, ஜூன் 15: தமிழகத்தில் முதல்வரின் விரிவான காப்பீட்டுத் திட்டத்தில் 81,33,806 பேர் பயனடைந்துள்ளனர் என்பது உள்பட மக்கள் நல்வாழ்வுத் துறையில் செயல்படுத்தப்பட்ட திட்டங்கள், பயனடைந்தோர் குறித்த பட்டியலை தமிழக அரசு வெளியிட்டுள்ளது.

இது குறித்து தமிழக அரசு வெளியிட்ட செய்திக் குறிப்பு:

சென்னை கொள்துறில், பெரியார் நகரில் முக்கிய மருத்துவப் பிரிவுகளுடன் 6 தளங்களில் 560 படுக்கைகளுடன் உருவாக்கப்பட்ட அரசு பெரியார் மருத்துவமனையை கடந்த பிப்-27-ஆம் தேதி முதல்வர் முகஸ்தாபின் வைத்தார்.

கலைஞர் நூற்றாண்டு உயர் சிறப்பு மருத்துவமனை ரூ.240 கோடியில் அதி நவீன வசதிகளுடன் கூடிய 1,000 படுக்கைகள், 15 அறுவை சிகிச்சை அரங்குகளுடன் கட்டப்பட்டது. இந்த மருத்துவமனை கடந்த 2023 ஜூன் 15-இல் முதல்வரால் திறந்து வைக்கப்பட்டது. இதில் இதுவரை 6,23,765 புறநோயாளிகள், 2,14,591 உள்நோயாளிகள் பயனடைந்துள்ளனர்.

சென்னை ஒழந்தூரார் அரசு பன்னோக்கு உயர்சிறப்பு மருத்துவமனையில் ரூ.34.6 கோடியில் 2022 மார்ச் 15-இல் ரோபோ

டிக் அறுவை சிகிச்சை தொடங்கப்பட்டு, சிறுநீரகவியல், புற்றுநோய் அறுவை சிகிச்சை, நாளமில்லா சுரப்பி அறுவை சிகிச்சை, இருதயம் மற்றும் நெஞ்சு அறுவை சிகிச்சை, குடல் அறுவை சிகிச்சைகள் மேற்கொள்ளப்பட்டு, 336 நோயாளிகள் பயனடைந்துள்ளனர்.

7.5 % இட ஒதுக்கீட்டில்... அனைத்து மருத்துவக் கல்லூரி மருத்துவமனைகளிலும் உள்நோயாளிகளாக அனுமதிக்கப்பட்ட 1,29,87,553 பேருக்கு புற்றுநோய் பரிசோதனை செய்யப்பட்டு 5,29,545 நோயாளிகளுக்கு நோய் கண்டறியப்பட்டு உரிய சிகிச்சைகள் மேற்கொள்ளப்பட்டன.

7.5 சதவீத இட ஒதுக்கீட்டு மருத்துவ மனைகளின் கல்விச் செலவு அரசுப் பள்ளிகளில் 6-ஆம் வகுப்பு முதல் பின்னர் 2 வகுப்பு வரை பயின்ற 2,382 மாணவ, மாணவியர் 7.5 சதவீத உள் ஒதுக்கீட்டில் மருத்துவம் மற்றும் பல் மருத்துவம் படிக்க ரூ.264.72 கோடி சுமார் நிதி உருவாக்கப்பட்டு அவர்களின் கல்வி கட்டணம், உணவுக் கட்டணம், விடுதிக் கட்டணம் போன்ற செலவுகளை அரசு ஏற்றுள்ளது.

தமிழகத்தில் உள்ள மருத்துவக் கல்லூரிகள் உள்பட மருத்துவம் தொடர்பான கல்லூரிகளில் சேர்வதற்கு அரசின் தேர்வுக் குழுவால் மருத்துவ பிரிவில் 31,420, மருத்துவ பட்ட மேற்படிப்பு பிரிவில் 7,961 மாணவர்கள், பல் மருத்துவப் பிரிவில் 7,496 மாணவர்கள், பல் மருத்துவப் பட்ட மேற்படிப்பு பிரிவில் 1,306 மாணவர்கள், மருத்துவம் சார்ந்த பட்டப்படிப்புகளில் 11,212 மாணவர்கள் தேர்வு செய்யப்பட்டு சேர்க்கைகள் நடைபெறுகின்றன.

ரூ.1,115 கோடியில் புதிய மருத்துவமனைகள்: ஐப்பாள் சர்வதேச கூட்டுறவு நிறுவனத் திட்டத்தின் கீழ் மதுரை, கோவை, சேலம், திருநெல்வேலி, சென்னை கீழ்ப்பாக்கம் மற்றும் ஆவடி ஆகிய இடங்களில் 6 புதிய மருத்துவமனைகளுக்கு ரூ.1,115.24 கோடியில் கட்டடங்கள் மற்றும் மருத்துவ உபகரணங்களுடன் திறந்து வைக்கப்பட்டுள்ளன.

ரூ. 151 கோடியில் இந்தியாவின் 2-ஆவது தேசிய முதியோர் நல மையம் கிண்டியில் மத்திய அரசின் மானியத்துடன்

ரூ.151.17 கோடி முதலீட்டில், 200 படுக்கைகளுடன் முதியோரின் மருத்துவ பராமரிப்புக்காகத் தனித்தன்மையுடன் தேசிய முதியோர் நல மையம் அமைக்கப்பட்டுள்ளது.

இந்த மையம், புது தில்லியில் அமைந்துள்ள எம்ஸ் மருத்துவ மனைக்கு அடுத்ததாக முதியோருக்கான 2-ஆவது தனித்தன்மை வாய்ந்த மையமாகும்.

9,722 பணியிடங்களுக்கு... மருத்துவ பணியாளர் தேர்வு வாரியம் மூலமாக 4,634 உதவி மருத்துவர்கள், 27 செவிலியர்கள், 2,772 இதர மருத்துவம் சார்ந்த பணியாளர்கள் உள்ளடக்கிய 7,433 பணியாளர்கள் தேர்வுசெய்யப்பட்டுள்ளனர். 2024-2025 ஆண்டில் 7 பதவிகளுக்கு மொத்தம் 4,080 பணியாளர்களும், 2025-2026 ஆண்டிற்கான பதவிகளில் இதுவரை 4 பதவிகளுக்கு மொத்தம் 115 பணியாளர்களும் தேர்வு செய்யப்பட்டுள்ளனர். 2025 ஆண்டிற்கான மீதமுள்ள 20 பணி பிரிவுகளில் 9,722 பணியிடங்களுக்கான தேர்வுகள் 2025 டிசம்பர் மாதத்துக்குள் முடிக்கும் வகையில் பணிகள் நடைபெற்று வருகின்றன. 78 இன நிலை உதவியாளர்கள், 10 தட்டச்

சர்கள் கருணை அடிப்படையில் பணி நியமனம் செய்யப்பட்டுள்ளனர்.

கிராமப்புறங்களில் பொது மருத்துவம் சிறப்பு சேவைகளை விரிவு, காசநோய் இல்லாத நிலையை தமிழகத்தில் உருவாக்கிக் கொள்ள முன்னேற்றம் என்பதற்கான விருது, கர்ப்பிணித் தாய் மார்பகளுக்கு சிகிச்சை வழங்குவதில் சிறப்பு விருது, மலேரியா தடுப்பு சிறந்த நடவடிக்கைகளை தேசிய விருது, மருத்துவம் மற்றும் மக்கள் நல்வாழ்வுத் துறை சிறந்த செயல்பாடுகளுக்கான விருது என 525 விருதுகளை தமிழகம் பெற்றுள்ளது.

இவ்வாறு இந்த அரசு மக்கள் நலன் காப்பதில் சிறப்பாகச் செயல்பட்டு வருகிறது. இதனால் தமிழகம் இந்தியாவின் சிறந்த மருத்துவ மாநிலமாக எழுச்சி பெற்றுள்ளது.

மருத்துவ உதவிகளை நாடி அயல் நாடுகளுக்கு சென்ற நிலை மாறி இன்று அயல் நாட்டினர் மருத்துவத் தேவைகளுக்காக தமிழகத்தைத் தேடி வருவது தமிழகம் பெற்றுள்ள தனிப் பெருமை ஆகும் என அதில் தெரிவிக்கப்பட்டுள்ளது.

மக்கள் நல்வாழ்வுத் துறையின் சாதனைப் பட்டியல் வெளியீடு

Source: Dinamani, 16 June 2025, p.3

25 மாவட்ட தலைமை மருத்துவமனைகள் விரைவில் திறப்பு

அமைச்சர்
மா.சுப்பிரமணியன்

சென்னை, ஜூன் 13: தமிழகத்தில் ரூ. 1,018 கோடியில் கட்டப்பட்டு வரும் 25 மாவட்ட அரசு தலைமை மருத்துவமனைகளை முதல்வர் முகஸ்தாபின் விரைவில் திறந்து வைக்க உள்ளார் என்று மக்கள் நல்வாழ்வுத் துறை அமைச்சர் மா.சுப்பிரமணியன் தெரிவித்தார்.

சென்னையில் வெள்ளிக்கிழமை நடைபெற்ற மகப்பேறு மயக்கவியல் தர மேம்பாட்டுக் கான மருத்துவ பயிலரங்கத்தை அமைச்சர் மா.சுப்பிரமணியன் தொடங்கி வைத்து மயக்கவியல் துறையில் சிறப்பாகப் பணியாற்றிய மருத்துவர்களுக்கு விருதுகள் வழங்கினார்.

இதைத் தொடர்ந்து, செய்தியாளர்களிடம் அமைச்சர் மா.சுப்பிரமணியன் கூறியதாவது:

பேறுகால இறப்பு விகிதம் ஒரு லட்சம் பிரசவங்களுக்கு 39.6-ஆகவும், சிக இறப்பு விகிதம் 1,000 பிரசவங்களுக்கு 7.4-ஆகவும் குறைந்துள்ளது. பேறு கால இறப்பு விகிதங்களை மேலும் குறைக்க மருத்துவர்களுக்கான பயிலரங்குகள், சிறப்பு பயிற்சிகள் ஏற்கெனவே



சென்னை மகப்பேறு மயக்கவியல் தர மேம்பாட்டுக்கான மருத்துவ பயிலரங்கத்தை வெள்ளிக்கிழமை தொடங்கி வைத்து சிறப்பாகப் பணியாற்றிய மருத்துவர்களுக்கு விருது வழங்கிய அமைச்சர் மா.சுப்பிரமணியன்.

நடத்தப்பட்டன.

அதேபோன்று குழந்தைகள் நல மருத்துவர்களுக்கான பயிலரங்குகள் நடத்தப்பட்டன. தொடர்ந்து, மகப்பேறு மருத்துவத்துக்கு தொடர்புடைய மயக்கவியல் துறையில் 129 மருத்துவர்களுக்கு பயிலரங்கு தற்போது நடத்தப்படுகிறது.

தமிழகத்தில் கடந்த 4 ஆண்டுகளில் பல்வேறு மருத்துவக் கட்டமைப்புகள் புதிதாக தொடங்கப்பட்டுள்ளன. குறிப்பாக, ஒரே ஆண்டில் 500 நகர்ப்புற நலவாழ்வு மையங்களை முதல்வர் தொடங்கி வைத்தார்.

மேலும், 208 நலவாழ்வு மையங்

களும் தற்போது திறக்கும் நிலையில் உள்ளன. அதற்கு தேவையான மருத்துவப் பணியாளர்களை அந்தந்த மாவட்டத்தில் உள்ள மாவட்ட சுகாதார நலவாழ்வு சங்கம் மூலமாக நிரப்ப நடவடிக்கை எடுக்கப்பட்டு வருகிறது.

50 இடங்களில் ஆரம்ப சுகாதார நிலையங்கள் மற்றும் நகர்ப்புற ஆரம்ப சுகாதார நிலையங்கள் அமைக்கப்படும் என அறிவிக்கப்பட்டது. அங்கு பணியாளர்களை நியமிக்கும் பணிகள் 10 நாள் களில் முடிவுறும் நிலையில் இருக்கிறது. இந்தப் பணிகள் முடிவடைந்தவுடன் 208 நகர்ப்புற நலவாழ்வு மையங்கள் மற்றும் 50

புதிய ஆரம்ப சுகாதார நிலையங்களையும் முதல்வர், பொது மக்கள் பயன்பாட்டுக்கு கொண்டு வருவார்.

தமிழகத்தில் ரூ.1,018 கோடியில் 19 மாவட்டங்களில் 25 மாவட்ட தலைமை மருத்துவமனைகள் கட்டும் பணிகள் நடைபெற்று வருகின்றன. அவை விரைவில் முதல்வரால் திறந்து வைக்கப்படும் என்றார் அவர்.

இந்த நிசுழ்வில் மக்கள் நல்வாழ்வுத் துறை செயலர் ப.செந்தில்குமார், தேசிய நலவாழ்வு குழும இயக்குநர் அருண் தம்புராஜ், உள்ளிட்டோர் கலந்து கொண்டனர்.

Source: Dinamani, 14 June 2025, p.5

‘தொழிலாளர்களைத் தேடி மருத்துவம்’ திட்டம்: 30,506 பேருக்கு இணை நோய்கள் கண்டுபிடிப்பு

சென்னை, ஜூன் 5: ‘தொழிலாளர் களைத் தேடி மருத்துவம்’ திட்டத் தின் கீழ் இதுவரை 30,506 பேருக்கு இணைநோய்கள் கண்டறியப்பட்டதாக மக்கள் நல்வாழ்வுத் துறை அமைச்சர் மா.கப்பிரமணியன் தெரிவித்தார்.

சட்டப்பேரவையில் அறிவிக்கப் பட்ட பணியிடங்களில் மருத்துவப் பரிசோதனை திட்டத்தைச் சென்னை, கிண்டி, திரு.வி.க.நகரில் அமைச்சர் மா.கப்பிரமணியன் வியாழக்கிழமை தொடங்கி வைத்தார்.

அங்குள்ள தொழிற்பேட்டையில் செயல்படும் சிறு வணிக நிறுவனங்களில் பணியாற்றுவோருக்கு அப்போது மருத்துவப் பரிசோதனைகள் மேற்கொள்ளப்பட்டன. அதைத் தொடர்ந்து செய்தியாளர் களிடம் அமைச்சர் மா.கப்பிரமணியன் கூறியதாவது:

மக்களைத் தேடி மருத்துவம் என்பது மக்கள் நல்வாழ்வுத்துறையின் சிறந்த திட்டங்களில் முதன்மையான ஒன்று. அதன் மூலம் 2.34 கோடி பேர்

அமைச்சர் மா.கப்பிரமணியன்



சென்னை கிண்டி திருவி.க.நகர் தொழிற்பேட்டையில், மருத்துவ முகாமை வியாழக்கிழமை தொடங்கி வைத்த மக்கள் நல்வாழ்வுத் துறை அமைச்சர் மா.கப்பிரமணியன். உடன் மக்களவை உறுப்பினர் தமிழ்ச்சி தங்கபாண்டியன் உள்ளிட்டோர்.

பயன்பெற்றுள்ளனர். அனைத்துமக்களும் இதில் பயன்பெற வேண்டும் எனும் நோக்கில் இந்த திட்டத்தை

களைத் தேடி மருத்துவம் திட்டம் முதற்கட்டமாக 711 தொழிற்சாலைகளில் பணியாற்றுகின்ற 8,35,000 பேரை அடிப்படையாகக் கொண்டு செயல்படுத்தப்பட்டது. அதில் இதுவரை 3,90,111 பேருக்கு பரிசோதனைகள் மேற்கொள்ளப்பட்டு 30,506 பேருக்கு சர்க்கரை நோய், உயர் ரத்த அழுத்தம் உள்ளிட்ட இணைநோய் பாதிப்புகள் இருப்பது கண்டறியப்பட்டுள்ளது. அவர்களுக்கு உரிய சிகிச்சைகள் வழங்கப்பட்டு வருகிறது.

அதேபோன்று, ஏற்கனவே தொற்றா நோய்களினால் பாதிக்கப்பட்ட 12,468 பேருக்கு தொடர் சிகிச்சைகள் வழங்கப்படுகிறது. இத்திட்டத்தை மேலும் விரிவுப்படுத்தும் வகையில் தமிழகத்தில் உள்ள அனைத்து சிறு வணிக நிறுவனங்களில் பணிபுரியும் ஊழியர்களுக்கு தொற்றா நோய் பரிசோதனைகளை மக்களைத் தேடி மருத்துவம் திட்டத்தின் கீழ் வழங்க முடிவு செய்யப்பட்டது. இந்த திட்டத்தின்

மூலம் மாநிலம் முழுவதும் 7,750 சிறுவணிக நிறுவனங்கள் மற்றும் அலுவலகங்களில் பணியாற்றும் 6 லட்சத்துக்கும் மேற்பட்டோர் பயன்பெறுவர்.

மக்களைத் தேடி மருத்துவம் திட்டத்தின் கீழ் சென்னையில் மட்டும் 25,92,103 பேர் பயன்பெற்றுள்ளனர். மருத்துவப் படிப்பு களுக்கான விண்ணப்பப் பதிவு வெள்ளிக்கிழமை தொடங்கப்பட்டவுள்ளது. கடந்த ஆண்டைப் போன்று போலி சான்றிதழ் பிரச்னைகள் ஏற்படாது என நம்புகிறோம். இருந்தாலும், சான்றிதழ்களின் உண்மைத்தன்மையை அறிய உரிய நடவடிக்கை எடுக்கப்பட்டுள்ளது என்றார் அமைச்சர் மா.கப்பிரமணியன்.

இந்த சந்திப்பின்போது நாடாளுமன்ற உறுப்பினர் தமிழ்ச்சி தங்கபாண்டியன், பொது சுகாதாரம் மற்றும் நோய்த்தடுப்பு மருத்துத்துறை இயக்குநர் செல்வவிநாயகம் மற்றும் அலுவலர்கள் உடனிருந்தனர்.

Source: Dinamani, 6 June 2025, p.3

துணை மின் நிலையங்களுக்கு மின்சாரம் எடுத்து செல்ல வசதியாக

400 கிலோவோல்ட் திறனில் மின்வழி தடங்கள்

பசுமை வழித்திட்டம் 3-ல் அமைக்கிறது தமிழக மின்வாரியம்

■ சென்னை

பசுமை வழித்திட்டம் திட்டம் 3-ல், துணைமின் நிலையங்களுக்கு அதிக மின்சாரம் எடுத்துச் செல்லும் வகையில், 400 கிலோவோல்ட் திறனில் மின்வழித் தடங்களை மின்வாரியம் அமைக்க உள்ளது.

தமிழகத்தில் காற்றாலை, சூரியசக்தி மின்நிலையங்களை அமைக்க சாதகமான சூழல் நிலவுகிறது. எனவே, தனியார் நிறுவனங்கள் அமைக்கும் பசுமை மின்நிலையங்களில் உற்பத்தியாகும் மின்சாரத்தை பல்வேறு பகுதிகளுக்கு மின்வாரியம் எடுத்துச் செல்கிறது. ஜெர்மனியின் கே.எஃப்.டபிள்யூ, வங்கி உதவியுடன் பசுமை வழித்திட்டம் (கிரீன்

காரிடார்) திட்டத்தை மத்திய அரசு செயல்படுத்துகிறது.

பசுமை வழித்திட்டம் திட்டம் 1-ல் ரூ.1,100 கோடி செலவில், திண்டுக்கல் மாவட்டம், தென்னம்பட்டியில் 400 கிலோவோல்ட் மின்நிலையமும், தென்னம்பட்டி முதல் தூத்துக்குடி மாவட்டம், கயத்தாறு வரை 400 கிலோவோல்ட் வரை இரட்டை சுற்று மின்வழித் தடமும் அமைக்கப்பட உள்ளன.

பசுமை வழித்திட்டம் திட்டம் 2-ல், ரூ.1,006 கோடி செலவில் திருநெல்வேலி மாவட்டம், சமுகரெங்குரத்தில் 400 கிலோவோல்ட் துணைமின் நிலையம் அமைக்கப்படுகிறது. மேலும், திருப்பூரில் உள்ள பூனவாடி, கொங்கல் நகர்,

கன்னியாகுமரி மாவட்டம் முப்பந்தலில் தலா 230 கிலோவோல்ட் திறனில் துணைமின் நிலையங்களும், அவற்றை இணைக்க அதே திறனில் வழித்தடங்களும் அமைக்கப்படுகின்றன. தற்போது, பசுமை வழித்திட்டம் திட்டம் 3-ஐ செயல்படுத்த மின்வாரியம் முடிவு செய்துள்ளது. இதற்கான முதற்கட்ட பணிகள் தொடங்கி உள்ள நிலையில், மின்வழித் தடங்களுக்கு முன்னுரிமை அளிக்கப்பட உள்ளது.

காற்றாலை, சூரியசக்தி மின்நிலையம்

இதுகுறித்து, மின்வாரிய அதிகாரிகள் கூறும்போது, “தமிழகத்தில் தென்மாவட்டங்களில் காற்றாலை, சூரியசக்தி மின்நிலையங்

கள் அதிகம் அமைக்கப்பட்டு வருகிறது. மேலும், துணைமின் நிலையங்கள் தேவையான அளவு உள்ளன. எனவே, பசுமை வழித்திட்டம் திட்டம் 3-ல், தூத்துக்குடியில் 400 கிலோவோல்ட் திறனில் ஒரு துணை மின்நிலையம் அமைக்கப்பட உள்ளது.

மற்றபடி, ஏற்கெனவே உள்ள துணைமின் நிலையங்களுக்கு அதிக மின்சாரம் எடுத்துச் செல்லும் வகையில், 400 கிலோவோல்ட் மின்வழித் தடங்கள் அமைக்கப்பட உள்ளன. இதற்காக கன்னியாகுமரி, தூத்துக்குடி, திருநெல்வேலி, விருதுநகர் உள்ளிட்ட தென்மாவட்டங்களில் இடங்கள் தேர்வு செய்யப்பட்டு உள்ளன” என்றனர்.

Source: Hindu Tamil Thisai, 1 June 2025, p.7

நீர்நிலைகள் பராமரிப்பை மக்கள் பங்களிப்புடன் 3 ஆண்டுகளில் முடிக்க வேண்டும்

அதிகாரிகளுக்கு தலைமைச்செயலர் முருகானந்தம் வலியுறுத்தல்

■ சென்னை

தமிழக அரசின் நீர்வளத்துறை சார்பில், நீர்நிலைகள் புத்துயிர் பெறுவது மற்றும் நீர் தேவையில் தன்னிறைவு பெறுவதின் அவசியத்தை உணர்த்தும் வகையில் ‘நிலையான நீர்வள மேலாண்மைக்கான மக்கள் ஒருங்கிணைப்பு நிகழ்ச்சி’ என்ற தலைப்பிலான பயிலரங்கம் எழும்பூரில் நேற்று நடைபெற்றது.

இப்பயிலரங்கத்தில் தமிழக அரசின் வருவாய் மற்றும் பேரீடர் மேலாண்மைத் துறை, ஊரக வளர்ச்சி மற்றும் ஊராட்சித்துறை, நகராட்சி நிர்வாகம் (ம) குடிநீர்

வழங்கல் துறை, சுற்றுச்சூழல், காலநிலை மாற்றம் மற்றும் வளத்துறை, பங்குதாரர்கள் மற்றும் அரசு சாரா நிறுவனங்கள் ஆகியோர் பங்கேற்றனர்.

இப்பயிலரங்கத்தில் நீர்வளத் துறை செயலர் ஜே.ஜெயகாந்தன், நீர்நிலைகளைப் புத்துயிர் பெறச் செய்வதில் சமூகப் பங்களிப்பின் அவசியம் குறித்தும் முக்கியத்துவம் குறித்தும் வலியுறுத்தினார். பயிலரங்கத்தை தொடங்கி வைத்த தலைமைச் செயலர் என்.முருகானந்தம், “இன்றைய நிலையில் தமிழகம் சதவீதம் நகர மயமாக்கலில் உள்ளது. எனவே

மாநிலத்தின் நீர்நிலைகளை சரியான முறையில் பராமரிப்பதின் மூலம், தேவையான நீர் சேகரிக்கவும் வெள்ளத்தை கட்டுப்படுத்தவும் முடியும். இப்பணிகளை மக்கள் ஒருங்கிணைப்போடு இரண்டு அல்லது மூன்று ஆண்டுகளுக்குள் முடிக்க வேண்டும்” என்று வலியுறுத்தினார்.

சிறப்பு விருந்தினராக பங்கேற்ற மகாராஷ்டிர மாநில மண் மற்றும் நீர் பாதுகாப்பு துறையின் தலைமைப் பொறியாளர் மற்றும் இணை செயலர் விஜய் டிவ்யராஜ், மகாராஷ்டிராவில் மக்கள் பங்களிப்போடு செயல்படுத்தப்பட்ட

வரும் நீர்நிலைகள் மேம்படுத்தும் பணிகள் குறித்து எடுத்துரைத்தார்.

தொடர்ந்து, நகராட்சி நிர்வாகத் துறை செயலர் டி.கார்த்திகேயன், வருவாய் துறை செயலர் பி.அமுதா, ஊரக வளர்ச்சித்துறை செயலர் ககந்திபிங் பேடி தலைமையில், சமூக பங்களிப்புடன் நீர்நிலைகளைப் புனரமைப்பது தொடர்பான தலைப்புகளில் குழு விவாதங்களும் நடத்தப்பட்டன.

அப்போது, நீர்நிலைகளைப் புத்துயிர் பெறச்செய்வதற்கான பணிகளை முன்னெடுத்து செல்ல ஆக்கப்பூர்வமான வழிமுறைகளை உருவாக்கி, மக்கள் பங்

ளிப்புடன் பொது-தனியார் கூட்டமைப்பின் மூலம் நீர்நிலைகளை மேம்படுத்தும் திட்டத்தை செயல்படுத்த, நிதித்துறை செயலர் டி.உதயசுந்தரன் வலியுறுத்தினார்.

இப்பயிலரங்கில், சுற்றுச்சூழல் மற்றும் வளத்துறை செயலர் சுப்ரியா சாஹு, மாநகராட்சி ஆணையர் ஜே.குமரகுருபரன், அறிநிலையத்துறை ஆணையர் பி.என்.ஜி.சி. சிப்காட் மேலாண் இயக்குநர் கே.செந்தில்குமார், முதன்மை தலைமை வளப் பாதுகாவுநர் ஸ்ரீனிவாச ஆர். ரெட்டி, ஊரக வளர்ச்சி ஆணையர் பொன்னையா உள்ளிட்டோர் பங்கேற்றனர்.

Source: Hindu Tamil Thisai, 16 June 2025, p.5

சுற்றுச்சூழல் பாதுகாப்பு திட்டங்களுக்கு மக்கள் துணை நிற்க வேண்டும்

முதல்வர் மு.க.ஸ்டாலின் வேண்டுகோள்

■ சென்னை

'சுற்றுச்சூழல் பாதுகாப்புக்காக அரசால் செயல்படுத்தப்படும் திட்டங்களுக்கு மக்கள் துணை நிற்க வேண்டும்' என்று முதல்வர் மு.க.ஸ்டாலின் தெரிவித்தார். சுற்றுச்சூழல் துறை சார்பில் உலக சுற்றுச்சூழல் தின விழா சென்னை வர்த்தக மையத்தில் நேற்று நடைபெற்றது. இதில் சிறப்பு விருந்தினராக பங்கேற்ற முதல்வர் மு.க.ஸ்டாலின், புதிதாக தேர்வான வனக்காவலர்களுக்கு பணி நியமன ஆணைகளை வழங்கினார். அதன்பின் சுற்றுச்சூழல் பாதுகாப்புக்காக மாவட்ட அளவில் சிறப்பாக பணியாற்றிய ஆட்சியர்களுக்கு பசுமை விருதுகள் வழங்கப்பட்டன. இந்நிகழ்வில் அமைச்சர்கள் தங்கம் தென்னக, ராஜகண்ணப்பன், தா.மோ.அன்பரசன் மற்றும் துறைசார் அதிகாரிகள்

பலர் கலந்துகொண்டனர்.

இவ்விழாவில் முதல்வர் ஸ்டாலின் பேசியதாவது: நமது பூமி கரும் நெருக்கடியில் இருக்கிறது என்ற உண்மையை உணர வேண்டும். நமது குழந்தைகளின் எதிர்காலம் இப்போது நாம் செய்யும் செயல்களை பொறுத்துதான் அமையும். இந்த புவி மூச்சுவிட உதவுகிற நுரை யீரல் காடுகள்தான். அவற்றை பாதுகாக்க வேண்டியது அனைவரின் கடமையாகும். சுற்றுச்சூழல் பாதுகாப்புக்காக கடந்த 4 ஆண்டில் பல்வேறு முன்னெடுப்புகளை செயல்படுத்தி வருகிறோம். அதன்படி 2,403 ஹெக்டேர் பரப்பில் புதிய அலையாத்தி காடுகளை உருவாக்கி இருக்கிறோம். 1,207 ஹெக்டேர் தரங்குன்றிய சதுப்புநிலக் காடுகளை மீட்டெடுத்துள்ளோம். முக்கியமான

நீல காப்பன் சுற்றுச்சூழல் அமைப்புகளுக்கு புத்துயிர் வழங்கியுள்ளோம். மேலும், மன்னார் வளைகுடாவில் இருக்கும் தனுஷ்கோடியில், தமிழகத்தின் முதல் கிரேட்டர் பிளம்ங்கோ ஏனாலயம் குறித்த அறிவிப்பையும் தற்போது வெளியிடுகிறேன். பல்லுயிர் பெருக்கம், காலநிலை மாற்றம் இவ்விரண்டுக்கும் இடையில் வலுவான தொடர்புள்ளது. அதை உணர்ந்து அதற்கேற்ப தம்மகம் முன்னோடி மாநிலமாக செயல்பட்டு வருகிறது. மேலும், அதிகம் அறியப்படாத மற்றும் அருகி வரும் உயிரினங்களை பாதுகாப்பதிலும் உறுதியாக இருக்கிறோம். அதேநேரம் இத்தகைய திட்டங்களால் மட்டும் இயற்கைக்கான நெருக்கடியை தீர்த்துவிட முடியாது. உயர் சூழல்தான் தேர் இழுக்க

வேண்டும். அதனால்தான் தொழில் களுக்கான தன்னார்வ பசுமைமதிப்பீட்டை அறிமுகப்படுத்தினோம். நமது களைபு ஒரு டிரில்லியன் டாலர் பொருளாதாரம் மட்டும் அல்ல. அது ஒரு பசுமை பொருளாதாரமாக இருக்க வேண்டும். இந்த ஆண்டில் இருந்து நம்முடைய தனித்துவமான உயிரினங்களின் ஆராய்ச்சி, கல்வி மற்றும் பாதுகாப்பை மேம்படுத்த புதிய பாதுகாப்பு மையங்கள் நிறுவப்படும். இதற்கிடையே 2021-ல் பிளாஸ்டிக் மாகபாட்டை எதிர்த்து பேராட 'மீண்டும் மஞ்சள்' திட்டத்தை தொடங்கினோம். இது அரசின் திட்டமாக மட்டுமல்லாமல், மக்கள் இயக்கமாக மாறவேண்டும். அரசு திட்டங்களை கொண்டுவரத்தான் முடியும். அதன் வெற்றி மக்கள்தங்கள் அன்றாட பழக்கங்களை மாற்றிக் கொள்வதில்தான் இருக்கிறது.

துணிப்பை, தண்ணீர் பாட்டில் இல்லாமல் வீட்டை விட்டு வெளியே புறப்படமாட்டோம் என்று உறுதி மொழி எடுத்துக்கொள்வோம். அமெரிக்கா, ஐப்பான், ஐரோப்பா போன்று இந்தியா ஆக வேண்டுமெனில், அந்த மக்களுக்கு இருக்கக்கூடிய சுய ஒழுக்கம் நமக்கும் இருக்க வேண்டும். அதற்கான முதல்படிதான் குப்பைகளை தரம் பிரித்து போடுவது பற்றி விழிப்புணர்வு ஏற்படுத்தும் இந்த தூய்மை மிஷன் திட்டமாகும். சுற்றுச்சூழல் பாதுகாப்புக்கு அரசு செயல்படுத்தும் திட்டங்களை உங்கள் சொந்த திட்டமாக நினைத்து மக்கள் துணை நிற்க வேண்டும். நம் சொகுசுக்காக இயற்கையை மாசுபடுத்தாமல், நம்மை வாழவைக்கும் இயற்கையை பாதுகாக்க உறுதியேற்போம். இவ்வாறு முதல்வர் பேசினார்.

Source: Hindu Tamil Thisai, 6 June 2025, p.2



● ராமேசுவரம் அருகே தனுஷ்கோடி கடற்கரையில் உள்ள நீரோடைகளில் இரை தேடும் பூநாரைகள்

தனுஷ்கோடி பெரும் பூநாரைகள் சரணாலயத்தின் எல்லைகள் 524 ஹெக்டேராக நிர்ணயம்

அரசிதழில் தமிழக அரசு வெளியிட்டது

■ சென்னை

ராமநாதபுரம் மாவட்டம் தனுஷ்கோடியில் புதிதாக அறிவிக்கப்பட்டுள்ள பெரும் பூநாரை சரணாலயத்தின் 524 ஹெக்டேர் பரப்பு எல்லைகள் அரசிதழில் வெளியிடப்பட்டுள்ளன.

தமிழக அரசு சார்பில் உலக சுற்றுச்சூழல் தினவிழா கடந்த ஜூன் 5-ம் தேதி சென்னை நத்தம்பாக்கத்தில் நடைபெற்றது. இதில் பங்கேற்ற முதல்வர் ஸ்டாலின், ராமநாதபுரம் மாவட்டம், ராமேசுவரத்தில், தனுஷ்கோடியில் பெரும் பூநாரைகள் சரணாலயத்தை அறிவித்தார். இது 524.78 ஹெக்டேர் பரப்பு கொண்டது. இதன் எல்லைகள் அரசிதழில் வெளியிடப்பட்டுள்ளன.

தனுஷ்கோடி பெரும் பூநாரைகள் சரணாலயம், பல்லுயிர்வளம் அழிவதற்கு எதிராக மன்னார் வளைகுடா உயிர்க்கோள காப்பகத்தில் 524.78 ஹெக்டேர் பரப்பளவில் அமைந்துள்ளது. ராமேசுவரம் தீவின் கடைக்கோடியில் உள்ள சதுப்பு நிலங்களில் அமைந்துள்ள இந்த சரணாலயம் பெரும் பூநாரைகள் உள்ளிட்ட வலசை பறவைகள் இடம் பெயர்வதற்கான மத்திய ஆசியப் பறவையினங்களின் முக்கியப் பகுதியாகும்.

இந்த சரணாலயம் புலம் பெயர்ந்த 89 நில பறவைகளுக்கு காண வலசைப் பாதையிலும் அமைந்துள்ளது. இங்கு நிலப்பரப்பை சார்ந்த 55 வகையான

பறவை இனங்களும், நிலப்பரப்பை சார்ந்த புலம்பெயர்ந்த 73 பறவை இனங்களும் உள்ளன. ஒவ்வொரு ஆண்டும் ஆகஸ்ட் முதல் மார்ச் வரை 700 பூநாரைகள் மற்றும் 4,300 அலைந்து திரியும் பறவை இனங்கள் இங்கு வருகை புரிகின்றன. இந்த சரணாலயம் அமைக்கப்படுவதன் மூலம் இந்த உயிர்க்கோளக் காப்பகத்தின் பல்லுயிர் சமநிலை பாதுகாக்கப்படும். இங்கு வருகையுடைய பறவை இனங்களின் பாதுகாப்பும் உறுதி செய்யப்படுகிறது. இந்த பறவைகள் சரணாலய அறிவிப்பு மூலம், தமிழகத்தில் பறவைகள் சரணாலயங்களின் எண்ணிக்கை 18 ஆக உயர்ந்துள்ளது.

Source: Hindu Tamil Thisai, 9 June 2025, p.8

மகளிர் உரிமை தொகை பெறுவதற்கான விதிகளில் 3 தளர்வுகள் அறிவிப்பு

தமிழக அரசு அரசாணை வெளியீடு

■சென்னை

மகளிர் உரிமைத் தொகை பெறுவதற்கான விதிகளில் 3 தளர்வுகளை அளித்து தமிழக அரசு அரசாணை வெளியிட்டுள்ளது.

கடந்த 2021-ம் ஆண்டு சட்டப்பேரவைத் தேர்தலின்போது, பெண்களுக்கு ரூ.1000 உதவித் தொகை வழங்கப்படும் என திமுக அறிவித்தது. பின்னர், 2023-ம் ஆண்டு 'கலைஞர் மகளிர் உரிமை தொகை திட்டம்' என்ற பெயரில் திட்டம் தொடங்கப்பட்டது.

இதை பெறுவதற்கும் சில நிபந்தனைகள் விதிக்கப்பட்டன. அதில், நான்கு சக்கர வாகனம் (கார், ஜீப் போன்றவை) வைத்திருக்கும் குடும்பங்களைச் சேர்ந்த பெண்கள் திட்டத்துக்கு தகுதியற்றவர்களாக கருதப்பட்டனர். அதே நேரம், அரசின் நிபந்தனைகளுக்குட்பட்டு தகுதியுள்ள பெண்களின் விண்ணப்பங்கள் நிராகரிக்கப்பட்டதாகவும் புகார்கள் எழுந்தன.

இதைத் தொடர்ந்து ஜூலை 15-ம்

தேதி முதல் நடைபெறும் 'உங்களுடன் ஸ்டாலின் சிறப்பு முகாம்' களில் கடந்த முறை விண்ணப்பித்து நிராகரிக்கப்பட்டவர்கள் மற்றும் புதிதாக ரேஷன் அட்டை பெற்றவர்கள் அனைவரும் விண்ணப்பிக்கலாம் என கூறப்பட்டது.

இதற்கிடையே, திருப்பத் தூரில் நடைபெற்ற நிகழ்ச்சியில் பேசிய முதல்வர் மு.க.ஸ்டாலின், "ஜூலை 15 முதல் நடைபெறும் முகாம்களில் விண்ணப்பித்த தகுதியான பெண்களுக்கு ஆகஸ்ட் அல்லது செப்டம்பரில் ரூ.1,000 தொகை வழங்கப்படும். விண்ணப்பங்களுக்கு 45 நாட்களில் முடிவு அறிவிக்கப்படும்" என உறுதியளித்தார்.

இந்த நிலையில், கலைஞர் மகளிர் உரிமைத் தொகைத் திட்டத்தில் 3 முக்கிய தளர்வுகளை தமிழக அரசு அளித்து திட்டத்தின் பயனை விரிவுபடுத்தியுள்ளது. அதன்படி, அரசுத்துறை களில் சிறப்பு காலமுறை ஊதி

யம் பெற்று, தற்போது ஓய்வூதியம் பெறுவோர் குடும்பங்களைச் சேர்ந்த ஓய்வூதியதாரர்கள் அல்லாத பெண்கள் திட்டத்தில் சேர விண்ணப்பிக்கலாம். அரசு மூலமாக மானியம் பெற்று 4 சக்கர வாகனம் வைத்திருக்கும் குடும்பங்களைச் சேர்ந்த பெண்களும் தகுதியானவர்கள்.

மேலும் இந்திராகாந்தி தேசிய விதவை ஓய்வூதியம், ஆதரவற்ற விதவைகள் ஓய்வூதியம் பெறுவோர் குடும்பங்களைச் சேர்ந்த ஓய்வூதியம் பெறாத பெண்களும் விண்ணப்பிக்கலாம். கணவரால் கைவிடப்பட்ட 50 வயதுக்கு மேலாகியும் திருமணம் ஆகாத பெண்களுக்கான ஓய்வூதியம் பெறும் குடும்பங்களில் உள்ள மற்ற பெண்கள் விண்ணப்பிக்கத் தகுதிவாய்ந்தவர்கள் என அறிவிக்கப்பட்டுள்ளது. இதுதொடர்பான அரசாணையை சிறப்பு திட்ட செயலாக்கத்துறைச் செயலர் பிரதிப் யாதவ் பிறப்பித்துள்ளார்.

Source: Hindu Tamil Thisai, 30 June 2025, p.10

சென்னையில் 50 இடங்களில் தானியங்கி குடிநீர் இயந்திரங்கள்

சென்னை, ஜூன் 18: சென்னையில் 50 இடங்களில் இயந்திரங்கள் மூலம் கட்டணமில்லாமல் குடிநீர் வழங்கும் திட்டம் தொடங்கப்பட்டுள்ளது.

மெர்னா சுத்கரை நீச்சல் குளம் அருகில் அமைக்கப்பட்டுள்ள தானியங்கி இயந்திரத்தின் செயல்பாட்டை முதல்வர் மு.க.ஸ்டாலின் புதன்கிழமை தொடங்கி வைத்து குடிநீர் அருந்தினார்.

பொதுமக்கள் அதிகம் கூடும் இடங்களில் அவர்களது தண்ணீர் தாக்கத்தைப் பாக்க, தானியங்கி குடிநீர் வழங்கும் இயந்திரங்களைப் பொருத்த நடவடிக்கை எடுக்கப்பட்டது. கட்டணமில்லாமல் தரமான குடிநீரை சென்னை குடிநீர் வாரியம் வழியாக வழங்க ஏற்பாடுகள் செய்யப்பட்டன.

எத்தனை மண்டலங்கள்? சென்னையில் குடிநீர் வழங்கல் வாரியத்தின் சார்பில் பிரிக்கப்பட்டுள்ள மண்டலங்களில் 50 இடங்கள் தேர்வு செய்யப்பட்டுள்ளன. அதாவது, மணலி, மாதவரம், தண்டையாப்பேட்டை, ராயபுரம், திரு. வி.க.நகர், அம்பத்தூர், அண்ணாநகர், தேனாம்பேட்டை, கோடம்

முதல்வர் மு.க.ஸ்டாலின் தொடங்கி வைத்தார்



சென்னை மெர்னா சுத்கரை நீச்சல் குளம் அருகில் அமைக்கப்பட்டுள்ள கட்டணமில்லா குடிநீர் வழங்கும் தானியங்கி இயந்திரத்தை பொதுமக்கள் பயன்பாட்டுக்கு புதன்கிழமை தொடங்கி வைத்து குடிநீர் அருந்திய முதல்வர் மு.க.ஸ்டாலின்.

பாக்கம், வளசரவாக்கம், அடைபட்டுள்ளன.

யாறு ஆகிய மண்டலங்களில் பொதுமக்கள் அதிகம் கூடும் இடங்களில் குடிநீருக்கான தானியங்கி இயந்திரங்கள் அமைக்கப் பட்டுள்ளன.

பள்ளிக் கூடங்கள், மெட்ரோ ரயில் நிலையம், மெர்னா சுத்கரை போன்ற இடங்களில் ரூ.6.04 கோடியில் குடிநீருக்கான இயந்திரங்கள் வைக்கப்பட்டுள்ளன.

குடிநீர் விநியோக குழாயில் இருந்து 3 விட்டர் முதல் 9,000 விட்டர் கொள்ளளவு கொண்ட சின்டெக்ஸ் தொட்டிகளில் குடிநீர் சேகரிக்கப்பட்டு, அதிலிருந்து நீர் சுத்திகரிக்கப்படும். இந்த நீராறு துருப்பிடிக்காத சில்வர் டேங்குகளில் பிடிக்கப்பட்டு தானியங்கி இயந்திரங்கள் மூலம் மக்களுக்கு விநியோகிக்கப்பட உள்ளது.

கண்காணிப்பு தீவிரம்: தானியங்கி இயந்திரங்களின் செயல்பாடுகள் அனைத்தும் இணைய வழி செயலி மூலம் பின்தொடரப்படுகிறது. இதன்மூலம், குடிநீர் அளவு குறையும் போது உடனடியாக பகுதி பொறியாளர்களுக்கு தகவல் தெரிவிக்கப்பட்டு, தேவையான குடிநீர் நிரப்ப நடவடிக்கைகள் உடனடியாக எடுக்கப்படும்.

மும் திருட்டு மற்றும் சமூக விரோதிகள் மூலமாக குடிநீர் இயந்திரங்கள் சேதப்படுத்தப்படாமல் இருக்க, கண்காணிப்பு மேராக் கள் மூலம் அவை கண்காணிக்கப்படும். இதன்மூலம், பொதுமக்களுக்கு பாதுகாப்பான, தடையில்லாத சுத்திகரிக்கப்பட்ட குடிநீர் விநியோகம் செய்யப்படும் என்று தமிழக அரசு உறுதியளித்துள்ளது.

குடிநீர் அருந்திய முதல்வர்: கட்டணமில்லாமல் குடிநீர் வழங்கும் தானியங்கி இயந்திரத்தின் தொடக்க நிகழ்வு மெர்னாவில் நடந்தபோது, ஒரு குவளையில் தண்ணீரைப் பிடித்து முதல்வர் மு.க.ஸ்டாலின் அருந்தினார்.

அப்போது, துணை முதல்வர் உதயநிதி ஸ்டாலின், அமைச்சர்கள் கே.என்.நேரு, பி.கே.சேகர்பாபு, பெருநகர சென்னை மாநகராட்சி மேயர் ஆர்.பிரியா, துணை மேயர் மகேஷ் குமார், நகராட்சி நிர்வாகம் மற்றும் குடிநீர் வழங்கல் துறை முதன்மைச் செயலர் தா.கார்த்திகேயன், மாநகராட்சி ஆணையர் ஜெ.குமாரகுபரன் உள்ளிட்ட பலர் உடனிருந்தனர்.

Source: Dinamani, 19 June 2025, p.5

ஊரக வளர்ச்சி துறையில் ரூ.19,000 கோடி திட்டங்கள்

▶ பிற மாநிலங்களுக்கு வழிகாட்டுவதாக அரசு பெருமிதம்

■ சென்னை

ஊரக வளர்ச்சித் துறையில் 4 ஆண்டுகளில் ரூ.19,024 கோடியில் செயல்படுத்தப்படும் பல் வேறு முன்னோடி திட்டங்கள் நாட்டின் பிற மாநிலங்களுக்கும் வழிகாட்டுவதாக தமிழக அரசு பெருமிதம் தெரிவித்துள்ளது.

இதுகுறித்து தமிழக அரசு வெளியிட்ட செய்திக்குறிப்பு: தமிழகத்தில் உள்ளாட்சி அமைப்புகள் சுயமாகச் செயல்படவும், மேலிட அனுமதிக்களைப் பெறுவதில் ஏற்படும் காலதாமதத்தைத் தவிர்க்கவும் கிராம ஊராட்சி களுக்கு நிர்வாக அனுமதி அளிக்கவும் வரம்பு ரூ.2 லட்சம் என்பதை ரூ.5 லட்சம் ஆகவும் வட்டார ஊராட்சிகளுக்கும் வரம்பு ரூ.10 லட்சம் என்பது ரூ.20 லட்சம் ஆகவும் மாவட்ட ஊராட்சிகளுக்கும் ரூ.50 லட்சம் ஆகவும் உயர்த்தப்பட்டுள்ளது.

இதுதவிர, நகரங்களை ஒட்டிய 690 ஊராட்சிகளுக்கு தலா ரூ.10 லட்சம், 278 மலைப்புற ஊராட்சிகளுக்கு ரூ.30 கோடியும் அடிப்படை வசதிகளை மேம்படுத்திச் சிறப்பு மானியம் வழங்கப்பட

டுள்ளது. ஊராட்சிகளின் உள்ளக்ட் டைமப்புகளை மேம்படுத்தவும், பிற துறைகளுடன் ஊராட்சிகள் ஒருங்கிணைந்து செயல்படவும் 600 கிராமச் செயலகங்கள் கட்டப்பட்டுள்ளன.

மகாத்மா காந்தி தேசிய ஊரக வேலை உறுதித் திட்டத்தில் இந்திய அளவில் மனித சக்தி நாட்கள் உருவாக்குவதில் தமிழகத்தின் செயல்திறனானது ஒவ்வொரு ஆண்டும் எதிர்பார்ப்புகளைவிட மிக அதிகமாக உள்ளது. 2021-22 முதல் 2024-25 ம் ஆண்டு வரை சராசரியாக 6691 லட்சம் குடும்பங்களைச் சேர்ந்த 77.37 லட்சம் தொழிலாளர்களுக்கு வேலை வழங்கியதன் மூலம் தேசிய அளவில் தமிழகம் பாராட்டப்படுகிறது.

அனைத்துக் கிராம அண்ணாமலைச் சித்தித் திட்டம் - 2 மூலம், 2021-22 முதல் 2024-25 வரை 10,187 கிராம ஊராட்சிகளில் 69,760 பணிகள் ரூ.4,277.32 கோடி மதிப்பீட்டில் மேற்கொள்ளப்பட்டுள்ளன. இத்திட்டத்தில் 7,924 நூலகங்கள் ரூ.176.02 கோடியில் புனரமைக்கப்பட்டுள்ளன. ஊரகப் பகுதிகளில் 5,000 சிறு பாசன ஏரிகள்

ரூ.500 கோடியில் புதுப்பிக்கப்பட்டு வருகின்றன.

சாலை திட்டங்கள்

முதல்வரின் கிராமச் சாலைகள் மேம்பாட்டுத் திட்டத்தில், ரூ.8,000 கோடி செலவில் 20,000 கி.மீ. கிராமப்புற சாலைகளை மேம்படுத்த அனுமதி அளிக்கப்பட்டுள்ளது. பிரதம மந்திரி கிராமச் சாலைகள் திட்டத்தில் 4,182 கி.மீ. நீளமுள்ள 947 சாலைப்பணிகளும் 83 புதிய பாலங்களும் ரூ.3,061 கோடி மதிப்பீட்டில் கட்டப்பட்டுள்ளன. நபார்டு நிதி மூலம் 505 கி.மீ. நீளமுள்ள 283 சாலைகள் மற்றும் 308 பாலங்கள் ரூ.1,182 கோடியில் கட்டப்பட்டுள்ளன. மாநில சிறப்பு நிதியின்கீழ் 34 உயர்மட்ட பாலங்கள் 18 மாவட்டங்களில் ரூ.177.85 கோடியில் கட்டப்பட்டு வருகின்றன.

கலை குரூஸ் கனவு இல்லம் திட்டத்தின்படி 2024-25 மற்றும் 2025-26 ஆகிய 2 ஆண்டுகளில் 2 லட்சம் வீடுகள் கட்ட ரூ.7,000 கோடி அனுமதிக்கப்பட்டு 72,081 வீடுகள் கட்டி முடிக்கப்பட்டுள்ளன. முதல்வரின் வீடு

கள் மறுகட்டுமானத் திட்டத்தின் கீழ் 15,485 வீடுகளுக்கு நிர்வாக அனுமதி வழங்கப்பட்டுள்ளது. மேலும், ரூ.261 கோடியில் பெரியார் நினைவு சமத்துவபுரங்கள் சீரமைக்கப்பட்டுள்ளன. பிரதம மந்திரியின் ஊரகக் குடியிருப்புத் திட்டத்தின்கீழ் 3,53,141 வீடுகள் கட்டி முடிக்கப்பட்டுள்ளன.

நாடாளுமன்ற உறுப்பினர் உள் ணர் பகுதி மேம்பாட்டுத் திட்டத்தின் கீழ் 4 ஆண்டுகளில், ரூ.984 கோடி நிதி ஒதுக்கப்பட்டு 9,826 பணிகள் ரூ.863.01 கோடி மதிப்பீட்டில் மேற்கொள்ளப்பட்டன. 4 ஆண்டுகளில் 3 லட்சத்து 38,357 கழிப்பறைகள் கட்டப்பட்டுள்ளன. 2021-ம் ஆண்டு முதல் 4 ஆண்டுகளில் இதுவரை 1 கோடியே 11 லட்சத்து 45,898 வீடுகளுக்கு குடிநீர்ச் குழாய் இணைப்புகள் வழங்கப்பட்டுள்ளன.

இவ்வாறான பல்வேறு திட்டங்களால் தமிழகத்தின் கிராமப்புறங்கள், நகர்ப்புறங்களுக்கு இணையாக வளர்ச்சி பெற்று இந்திய மாநிலங்களுக்கெல்லாம் முன்னோடியாகத் திகழ்கிறது. இவ்வாறு அதில் கூறப்பட்டுள்ளது.

Source: Hindu Tamil Thisai, 29 June 2025, p.10

உள்ளாட்சிகளில் மாற்றுத்திறனாளிகளுக்கு நியமனப் பதவி: தகுதி விவரங்கள்-படிவங்கள் அரசிதழில் வெளியீடு

சென்னை, ஜூன் 28: உள்ளாட்சிகளில் மாற்றுத் திறனாளிகளுக்கு நியமனப் பதவிகளை வழங்குவதற்கான விதிமுறைகள், தகுதி விவரங்களை அதற்கான படிவத்துடன் அரசிதழில் தமிழக அரசு வெளியிட்டுள்ளது.

உள்ளாட்சி அமைப்புகளில் நியமன அடிப்படையில் மாற்றுத் திறனாளிகளுக்கு பதவிகளை வழங்குவதற்கான விண்ணப்ப நடைமுறைகள் ஜூலை 1-ஆம் தேதி தொடங்கவுள்ளன. இதற்கான விதிமுறைகள் மற்றும் விண்ணப்ப மாதிரிகள் தயாரிக்கப்பட்டு அது அரசிதழில் வெளியிடப்பட்டுள்ளது. அதன் விவரம்:

உள்ளாட்சிகளில் நியமனப் பதவிக்காக, மாற்றுத் திறனாளிகள் விண்ணப்பிக்கும் போது அந்த விண்ணப்பங்களை மாவட்ட அளவிலான குழு பரிசீலிக்கும். இந்தக் குழுவில் மாவட்ட ஆட்சியரின் தனி உதவியாளர், மாவட்ட மாற்றுத் திறனாளி அலுவலர், மாற்றுத் திறனாளிகள் நலச் சங்கத்

தைச் சேர்ந்த ஒருவர், ஊரக வளர்ச்சித் துறை உதவி இயக்குநர் ஆகியோர் இடம்பெற்றிருப்பர்.

மாற்றுத் திறனாளிகளிடமிருந்து பெறப்படும் விண்ணப்பங்களை மாவட்ட அளவிலான குழு பரிசீலித்த பிறகு, அவற்றில் தகுதியானவற்றை மாவட்ட ஆட்சியர் அல்லது ஊரக வளர்ச்சித் துறை ஆய்வாளரின் பரிந்துரைக்கு அனுப்பி வைக்கப்படும். அவர்களுக்கு இறுதி முடிவுப்படி மாற்றுத் திறனாளிகள் உள்ளாட்சி அமைப்புகளில் நியமனம் செய்யப்படுவர். விண்ணப்பிக்கும் உள்ளாட்சி அமைப்புக்குள் சம்பந்தப்பட்ட விண்ணப்பதாரர் விண்ணப்பித்திட வேண்டும்.

என்னென்ன விவரங்கள்: உள்ளாட்சிகளில் நியமனப் பதவிக்கான விண்ணப்பத்தில் பல்வேறு விவரங்களை விண்ணப்பதாரர்கள் அளிக்க வேண்டும். அதாவது, தேர்தலில் போட்டி

யிட வேட்டமனுவை அளிக்கும் போது என்னென்ன விவரங்களை சமர்ப்பிக்க வேண்டுமோ அதே போன்ற தகவல்களை அளிக்க வேண்டும்.

நிரந்தர கணக்கு எண், கடந்த ஆண்டு தாக்கல் செய்த வருமான வரி கணக்கு விவரம், வருமான வரி கணக்கு தாக்கலின் போது தெரிவிக்கப்பட்ட வருவாய் விவரம் ஆகியவற்றை விண்ணப்பத்தில் கேட்கப்பட்டபடி தெரிவிக்க வேண்டும். சாவல் நிலையங்கள் உள்பட ஏதேனும் ஒரு இடத்தில் வழக்குகள் பதிவு செய்யப்பட்டுள்ளதா, நிதிமன்றத்தில் குற்றச் சாட்டுகள் பதிவுசெய்யப்பட்டு இருக்கிறதா, வழக்கு நடைமுறைகளுக்கு இடைக்கால தடை விதிக்கப்பட்டுள்ளதா என்பன போன்ற விவரங்கள் விண்ணப்பத்தில் கோரப்பட்டுள்ளன.

ஏற்கெனவே உள்ளாட்சி மன்ற உறுப்பினராக இருந்து தகுதி நீக்கம் செய்யப்பட்டிருந்தால் அதுகுறித்த விவரங்களையும் படிவத்தில் குறிப்பிட

வேண்டும். விண்ணப்பதாரர் மற்றும் அவரது குடும்ப உறுப்பினர்களின் அசையும் மற்றும் அசையாத சொத்துகளின் விவரங்கள், அவற்றின் இப்போதைய சந்தை மதிப்பு, வங்கிகள், நிதி நிறுவனங்களிடமிருந்து பெறப்பட்ட கடன்களின் விவரங்கள், உயர் கல்வி படித்ததற்கான தகவல்கள், விண்ணப்பதாரர் மற்றும் அவரது இணையாரின் தொழில் விவரங்கள் ஆகியவற்றையும் தெரிவிக்க வேண்டும்.

அத்துடன், பகுதி பி என்பதில் விண்ணப்பதாரர்கள் மாற்றுத் திறனாளிகளுக்கும், சமூகத்துக்கும் செய்த தொண்டுகள் குறித்து தெரிவிக்க வேண்டும். தேவைப்பட்டால் உரிய ஆதாரங்களையும் சமர்ப்பிக்கலாம் என்று அரசிதழில் தெரிவிக்கப்பட்டுள்ளது. இதே போன்ற விதிமுறைகளுடன், மாநகராட்சி, நகராட்சி உள்ளிட்ட நகர்ப்புற உள்ளாட்சிகளுக்கும் படிவங்கள் தனியாக வெளியிடப்பட்டுள்ளன.

Source: Dinamani, 29 June 2025, p.7

ரூ. 64 லட்சத்தில் திருநங்கைகளுக்கான தங்கும் இல்லம்: தொண்டு நிறுவனங்கள் விண்ணப்பிக்கலாம்

சென்னை, ஜூன் 17: சென்னையில் ரூ. 64 லட்சத்தில் திருநங்கைகளுக்கான 'அரண்' எனும் தங்கும் இல்லம் தகுதியுடைய தொண்டு நிறுவனங்கள் விண்ணப்பிக்கலாம்.

இதுகுறித்து சென்னை மாவட்ட ஆட்சியர் ரஷ்மி சித் தார்த் ஐகேடே வெளியிட்ட செய்திக் குறிப்பு:

சமூக நலன் மற்றும் மகளிர் உரிமைத் துறை சார்பில் திருநங்கைகளுக்கான 'அரண்' என்ற பெயரில் 2 தங்கும் இல்லங்கள் சென்னை மற்றும் மதுரையில் ரூ. 64 லட்சத்தில் அமைக்கப்படவுள்ளன. அதன்படி, சென்னை மாவட்டத்தில் அரசு சாராதொண்டு நிறுவனங்களுடன் அரண் இல்லங்களை அமைக்க பல்வேறு வழிகாட்டு நெறிமுறைகள் வெளியிடப்பட்டுள்ளன.

திருநங்கையர் நலனுக்காக

குறைந்தபட்சம் 5 ஆண்டுகள் வரை செயல்பட்டு வரும் நிறுவனமாக இருத்தல் வேண்டும். 5 ஆண்டுகளில் செயல்படுத்திய திட்டங்களின் விவரங்கள், பயனாளிகள் எண்ணிக்கை மற்றும் திட்டங்களின் தாக்கம் குறித்த விவரங்கள் அளிக்க வேண்டும்.

மேலும், திருநங்கையர் தலைமையிலான அல்லது திருநங்கைகள் பெரும்பான்மையாக உள்ள நிர்வாகக் குழுவைக் கொண்ட தொண்டு நிறுவனமாக இருக்க வேண்டும்.

திருநங்கைகளுக்கான இல்லமானது பாதுகாப்பு, பராமரிப்பு, சுகாதாரம், வெளிச்சம் மற்றும் காற்றோட்டத்துடன் இருக்க வேண்டும். திறன் பயிற்சி மற்றும் வெளிப்புற செயல்பாடுகளுக்கு போதுமான இடம் இருத்தல் வேண்டும்.

நிறுவனத்தின் நிர்வாக அலுவலர்கள் முறையான பின்னணி சரிபார்ப்புக்கு உட்படுத்தப்பட்டிருக்க வேண்டும். இந்திய சட்டங்களில், ஏதாவது ஒன்றின் கீழ் பதிவு செய்யப்பட்ட நிறுவனமாக இருக்க வேண்டும். இந்த இல்லத்துக்கு தகுதிவாய்ந்த ஆற்றுப்படுத்தும் மற்றும் மனநல ஆலோசகர் வாரந்தோறும் மற்றும் தேவைக்கேற்ப வருவதை உறுதி செய்ய வேண்டும்.

இந்தவிதிமுறைகளை பின்பற்றி அரண் இல்லங்கள் அமைக்க விரும்பும் அரசு சாராதொண்டு நிறுவனங்கள், தங்கள் கருத்துருக்களை சென்னை மாவட்ட ஆட்சியர் அலுவலக வளாகத்தின் 8-ஆவது தளத்திலுள்ள சென்னை மாவட்ட சமூகநல அலுவலருக்கு, ஜூன் 8-க்குள் அனுப்ப வேண்டும் எனத் தெரிவிக்கப்பட்டுள்ளது.

Source: Dinamani, 18 June 2025, p.3

சென்னையில் முதல்முறையாக தனியார் சிற்றுந்து சேவை

சென்னை, ஜூன் 16: சென்னை மாவட்டத்தில் முதல்முறையாக தனியார் சிற்றுந்து சேவை தங்கள் கிழமை தொடங்கப்பட்டது.

தமிழகத்தில் தற்போது 2,950 சிற்றுந்துகள் இயக்கப்பட்டு வருகின்றன. இந்தப் பேருந்துகளின் சேவையை மேம்படுத்தும் வகையில் புதிய திட்டம் செயல்படுத்தப்படும் என தமிழக அரசு சார்பில் சட்டப் பேரவையில் ஏற்கெனவே அறிவிக்கப்பட்டது. அதன்படி, புதிய விரிவான தனியார் சிற்றுந்து திட்ட வரைவு அறிக்கையை தமிழக அரசு கடந்த ஆண்டு ஜூன் மாதம் வெளியிட்டது.

அந்த அறிக்கையின்படி, போக்குவரத்து சேவையில்லா இடங்களில் தனியார் சிற்றுந்துகளை 17 கி.மீ. இயக்கவும், சேவையுள்ள இடங்களில் 4 கி.மீ. இயக்கவும் அனுமதி அளிக்கப்பட்டிருந்தது.

தற்போது போக்குவரத்து சேவை இருக்கும் இடங்களில் மேலும் 4 கி.மீ. கூடுதலாக இயக்க அனுமதி வழங்கப்பட்டது.

இந்தத் திட்டத்தின் மூலம் 100 குடும்பங்களுக்கு மேல் வசிக்கும் பகுதிகளுக்கு பேருந்து சேவை கிடைக்கும் எனத் தெரிவிக்கப்பட்டுள்ளது. இந்தநிலையில், சென்னையின் விரி



சென்னை கிண்டியிலுள்ள போக்குவரத்து ஆணையர் அலுவலகத்தில் சிற்றுந்து சேவையை கொடியசைத்து தங்கள் கிழமை தொடங்கி வைத்த அமைச்சர் மா.கப்பிரமணியன். உடன், மேயர் ஆர்.பிரியா, தென் சென்னை மக்களவை உறுப்பினர் தமிழ்ச்சி தங்கபாண்டியன், மாவட்ட ஆட்சியர் ரஷ்மி சித்தார்த் ஐகேடே உள்ளிட்டோர்.

வாக்கப்பட்ட பகுதிகளில் சிற்றுந்துகள் இயக்க அனுமதி இல்லாத நிலையில், பயணிகளின் தேவைக்கேற்ப திருவொற்றியூர், மணலி, மாதவரம், அம்பத்தூர், வளசரவாக்கம், ஆலந்தூர், பெருங்குடி, சோழிங்கநல்லூர் ஆகிய மண்டலங்களில் தனியார் சிற்றுந்துகளை இயக்குவது குறித்து பரிசீலனை செய்யலாம் எனத் தெரிவிக்கப்பட்டிருந்தது.

இதையடுத்து பல்வேறு திருத்தங்களுடன் புதிய அரசாணையை தமிழக அரசு வெளியிட்டது. இந்த நிலை

யில், பேருந்து வசதி இல்லாத வழித்தடத்தில் இயங்கும் வகையில் தமிழகத்தில் மொத்தம் 2,857 வழித்தடங்கள்

சிற்றுந்துகளுக்கான கட்டணம்

1 முதல் 4 கி.மீ.	ரூ. 4
4 முதல் 6 கி.மீ.	ரூ. 5
6 முதல் 8 கி.மீ.	ரூ. 6
8 முதல் 10 கி.மீ.	ரூ. 7
10 முதல் 12 கி.மீ.	ரூ. 8
12 முதல் 18 கி.மீ.	ரூ. 9
18 முதல் 20 கி.மீ.	ரூ. 10

கண்டறியப்பட்டுள்ளன.

இதில் சென்னை மாவட்டத்தில் மட்டும் விரிவாக்கப்பட்ட பகுதிகளில் இயக்கும் வகையிலான 72 வழித்தடங்களுக்கு அனுமதி வழங்கப்பட்டுள்ள நிலையில், இந்த வழித்தடங்களுக்கான தனியார் சிற்றுந்து சேவையை மக்கள் நல்வாழ்வு துறை அமைச்சர் மா.கப்பிரமணியன் சென்னை கிண்டியிலுள்ள போக்குவரத்து ஆணையர் அலுவலகத்தில் தங்கள் கிழமை கொடியசைத்து தொடங்கி வைத்தார்.

Source: Dinamani, 17 June 2025, p.2



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