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Hon'ble Chief Minister's May Day greetings

Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu **Thiru. Edappadi K. Palaniswami's**
May Day greetings to workers - 30.04.2020 (*English Translation*)

At the outset, I extend my heartfelt greetings to workers all over the world on the occasion of May Day, celebrated as the day marking the rights of the working class.

Having been denied their rights, their rightful wages and kept as bonded labourers, workers won their rights after fighting in unity for many years. May Day is a festive day for them as it proclaims to the world the greatness of workers whose capital is their hard work.

Keeping in mind Swami Vivekanandar's profound saying that great things cannot be achieved without hard work, if people work

hard without any slackness, they can be sure of victory in their lives.

With the strong conviction that hard work alone will result in advancement and pave the way for a bright life, I once again express my May Day Greetings to workers, who are responsible through their hard work for individual development as well as the development of the Country. ■



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The people should follow the guidelines laid down by the Government; they should wear face mask without fail when they venture outside. Similarly, they should frequently wash their hands with soap.

Thiru. Edappadi K. Palaniswami

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First Wrapper

The Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu **Thiru. Edappadi K. Palaniswami** flagged off five mobile X-ray vans to swiftly detect TB and COVID-19 infections, at the Secretariat, Chennai on 11.05.2020 as a token of dedicating 14 such vans for public use across the State, procured at an estimated cost of Rs. 5.48 crore.

Hon'ble Chief Minister presents Tamil Nadu's valiant record against COVID-19, asks for more funds under various heads



Speech of Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu
Thiru. Edappadi K. Palaniswami at the Video Conference Meeting
with Hon'ble Prime Minister **Thiru. Narendra Modi** on 11.05.2020

Hon'ble Prime Minister, Hon'ble Defence Minister,

Hon'ble Home Minister, Chief Ministers and Officers, Vanakkam.

I thank you for your continuous guidance and support in tackling the Corona pandemic. I have conducted 14 SDMA meetings. A Task Force headed by the Chief Secretary and 12 teams headed by senior IAS officers are continuously recommending various steps to arrest the spread of Corona virus. 12 Zonal teams appointed by me exclusively for contact tracing and other measures are providing all support to the District Collectors. I have interacted with the Collector's and SP's on a weekly basis through video conference.

While lockdown is being implemented strictly in the State, we have allowed

MGNREGS works, construction activities, irrigation and conservation work in safe rural areas alone. I request you, to allow payment of wages to the MGNREGS workers by cash at the Village itself by the Panchayat clerks which will help the poor during this lockdown period. This will prevent over-crowding at Banks. We have also permitted industries and shops in all safe zones.

As per the relaxation announced by Government of India, certain Industries were allowed to function with 33% staff strength after taking other precautions. Textiles and Leather industries involved in export were permitted with minimum staff for producing samples to be sent to the Buyers located abroad.

As on 10.05.2020, 2,43,037 samples have been tested and 7,204 persons were

found positive. Presently, 59,610 contact and suspected persons are under active quarantine. Effective Medical treatment in Tamil Nadu has ensured that the death rate is only 0.67% and 1,959 patients have been discharged which works out to 27% discharge rate. So far, the State has been maintaining the lowest death rate in India.

Presently, the State has 37 Government and 16 private labs for COVID testing with a testing capacity of 13,000 tests per day and I am informed that maximum tests are being done by Tamil Nadu. The State is continuing the strategy of aggressive targeted testing. I request Government of India to supply more number of PCR testing kits.

As per the containment plan, effective door to door surveillance is being done daily in the containment zones and disinfection done twice. Disinfection of all public places is being done regularly. We are taking all possible steps to contain the spread of the virus.

Based on Ayush guidelines we have issued orders to use Indian Medicines to boost immunity. Kabasura Kudineer is distributed free of cost to all, in the containment zones. Front line workers are being given Zinc and Multi vitamin tablet, in addition to prophylactic Hydroxy Chloroquine as per medical advice. 29,000 beds in the notified 123 Government and 169 private hospitals across the State are ready to provide treatment for the COVID infected people.

All the 2.02 crore ration card holders have not only been provided essential ration supply like Rice, Dal, Cooking Oil, Sugar etc., for

the month of April but also are being supplied for the month of May and will be supplied for the month of June, as well, free of cost. An additional Rs.1,000 is being given to all the 35.65 lakh unorganized labourers for the second time. 2.56 lakh of migrant labourers have been provided with free ration. 1.71 lakh labourers are provided with cooked food, on a daily basis.

As per the guidelines of Government of India, so far we have sent back nearly 13,284 people consisting of migrant labours, people who came for treatment etc., in 12 trains. We have also planned to send willing migrant labours and others in 61 trains from 11.05.2020 to 17.05.2020 based on the consent of the recipient States. I request the Chief Minister concerned to give their consent early.

As on date, we have received 4 flights and 1 ship under Vande Bharat and Samudra Setu Missions. Around 900 passengers have been quarantined in various institutions and tested as per Standard Operating Procedures (SOP's).

I have given a special incentive package including capital subsidy, interest subvention etc., to promote manufacturing of COVID-19 related medical equipment and drugs in Tamil Nadu. At present, 50 such companies have started their production.

Agriculture activities, Cement, Paper, Rice, Sugar, Cooking Oil and all types of Food processing industries are allowed to function continuously throughout the State. On a daily basis 134 farmer's markets and 9,200 mobile vehicles are distributing around 5,700 MT of vegetables and fruits, throughout the State. In order to double farmer's income, I request

you, to provide transport subsidy to the Farmer Producers Organisations, so as to take the farmers produce directly to the consumers.

I request you not to begin regular Air services till 31.05.2020. We know from Press that regular train service to Chennai and from Chennai will commence from 12th May. As the positive cases in Chennai are showing an increasing trend, don't permit train service up to 31.05.2020, in my State.

I WOULD LIKE TO PLACE THE FOLLOWING REQUESTS TO THE HON'BLE PRIME MINISTER FOR KIND CONSIDERATION.

I would like to bring to your kind attention that the earlier release of 312 crore rupees under NHM have been utilized fully and we have submitted Utilisation Certificate to enable release of 2nd instalment. Further, my earlier request for release of Rs.2,000 crore as Special Grant to enhance available medical equipments, in the State, which was emphasised during our earlier Video Conference and letters may be sanctioned and released to the State immediately.

Additional borrowing of 33% above the permitted level for fiscal year 2019-2020, may be allowed for 2020-2021. The pending GST compensation amount may be released now.

50 per cent of the 2020-2021 Finance Commission grants to the Urban and Rural Local bodies may be released now. Moreover no cuts should be made in devolution to States from the Central Budget estimates 2020-2021.

I also request an ad-hoc grant of 1,000 crore rupees from NDRF immediately

to procure medical, protective materials and for the movement of migrant labourers, the cost which has been borne entirely by the State Government.

The Chief Minister's Public Relief Fund may be made eligible to receive Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) contribution under Schedule-III of the Companies Act, 2013.

I request you to provide an additional allocation of food grains free of cost for all card holders, including the NPHH beneficiaries, under PMGKAY Scheme.

CMR (Custom Milled Rice) subsidy of Rupees 1,321 crore may be released early, to facilitate paddy procurement.

I request you to announce a relief package to ease the immediate burden on the power sector, which will help distressed Discoms.

Tamil Nadu has a large number of MSME units with maximum labourers. I request that the annual credit plan target for lending to MSME's in Tamil Nadu should be enhanced to Rs.1,25,000 crore for 2020-2021. A credit re-structuring package may also be provided so that they do not have repayment obligations till 31st December, 2020. Fresh working capital assistance should be extended to the MSME units. A refinancing support of Rs.2,500 crore should be provided to the Tamil Nadu Industrial Investment Corporation through SIDBI and Commercial Banks to extend support to MSME.

Thank you,

Vanakkam!





Hon'ble Chief Minister expresses anxiety to Delhi on quarantined Tablighi attendees

Text of the D.O. letter dated 24.04.2020 of **Thiru. Edappadi K. Palaniswami**,
Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu addressed to **Thiru. Arvind Kejriwal**,
Hon'ble Chief Minister of National Capital Territory of Delhi.

Dear Thiru. Arvind Kejriwal ji,

I would like to bring to your kind notice that there are 559 Tablighis from Tamil Nadu, who had attended Tablighi Jamaat in New Delhi. They have been hospitalised or quarantined, as detailed below:-

Name of the Hospital / Quarantine centre & Number of persons admitted as per the Govt. List : AIIMS Jhajjar Hospital 85, RGSS Hospital 34, LNH Hospital 35, DDU Hospital 29, Total person admitted (A) 183 and Badarpur 36, Dwarka 55, Bakkarwala West 49, Sultanpuri 56, Narela 180, Total person admitted (B) 376 overall admitted persons 559.

State Government has been receiving a number of grievances with regard to conditions of their stay. The individuals have been complaining that some of them are diabetic and suffering from other co-morbidities. They are also not provided timely meals in the

quarantine facilities. One Thiru. Muhammed Mustafa Hajiyar who was in quarantine expired on 22.04.2020 morning.

Whenever grievances are received from quarantined / hospitalised individuals, the Principal Resident Commissioner (Mobile No.9810254777) Tamil Nadu House, New Delhi has been taking up the same with the Health and Family Welfare Department, New Delhi or the District Magistrates concerned, requesting necessary action to redress their grievances.

Hence, I request you to instruct the authorities concerned to extend the best possible care for the quarantined / hospitalised individuals and also provide necessary medical assistance to those who are suffering from co-morbid conditions. As the Ramadan month is due to start, authorities may be asked to provide food and medicine to them at appropriate times. ■

Enforcing lockdown essentials, while ensuring essential items reach people



Review meeting conducted by Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu, **Thiru. Edappadi K. Palaniswami** with the District Collectors, through video conferencing on 26.03.2020. *(English Translation)*.

Hon'ble Amma's Government has been taking strong measures on a war-footing to prevent the spread of Corona Virus in the State. Considering the welfare of the people, the Government has imposed various controls, including lockdown throughout the State under Cr.P.C Sec. 144. To implement these restrictions in the Districts, the Government has issued the necessary orders. The Hon'ble Chief Minister reviewed the implementation of these orders in the Districts, through video conferencing on 26.03.2020 with the District Collectors, District Superintendents of Police and Deputy Director of Health.

The following orders are issued on the basis of the decisions taken at the review meeting.

1. The lockdown and other orders, issued on 31.03.2020, will be extended up to 14.04.2020.

2. To avoid any difficulty and to ensure that all essential services are available to the public, a 9-member committee consisting of senior IAS Officers have been appointed to monitor these services.

3. At present, in many Villages, Towns, Private Banks, Small Financial Institutions and Self Help Groups are collecting daily, weekly and monthly interests and the principal from the beneficiaries. Such financial transactions should be stopped till alternative orders are issued. Severe action will be taken against those who violate these orders.

4. To avoid crowding of people in big vegetable markets/ shandies, vegetable/fruit shops should be located in spacious places or in grounds, where social distancing norms of minimum 3 metres should be adhered to. In grocery shops, medical shops and vegetable shops, social distancing norms should be strictly followed.

5. Disinfectant should be sprayed through fire extinguishers in slum tenements, places of worship, where people gather in large numbers, shandies and big streets, at frequent intervals.

6. An awareness campaign should be conducted among people to make them realize that the spreading of the disease is not only very dangerous but also deadly and could create catastrophe in society. This information and the anti-virus activities of the Government should be informed through public address system and tom-tom to the general public. Besides, there should be door-to-door distribution of handbills to create awareness among the people.

7. At present, pregnant women, blood pressure patients, diabetic patients, asthma patients, and HIV infected persons are getting medicines from Government hospitals. These patients should be given 2 months medicines and tablets.

8. A help centre will be set up in Greater Chennai Corporation Office and in District

Collectorates to facilitate free production and movement of essential commodities. The necessary certificates in this connection will be issued on demand by the District Collectors and the Chennai Corporation Commissioner.

(i) The TNMSC, Deans of Government Medical Colleges, JDHS and DDHS will issue certificates regarding medical products.

(ii) Identity Cards will be issued to employees of non-Government private enterprises for movement of essential articles and the ID proof will be given by the Personal Assistants (General) of respective District Collectors including that of Chennai in co-ordination with Police Department officials.

(iii) Already permission has been given to e-commerce enterprises such as Grofers, Amazon, Big Basket, Flipkart and Dunzo for delivering essential commodities, including groceries and medicines. Permission has also been given to deliver these essential commodities through other enterprises, local grocery shops and co-operative stores at door steps. Ban on delivery of cooked foods to houses by Zomato, Swiggy and Uber Eats to houses will continue. However, senior citizens, patients, and those who cannot cook on their own are getting their food from messes and small caterers. There is no ban on delivery of food to these people. Caterers concerned should ensure that the vehicle Drivers, engaged

in such services display the permission letters (For Essential services) prominently in their vehicles.

(iv) Similarly, necessary permission letters to farmers and producers of vegetables, fruits and eggs should be given by the respective Village Administrative Officers.

(v) As the Agriculture Department has been declared as an essential Department, movement of agricultural workers and harvest machines is permitted. Similarly, movement of agricultural produce to shandies and factories is allowed.

(vi) Movement of cattle, poultry products, fish, eggs and cattle feed is also permitted. If there is any difficulty in the movement of these produce, then the 24-hour control room – 044-2844 7701 and 044 – 2844 7703 -- functioning at the police headquarters, can be contacted.

9. If elders, patients, pregnant women, dialysis patients and families who are quarantined require any urgent assistance, they can contact 108 which is available along with Ambulance Service.

10. District Collectors have been instructed to ensure that the special relief measures, announced by the Government, fully reach the beneficiaries and social distance is strictly maintained when the relief articles are distributed. District Collectors can make arrangements if necessary for door-to-door

delivery of relief articles depending on the circumstances. Getting thumb impression for the receipt of the relief article by the beneficiaries should be avoided to prevent the spread of the virus.

11. The list of 54,000 passengers who arrived from abroad has been given to the respective District Collectors. These passengers should be quarantined in their houses and their movement should be monitored so that they are not moved out of their houses. The family members who are in touch with them should also be quarantined. As the movement of the quarantined family members is completely banned, their requirements including essential articles should be supplied by the District Collectors with proper protective measures. If these people come out of their houses despite having been warned not to do so, they should be fined, besides being subjected to action under necessary Cr.P.C. Sections.

The above actions have been taken with the good intention that the public should not be affected in any way. The people should realize this and follow the Government's orders and protect themselves. The Hon'ble Chief Minister appealed to people to follow the motto, 'Vizhithu Iru, Vilagi Iru and Veettileye Iru' (Be aware, Maintain Social Distancing and Stay at home) and protect themselves.

■

Hon'ble Chief Minister presents list of State's requests to Hon'ble Prime Minister



Hon'ble Prime Minister held a video conference meeting with all the Chief Ministers today (27.04.2020) regarding measures against Corona Virus infection. The Chief Ministers who had not spoken in the video conferencing meetings held earlier spoke on that day. Due to paucity of time, Chief Ministers of other States were asked to fax their views to the Hon'ble Prime Minister. Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu Thiru. Edappadi K. Palaniswami sent his views to the Hon'ble Prime Minister through fax. Following is the fax message:

“While lockdown is being implemented strictly in the State, we have allowed MGNREGS works, construction activities, irrigation and some conservation work in safe rural areas alone. I request you to allow payment of wages to the MGNREGS workers by cash at the Village itself by the Panchayat Secretaries, which will help the poor during this lockdown period, as well as prevent overcrowding at Banks. We made inter-State bulk purchases and ensured there is no rise in price of essential commodities.

87,159 international passengers who were on home quarantine have completed 28 days and a balance of 29,000 are still quarantined. As on date, 87,605 samples have been tested and 1,885 persons were found positive. Effective

Medical treatment in Tamil Nadu has ensured that the death rate is only 1.2% and 1,020 patients have been discharged which works out to an encouraging 54%.

Presently, the State has 30 Government and 11 private labs for COVID-19 testing, with a testing capacity of 7,500 tests per day. We are planning to increase it by 10,000 and request Government of India to supply more number of PCR testing kits.

As per the containment plan, effective door to door survey is being done in the Containment Zones and disinfected twice, daily. Disinfection of all public places is being done regularly.

Based on Ayush guidelines we have issued orders to use Indian Medicines to boost immunity. Kabasura Kudineer is distributed free of cost to all in the Containment Zones. Front line workers are distributed with Zinc and Multi vitamin tablets, as per medical advice.

123 Government hospitals and 169 private hospitals have been notified to provide treatment for the infected people.

I have announced free treatment as well as relief amount of 2 lakh rupees to all frontline workers in case they get infected. I have also announced relief of Rs 50 lakh for the Doctors, Nurses and the Field Workers of all Departments

involved in the Corona related work, in case of their unfortunate demise and also to provide a Government job to the next of their kin.

1,000 rupees along with essential commodities were provided to 2.1 crore families. Additional 1,000 rupees was given to all the 35.65 lakh labourers and 17 unorganised sectors. Since the lock down was extended up to May 3rd, I ordered an additional supply of essential commodities free of cost to all the 2.1 crore card holders. An additional 1,000 rupees is being given to all the 35.65 lakh unorganized labourers. 2.56 lakh migrant labourers have been provided with free ration. 1.71 lakh labourers are provided with cooked food, daily.

I have given a special incentive package including capital subsidy, interest subvention, etc., to promote manufacturing of COVID-19 related medical equipments and drugs in Tamil Nadu. At present, 42 such companies have started their production.

Agriculture activities and food processing industries are operating in full swing throughout the State. We have 138 Cold Storage Godowns, with a capacity of 13,600 MT, in which farmers have been permitted to store the vegetables and fruits, free of cost. I have permitted the farmers to store their produce in 427 godowns with a capacity of 3 lakh MT, free of cost. On a daily basis 134 farmers' markets and 8,821 Mobile Vehicles are distributing around 6,500 MT of vegetables and fruits, throughout the State.

In order to double farmers' income, I request you to provide transport subsidy to the Farmer Producers Organisations, so as to take the farmers produce directly to the consumers.

I WOULD LIKE TO PLACE THE FOLLOWING REQUESTS TO THE HON'BLE PRIME MINISTER FOR KIND CONSIDERATION.

I had requested funds for procuring medical equipments during our Video Conference, as well as through my letters. Please sanction the funds immediately. The fiscal deficit limits of 3% of GSDP may be increased to 4.5% for 2019-2020 and 2020-2021. Additional borrowing of 33% above the permitted level for fiscal year 2019-2020, may be allowed for 2020-2021. The GST compensation for December-January may be released now.

50 per cent of the 2020-2021 Finance Commission grants to the Urban and Rural Local bodies can be released now. The Ways and Means limit of the States which was increased by 30% by RBI, should be doubled and the advances availed in the fiscal year 2020-2021 should be made interest-free. I also request an ad-hoc grant of 1,000 crore rupees from NDRF immediately to procure medical and protective material. The Chief Minister's Public Relief Fund may be made eligible to receive Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) contribution under Schedule-III of the Companies Act, 2013.

I request you to provide additional allocation of food grains free of cost for all card holders, including the NPHH beneficiaries, under PMGKAY Scheme, instead of Rs. 22 per kg. CMR subsidy of Rs.1,321 crore may be released early, to facilitate paddy procurement.

I request you to announce a relief package to ease the immediate burden on the power sector, which will help distressed Discoms.

Tamil Nadu has a large number of MSME units with maximum labourers and I request you to extend support to this sector for payment of salaries to their employees, payment of PF and ESI dues on their behalf and waiver of interest on term loans and working capital loans for a period of six months. Payment of GST Advance Tax and IT may be deferred for six months to help the MSMEs."

Hon'ble Chief Minister's directions to officials on migrant workers

Government exerts to take all people along in battle against Corona Virus infections



Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu **Thiru. Edappadi K. Palaniswami's** valedictory address through video conferencing at the Secretariat on 13.05.2020, at the review meeting with District Collectors on the safety measures undertaken by various Departments for preventing the Corona Virus from spreading in Tamil Nadu. *(English Translation)*

All the District Collectors have brought to the notice of Government, the steps already taken and the steps that need to be taken in their respective Districts. Government will examine them in depth and take appropriate action.

We have given some suggestions to the District Collectors. I request you to follow them also and engage yourselves fully in this work to prevent Corona Virus from spreading.

The agriculture industry, already exempted, is carrying out its works in an excellent way. Farmers are happy as we have taken steps for a hassle-free marketing of their produce. Government has made arrangements for the sale of their produce in a proper manner. The District Collectors are supportive of it and these works are being carried out to the joy of farmers.

Likewise, the required steps have been taken for the marketing of vegetables produced by farmers. For this, I convey my appreciation and thanks to the officers of the Agriculture Department. I appreciate the District Collectors also for their support.

As per Government's advice, essential commodities have been supplied to people in all Districts without any interruption and in time. Due to this, we have brought about a situation where there is no food problem at any place.

We stand foremost in the Country in offering medical treatment. As I have already mentioned, patients who voluntarily get themselves admitted and treated in hospital at the sign of the disease in their system, are totally cured. The spreading of the infection has increased through the arrival of persons from abroad and from different Districts. Government's efforts to prevent the spread of this disease have succeeded. Patients admitted into hospitals have recovered gradually and returned home. However, the version many District Collectors have given is that there is no spread of the virus in their Districts; workers in the District who go to other Districts for their livelihood, contract the infection and when they return to their native District, the number of infected persons increases.

As far as Tamil Nadu is concerned, most of the workers in the Districts of Thiruvallur, Kancheepuram, Chengalpattu, Villupuram, Kallakurichi, Ariyalur, Perambalur, Thanjavur, Tirunelveli and many other Districts come to

Chennai to carry on their trade and to work as labourers. When they returned to their native Districts because of the lockdown, they were tested for the virus infection and most of them tested positive. This has enabled us to know about the prevalence of the virus infection in the above-mentioned Districts and other Districts. Appropriate treatment is being given to them. In another 3 or 4 days, all the persons who had returned to their native Districts from Chennai will be tested and given due treatment.

As for Chennai, the reason for the spreading of the infection, as I have already mentioned, is the density of population. In Chennai Municipal Corporation alone, 26 lakh persons live in slums. Congested areas, narrow streets and large populations provide the suitable conditions for the easy spread of the infection.

The Koyambedu market in Chennai is the biggest market in Asia. Started in 1996, the number of shops functioning there is 3,941. About 20,000 Workers – Merchants, Retail Merchants, persons unloading goods from lorries and loaders who load vegetables in retail merchant vehicles – are working here.

As our high officers had already alerted us about the occurrence of the infection here, CMDA officers held discussions with the executives of the traders' association on 19.03.2020 and urged them to shift their vegetable business to a temporary market for which Government would provide an alternative site. The traders turned down the proposal. They stuck to Koyambedu. Fearing great business loss, they did not wish to shift to

a temporary market to be set up by Government outside Chennai.

There were several rounds of talks. Hon'ble Deputy Chief Minister visited Koyambedu market on 29.03.2020 and inspected the State of affairs there. There also, Hon'ble Deputy Chief Minister told the executives of the association there of the possibility of a spike in infections there due to the crowding of people. If the traders moved to the selected temporary market, he said, all facilities would be made available to them and the occurrence of infection also could be prevented. But, they ignored it.

Government continued its efforts. On 06.04.2020, Hon'ble Deputy Chief Minister invited them to his chambers at the Secretariat and held discussions. He said: "You should realize that all the three parties – traders, workers and the people coming to purchase – will be affected and hence, support the Government in its actions. When you move to the temporary market set up by the Government, all facilities will be made available. Through this move, the spread of the infection can be prevented". But the association executives did not approve of the suggestion out of fear that they would incur loss if they moved out. Another round of talks was held by the Hon'ble Deputy Chief Minister on 11.04.2020. He sought their co-operation and asked them to understand the problem there. He told them that the Government had shifted vegetable markets all over Tamil Nadu. In Koyambedu area, no one wore face mask; no one followed social distancing. "The spread of the virus can be stopped only if you shift your

place of business". But, they didn't accept it. They continued to insist that their business would be affected severely if they moved to the temporary market of the Government. Still Government persisted. The association was told that if the infection broke out, the situation to close down all the shops would arise. They should realize this and if they moved to the temporary market, co-operating with the Government, this problem could be resolved, trade would flourish and the occurrence of infection could be averted. But, they did not listen. This was reiterated again on 24.04.2020.

Not only this. Our Commissioner of the Municipal Corporation, invited them and held talks. High officials there, our Police Commissioner and Principal Secretary to the Department of Agriculture talked with them; CMDA officials went to their place and urged them to shift. All of them expressed the view that all the people doing their different trades there would be severely affected if the infection broke out. The officials said they had come for the discussion on the advice of medical experts. The spread of the infection could be prevented if all the stakeholders – merchants, retail merchants and workers – were persuaded to shift the market to the location selected by the Government. The Koyambedu association executives refused to listen. Government strained its nerve and held several rounds of talks with them. But, since the traders stuck to their view that their business would be affected if they shifted the market to some other place, this problem arose.

The hike in the number of infected persons in the Districts is due to more persons leaving to those Districts from Koyambedu. This is the reason in Chennai also.

As for the Government, it has taken vigorous efforts to prevent the spread of the Corona Virus. Several rounds of talks were held with the executives of the Koyambedu market association but they refused to move to an alternative place as they felt their sales would be affected resulting in huge loss. However, when the virus spread, the market was closed down and the associations of traders were told that vegetable sales would not be permitted there any longer. Then they consented. They were informed that the market would be set up in Thirumazhisai area. They accepted the proposal and extended their co-operation. The market was set up there and from the evening of 10.05.2020, it started functioning.

Government has taken all efforts to prevent the spread of this infection. Media is spreading wrong news that the infection spread in Koyambedu area had increased as Government did not take proper action. This is contrary to the truth. As I have said, many attempts were made by Government. But the executives of traders bodies there refused to move to the temporary vegetable market set up by Government out of fear that their trade would be affected. I clarify to people that this is the fact.

Tamil Nadu has more number of migrant workers. They wish to go back to their natives States. Arrangements have been made in full

scale for their return. Government bears their entire travel cost; it will meet the full railway fare. But there is delay as Chief Ministers of many States have not been given permission wholly. Allocation of trains to transport the migrant workers is very important. They allot only 8 to 10 trains per day. Hence the delay. So, Government will make arrangements for migrants from other States to return to their States as per their wish, in a gradual manner. Till then, I affectionately request them to be patient.

Efforts are being made to gradually bring back workers from Tamil Nadu who are staying in other States for their work. From Maharashtra, we have brought them back; from other States too. Steps will be taken to bring them all to our State in stages.

As for Government, we have been helping the people in all ways. We explore all ways and means and extend help. The virus spread has been contained in Tamil Nadu as all District Collectors, District Superintendents of Police and the staff working under them, have all put in excellent performance from the day the lockdown was announced on 24.03.2020, to this day.

Likewise, as there was co-ordinated functioning from the level of Chief Secretary-Director General of Police to various other levels – Secretaries of Departments, IAS, IPS officers and the staff of all Departments, the spread of the infection has been prevented. In India, the number of testing centres is the

highest in Tamil Nadu. The number of persons tested is also high. That is why the incidence of the disease in the State has become high; not as in other States. Government aims at testing all the affected persons, providing appropriate treatment and curing them. We are relaxing the lockdown gradually. Government is making efforts for the restoration of normalcy.

Industries are opening today. Agricultural operations are proceeding in full swing. We have created a condition where workers can have job opportunities. The required essential commodities are being supplied to people in time. Hence, I wish to state that Government is safeguarding the people without any deficiency. Our District Collectors have given many suggestions. I wish to point out that Tamil Nadu is shining as a State with a special status in the whole of India in Corona Virus infection prevention, since District Collectors have implemented all my ideas in an excellent manner.

It is 'awareness' that we want to emphasize to the people. All our District Collectors, Police officers, personnel of the Departments of Local Administration and Revenue should create awareness among the people in a co-ordinated way. We should launch this awareness campaign in every street. Only through this we can control the spread of the infection. So, while going out, face mask should be worn compulsorily; physical distancing should be observed while purchasing articles; going out unnecessarily should be avoided; hands and legs should be washed with soap when one

returns home after a visit outside. If these steps are followed, virus spread can be prevented. This is what medical experts say. Besides creating awareness among people continuously, disinfectants should be sprayed daily in Town Panchayat and Municipal Corporation areas. Public toilets in Town Panchayat, Municipal, and Municipal Corporation areas should be cleaned often. This is to prevent infection spreading among the users. In Containment Zones, no one should be allowed to move out. District Collectors should take the necessary steps for the supply of essential commodities to people in the containment zones. I request the District Collectors to see to it that welfare assistance, announced by Government, reaches the people in time.

Drivers and cleaners of lorries coming from other States should be checked for the virus infection when they unload the goods in the District of destination. Or else, the infection may spread through them. Many of the District Collectors expressed the view that the infection spreads more through workers coming from outside the State and through lorry drivers and cleaners. Hence, I wish to state that you can isolate them too for preventing the spread of the infection.

As it is summer season, District Collectors should see that no drinking water problem arises. The S.S.L.C. public examination is slated to start on June 1. The District Collectors should arrange the required transport facility for students appearing for the examination. I request you to hold consultations with the

officers of the Education Department and arrange facilities for students to write the examination without facing any hurdles.

I also request the District Collectors to speedily complete the 'kudimaramathu' and de-silting works in the Districts of the Western ghats as the works will come to a standstill if monsoon and 'saaral' rains commence. District Collectors of delta Districts should also complete the dredging works speedily. Likewise, I request all the District Collectors to start the 'kudimaramathu' works expeditiously.

Tamil Nadu is an industrial State with a preponderance of small scale industries and factories. Hence, except in the affected areas, industries in other areas can function with a 50 per cent work force. For that, you have to visit and permit such industries that can be started. There is no bar for that. Except Chennai and banned areas, industries can re-commence their works in other areas. Also, shops announced by the Government can start their business. Shops that defied rules had been sealed. After 3 days, they can be permitted to re-open. If rules are flouted the shop owners can be warned, things can be clarified to them and they can be permitted to resume work as per Government procedures. You instruct the industries that they can commence work today, following the rules and procedures announced by the Government. Industries should function as per the rules and regulations of Government. What is very, very important is that all the employees should wear face mask without fail; physical distancing should be followed. Along with that,

disinfectant should be sprayed often. Toilets used by workers should be cleaned often. Industries that have a higher labour strength should appoint doctors temporarily there itself. Employees should be permitted to work only after undergoing testing. You should instruct the industrial enterprises to follow all these rules and regulations.

My appreciation and thanks to all the District Collectors and Superintendents of Police who have put in excellent work on Government's suggestions from the day of the lockdown and the staff of all the Departments functioning under them. Likewise, I convey my appreciation and good wishes to the Hon'ble Deputy Chief Minister, Hon'ble Ministers, MLAs and MPs who have done their work excellently, Chief Secretary to Government who offers good advice and suggestions to convey information to people about all Government programmes, the DGP who is leading the Police Officers and Constables in an excellent way, Secretaries of the various Departments, Doctors, Health Workers, Nurses, Sanitary Workers, Officers of the Departments of Local Administration, Revenue, Co-operation and various other Departments. My appreciation and good wishes to the Commissioner of Greater Chennai Corporation, Secretaries of various Departments who are heading various committees, IAS and IPS officers appointed as special officers in many Districts and to all higher officers who have excelled in their performance.

Nandri, Vanakkam!





Hon'ble Chief Minister spells out relaxations with conditions for resuming some activities

Statement of Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu **Thiru. Edappadi K. Palaniswami** on the basis of decisions taken by the State Cabinet on 02.05.2020 (*English Translation*).

The country-wide lockdown under the National Disaster Management Act for the prevention of Corona virus infection is in force from 25.03.2020. Hon'ble Amma's Government is acting with one-pointed focus, protecting the people of Tamil Nadu from this infection and providing appropriate relief for them. That is why the spread of the infection in Tamil Nadu is not high and the percentage of recovery in the country is highest and the mortality rate is very low.

The lockdown in Tamil Nadu, under the State Disaster Management Act is extended from 04.05.2020 to the midnight of 17.05.2020 with the following guidelines. The decision was taken on the basis of the views expressed in many meetings, reports submitted, advice given by the Central Government and the decisions taken by the State Cabinet held under my leadership on 02.05.2020. They cover review meetings I held on different dates, the video conferencing conducted by the Hon'ble Prime Minister on 27.04.2020, the 12 co-ordination

committees set up with senior IAS officers, the video conferencing meeting with District collectors on 29.04.2020, the meeting held with the committee of medical and health experts on 30.04.2020, the interim report submitted by the committee headed by Additional Chief Secretary of the Finance Department on 01.05.2020, the advice given by the Central Government Home Ministry on 01.05.2020 and the State Cabinet meeting on 02.05.2020.

As per the decision, lockdown will be continued with full force in Containment Zones as per the existing protocol without any relaxation whatsoever.

1. Permission is granted only for the following works in areas within the Greater Chennai Police limits (Except Containment Zones):

- ★ Construction works will be allowed if the workers stay at the construction site itself.
- ★ All Government and Public Sector construction works and road works will be allowed.

- ★ Special Economic Zones, Export-Oriented Units and Export Units will be permitted to function after examination by Chennai Municipal Corporation Commissioner/ District Collector and as the situation warrants, with a 25 per cent work force (minimum 20 persons). Workers should come only in vehicles arranged by the company.
- ★ Information Technology and Information Technology Enabled Services (IT & ITeS) will be permitted to function with 10 per cent work force (minimum 20 persons). Employees should come only in company-arranged vehicles.
- ★ Shops selling essential commodities will be permitted from 6 a.m to 5 p.m.
- ★ E-Commerce of essential commodities will be allowed in the already permitted business hours.
- ★ Hotels can sell only parcel food between 6 a.m. and 9 p.m.
- ★ Stand-alone and neighbourhood shops (except barber shops/beauty parlours), those selling hardware, cement, construction industry articles, sanitary-ware, electrical goods and those selling mobile phone, computer, household articles, electric motor, spectacles (including their repair work) will be permitted from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m.
- ★ Self-skilled workers including Plumbers, Electricians, AC Mechanics and Carpenters, Home Care Providers, domestic helps

will be permitted to work after obtaining clearance from Chennai Municipal Corporation Commissioner/concerned District Collector.

2. Only the following activities will be allowed in the rest of Tamil Nadu barring the area under Greater Chennai Police limits (except Containment Zones):

- ★ All industries (inclusive of textiles) in Rural and Town Panchayat areas (outside Corporation and Municipal areas) will be allowed to function with a 50 per cent work force (minimum 20 persons).
- ★ Textile units can be permitted to function with a 50 per cent work force in Town Panchayats with a population of more than 15,000 after inspection by the District Collector and as per the prevailing circumstances.
- ★ Special Economic Zone, Export Oriented Units, Industrial townships and Industrial Estates (rural and urban) can be permitted to function with a 50 per cent work force. Textile units are not permitted to function in urban industrial estates.
- ★ Export units in urban areas will be permitted to function with a 50 per cent work force after District Collector's inspection and according to the prevalent situation.
- ★ Electronic Hardware Manufacture will be permitted with a 50 per cent work force.
- ★ Integrated Spinning Mills in Rural Areas (in shifts with adequate physical distancing)

will be permitted to function with a 50 per cent work force.

- ★ Designing and production of samples in urban areas for export of leather articles and garment will be permitted with a 30 per cent work force after inspection by District Collector.
- ★ IT & ITeS units will be permitted to function with a 50 per cent work force (minimum 20 persons).
- ★ Construction Works in Urban Areas will be permitted if workers stay in the construction site; permission will be given to bring workers from another place only once.
- ★ Government and Public Sector Undertakings' construction works and road works will be permitted.
- ★ All self-skilled workers including Plumbers, Electricians, AC Mechanics and Carpenters will be permitted to function after getting due permission from the District Collector.
- ★ Home Care Providers for differently-abled persons, old-age persons and sick persons and domestic helps will be permitted to attend to their work after getting clearance from the District Collector.
- ★ Printing Presses are permitted.
- ★ Shops selling Hardware, Cement, Construction Goods, Sanitary-Ware and Electrical Goods, needed for construction works will be permitted to function between 9 a.m. and 5 p.m. only. There is no ban to move construction articles.

★ All stand-alone shops including those dealing in mobile phones, computers, household articles, electric motors, spectacles and their repairs will be permitted to function between 10 a.m. and 5 p.m. only.

★ All stand-alone shops in rural areas will be permitted between 9 a.m. and 5 p.m. only.

★ Hotels can sell parcel food alone between 6 a.m. and 9 p.m. E-commerce companies can function as permitted already.

★ District Collectors can permit the functioning of all stand-alone shops as the situation warrants between 10 a.m. and 5 p.m. only, barring the malls and market complexes in Municipalities and Municipal Corporations.

General:

All District Collectors and Commissioners of Municipal Corporations are advised to monitor the safe working of employees and workers through the observance of social distancing and use of disinfectants as instructed by Government and to ensure the strict adoption of standard operating procedures. They are also advised to see that not more than 5 persons assemble in public places as the lockdown continues.

Agricultural activity, Agro processing industries, Industrial and Commercial works, Medical services and Departments dealing with Essential works, Banks, Amma canteens, ATM and Orphanages that have already been

permitted all relaxations by Government, can continue to function wholly without any interruptions.

Mineral and mining works, brick kilns, stone quarries, M-sand, crushers which supply materials for construction works can function as also their transportation.

For starting construction works also, big industries and IT companies can apply online to the District Collector/Greater Chennai Corporation and get passes for workers and vehicles. In urban areas, companies can bring their employees in special buses operated by them and in vans. In such vehicles, 50 per cent of the work force alone should be brought, observing the physical distancing norm.

No separate permission is needed for Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises, Village industries and stand-alone shops to function.

Central and State Government offices will continue to work with 33 per cent of employees.

Restrictions already in force for the following establishments and activities will continue till revised orders are issued:

1. Schools, Colleges, Training Institutions, Research Institutions and all Educational institutions.
2. Places of worship, Public worship and all Religious congregations.
3. Cinema theatres, Resorts, Bars, Gymnasiums, beaches, tourist spots, zoos, museums, swimming pools, sports

stadia and places like big auditoriums and conference halls.

4. All types of religious, social, political, recreational, educational and cultural events and sports activities, as well as festivals, meetings and processions.
5. Air, Train and Public Bus transport for the general public.
6. Taxi, auto and cycle rickshaw.
7. Metro Rail and Inter-state bus transport.
8. Inter-state movement of people.
9. Hostels (except those for workers), lodges and resorts.
10. Not more than 20 persons should participate in funerals.
11. Present procedures will continue to be in force for marriage events.

District Collectors/Chennai City Commissioner have been instructed to take steps for re-starting industries from 06.05.2020 after making all arrangements, adopting these procedures given by the Government and issuing the necessary permission. The Tamil Nadu Government continues to monitor the spread of the infection. As the occurrence of infection comes down, the Tamil Nadu Government will announce more relaxations.

I request the general public to extend full support and co-operation to the steps taken by Hon'ble Amma's Government for controlling the impact of the Corona Virus infection. ■

A decorative header featuring several large, colorful Easter eggs (brown, yellow, and blue) with ribbons, surrounded by various flowers like daisies and tulips in a grassy field under a blue sky.

Hon'ble Chief Minister wishes Happy Easter

Message of the Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu
Thiru. Edappadi K. Palaniswami on the occasion of Easter on 11.04.2020.
(English Translation)

I happily convey my hearty Easter good wishes to all Christians celebrating Easter as the resurrection day of Jesus Christ, an embodiment of Love and Compassion.

The mercy of Jesus Christ was boundless; he preached love towards enemies. The day he was crucified by the wicked is observed as Good Friday. On the third day, the day of his resurrection is celebrated by Christians as Easter. On this day, they worship Jesus Christ, keeping in mind the teachings of their sacred book, the Bible.

For the prevalence of love and peace in the world, I request all the people, on this good day, to follow the great qualities of sacrifice, love, peace and brotherhood preached by Jesus Christ and lead a life of unity. Once again, I offer my Easter Day good wishes to all Christians. ■

Hon'ble Prime Minister rings up to enquire about anti-Corona measures

Hon'ble Prime Minister of India Thiru. Narendra Modi spoke to Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu Thiru. Edappadi K. Palaniswami over phone around 7.30 p.m. on 19.04.2020 and enquired about the Corona preventive measures being taken in Tamil Nadu.

The Hon'ble Chief Minister responded and gave a detailed account of the Corona preventive works being undertaken in Tamil Nadu. He also placed a request for the supply of more Rapid Test Kits as more tests had to be conducted in Tamil Nadu. The Hon'ble Prime Minister said Rapid Test Kits would be supplied. ■

Hon'ble Chief Minister launches 'Arogyam' to build people's immunity against Corona



The Central and State Governments are employing many strategies to prevent Corona Virus infections from spreading. As part of these measures, the Central Ayush Ministry has issued guidelines for the prevention of COVID-19 infection. One of the guidelines has suggested distribution of 'Nila vembu' potion and 'Kabasura' decoction to people for improving their immunity.

On the orders of Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu Thiru. Edappadi K. Palaniswami, a committee was set up comprising 11 medical experts, senior doctors of both indigenous and allopathy systems of medicine from Government and Private sectors. They forwarded their recommendations to Government after deliberations.

They recommended, taking into account the guidelines of the Central Ayush Ministry, the implementation of a special programme – 'Arogyam' – to help people increase their

body immunity by utilizing the procedures found in medical systems inclusive of Siddha, Ayurveda, yoga and naturopathy, Unani and Homoeopathy.

Accepting the recommendation, the Hon'ble Chief Minister launched the special programme 'Arogyam' today (23.04.2020) for the improvement of people's immunity and to preserve health after treatment and distributed 'Nila vembu' water and 'Kabasura' choornam packets. In continuation of this, 'Kabasura' choornam packets will be distributed to one lakh families residing in the containment zone of Chennai city. The officials concerned and the beneficiaries have been instructed to observe social distancing code when this distribution is done.

It is made clear that the procedures in this special programme are not treatment for the Corona Virus infection but are only medically examined procedures to improve the immunity of people against the disease. ■



Tamil Nadu steps to encourage production of anti-Corona equipment, medicines

Steps taken as per the orders of Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu **Thiru. Edappadi K. Palaniswami**, to encourage manufacture of medical equipment and medicines in Tamil Nadu for the prevention of Corona infection on 07.04.2020.

(English Translation)

The Tamil Nadu Government has been taking up a series of measures to prevent the spread of the pandemic Corona Virus infection. As part of these efforts, Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu Thiru. Edappadi K. Palaniswami announced many new concessions to encourage industries to manufacture in Tamil Nadu, medical equipment and medicines for the prevention of Corona Virus. The Industries Department issued a G.O. on 02.04.2020, detailing the procedures for getting these concessions.

The special concessions covered the manufacture of Invasive Ventilators, N95 face masks, Anti Viral and Anti Malarial drugs used to treat COVID-19, Azithromycin, Hydroxychloroquine and Vitamin C tablets, RT-PCR Test Kits, approved by ICMR, Personal Protection Equipment as per applicable national standards and Multi Parameter ICU Monitors.

Many companies including Sri Health Care, Imaging Products (India) Ltd., Venus, Air Liquide and Sri Rajarajeshwari Life Care have forwarded proposals for the manufacture of the above products. Of these, Sri Health Care has requested assignment of land and this has been given at Thandarai SIDCO Industrial Park.

Companies desirous of getting these concessions need not wait for Government's approval. They can start works immediately. It is enough if they inform the Government after commencing their production.

To facilitate the Tamil Nadu Government and organizations and companies in other States to procure as per their needs, personal protection equipment, face masks, test kits and medicines for prevention of Corona infection, from Tamil Nadu manufacturers and distributors, the Commissionerate of industries and commerce, is preparing a detailed list of manufacturers of the said goods.

Manufacturers and distributors can register details about themselves in the portal <https://www.msmeonline.tn.gov.in>. So far, 103 manufacturers have registered themselves. Registration of the name in the portal is not a guarantee that Government will procure from the companies. The collection of details is just to forward them to organizations and companies which need them. It is informed that companies may contact the manufacturers directly also as their needs warrant.



Hon'ble Chief Minister gives graphic view of State's all-out war against Corona Virus



Speech of Hon' ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu **Thiru. Edappadi K. Palaniswami** at Amma Maligai on 05.05.2020 in the Greater Chennai Corporation office complex, after a review meeting regarding Corona Virus infection preventive actions in Chennai city (*English Translation*).

My humble respects to all the members of the general public.

The dreadful Corona Virus infection has shaken, threatened and frozen the world. Several thousands of people have died of this disease in countries ranging from super powers to developing ones. In an environment where super powers and developed countries are helpless and the virus is spreading, the Tamil Nadu Government is taking many measures on a war-footing to confront this virus infection. As far as Tamil Nadu is concerned, we are taking many steps to prevent the spread

of this disease, as per the guidelines announced by the Central Government.

Consultation meetings, under my leadership, have been held four times in this regard. A high-level committee, headed by the Chief Secretary to Government was set up and that committee also has held many consultative meetings. For taking action to stop the prevention of the infection, 12 committees have been set up. All the committees have started their respective works and they are proceeding ahead efficiently. In each committee, we have



appointed two or three IAS officers of the rank of Department Secretary.

Infected persons are being treated in many hospitals. To prevent the spread of the infection all over Tamil Nadu, regional committees have been set up. In these committees, IAS and IPS officers have been appointed. They visit the Districts allotted to them, conduct on-the-spot inspection to see whether proper treatment is being given and action is being taken to stop the disease from spreading.

I have consulted District Collectors four times through video conferencing. The spread of the infection in the suburban areas of Districts has been brought down greatly on account of the excellent work put in by District Collectors on the advice of the Government given in these consultation meetings. They have also taken steps to make essential commodities available without any difficulty to people.

As for Chennai city, the Commissioner of Chennai Municipal Corporation is taking efforts to prevent the spread of the infection by taking action on the spot. We have appointed 3 IAS officers as a support to him in the first phase. These officers were allotted 3 regions and they have started their work. To help them, 10 committees have been set up, manned by IAS and IPS officers. Along with them, officers in the DRO rank have also been appointed. Medical Joint Directors have also been brought in and the prevention works have been taken up. For the effective execution of this work, 4 top Police officials in the rank of ADGP have been appointed. As an overall head, the Commissioner of Revenue Administration has been appointed as a special officer to control this Corona Virus infection in Chennai city. All the IAS and IPS officers in these committees have expedited the works zone wise and have engaged themselves fully in these Corona Virus prevention works.



A control room has been started at the Headquarters of the Greater Chennai Corporation for people to convey their problems and once the complaints are lodged, ways and means are found immediately to solve them. We have engaged many doctors in the control room and they advise persons who are affected or have developed symptoms of the disease. We have also made arrangements in the control room for alerting officers concerned on receipt of complaints from people about their problems and find a way to solve those problems.

I wish to inform people that we have taken, compared to other States, more vigorous efforts to prevent the spread of this infection.

The reason for the virus spreading fast in Chennai is the density of population as it is the capital of Tamil Nadu. Narrow streets and densely populated residential areas help the virus to spread from one person to another easily. Also, public toilets are used more and the infection spreads easily. To control all these things, Greater Chennai Corporation is taking many measures. In the Containment Zones, disinfectant is sprayed thrice a day – morning, noon and evening. Public toilets are cleaned

often. Residents in Containment Zones are supplied essential commodities directly. Steps are taken for immediate treatment of affected persons. The mobile testing lab goes to their places of residence. All these facilities have been fully made available in Chennai today.

The deployment of mobile testing laboratory is on account of the density of population in Chennai and the consequent difficulty of people going to a hospital to test themselves. I wish to state that those displaying symptoms of the disease in the mobile laboratory testing, will be taken to hospital and appropriate treatment will be given.

As for Chennai city, 1,724 persons have been affected by the Corona infection so far. The number of persons who have recovered is 267 and those who have died is 19. As the Government has taken the correct measures, the number of persons recovering is increasing and mortality has come down.

At present, the number of persons affected in Thiru.Vi.Ka. Nagar in Chennai city is 356, in Kodambakkam 257, Anna Nagar 141, Valasaravakkam 114, Royapuram 299 and Teynampet 206; in Tondiarpet too people have

been affected. All the affected persons are being treated appropriately.

Apart from this, a hospital with a bed strength of 4,000 is kept ready in Chennai city alone to provide necessary facilities to the persons who have to undergo treatment. To control this infection through improvement of body immunity, zinc and vitamin tablets are given to them; along with it 'kabasura' decoction and 'nila vembu' potion are given. As these indigenous medicines can increase immunity, the spread of the infection can be prevented.

The Central Health Committee visited Tamil Nadu and appreciated the actions taken by the Tamil Nadu Government. Moreover, 50 testing centres have been set up all over Tamil Nadu for increasing testing among the people. Through these centres, we are testing about 12,000 persons every day. As so many persons are being tested, the number of persons testing positive has increased. People need not fear about this. Compared to other States, Tamil Nadu has the highest number of testing centres.

Similarly, we have increased the number of persons performing the testing. So, I wish to inform that Hon'ble Amma's Government is identifying the persons with the symptoms of infection and getting them treated appropriately.

As far as the Government is concerned, it is meeting the needs of the people of Tamil Nadu. It has been announced, as per the Central Government's guidance, that some industries can be resumed. For this, some restrictions have been relaxed.

There are a large number of migrant workers in Tamil Nadu from other States. Work has resumed for them now in many areas with some restrictions. Those desirous of taking up the jobs can stay here. If they want to return to their home State, you have to collect details from them at their own places and make arrangements for their travel to other States. This work has to be carefully attended to by our teams at different places.

This is because we will face problems if they (migrants) assemble in one place. That is why we have announced online booking. If the enumeration takes place in one place, all of them will assemble there immediately out of their anxiety to go back to their home State. We have to avert these things. You have to organize them into about 7, 8 or 10 teams, post constables and see to it that none gets out of their place. Only after that you should start your enumeration work. If you start enumeration immediately, the news will reach other places and migrant labourers there will come to this place immediately. Persons in different areas should remain where they are. The committee should reach the place of the migrant workers, collect details about them and create opportunities for them to return to their States.

I have already talked to the Director General of Police. The migrant labourers should be taken to the railway station only after 10 p.m. at night. Their transport to the station during day time will create traffic congestion. There are about 50,000 migrant labourers in Tamil Nadu. It is impossible to create facilities to transport 50,000 persons at the same time.

They have to go by train. You have to clearly inform them the dates and destinations of the trains operated and also the dates on which they are proposed to be taken to the railway station. This should be handled carefully. You inform them clearly. We have a list of places where the migrant workers are staying. You have to go to those places and inform them that the train for their State leaves on such and such date and at such and such hour and that we will take them and help them board their train directly. They should also be cautioned that they should not come out of their places till that time. It is impossible to transport them all at the same time. We cannot provide train facility to that extent. Government will create opportunity for them to go to their home States in a gradual way, say within a week.

For the opening of single shops also, as given in Central Government's guidelines, restrictions have been relaxed. So, the Tamil Nadu Government continues to act as per the guidance of the Central Government. I wish to state that Hon'ble Amma's Government is providing all the needed facilities to the people of Tamil Nadu.

As for the public, they should follow the guidelines announced by the Government. They should compulsorily wear face mask while going out; they should clean their hands often with soap; they should follow physical distancing while purchasing articles. The spreading of the infection can be prevented if these instructions are followed properly. This is the opinion of medical experts. I affectionately request the people at this hour to kindly adopt them.

In the Amma canteens all over Tamil Nadu, we are supplying food to 7 lakh people every day. Through the community kitchen, about 2 lakh people are given food. We are feeding differently abled persons, pregnant women, destitutes and the aged. Our Government has created a condition where no one is starving in Tamil Nadu.

We have provided the required relief assistance to workers. Ex-gratia payments have been made to about 36 lakh persons. Rice, dhal and sugar are given to them at no cost. All the rice family card holders have been given Rs.1,000 each; rice, dhal and sugar are given at no cost. The distribution of these essential articles will be continued for the months of April, May and June. Hon'ble Amma's Government is supplying sugar, dhal and oil at no cost.

So, today, Government is safeguarding the people even as the eyelids protect the eyes. My affectionate request to people is that they should properly follow the announcements of the Government, so that the spreading of the virus is prevented.

My repeated request, with folded hands, is: 'Follow the Government's guidelines; wear face mask compulsorily while going out; wash your hands with soap often; observe the 'Queue' system with physical distancing whether it be visiting the vegetable market, grocery shop or the bank. If this is done, the Corona virus infection can certainly be prevented. For that, I affectionately request the people to give full co-operation to the Government.

Nandri! Vanakkam!



Lockdown extended, Hon'ble Chief Minister makes fervent plea to people to observe guidelines

Statement of Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu

Thiru. Edappadi K. Palaniswami on 13.04.2020

(English Translation)

With a view to containing the Corona Virus which is spreading fast throughout the world, the Tamil Nadu Government first issued lockdown (Prohibitory Order under Sec.144) from 6.00 p.m. on 24.03.2020 to 31.03.2020. Subsequently, it was extended up to the morning of 15.04.2020 by the Central Government. As the lockdown has been followed strictly by the State Government, the spread of the virus has been contained to a great extent in Tamil Nadu.

At this juncture, the Hon'ble Prime Minister of India conducted a joint review meeting with States on 11.04.2020 through video conferencing to decide about the extension of lockdown and to review the steps taken by various State Governments for containing the spread of Corona Virus. In this review meeting, I presented a briefing on the various steps taken by the State Government to prevent the spread of the Virus and the relief measures undertaken by it. I also appealed to the Hon'ble Prime Minister to allot sufficient funds to the State Government. I also informed the Hon'ble Prime Minister of my suggestion to extend the lockdown up to 30.04.2020. Like me, other Hon'ble Chief Ministers also stressed

the need for the extension of the lockdown period as an anti-Corona Virus measure.

The lockdown period has been extended again up to 30.04.2020 by the State Government based on the consultation meeting with the Hon'ble Prime Minister, the World Health Organization's opinion, recommendations of medical experts and Public Health experts' committees, taking into consideration that the relaxation of the lockdown will result in increased spreading of the Corona Virus, and as per the Cabinet meeting on 11.04.2020, the Disaster Management Act 2005 and Cr.P.C Act Sec. 144.

All the existing lockdown regulations will continue, with a view to prevent the spread of the Corona Virus, as per Disaster Management Act 2005 and the Cr.P.C Act Sec. 144.

In view of the extension of the lockdown period, all rice ration cardholders will get their ration of rice for the month of May, one kg of sugar, one kg of dhal and one kg of cooking oil at no cost.

Families of all registered unorganized workers, including construction workers, will get Rs. 1,000 as relief for the second time.

Migrant labourers of other States will get 15 kg of rice, and one kg each of dhal, cooking oil and sugar at no cost for the month of May.

Considering the demand from various sections of people, there is no bar on bakery shops remaining open from 6 a.m. to 1 p.m.; as already instructed by the Government, it has been made clear that permission will be given only for parcel sales by the bakery shops.

The Tamil Nadu Government has also made arrangements for the people living in Greater Chennai Corporation areas to clear their medical doubts about Corona Virus through

expert doctors registered with the Telemedicine Society of India and Telemedicine system.

It is the concern of Hon'ble Amma's Government that every member and every family in Tamil Nadu should be protected from the Corona Virus. I appeal to people to adhere to guidelines issued now and then by the Government, follow the principle 'Vizhithu Irungal, Vilagi Irungal and Veettir Irungal' (Be aware, Maintain Social Distancing and Stay at home) and support the Government in all its Anti-Corona Virus activities. ●

External Affairs Minister apprised of concern about 650 Tamil fishermen stranded in Iran

Text of the D.O. letter dated 20.04.2020 of **Thiru. Edappadi K. Palaniswami**, Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu addressed to **Dr. Jaishankar**, Hon'ble Minister of External Affairs, New Delhi.

Dear Dr. Jaishankar Ji,

I am writing this letter to request you to make arrangements for food, water and other basic needs of around thousand fishermen from India (around 650 fishermen are from Tamil Nadu), who are stranded in Chiruyeh, Kish, Lavan, Bandar-eMogham, Asaluyeh and other places in Iran. In this regard, I had already requested you in my earlier letter dated 28.02.2020 to direct the Embassy of India in Iran to provide the required support to the

fishermen and also to make arrangements for their safe and immediate return to India.

Government of Tamil Nadu is receiving repeated requests from the stranded fishermen and their families to provide food, water and other basic needs and it is also reported to me that they are suffering in foreign soil without adequate food and other basic needs.

Hence, I request your good office to direct the Embassy of India in Iran again to arrange food, water and other basic needs immediately to the stranded fishermen and also to arrange for their early return to India. ■



E-Thottam goes to town in Corona times with vegetables and fruits at doorstep

The Tamil Nadu Horticulture Department through its portal <https://ethottam.com> has sold 5,694 metric tonnes of Vegetables and 4,324 metric tonnes of Fruits till May 5. A total of 20,786 people made advance registration at this portal to purchase Vegetables and Fruits.

Due to the spread of Corona Virus infections, lockdown was imposed throughout the country. But, people were allowed to purchase essential articles. Despite this, the rush in markets such as Koyambedu Market for purchase of vegetables was uncontrollable. Consequently, the State Government, with a view to controlling the spread of Corona Virus and to disperse the crowds, shifted the

Koyambedu Vegetable Market to Thirumazhisai and other places.

The situation in the Koyembedu market was due to heavy gathering of people in the market for the purchase of Nutritious Vegetables and Fruits so that they can gain Immunity to ward off the Corona Virus.

Under these circumstances, the Horticulture and the Plantation Crops Department launched the sale of Vegetables and Fruits through the online portal, <https://ethottam.com>. Online sale averts the problem of crowding of people in particular, providing protection to people during the pandemic period.





According to the Director of the Tamil Nadu Horticulture Department, Dr. N.Subbaiyan, E-Thottam has been developed by the Department for procuring vegetables and fruits directly from farmers. At present, in Chennai, this facility is available in Madhavaram, Guindy, Semmozhi Poonga, Chitlapakkam and at Attur near Chengalpattu.

Vegetables and Fruits are also procured directly from farmers in Krishnagiri, Dharmapuri, Salem, Tiruchi, Theni, Cuddalore, Virudhunagar and Kanniyakumari in Tamil Nadu.

Following the curfew order in the State due to Corona Virus, the E-Thottam portal has been receiving good orders. On a day during the complete lockdown period, 2,500 bags containing vegetables and fruits were sold. Vegetables and fruits are sold in various assortments through this facility.

“E-Thottam is a new experience for us. The response from consumers has been extremely good. During the complete lockdown period, we received 2,000 to 3,000 orders. Within 2 to 3 days, the orders booked online were delivered to consumers homes,” according to Additional Director of Tamil Nadu Horticulture Department, Thiru. T.C.Kannan.

He adds, “As far as Chennai is concerned, the existing space is not sufficient. We are receiving orders in big cities such as Madurai, Coimbatore, Tiruchi and Salem. These orders are executed through employees in the respective areas. In Chennai Corporation, there are 15 Zones. There are some practical difficulties in taking the produce to Madhavaram. In this connection we received many complaints from consumers. We are trying to solve these issues.”



How to purchase Fruits and Vegetables through e-thottam

First, the consumer should go to the www.ethottam.com website. Having entered the portal, one can see the list of Vegetables and Fruits available, their prices and the quantity. One has to select the produce and after that, has to register one's name, address, mobile number and email address. The order is confirmed after the payment of the price online and the same is informed to the consumer through SMS. After the completion of these formalities, the order is executed within 72 hours and delivery is made at the consumer's doorstep.





Hon'ble Chief Minister ensures relief for construction workers, drivers

Relief for construction workers and unorganized drivers as part of prevention activity during Corona Virus pandemic

Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu Thiru. Edappadi K. Palaniswami, in the Tamil Nadu Legislative Assembly on 24.03.2020, under Rule 110, announced that the construction workers who have registered under the Tamil Nadu Construction Workers Welfare Board and the drivers registered in the Tamil Nadu Unorganized Drivers Welfare Board will be given Rs. 1,000 each besides 15 kg of rice, 1 kg of dhal and 1 litre of cooking oil. The families of migrant construction workers and unorganized workers who are stranded in Tamil Nadu due to Regulatory Order will be identified and each family will be given 15 kg of rice, 1 kg of dhal and 1 litre of cooking oil.

Following the Hon'ble Chief Minister's announcement, the State Government has

issued orders for sanctioning Rs. 1,000 each to 12,13,882 registered construction workers and 83,500 registered unorganized drivers. Subsequently, to enable distribution of Rs. 1,000 each to the registered workers and unorganized drivers, the necessary cash was dispatched to the Assistant Commissioner of Labour (Social Security) to be deposited immediately in the bank accounts of the workers concerned.

The Government Order has also been issued to distribute the bag containing 15 kg of rice, 1 kg of dhal and 1 litre of cooking oil to construction workers and pensioners, registered in the Tamil Nadu Construction Workers Board and the migrant construction workers, unorganized drivers and pensioners of the Board, numbering 14,57,000. The provision bags have been sent to the Civil Supplies Corporation godowns in the Districts.

The date, time and the place of issue of the provision bags will be informed by the Assistant Commissioner of Labour (Social Security) as per the directive of the respective District Collectors. ■



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May 2020



Hon'ble Chief Minister ramps up spectrum of measures against Corona Virus

Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu **Thiru. Edappadi K. Palaniswami's** press release
on 16.03.2020 regarding preventive steps against Corona Virus in Tamil Nadu
(English Translation)

In the context of the Central Government declaring Corona Virus infection as a pandemic, Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu Thiru. Edappadi K. Palaniswami has issued the following orders, as per the adage that prevention is better than cure (Varumun Kappom), regarding the various serial safety measures taken by Hon'ble Amma's Government and the precautionary and preventive steps to be taken:

- At present passengers from abroad arrive at the four international airports in Tamil Nadu – Chennai, Madurai, Coimbatore and Tiruchi. The Central Government has banned passengers from some countries. However, if a situation arises where Indians from those countries are to arrive here, necessary facilities to isolate and monitor them for 14 days as per World Health Organization (WHO) guidelines, should be created as near the airports concerned as far as possible.
- The Director of Indian Airport Authority and the Director of Health Department are urged to subject, likewise, all inland

passengers at all airports in Tamil Nadu to continued supervision and testing.

- To control the Corona Virus from spreading into our State from neighbouring States, Hon'ble Chief Minister has advised the officials of the Departments of Revenue, Police, Transport and Health to immediately take up, in a co-ordinated way, disease monitoring and sanitizing works on a war footing in the check posts in border Districts. The Commissioner of Revenue Administration has been urged to implement this at once.
- Considering that lakhs of persons travel to neighbouring States by omni buses from Tamil Nadu, necessary frameworks have to be created near the toll plaza at the neighbouring State's border under the supervision of the Departments of Health, Transport, Police and the District Administration to test the passengers' body condition with thermal scanner.
- Personnel of the Departments of Health, Transport and local body organizations

should jointly take steps to keep the buses and Metro Rail rakes clean with disinfectants daily and without fail, as also the places like bus stands, bus stops, metro railway stations and public rest rooms and also take up additional hygienic and anti-Corona Virus steps.

- Considering that lakhs of passengers travel by train from different parts of the country to reach our State daily and leave our State to other States, it is requested that steps be taken for thermal scanning facility in all railway stations for ascertaining passengers body temperature to take appropriate action. The General Manager of the Southern Railway is advised to get all railway stations and rail rakes disinfected daily. (Hon'ble Chief Minister has written a letter in this regard to the Railway Minister).
- Organizations of local bodies and the Department of Health should take up works of intensive sanitization of places where people gather in large numbers.
- Where centralized air conditioning is in operation, they (vent, duct) should be sanitized, at least once in a week with disinfectants.
- A request was made to the Speaker of the Tamil Nadu Legislative Assembly not to permit the general public to witness the proceedings of the ongoing Tamil Nadu Legislative Assembly session and the Hon'ble Speaker also has issued orders with holding permission to visitors. Hence, people should avoid visiting the Secretariat.
- Orders have been issued to close down all educational institutions in the State including all Government, Municipal

Corporation and Private Schools, Colleges, Universities and training centres till 31.03.2020. Government examinations (10th to 12th standards and college examinations including practicals) and entrance examinations will be held as scheduled. Till the completion of these examinations, hostels – only for students writing the examination – and residential schools will continue to function.

- Medical colleges and their related institutions will continue to function.
- All Anganwadi Centres should close down till 31.03.2020. Fifteen days dry ration for children of these centres should be handed over to their respective families by the Anganwadi organizers.
- All Cinema theatres, Malls that attract large number of people, Amusement parks, Swimming pools, Gymnasiums, Zoos and Museums should shut down till 31.03.2020.
- Marriage Halls should not conduct any events other than what has already been programmed. Even in those events, only a minimum number of people should participate. Hall owners should not hold new events till 31.03.2020 other than what had already been programmed.
- Health experts advise that only minimum number of people should participate in community events including temple festivals and funerals. This will prevent in a great measure the spread of the Corona Virus. The general public is requested affectionately to adopt this norm.
- No permission should be granted till 31.03.2020 for holding processions in

which a large number of people participate, as also public meetings, summer training classes, camps, conferences, seminars, commercial exhibitions, cultural events and sports competitions.

- All sports stadia, clubs, bars (including TASMAL bars), recreation clubs and the like should shut down till 31.03.2020.
- Barring the above, other important and essential services will continue as usual.
- All Government Departments, Public and Private establishments should carry out without fail, the Central Government Health Department's guidelines for controlling the Corona Virus and the advice of the State Government.
- In all Factories and Companies, workers and employees should constantly be made aware of the practice of washing of hands thoroughly and about the preventive measures. For this, there should be sufficient stock of soap, disinfectant and mask for distribution to all.
- All officials concerned including District Collectors, District Superintendents of Police, Police Commissioners and Disaster Management Officials at the District level, should implement without even the least default the above orders and procedures, issued under the Disaster Management Act 2005, the Epidemic Diseases Act 1897 and the Tamil Nadu Public Health Act 1939 and take appropriate steps to prevent further spread of the Corona epidemic.
- As holiday has been declared for educational institutions and as some private companies have advised their employees to attend to office work from their homes, the

general public should not wrongly construe the situation as an opportunity to go on tour with family and avoid going on tours .

- Organizers of tours, both private and Government, are advised not to arrange any new tours till 31.03.2020 and not to take people on tours.
- All tourist resorts should close down till 31.03.2020; owners of resorts should not make any advance booking till 31.03.2020.
- The public is advised to avoid gathering in temples, churches, mosques and other places of worship. The Hindu Religious and Charitable Endowments Department, the Health Department and the administration of mosques and churches are advised to take the needed precautionary measures for preventing the spread of the disease in their places of worship and take appropriate action if any one is found to have the infection through thermal scanning test.
- Severe action will be taken under the Indian Penal Code, the Disaster Management Act 2005 and other laws in vogue if any one spreads false news or rumours about the Corona Virus fever or creates unnecessary alarm through media, social media or in any other form.

The Hon'ble Chief Minister appeals to the general public to follow the advice given below:

- People should avoid travelling to other States and congregating in large numbers in public places for the next 15 days.
- Senior citizens, people with illness, children and persons with low immunity should avoid going to crowded public places.

- People are requested to avoid places where people gather in large numbers, particularly, places of worship, beaches, markets, marriage events and other social functions and feasts and give utmost importance to personal hygiene.
 - Every one should observe personal hygiene; particularly while entering the house and should clean hands with soap periodically.
 - Don't touch the face without cleaning the hands.
 - Parents should monitor their wards to prevent them from playing in groups during the holidays.
 - All Government officials will work as usual. Those visiting Government offices and private establishments are requested to clean their hands with disinfectants for their own safety.
 - People with complaints of sneezing, coughing and fever should avoid going to work. Those with the symptoms of Corona disease are advised to approach the Government hospital immediately, undergo tests and take treatment.
 - A round-the-clock control room of the Health Department gives all information about Corona virus. It can be reached in telephone numbers 104, 044-29510400, 044-29510500, 9444340496 and 8754448477.
- All the above orders come into force from tomorrow (17.03.2020).
- The Hon'ble Chief Minister has appealed that each individual should personally understand the efforts taken for the prevention of the spread of the disease caused by Corona Virus, follow them fully and extend co-operation to the anti-infection steps being taken by the Tamil Nadu Government. ■

Hon'ble Chief Minister's appeal to Migrant Workers

Statement of the Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu **Thiru. Edappadi K. Palaniswami**
on 11.05.2020 (*English Translation*)

The Tamil Nadu Government is taking all steps in a co-ordinated manner to gradually send back Migrant Workers in the State to their native States on their choice and with the consent of those States.

So far, 9,000 Migrant Workers have been sent back to their native States in 8 trains with the consent of the States concerned.

Steps are being taken to facilitate the return of the remaining Migrant Workers within a week through trains with the approval of those States. Hence, I affectionately request the Migrant Workers to stay back in the camps till then. ■

Hon'ble Chief Minister replies to questions of reporters

'Government's aim is to protect every single life, we seek co-operation from every citizen'



Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu **Thiru. Edappadi K. Palaniswami**
press conference in Chennai after inspecting Amma Canteens on 01.04.2020.

(English Translation)

Hon'ble Idaya Deivam Puratchi Thalaivi Amma launched Amma Canteen to provide food at a very nominal price for the poor and needy, and it has been running successfully throughout the State. This noble scheme was brought by Amma to enable workers and poor people get food at a nominal price. The canteens are popular not only in the State but throughout the country and the scheme has been replicated by various States. Such a worthy scheme is providing a helping hand to common people. Today the Corona Virus is convulsing the entire world and according to newspapers about 199

countries are severely affected by the disease. In India also the virus has spread in various States. I would like to inform you now that till last night the virus had affected 124 people in Tamil Nadu. They have been admitted in various hospitals and are getting treatment.

Question: Sir, there is a demand that Amma Canteen should provide food at no cost.

Reply: Even at present, food is sold at a very low price. We are providing idly at Re.1 a piece. Tamil Nadu is the only State where an idly is sold at Re.1 and that's why Tamil Nadu is such an example to other States.

Question: In the present circumstances people are depending on Amma Canteen as hotels which are open now are selling food at exorbitant prices.

Answer: At present we have directed the Amma Canteens to supply any quantity. About 4.5 lakh people are taking food at the Amma Canteens. The Government has issued orders to supply food to as many people as possible. The Government has taken all the necessary steps to provide food to people at a cheaper rate through Amma Canteens. The functioning of other hotels has been suspended by the Government and only parcels are allowed. How can they sell food at exorbitant prices? Nowhere are hotels open. If you see any of them open please tell us so that we can take action.

Question: Despite the announcement that there should be no collection of EMI, banks are sending notices to customers for EMI payment.

Answer: Yesterday, our Finance Secretary addressed a press conference along with higher officials of banks. It is the bank officials who are collecting and also addressing press conferences. As this subject involves the Central Government, we will bring it to the notice of the Finance Minister. Already, both the Central Government and the State Government have made it clear. Nevertheless, your complaint will be taken into consideration and we will stress the same with the Central Government.

Question: One thousand five hundred people belonging to Tamil Nadu participated in the Jamaat Conference in Delhi. Of them 500 people were traced. The rest could not be

traced. What steps is the Government going to take to quarantine them?

Answer: Yesterday, as per the instructions of the Government, the Secretary to the Health Department clarified about this in the press meet. About 1,500 people participated in the conference. Of them about 1,331 people, I think, who participated in the conference returned to Tamil Nadu. The rest are staying back in New Delhi. A total of 515 people belonging to Tamil Nadu have been located. They were located after the receipt of information from various sources and they are all under examination. In the examination it has been found that 45 persons have tested positive. I appeal to the rest of the people to come on their own and inform the Government as we do not have their full address. In this connection, the Health Secretary conducted a press conference yesterday and clearly explained the impact of the disease. Not only they will be affected, a situation will arise in which their family members also are affected. Understanding the seriousness of the disease, people should voluntarily come forward and inform the Government. You will be given proper treatment. Many people have been cured of the disease. If you take treatment when the disease is at an early stage, the cure will be quick. This was the appeal made by the Health Secretary at the press conference.

Question: Isha Foundation had also organized a meeting on February 21st. Many from abroad participated in the meeting. Any possibility of putting those who attended the Isha meeting under examination.



Answer: If they have symptoms, then there is possibility of examining them. Just because they had symptoms they were put under examination. We cannot say anything without symptoms. Officials made door-to-door visit of about 1 lakh houses and conducted examination of about 4 lakh people based on information. Similarly people who have cough, fever and cold have been admitted in hospitals and are put under test. If they test positive, then they will be immediately admitted in hospital and given treatment. This is the practice now. Based on this, the Government has ordered closure of temples, churches and mosques in the State. Similar orders have been issued by the Central Government also. The closure has been ordered because there is a possibility of many people assembling in religious places. That is the reason for issuing the order. If you give information then we will also put them under examination. Not only that, we have the list of

people who have come from abroad. Whether they are people from abroad or people from here who returned from abroad, all of them will be put under examination.

Question: Private parties, including political parties, are ready to offer their places and their offices for the treatment of the disease. Will the Government utilize them?

Answer: At present, we don't require them. We have facilities for 17,000 beds. We have hospitals to provide treatment to 17,000 Corona-affected people. If the need arises, we will make use of such offers.

Question: Will the lockdown continue after April 14 ?

Answer: The Central Government announced lockdown till April 14. Extending the lockdown after April 14 is to be decided only by the Central Government.

Question: After the imposition of 144 curfew order, people followed the social distance well for 3 days. At present, has the discipline become weak?

Answer: It is only the media and newspapers that complain that essential articles are not available, people are unable to go to hospitals. Now you are asking the question and giving the answer also. What can we do? Considering the welfare of the people we have imposed various controls, including Sec 144. Every life is precious to us. Everybody should be a part of the measures being taken. It is not an issue of an individual. Only if media, press people, myself, Hon'ble Minister brother Thiru. Jayakumar, including officials and those who are involved in the treatment of Corona Virus co-operate, we can control the disease and prevent its spread. This is not a thing that can be done by one individual. The Government can only issue orders. People should abide by the law. We have imposed the law only to prevent the virus from spreading. Everyone should realize it. Without knowing the seriousness of the disease, people move around casually! Press and newspaper people know how much suffering the Corona-affected are undergoing. We all see that affected people in foreign hospitals are writhing in agony. According to newspapers, about 42,000 have died due to this disease. At this stage, every human life is important to the Government. Based on such considerations only we imposed Sec.144 of the Cr.P.C. Hon'ble Prime Minister has insisted that all people in the States in India should follow it. On the one hand, the


Tamil Nadu Government should provide necessary facilities to people and on the other the people should keep themselves safe.

Question : Does the situation warrant extension of lockdown after April 14 as the number of affected people has increased substantially in one day.

Answer: I have already answered the question. It is for the Central Government to take a decision.

Question: There is the complaint that the micro and small farmers are unable to sell their produce and there is lot of wastage.

Answer: Already an announcement has been made that there will be no restriction on the movement of agricultural produce in the State. The Government has made it clear that there is no restriction for taking up harvest and other agricultural activities. Similarly, there is no bar on taking the harvested produce to the markets. The Government has issued a clear order. In today's situation, the problem is there not only in India or Tamil Nadu but throughout the world. The disease is threatening the world. Considering the nature of the disease, every nation has taken action. As far as Tamil Nadu is concerned, advance measures have been taken swiftly. The Government's aim is that not even a single person should be affected. For this, I appeal to people to co-operate with the Government.





Hassle-free distribution of essentials in Tamil Nadu through 32,962 Co-operative Fair Price Shops

During the lockdown period in Tamil Nadu, essential articles were distributed without any disruption through the 32,962 co-operative fair price shops in the State.

As per the directive of Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu Thiru. Edappadi K.Palaniswami, Rs. 1,000 was distributed as Corona Relief to 1,98,72,808 rice ration card-holders in the State. The State Government issued orders that those who fail to avail the relief during the month of April, can get the amount in May. All family ration cardholders in the State were supplied their April ration of rice, dhal, cooking oil and sugar at no cost through the co-operative fair shops in the State. The Co-operative fair shops distributed 3,02,487 metric tonnes of rice, 19,641 metric tonnes of dhal, 19,497 litres of cooking oil and 28,808 metric tonnes of sugar.

As the lockdown period has been extended, the Hon'ble Chief Minister issued orders for the distribution of same quantity of ration articles for the month of May also. Till 10.05.2020, 3,04,943 metric tonnes of rice, 13,068 metric tonnes of dhal, 14,072 litres of cooking oil and 19,831 metric tonnes of sugar had distributed. Order has been issued for following the same procedure for the month of June also. In addition, order has been issued that the Antyodaya Anna Yojana and priority card holders, will get 5 kg of rice each for the month of April, May and June at no cost under the Pradhan Mantri Garib Kalyan Anna Yojana Scheme. Along with this, the State Government, on its own funds, will

supply 5 kg of rice for the month of April, May and June at no cost to every member of the Antyodaya Anna Yojana and priority card holders. As per this order, the additional rice for the month of April can be availed in two instalments during the month of May and June.

The Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu, following the path of Hon'ble Amma, fixed a target of Rs.10,000 crore as crop loan for the last financial year 2019-2020 and distributed Rs.9,352 crore to 13,02,412 farmers till 31.03.2020.

In the current financial year (2020-2021), a target of Rs. 11,000 crore has been fixed for crop loans and till 30.04.2020, 10,481 farmers have been given Rs. 78.30 crore as crop loan.

116 Amma Pharmacies, run by the Co-operative Societies, and 173 co-operative Pharmacy stores have been selling medicines at 20 per cent discount for the benefit of people belonging to all strata of society. Till 31.03.2020, medicines worth Rs. 962.50 crore have been sold.

For the benefit of members of the women's Self Help Groups to meet their immediate credit requirement, COVID - 19 special loan scheme has been launched. Under the scheme, District Central Co-operative Banks, Urban Co-operative Banks, and Primary Agriculture Co-operative Banks have been advised to sanction a loan of Rs. 5,000 to a single member and Rs. 1 lakh for the eligible Self Help Groups under certain terms and conditions till 30.09.2020. ■



Retirement age of Government staff raised to 59

The Government vide G.O. (Ms.) No.51, Personnel and Administrative Reforms (S) Department, dated 07.05.2020 have issued orders increasing the age of superannuation of Government servants from 58 years to 59 years. Consequent to the issuance of the above Government order, certain points have been raised for clarification. The Government have examined the same and the following clarifications are issued.

Sl. No.	Clarification sought	Reply
1.	Whether the orders issued in G.O.(Ms.)No.51, Personnel and Administrative Reforms (S) Department, dated 07.05.2020 are applicable to the Government servants who have attained the age of fifty eight years on or before the first day of May, 2020 and re-employed.	The orders issued in the said Government Order shall not apply to those Government servants who have attained the age of fifty eight years on or before the first day of May, 2020 and re-employed.
2.	Whether the teaching staffs such as Teachers, Lecturers, Professors etc., who retired at the age of 58 years and are re-employed till the completion of the academic year. 2019-2020 are eligible for the retirement age ordered in G.O.(Ms.)No.51, Personnel and Administrative Reforms (S) Department, dated 07.05.2020.	The said Government Order is not applicable to those teaching staffs such as Teachers, Lecturers, Professors etc., who have already retired prior to May 2020 but re-employed for the remaining academic year.
3.	Whether the retirement age of 60 years need to be increased to 61 to the Government servants whose age of retirement is 60 at present.	The orders issued in G.O.(Ms.)No.51, Personnel and Administrative Reforms (S) Department, dated 07.05.2020 shall not be applicable to them. They shall retire at the age of 60 years.
4.	Whether the said Government order is applicable to the Government servants whose services are retained under rule 56(i) (c) of Fundamental Rules and not allowed to retire on or before 30.04.2020 due to disciplinary proceedings pending against them.	The said Government order is not applicable to the Government servants whose services are retained under rule 56 (i) (c) of Fundamental Rules and not allowed to retire on or before 30.04.2020 due to disciplinary proceedings pending against them.
5.	Whether the orders issued in G.O.(Ms.)No.51, Personnel and Administrative Reforms (S) Department, dated 07.05.2020 is applicable from the date of issue of orders or it takes retrospective effect.	As ordered in the said Government Order, it is clarified that it is applicable to all those who are in regular service as on 07.05.2020 and due to retire on superannuation from 31.05.2020



Announcement of Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu
Thiru. Edappadi K. Palaniswami on 02.04.2020, on special concessions and incentives
to units that manufacture medical equipment and drugs for preventing
Corona Virus (*English Translation*)

The Tamil Nadu Government has been taking various measures to prevent the spread of the endemic Corona Virus. As part of these measures, Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu Thiru. Edappadi K. Palaniswami has announced new concessions to encourage industries to manufacture equipment and medicines to prevent Corona Virus infections.

Concessions will be given to the units for manufacture of Invasive Ventilators, N95 Masks, Anti-viral and Anti Malarial Drugs used to treat Covid-19 and Hydroxychloroquine, Azithromycin and Vitamin C Tablets (both in liquid and tablet form); Personal Protection Equipment as per National Standards and Multi-Parameter ICU Monitors.

These concessions will be offered to the existing medical instrument and drug manufacturing units and also to new units provided they commence production by July 21, 2020.

These concessions will be applicable to all large, medium, small and micro units.

The State Government will offer 30 per cent capital subsidy, subject to a maximum of Rs.20 crore, which will be disbursed as 5 equal annual instalments.

Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises units will be considered as Thrust Sector units so as to help them avail the existing incentives under such category.

Approved investors can manufacture these items and related activities without any prior approval. They can get approval after starting their production and for all these they can get sanction through single window scheme.

The investors will get 100 per cent Stamp Duty waivers and lands or sheds which will be leased on priority basis on long-term basis by the SIPCOT and SIDCO. The Tamil Nadu Investment Corporation will help the investors avail 6 per cent interest subvention for the

working capital taken from banks and other financial institutions for 2 quarters.

The Tamil Nadu Medical Services Corporation Ltd., will give a Purchase Guarantee of minimum 50 per cent of medical instruments and drug products produced by these companies for the next 4 months. For this they will be exempted from the Open Tender

System. The tiny, small and medium units and the new entrepreneurs will be given special incentives on priority basis under the NEEDS Scheme.

SIPCOT will act as agency for big units and the Directorate of Industries and Commerce for MSME units in getting these concessions. ●

Supply of Medical Kit to children with Autism in Early Intervention Centres

There are 500 children with Autism attending early intervention services in 19 Early Intervention Centres in Tamil Nadu. Children with autism are hypersensitive or under-sensitive to light, noise, and touch. They need continuous sensory processing and development therapy and parents of these children are finding it difficult to manage these children during COVID-19. In order to help parent of children with Autism, Medical-Sensory Processing and Development Therapy/ Rehabilitation Kit consisting of 11 items namely smiley/ spring ball, whistle, torch, blocks, crayons, flash cards, fidget gadget etc., which can be

used at home by parent for providing sensory stimulation and special nutrition kit with 2 items to these children has been prepared and sent to 19 Districts for distribution. The outcome of these activities will be better focus, improved behavior, and even lowered anxiety. This Special Therapy/Rehabilitation Kit will be distributed through District Differently Abled Welfare Officers to the Organisations running the Early Intervention Centre. The cost of one kit is Rs.1,000 and the total cost is Rs.5 lakh. The funds were met from the State Disaster Relief Funds sanctioned by the Government. ■





People given extended time to pay their instalments

Statement of Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu,
Thiru. Edappadi K. Palaniswami on 31.03.2020.
(English Translation).

I am issuing the following orders, considering the welfare of the people of Tamil Nadu, after meeting high Government officials today and also consulting various committees, consisting of high officials, formed to take measures against Corona Virus on 30.03.2020.

1. Payment of Crop loan instalments due to Co-operative institutions has been extended by 3 months, up to 30.06.2020.
2. For the Housing Co-operative societies, payment of loan instalments has been extended by 3 months up to 30.06.2020.
3. Payment of instalment due to the Tamil Nadu Housing Board for housing loans has been extended by 3 months, up to 30.06.2020.
4. Payment of instalments due for the loans received from the Fishermen Co-operative Societies and the Handloom Co-operative Societies has been given 3 months time up to 30.06.2020.
5. Payment of loan instalments due to the Tamil Nadu Industrial Investment Corporation (TIIC) by the Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises has been extended up to 30.06.2020.
6. Under the COVID Relief and Development Scheme, a sum of Rs.200 crore special scheme has been announced by the Tamil Nadu Industrial Investment Corporation Ltd., for the benefit of 2,000 Medium, Small and Micro Enterprises which had received loans from the TIIC, to meet their immediate investment requirements.
7. Three months time has been given for payment of loan instalments by the industrial units which had received soft loans from the SIPCOT.
8. Industrial units functioning in SIPCOT Industrial Parks, have been given three months time (30.06.2020) for payment of Maintenance Charges.
9. Renewal time for License and FC under the Motor Vehicles Act has been extended up to 30.06.2020.
10. Renewal of license by shops under the Weights and Measures Act and Tamil Nadu Shops and Establishments Act and that for Dangerous and Offensive Trades under the local bodies has been given 3 months time till 30.06.2020.

11. Residents are given 3 months time up to 30.06.2020 for remitting the Wealth Tax and Water Tax to their respective local bodies.
12. Tenants of rented houses have brought to the notice of the Government the difficulties in paying the monthly rent to house owners. Considering their difficulties, the Government has appealed to house owners to defer the collection of March and April rent from their tenants by 2 months.

The Tamil Nadu Government, with a view to prevent the spread of Corona Virus, has invoked Sec. 144 in the State. At the same time, the spread of the Corona Virus is in the Second

Stage in the State and the co-operation of the people is solicited to prevent it from developing to the third Stage. For this, experts suggest that people should continue to remain in their homes. So the people should adhere to the time restrictions announced by the Government for the purchase of essential articles. People are requested not to believe any rumours. Severe action will be taken against rumour mongers.

I appeal to people to extend their full co-operation to the Government in its steps against the Corona Virus; the measures are meant for your welfare, your family's welfare and for the welfare of society. ■

NEWS IN PICTURE

Hon'ble Chief Minister speaks through video conferencing with persons returning home after being fully cured of Corona infection



Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu **Thiru. Edappadi K. Palaniswami** conducted a review meeting through video conferencing from the Secretariat on 22.04.2020, with Doctors and Nurses of the Rajiv Gandhi Government General Hospital, Chennai and Government College and Hospital, Coimbatore, on the preventive measures being taken against Corona infections and the treatment being given to those affected, apart from conversing with persons returning home after being fully cured of Corona infection.

‘Put proposed amendments to Electricity Act in abeyance’



Text of the D.O. letter dated 09.05.2020 of **Thiru. Edappadi K. Palaniswami**,
Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu, addressed to
Thiru. Narendra Modi, Hon'ble Prime Minister of India

“I would like to bring to your kind notice that the proposed amendments to Electricity Act, for which the Ministry of Power has invited the comments of the State Governments, require detailed consultations with the State Governments and other stakeholders. I wish to raise a few matters of utmost concern to the Government of Tamil Nadu which have a direct bearing on the independent functioning of the power sector in the State.

In my letter dated 12.11.2018, it was highlighted that the proposed Electricity Amendment Bill takes away certain powers of the State Government and at the same time seeks to bring significant changes in the existing Electricity Act, such as separating carriage and content in the distribution sector, which would make the power utilities in the public sector totally unviable. The proposed new draft bill seeks to privatise not just the supply of power to the end consumer through franchises but to also privatise the entire distribution network, which would be highly detrimental to the State utilities and against public interest.

Further, despite our strong reservations, the new draft Bill continues to have provisions for the Direct Benefit Transfer (DBT) of subsidy provided to consumers, particularly in the agricultural and domestic sector. It has been already pointed out by me in my letter dated 12.11.2018, that there would be serious difficulties in implementing Direct Benefit Transfer in the Electricity sector and this would work against the interest of our farmers and domestic consumers. It has been the consistent policy of my Government that our farmers should receive free power and it should be left with the State Government to decide the mode of payment of such subsidy.

I have also pointed out earlier that the proposed amendment bill seeks to take away the power of the State Government in deciding the constitution of the State Electricity Regulatory Commission, which is against the federal principles of the Constitution. In the draft Bill it has been noticed that not just the same provisions are being retained, but it is also proposed to set up a parallel authority, namely Electricity Contract Enforcement Authority at

the Central level to handle all contractual issues, which was hitherto dealt with by the Central and State Electricity Regulatory Commissions. This would unnecessarily dilute the authority of the Electricity Regulatory Commissions and needs to be deleted.

You are aware that all States are currently pre-occupied with fighting the Corona virus pandemic and will, therefore, require some time to give their detailed response to the proposed amendments. At the same time any hasty amendments to the Electricity Act may create hardship to the State power utilities, which

are going through a severe financial crisis because of the present pandemic. As some of the provisions of the draft amendment bill are also likely to put the general public to hardship, particularly during this crisis period, I am of the view that this may not be an appropriate time to bring in such sweeping amendments to the Electricity Act.

In the circumstances, I urge you to prevail upon the Ministry of Power to put the proposed amendments to the Electricity Act in abeyance till these are thoroughly discussed with the state Governments after the pandemic subsides.” ■

NEWS IN PICTURE

Consultative meeting on the series of preventive measures being taken by various Departments of the Government to curb Corona Virus infections



Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu **Thiru. Edappadi K. Palaniswami** chaired a meeting at the Secretariat on 20.04.2020, to review the series of Corona infection prevention measures being taken by many Departments of the Tamil Nadu Government and on the steps to be taken for implementing after April 20.

Restrictions, procedures fall in place to curb Corona Virus infections

Explanation of Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu
Thiru. Edappadi K Palaniswami in the Tamil Nadu Legislative Assembly
on 23.03.2020, about intensifying the practice of social distancing to prevent the
spread of Corona Virus in Tamil Nadu (*English Translation*)

Hon'ble Speaker Sir,

Hon'ble Amma's Government continues to take intensive safety measures on a war footing to prevent Corona Virus infections.

The Central Government has recommended certain procedures for taking up intensive disease monitoring and preventive steps in 75 Districts in India where incidence of Corona Virus infection has occurred. It has become necessary to take some severe steps to intensify the practice of social distancing in Districts having infected persons.

Accordingly, I wish to announce in this House the following decisions:

Under Section 2 of the Epidemic Act 1897, it is ordered to close down the boundaries of all Districts inclusive of Chennai, Kancheepuram and Erode, identified by the Central Government as having incidence of Corona Virus infections, for controlling transport and the activities of the general public.

A detailed notification on this will be issued this evening. It comes into force from

6 pm tomorrow and will remain in force till 31.03.2020.

For strict implementation of this notification, all Police Commissioners and District Collectors should issue appropriate orders under Sec.144 of the Criminal Procedure Code.

As per this order, the following restrictions are imposed:

1. Except for essential and urgent works, all public transport, private transport, luxury buses, auto, taxi and such vehicles will not operate. Inter-State and Inter-District transport operations are banned totally barring for essential movements.
2. All shops, commercial complexes and workshops will not function excepting those dealing with essential commodities, milk, vegetables, grocery, meat and fish.
3. Government offices will not function except for important Departments. Government Departments dealing with important matters like District Administration, Police,

Fire and Rescue Services, Prison, Public Health and Treatment, Courts and Local Bodies will continue to function. However, the offices should follow all precautionary measures for the prevention of the disease, including personal hygiene.

4. Employees of private establishments, Information Technology and bio-technology industries should carry out their office work from their homes. However, private establishments undertaking essential services inclusive of medical works and hospitals will continue to function.
5. Industries manufacturing essential goods and export institutions are permitted to function with minimum number of employees.
6. Construction work is banned barring important building works. However, wages for workers for these days should not be stopped.
7. In the interests of thousands of employees staying in hostels and in places other than houses, eateries will be permitted to open, only to deliver parcelled food items. Amma restaurants will function as usual.

Persons coming from abroad are requested to self-quarantine themselves, observe the emergence of any symptoms of the disease, undergo medical tests in Government hospitals or approved private hospitals and take

appropriate treatment if the presence of the disease is confirmed; and for this, the family members of the said person, should conduct themselves in a way as to not contract the infection. We should all realize that action like this will be greatly helpful in preventing the spread of this extremely infectious disease to family members and others. Those who have the symptoms of this disease, though not having any direct contact with persons returning from abroad, are instructed to get themselves medically tested immediately in Government/ approved private hospitals in view of the severity of this infection and the possibility of having contracted this disease.

District Collectors are advised to understand the hardships faced by pregnant women and elders on account of this ban order and take due steps to mitigate them.

In this lockdown period, there is no hurdle for the transport and sale of essential commodities like food and medical articles.

Hon'ble Amma's Government is examining distribution of relief to families affected by the prevention measures. Orders for that will be issued separately.

I request the total co-operation of the general public for the strong measures taken by this Government to prevent the spreading of the Corona Virus infection.





Hon'ble Chief Minister pays tribute to Doctors, Nurses, Sanitary workers fighting Corona Virus



Speech of Hon'ble Chief Minister **Thiru. Edappadi K. Palaniswami** in the Tamil Nadu Legislative Assembly on 24.03.2020, congratulating the Doctors, Nurses, Para-Medical staff and Sanitary workers for their dedication in their work against Corona Virus and announcing special pay for them. *(English Translation)*

Hon'ble Speaker Sir,

Hon'ble Minister for Health and Family Welfare explained clearly about the characteristics of the Corona Virus in the House. Hon'ble Puratchi Thalaivi Amma's Government has been taking anti-Corona Virus measures in the State on a war-footing. An appeal has been made to the people to lend a supporting hand to the efforts of the Government. All the District borders will be closed from 6 pm today. The Public should extend their full co-operation to the Government's move.

As far as this Corona Virus infection is concerned, it is a fast-spreading disease as informed earlier by the Hon'ble Minister for

Health in the House. It has already spread in 187 Nations. At this juncture, apart from closing the borders, I appeal to people to keep themselves isolated in their homes and support the Government in its anti-Corona activities. I appeal to people not to come out of their homes unnecessarily except for essential activities. They should avoid crowding at one place. Similarly if they have symptoms of the disease, they should immediately consult doctors and undergo examination. As the infection is serious, I appeal to people to undergo the necessary treatment.

It is a dreaded infectious disease. So, those who are afflicted by the disease should avoid talking to others or (physically) contacting

them. As it is a fast-spreading disease, every one should extend co-operation to the Government. Those who have come from abroad should undergo full check up. Only then can the disease be prevented from spreading to others. If you have any symptoms, you should consult Doctors, admit yourselves in Hospital and get treatment.

As far as Tamil Nadu is concerned, this Government is examining all those who are coming from abroad. If the disease is found during examination, then the person concerned should be isolated, given the proper treatment and conditions created for the person's cure. A person who was affected by the disease has been cured due to proper treatment provided by our doctors. So, those who are affected by the disease need not have any apprehensions. For them, separate wards have been set up, doctors have been appointed and proper treatment is given. I appeal to the affected people to get themselves immediately admitted in Hospitals and to get treated.

According to the information received by us, some affected people who have come from abroad, take tablets for fever. Due to that, we are not able to diagnose the disease. Some people got down either at Bangalore or some other airports and from there reached Tamil Nadu. It is difficult to locate them. I earnestly appeal to them, even if you have got

down at airports in other States and are staying in homes in Tamil Nadu, that you should get yourselves examined in the nearby hospitals. Similarly, the State has isolated the people who have come from abroad. I request them not to (physically) contact other people. For Corona measures, the Government has set up a 24-hour control room. If people have symptoms, they should immediately get in touch with the control room. I am saying all this because the disease, when it infects a person, can have serious impact. As prevention is better than cure, I appeal to people to co-operate with the Government at this juncture.

Doctors, Para-Medical Staff and sanitary workers are all risking their lives and working with dedication to cure the Corona patients undergoing treatment in Hospitals. We are bound to thank the medical personnel. Medical service is a noble service and a great calling and medical personnel are working day and night solely with a view to seeing the patients returning home cheerfully after being fully cured. Those who are fully involved in the job should be encouraged and congratulated. I once again appeal to you to fully co-operate with them in their noble task. ■



Hon'ble Chief Minister announces steps to prevent Corona Virus infections

Statement of Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu
Thiru. Edappadi K. Palaniswami regarding measures taken
to prevent Corona Virus infections on 27.03.2020. *(English Translation)*

Hon'ble Amma's Government is taking steps on a war footing for the prevention of Corona Virus infection.

The Government is issuing orders in this aspect now and then.

To ensure the availability of all essential commodities like milk, vegetables, groceries, meat and fish in this the period of lockdown and to control unnecessary movement of some persons who expose themselves without properly understanding the severity of the Corona infection, Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu Thiru. Edappadi K. Palaniswami held a consultative meeting today with high officials.

Considering that chances are greater for people to be affected when the Corona Virus infections move from the first to second stage, the following orders have been passed for carrying out essential works without hindrance and to prevent the infection spreading among people. These orders come into effect from 29.03.2020.

- ❖ Vehicles transporting goods to wholesale vegetable and fruit markets like Koyambedu from different parts of the State and other States, should unload their commodities between 6 p.m. and 6 a.m. In Chennai, the Commissioner of Municipal Corporation and in other Districts, the District Collectors, should monitor disinfecting of the vehicles, safety of the loaders, adoption of hygienic methods and the like by forming a special committee. Public hygiene should be maintained in these market areas and infection prevention works should be intensified.
- ❖ Koyambedu vegetable market and other vegetable outlets and shops selling essential commodities like groceries should function only between 6 a.m. and 2.30 p.m. This restriction is to control unnecessary movement of people in the streets.
- ❖ Likewise petrol bunks will function only between 6 a.m. and 2.30 p.m. However, the special bunks for Government vehicles

and the likes of '108' ambulance will work throughout the day.

- ❖ Medical shops and restaurants (parcelled food only) will function throughout the day as usual.
- ❖ Old people and those not able to cook in their homes, place orders through online for home delivery of cooked foods. In their interest, food aggregators like Swiggy, Zomato, Uber Eats and the like are permitted, as a special category, to deliver breakfast between 7 and 9.30 a.m., lunch between 12 noon and 2.30 p.m. and dinner between 6 and 9 p.m. However, those engaged in the delivery work are advised to get police ID cards through their companies and the companies, to test them daily before engaging them in the work.
- ❖ Persons desirous of helping orphans in these trying times are advised not to distribute cooked food. Articles needed for preparing food and other articles can be handed over to the Commissioner of Chennai Municipal Corporation in Chennai and to the District Collectors in other Districts. The District Administration has created an exclusive wing for it. That section can be contacted and the articles delivered.
- ❖ Those wishing to create additional facilities in Government Hospitals/donate medical equipment are requested to approach the Hospital concerned. A special officer has been posted for this in each District.
- ❖ It is made clear that there is exemption for events like death. But, even on such occasions participants should preferably not exceed 20. They should also be conscious of hygiene and take the required precautionary measures.
- ❖ For Migrant Workers from other States who are unable to return, companies that employ them should arrange accommodation. The District Administration concerned and

the Chennai Municipal Corporation are advised to provide workers, not able to exit the State, adequate facilities as emergency assistance.

- ❖ To integrate control rooms in Districts barring Health Control Room with the Emergency Control Room in the Health Department, the Control Centre at the Secretariat has been strengthened as 'Headquarters Control Centre'.
- ❖ Those who have returned from abroad after 15.02.2020 and persons who were in touch with them should self-quarantine themselves. They should compulsorily convey this information to the Greater Chennai Municipal Corporation and in other Districts to the District Administration concerned. They should realize that such action will help safeguard the persons concerned, their families and the community at large and act responsibly.

All over the State, a hospital bed strength of about 15,000 is available for persons likely to be affected by the Corona Virus infection, for getting treated. The Coimbatore ESI hospital has been converted into a special COVID-19 Hospital with a bed strength of 350.

The Government Medical College Hospital at Omandurar Government Estates in Chennai, which has been converted into a COVID-19 Hospital, has a bed strength of 500. The Hon'ble Chief Minister visited the Hospital and ordered posting of 200 doctors, 200 nurses, 100 paramedics, 180 sanitary workers and 40 security personnel for treating patients likely to be affected by Corona Virus. The Hon'ble Chief Minister also instructed supply of medical equipment costing Rs.10 crore by the Tamil Nadu Medical Services Corporation to this Hospital and the activation of round-the-clock Out Patient Ward for persons with fever and intensive treatment wards.

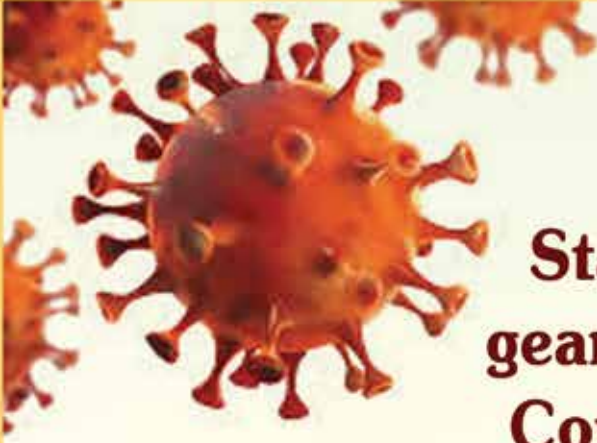




Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu **Thiru. Edappadi K. Palaniswami**, at the Secretariat on 23.04.2020, held a meeting through video conferencing with Industry heads, in the context of allowing some manufacturers in Tamil Nadu to start their operations gradually, on the basis of the Central Government permitting manufacturing units to resume economic activity, even as lockdown is still in force and Tamil Nadu continues to have in place a slew of preventive measures to curb Corona Virus infections from spreading. TVS Group chairman Thiru. Venu Srinivasan, Murugappa Group's Thiru. Vellayan, TVS & Sons Joint Managing Director Thiru. Dinesh, Ramco Group CMD Thiru. Venkatrama Raja, Chairman of Council for Leather Exports Thiru. Aqeel Ahmed, Confederation of India Industry's Tamil Nadu State Council Chairman Thiru. Hari K. Thiagarajan, and India Cements Vice Chairman Thiru. N. Srinivasan participated in the video conference.



Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu **Thiru. Edappadi K. Palaniswami**, at the Secretariat on 28.02.2020, chaired a review meeting with the 12 groups set up to co-ordinate the series of Corona infection prevention measures being taken by the various Departments of the Tamil Nadu Government. Hon'ble Deputy Chief Minister **Thiru. O. Panneerselvam**, Hon'ble Minister for Health and Family Welfare Dr C. Vijayabaskar, Hon'ble Minister for Revenue, Disaster Management and Information Technology Thiru. R. B. Udhayakumar, Chief Secretary Thiru. K. Shanmugam I.A.S., Director General of Police Thiru. J. K. Tripathy I.P.S., and other high Government officials participated.



State machinery geared up to tackle Corona Pandemic

Press Statement of the Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu
Thiru. Edappadi K. Palaniswami regarding anti-Corona Virus measures taken
by the Tamil Nadu Government on 15.03.2020. *(English Translation)*

The World Health Organization declared Corona Virus as a Pandemic spreading throughout the world. Though, there is no Corona Virus impact in Tamil Nadu, thanks to steps taken by Hon'ble Puratchi Thalaivi Amma's Government, there is a possibility of the disease spreading to the State from neighbouring States. To prevent the spread, the Hon'ble Chief Minister has issued orders to take the following precautionary measures.

At present, people are coming from abroad through Chennai, Madurai, Coimbatore and Tiruchi Airports. The Central Government has banned the arrival of some foreign travellers. In case a situation arises where in Indians living abroad want to return to the country, they should be quarantined and in observation for 14 days as per the norms prescribed by WHO. The Hon'ble Chief Minister issued orders that necessary facilities should be provided to such travellers near the airport itself.

The Hon'ble Chief Minister has instructed Revenue Department, Police, Transport Department and Health Department to have a co-ordinated action plan on a war-footing

to prevent the spread of the disease from the neighbouring States. For this the checkpoints in the border Districts should be cleaned and equipped with anti-virus measures.

All the Kindergarten schools (LKG and UKG) classes and Primary schools (First Standard to V standard) will be closed till March 31.

All theatres and malls in the border Districts, such as Theni, Kanniyakumari, Tiruppur, Coimbatore, The Nilgiris, Krishnagiri, Tirunelveli, Tenkasi, Thiruvallur, Vellore, Tirupattur, Ranipet, Erode, Dindigul, Dharmapuri and Virudhunagar will be closed till March 21, 2020.

For anti-Corona Virus activities to take off, the Hon'ble Chief Minister ordered immediate sanction of Rs. 60 crore from the State Disaster Response Fund. Of this, the Health and Family Welfare Department will get Rs. 30 crore, Transport Department Rs. 5 crore, Greater Chennai Corporation Rs. 4 crore, Municipal Administration Rs. 6 crore, Rural Development Department Rs. 5 crore, Directorate of Town Panchayats Rs. 2 crore, HR and CE Department



Rs. 3 crore, School and Higher Education Departments Rs. 2 crore, Anganwadi Centres Rs. 0.5 crore and District Collectors Rs. 2.5 crore.

Cleaning and disinfection activities should be speeded up in all theatres, malls and places of worship like temples, churches and mosques in other parts of the State, where the public are likely to gather in large numbers. The Hon'ble Chief Minister issued orders to the Rural Development & Panchayat Raj Department and Municipal Administration and Water Supply Department to appoint special officers to supervise cleaning operations.

The Hon'ble Chief Minister has directed the HR and CE Department and Health Department officials to launch an awareness campaign about the Corona disease among people where they gather in large numbers. The officials should identify those who have cold, cough and fever and advice them to avoid coming to places where people gather in large numbers.

The District Collectors and Senior IAS officers in Districts have been directed to supervise the various anti-Corona activities in their respective Districts.

As the Central Government directed the State to utilize the funds from the National Disaster Response Fund and National Welfare Board for undertaking anti-Corona Virus measures, the Hon'ble Chief Minister has directed officials to carry them out on a war-footing.

The Commissioner for Revenue Administration has been directed to co-ordinate all the anti-Corona activities in the State.

All District Collectors have been directed to send daily reports about anti-Corona activities in their respective Districts to the Commissioner of Revenue Administration. The daily reports from the Districts should be compiled by the Commissioner of Revenue Administration, who should send the compiled reports to the Hon'ble Minister for Health and Family Welfare and the Hon'ble Chief Minister.

The Hon'ble Chief Minister asked the Hon'ble Minister for Health to brief the Press daily about the anti-Corona measures taken by the State Government.

The Hon'ble Chief Minister has issued the following advice to the general public.

Avoid going to other States and avoid gathering in large numbers in public places for the next 15 days.

Elders, sick people, children and people with low disease resistance should avoid travel.

The general public should practice private hygiene and wash their hands with soap, especially after coming home from outside and also at frequent intervals when they are at home.

Do not touch your face without washing your hands.

Parents should ensure that their children do not play in groups and that they wash their hands clean with soap after entering the house.

Only if all people take united and co-ordinated action, victory can be achieved against the Corona Virus. The Hon'ble Chief Minister appealed to people to co-operate with the steps taken by the Government and identify people who have symptoms of Corona infection and take steps to admit them to nearby hospitals. ■



Hon'ble Chief Minister pledges to work with dedication to save every single life

Clarification of the Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu **Thiru. Edappadi K. Palaniswami** in the Tamil Nadu Legislative Assembly on 23.03.2020, on the series of safety measures taken by the different Departments to prevent the spread of Corona Virus in Tamil Nadu. *(English Translation)*

Hon'ble Speaker Sir,

While the Government is taking all necessary steps on a war footing to prevent the Corona Virus spreading in Tamil Nadu, it is also implementing in full measure the necessary schemes for providing additional facilities in Government hospitals for treatment to patients affected by this disease.

In this context, I extend my wholehearted gratitude to the people of Tamil Nadu for their unanimous support to the efforts of the State and Central Governments. Particularly, the self imposed lockdown, announced by the Hon'ble Prime Minister and implemented, was observed in toto in Tamil Nadu. In Tamil Nadu, it was extended up to 5 a.m. today. Following this, the inter-state bus transport and Metro Rail Service were cancelled till 31.03.2020. At a time when the Corona Virus damage is increasing in many parts of the country, this Government is planning the next stage of action and continues to implement it.

In the first phase, of the 92,406 bed facilities available now in Government hospitals, 9,266 beds have been converted into isolation beds for treatment of Corona Virus. This bed

strength will be increased as per need. Besides, in the newly constructed (hospital) buildings additional bed facilities for Corona treatment, are to be provided shortly. Moreover, steps are being taken to create additional bed facilities in State Government and Central Government hospitals in different parts of Tamil Nadu where emergency treatment is not needed greatly.

Even while creating such bed facilities, the Government has additionally allotted 560 ventilators and monitors for the taking up of intensive treatment. Required medical appliances are being procured to equip 500 beds for intensive treatment. There is enough stock of all medicine for treatment of corona virus.

Big private hospitals in Tamil Nadu have been advised, after consultations with private hospital administrations, to convert 750-bed facilities in their existing bed strength, into isolated beds for Corona Virus treatment. Private hospitals have also come forward to extend full co-operation to Government's efforts.

Severe action will be taken against persons spreading wrong information, under Rules 41, 43 and 44 of the Public Health Act 1939.

It is mandatory to immediately inform about the person affected by Corona Virus infection and showing visible symptoms, to the nearest health centres and urban health centres or to the 24-hour State Control Room, whether that person is in the work place/hostel/house. It is also instructed that this information should be conveyed by contacting the already announced phone numbers (044-29510500, 29510400, mobile numbers 94443 40496, 87544 48477 and the toll number 1800 120 555550). Failure to do so will entail severe legal action against the manager of the concerned industry, owner of the hostel or the head of the family.

I have issued the following orders in this regard in the consultation meeting held today (23.03.2020).

- ★ A sticker 'Home Quarantined' should be stuck in the house door of persons who have visited countries abroad or have returned from other States.
- ★ Details of the sticker should be shared with police, local bodies organizations and the Health Department. This will help people avoid contact with the quarantined persons.
- ★ Private sector testing facility to identify Corona Virus infection can also be made use of, for testing the categories that are to be tested then and there.
- ★ Passengers from abroad and their contacts should be monitored intensively to see, in the interest of the community, that they are in self-isolation and not in touch with people.
- ★ In the bed strength of private hospitals, 25 per cent should be set apart for the medical

service of patients put under quarantine norm.

- ★ Transport and police officials should be engaged in greater numbers in checkpoints.
- ★ Maintenance of cleanliness in places like grocery shops, vegetable shops, fruit shops and milk kiosks, outlets of essential commodities, should be properly monitored. They should all be kept clean.
- ★ Police Department should monitor and see that large number of people don't gather in these shops.
- ★ Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises are requested to function with 50 per cent of the staff. This will not however apply to institutions manufacturing medical equipment and other essential articles. They can function as usual.
- ★ Corona Infection preventive measures are monitored District-wise daily. So far, 6 meetings of high officials and Ministers headed by me, were held in the Secretariat. Appropriate advice is given and orders are issued as and when necessary.
- ★ A task force has been set up under the leadership of the Chief Secretary and this also meets as warranted. Till now, the Chief Secretary has conducted 3 review meetings with District Collectors through video conferencing and has given the necessary advice.
- ★ Hon'ble Minister for Health also is holding review meetings often with District Collectors and Health Department officials through video conferencing. Field surveys are undertaken and the situation is monitored.

★ Likewise, Hon'ble Minister for Municipal Administration and Hon'ble Minister for Revenue are instructing through their Departments to take up works to meet the needs of the people and also to execute preventive measures.

★ I personally supervise the situation by holding daily review meetings.

People should understand the severity of the situation and wholeheartedly stand shoulder to shoulder and with determination with the Tamil Nadu Government. I request and strongly urge all people, particularly those who have returned to Tamil Nadu from abroad and other states, to provide complete information to the Health Department and extend full co-operation.

I affectionately reiterate that the immediate need at this hour, when we have to win a great challenge that the world has not met in the last 100 years, is people's continued support, day to day discipline and self observance of social distancing.

I have already informed through the print media and TV channels about the preventive steps for Corona Virus that are being taken by Hon'ble Puratchi Thalaivi Amma's Government. I have already ordered the closure of all educational institutions – Government, Municipal Corporation and private schools, colleges, universities, training institutes etc., - till 31.03.2020 and this had been brought into force. Medical and related colleges will continue to function. It was announced that all Anganwadi centres will be closed down till 31.03.2020 and this has been implemented. The announcement that all cinema theatres

in the State, commercial complexes where people gather in large numbers, recreation clubs, swimming pools, gymnasiums, zoos and museums will remain closed till 31.03.2020 has also been implemented.

Marriage halls should not conduct any event excepting those that have been already scheduled; even in such events, there can only be minimum participation. Owners of marriage halls should avoid booking the hall for new events till 31.03.2020. These orders are getting implemented. As health experts have advised that the spreading of Corona Virus can be prevented to a large extent if there is minimum participation in all community events inclusive of temple festivals and obsequies, people have been requested and the Government has taken appropriate steps for it. People too have responded. Likewise, an order has been issued to withhold permission till 31.03.2020 for holding processions with large participation, summer training classes, camps, conferences, seminars, commercial exhibitions, cultural events, sports competitions etc., and that too has been implemented. Government has ordered that all sports stadia, clubs, bars, resorts and the like should be closed down till 31.03.2020.

Other than the above, important and essential works will continue as of old. I wish to inform at this hour that Corona Virus preventive measures are being executed with full force after notifying all Government Departments, public undertakings and private enterprises to adopt without fail, the guidelines prescribed by the central Government Department of Health and Family Welfare and the advice of the State Government.

Moreover, 2,05,391 persons have been tested at airports; 9,424 persons are in house quarantine; 198 persons are under Government supervision; 54 persons have been admitted in the isolation wards in Government hospitals and are being treated. The Government is engaged totally in preventive works against the infection and is involving the doctors in all ways. Not only this. Doctors, nurses, medical staff and sanitary workers have all been totally engaged in this and they are working with dedication. I am duty-bound to applaud them on behalf of government at this hour.

Likewise, Municipal Administration, officers and staff of the Departments of Rural Development, Revenue and Health, Army, Airport, Railway Department, Sanitary Workers and staff of different departments stand in support of the Government and engage themselves with dedication and with all strength in this Corona Virus preventive work. Government is taking all appropriate steps to prevent the spread of this disease.

To undertake these works, Rs.60 crore was allotted in the first phase. This has been enhanced and now Rs.500 crore has been allotted by the Government for taking up Corona Virus prevention works. This fund will be made available from the State Disaster Relief Fund.

As far as our Government is concerned, no section of the people should be affected. That is our aim. We function according to this aim. For that, high officials and the staff of all Departments should extend co-operation to Government round-the-clock and involve themselves wholeheartedly in this infection prevention work. I convey my appreciation and thanks, at this hour, to all those who support the

Government to prevent the spreading of Corona Virus in Tamil Nadu. My thanks are also due to the Police Department.

The Opposition parties placed many demands in this House. They asked details of the steps taken and the ones intended to be taken. I have given these details. Hon'ble Minister for Health and Family Welfare also replied clearly and in detail. Every step taken by the Government is to prevent the disease from spreading. Government is implementing all the steps I have mentioned. The Hon'ble Minister for Health and Family Welfare has already explained to this House the action taken by his Department. But Members of the Opposition Party, all on a sudden, have boycotted this House for reasons not known. Hon'ble Speaker of the Assembly had already announced that the Business Advisory Committee meeting would be held today at 10.15 a.m. Accordingly that meeting was held at the Hon'ble Speaker's office. Various decisions were taken at that meeting. Hon'ble Speaker will announce those decisions.

As far as our Government is concerned, we are not prepared to lose even a single life. We will work for this – from Chief Minister, Deputy Chief Minister, Ministers to Parliament and Legislature members – with a sense of dedication. For us and for Tamil Nadu, it is a very big epidemic. Taking it as a big challenge, we will involve ourselves totally in the work of preventing this disease from spreading. We will work hard to totally eradicate this disease from Tamil Nadu. Conveying my thanks to all the good hearts who have extended co-operation for this, I resume my seat.

Nandri! Vanakkam.



Hon'ble Chief Minister's stirring call:

Let us unite to quell Corona Virus

Address of Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu

Thiru. Edappadi K. Palaniswami to the people of Tamil Nadu through television on 25.03.2020, regarding steps taken against Corona virus. *(English Translation)*

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

At present I am speaking to you as a member of your family rather than as the Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu.

This is my request to all of you.

We all know that the Corona Virus which is attacking the whole world, started in China and is spreading like wild fire.

(In this scenario), as per the directive of the Central Government, we should follow 21-days curfew.

It is an imperative of our present times that we should know how the virus spreads and take steps to prevent it from spreading.

The Corona Virus spreads from one to other directly and through one's hands.

The Tamil Nadu Government has been taking steps on a war-footing to prevent the spread of the Virus in the State.

The Tamil Nadu Government has allotted Rs. 3,780 crore for anti-Corona Virus measures.

A total of 10,158 beds have been kept ready in hospitals. I have also ordered the further increase of the number of beds.

Considering the living conditions of the poor during this curfew time, all ration cardholders will be given Rs. 1,000 and free ration, including rice, dhal, cooking oil and sugar for the month of April.

As a special gift hamper, Rs. 1,000 , 15 kg of rice , 1 kg each of dhal and cooking oil will be given at no cost to the construction workers and auto drivers registered in the Drivers Welfare Board.

Amma Canteens will continue to supply hot and hygienic food.

Workers under the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme will be given 2 additional days of wages as a special fund.

Steps taken by the Government alone are not enough. It is necessary for the people also to co-operate.

Considering the seriousness of the disease, I appeal to you not to come out of your homes.

Those who have returned from abroad should voluntarily quarantine themselves in their homes.

In case they fail to do so, either the members of their family or their relatives and neighbours should alert the local bodies, the Public Health Department or the Police.

Quarantine is just to protect you, your families and society.

For you, your family is important. Similarly, every family in Tamil Nadu is important for the Government. People should realize this. This 21-day lockdown is not a holiday for you. It is an order by the Government to protect you and your family. To prevent the spread of the virus, all District borders have been sealed. So, people should avoid going to other towns or Districts.

Let us, be responsible citizens and protect ourselves and other members of society.

Arrangements have been made for the continuous supply of essential commodities such as vegetables, milk, mutton, medicines and groceries to people. So, people should not have any apprehension. When you go out for necessary or urgent work, you should maintain distance of a minimum of 3 feet from others.

If you have symptoms of severe cold, fever and acute breathing problems, you should immediately contact your family doctor or Government hospitals. You should not resort to self-medication on any account.

If necessary, you can contact the help centre telephone numbers - 104 or 1077 - provided by the Government.

Wash your hands frequently and avoid crowding at any place.

Cover your mouth and nose with handkerchief when you sneeze or cough.

As per the traditional practice, wash your hands and feet with soap at the doorstep of your house when you enter the house after completing outside work.

Always be careful, observe social distancing and remain at home (Vizhithu Iru, Vilagi Iru and Veettil Iru).

You must follow the Government guidelines strictly.

Severe action will be taken by the District Collectors, Police Commissioners and Superintendents of Police concerned against those who violate the Government guidelines issued now and then and against those spreading rumours. Diabetics and high blood pressure patients should take their medicines regularly.

Take proper care of elders, children and pregnant women.

Irrespective of caste, creed, language and politic affiliation, we should unite to fight and drive away Corona and protect the State.

On this occasion, let us all take a pledge to continue our fight against Corona Virus and protect the people of Tamil Nadu from this dreaded disease.

Nandri, Vanakkam!



Relief for workers in lockdown times

Details of relief and food articles given by Tamil Nadu Government to workers who have sustained loss of income on account of the lockdown, notified as a preventive measure for Corona Virus infection on 07.04.2020. *(English Translation)*

In continuation of the announcement made by Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu Thiru. Edappadi K. Palaniswami in the Tamil Nadu Legislative Assembly on 24.03.2020 under Rule 110, the Tamil Nadu Government has ordered a grant of Rs.1,000 each to the 12,13,882 workers, registered with the Tamil Nadu Construction Workers Welfare Board and to 83,500 workers registered with the Welfare Board for drivers in the unorganized sector as compensation for loss of employment due to the lockdown, which was notified as a preventive step for the Corona Virus infection; and 15 kg rice, one kg dhal and one kg cooking oil to 14,57,526 construction workers' (registered with the Welfare Board) and pensioners families.

Considering the condition of migrant labourers stranded without income and in their interest, the Hon'ble Chief Minister has also ordered the distribution of 15 kg rice, 1 kg dhal and 1 kg cooking oil at no cost to benefit 1,34,569 families of Migrant Workers who have been working in Tamil Nadu in factories, shops, commercial institutions, eateries and horticulture companies.

The Hon'ble Chief Minister's announcement on 06.04.2020 for the distribution of the cash benefit of Rs.1,000 each, as given to the Welfare Boards for construction workers and drivers, to the registered persons in 15 other Welfare Boards for Workers in Unorganised sector

also, is about to be given to 14,07,130 workers. The 15 beneficiary Boards are those for manual labourers, washermen, hair-dressers, tailors, handicraft artisans, palm-tree workers, handloom-handloom silk weavers, foot wear and leather ware production workers, painters, goldsmiths, pottery workers, domestic helps, powerloom weavers, roadside hawkers and shop workers and food preparation workers.

The Tamil Nadu Government has approved an expenditure of Rs.270.05 crore for distribution of cash benefit of Rs.1,000 each to registered workers in 17 Welfare Boards and Rs.101.73 crore for distributing food articles to families of workers in unorganized sector inclusive of migrant labour and the families of migrant labour working in shops, institutions, eateries and horticulture units.

As per the above announcements, the cash benefit of Rs. 1,000 is credited to workers in their bank accounts directly through the Assistant Labour Commissioner (Social Security) in all Districts.

Unorganized sector workers who have registered in the above 17 workers welfare boards but have not provided their bank account details so far, are requested to provide their bank account data to the concerned District Assistant Labour Commissioner (social security) through phone or e-mail. They are informed that the above said officer can credit the amount only after receipt of the bank account details. ■

Kudimaramathu soil for potters, farmers

Farmers and potters can get clay soil, alluvial soil, sediment and gravel sand taken from tanks, dams and water bodies free, according to a notification issued by the PWD on 06.05.2020 (*English Translation*)

Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu Thiru. Edappadi K.Palaniswami launched 'Kudimaramathu' Scheme in 2017 to retrieve the full capacity of water bodies such as tanks, ponds and canals by de-silting them with the active participation of people.

Due to de-silting, which had not been done for so many years, it is possible to store more rain water during monsoon rains which is very useful for farm operations and drinking water purposes.

For the use of the clay and alluvial soil, sediment and gravel sand taken from these water bodies, the Industries Department issued a Government Order No. 50 dated 27.04.2020, as directed by the Hon'ble Chief Minister. Due to this, 6,69,900 farmers and potters have benefited.

At present, the agricultural operations are exempted from curfew order. As water release from the dams and other bodies for irrigation has been stopped due to summer, farmers and potters are permitted to take clay soil, alluvial soil sediment and gravel sand from the nearby water bodies with the prior permission of the district administration. However, this order is not applicable to water bodies in Chennai, Kancheepuram and Thiruvallur District.



Kabasura Kudineer to gain immunity against Corona Virus infection



To prevent the spread of Corona Virus, the State and the Central Governments are adopting various methods. As a part of this, the Central Ayush Ministry has recommended increasing the resistance of the body against COVID-19 through the consumption of Kabasura Kudineer and Nila Vembu Kudineer. Kabasura Kudineer is prepared with 15 various herbs.

Preparation and use of Kabasura Kudineer:

1. One table spoon (5 gm) of the Kabasura choornam (medicinal powder) is mixed with 300 ml of water and heated till the decoction is reduced to 30 ml. After that it is filtered and used.
2. This decoction is highly bitter in taste. So, children should be given honey after they take Kabasura Kudineer.
3. Adults are advised to take 30 ml of the Kudineer and the children below 12 years, 10 ml.
4. Those with any long-term disease and those who suffer from stomach ailments are advised to act as per the advice of doctors.
5. By consuming Kabasura Kudineer one can strengthen the immune system of the body against diseases and protect oneself from Corona Virus.



Hon'ble Chief Minister clarifies on NPR, faults Opposition for creating fear

Clarification of Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu

Thiru. Edappadi K.Palaniswami in the Tamil Nadu Legislative Assembly
on 13.03.2020, on NPR and Census operations (*English Translation*)

Hon'ble Speaker sir,

The Opposition has been creating fear psychosis among the people and the minority communities regarding NPR and Census operations. You are talking about these issues in all forums. As you have created the fear psychosis among the people, you continue to talk about it in all your press meets also. What have you been saying? That this Government is afraid of the Central Government. That otherwise all of us will go to jail. I would like to tell you that this will not happen at any time. Everybody knows how many cases are pending against former Ministers belonging to your party. Wherever you go, you talk about NPR and Census operations. So, we wanted to tell the true position to the people. Hon'ble Minister for Revenue has clearly explained the Government's position. I have also explained clearly. You tell us what the affected areas are, we will settle the issues. But, you have not come out with any details. In fact the enumeration has not started till date. Even before the operation begins, at a meeting yesterday you spoke in a manner that would create a panic situation. Since

1872, it has been the practice to conduct census operations once in 10 years. It happened in your regime also. The operations should start from April 1 this year. You told people not to give any support to this operation, asked them to take to agitation and said we will support you. What is the connection between Census operations and NPR? They are fighting only against the NPR. Now you are instigating them to fight against a new issue. When such a volatile situation arose, the Hon'ble Minister for Revenue with a view to control the situation, expressed the view to create awareness among the Minority communities. The Hon'ble Minister only repeated what he had said in the House. There is no breach of privilege. The current problem is due to the NPR Act, which you brought in the year 2003 through the Central Government. There are provisions in the Act for addition and deletion of certain provisions. Utilizing those provisions, the Central Government has added three new questions under the Act. We have sought clarification from the Central Government about these issues. The Act was implemented by you when you were part of the

Central Government. NPR enumeration started in the year 2010. It is you who brought NPR operations for the first time in Tamil Nadu. As it created panic among the Minorities, it is the duty of the Government to allay the fears. I would like to inform the Hon'ble Deputy Leader of the Opposition that we have written to the Central Government about these issues.

Hon'ble Speaker sir,

If you had asked what the Hon'ble Minister for Revenue spoke at the Press Conference, then it would have been alright. The Hon'ble Minister had clearly explained his position. He put forward only the points which he had made in the Tamil Nadu Legislative Assembly. He did not speak anything in the Press meet other than what he had spoken in the Tamil Nadu Legislative Assembly. The Hon'ble Minister clearly explained his position. Your sole intention is to blame the Hon'ble Minister and not to accept the true position. I can speak only on the basis of House records and not on

the basis of newspaper reports. You can only ask a question based on House records and not on newspaper reports. We cannot keep quiet folding our hands. You say whatever you want to say. You say one thing in the House and speak differently outside the House. Unfortunately, what you spoke outside reached the people. This created a volatile situation. What is happening in Delhi today? How did the issues develop? You should take into consideration all these issues, all MLAs and party leaders should think about it in a holistic manner. Tamil Nadu remains a peaceful State without caste and community differences. Everybody should extend his co-operation. Unfortunately you spoke in a manner that would instill fear in the minds of people. Only to allay such fears, the Hon'ble Minister explained the situation. But, if you want to talk based on newspaper reports, we cannot accept that. We can take into consideration only the statement made by the Hon'ble Minister in the House and not newspaper reports as you demand.

Blocking burial, cremation declared an offence

The Tamil Nadu Government has issued an ordinance making the prevention / disruption of the burial or cremation of bodies of persons who die due to diseases notified by the Tamil Nadu Government, as an offence under the Tamil Nadu Public Health Act. The offenders are liable for severe imprisonment under the Act.

According to the Ordinance, any move to prevent the dignified burial / cremation of persons who die due to Notified Diseases announced by the Government will be considered an offence and those who indulge in such acts will be subjected to minimum 1 year to maximum 3 years Imprisonment, including fine under the Tamil Nadu Public Health Act, Sec.74, 1939.

Information Department – a bridge between the Government and people

The Information and Public Relations Department functions effectively and efficiently with the sole aim of keeping the welfare and prosperity of the people of Tamil Nadu in mind by propagating among the public, the welfare schemes being implemented by the Government of Tamil Nadu. This Department continues to act as a bridge between the Government and the people.

The Information and Public Relations Department works with dedication and devotion in word and deed, in propagating to the people, the welfare schemes and achievements emanating from such schemes.

PRESS RELEASE SECTION

The Press Release Section is the main wing of the Information and Public Relations Department. The announcements, Press Notes and Press Releases of the Hon'ble Chief Minister are disseminated to the people then and there by the Press Release Section which functions from Secretariat 24 x 7.

Press Notes of the Hon'ble Deputy Chief Minister and Hon'ble Ministers; Press Releases, Announcements, Welfare Schemes, Developmental works and details of achievements, news relating to Government functions participated by Hon'ble Chief Minister and Hon'ble Ministers, all news



on the events relating to Government, video recordings and related photos are sent to more than 325 print and visual media such as dailies, news agencies, periodicals, internet news agencies and television channels through the Press Release Section then and there.

This Section also extends all assistance to Media Personnel to attend press conferences of Hon'ble Chief Minister, Hon'ble Deputy Chief Minister and Hon'ble Ministers and co-ordinate them in gathering news on Government functions 7 participated by Hon'ble Ministers, Secretaries to Government, District Collectors and also on the arrivals of VVIPs.

Government Announcements, Important Press Releases and News about important events taking place at the Head Quarters, video clips of video conferencing and photos are uploaded immediately using modern technology in the website of the Information and Public Relations Department www.tndipr.gov.in for the use of Media and the same are sent through e-mail to the District PROs of all Districts to get them published at the District level also.

WEBSITE OF THE INFORMATION AND PUBLIC RELATIONS DEPARTMENT

In order to keep pace with the changing technology and in order to disseminate information quickly, a website www.tndipr.gov.in has been created by the Information and Public Relations Department and updated every minute, for the use of Media and for the information to the people. Government news, photos and video clippings are uploaded immediately facilitating the Media to download the needed material instantly. This

website is very useful to Tamils all over the world, as well as to the public to know about the day-to-day happenings in the State.

MEDIA CENTRE

Media Centre launched by Hon'ble Puratchi Thalaivi Amma functions 24 x 7 wherein news from Secretariat are immediately sent to all Media houses for publicity. It is equipped to record Hon'ble Chief Minister's announcements and Government related news as telecast by 16 television channels. It distributes press releases, press notes, photos and Video Clippings released from the Secretariat to all the Media houses in Chennai and also to the District I & PR officials for publication in District editions.

PHOTO SECTION

The Photo section functioning in Secretariat, Chennai with a fleet of photographers takes photos at Government functions and at important events participated by the Hon'ble President, Hon'ble Vice President, Hon'ble Prime Minister, Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu, Hon'ble Deputy Chief Minister, Hon'ble Ministers in Chennai and in Districts. The photographers of this Department working in the Districts cover the Government functions with the co-ordination of the office of the District Collectors.

The photos taken by this section are sent to the Media houses in Chennai and are also displayed at the main building of the Secretariat and at the Tamil Nadu House in New Delhi. Photos taken in the Districts are sent to Media personnel and also displayed on the display boards in the District Collectors' offices. They



are also displayed in the Government function venues as mini photo exhibitions for the benefit of the public.

REFERENCE SECTION

The Reference Section functioning under the Information and Public Relations Department efficiently executes the task of consolidating important news published in dailies, periodicals and in dailies from other States and segregating Department-wise and on different heads, and taking them to the notice of the Government. Important news published in morning and evening newspapers, periodicals and in dailies from other States are compiled as news clippings and sent to the Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu and Hon'ble Deputy Chief Minister for their perusal and the same is also sent to Hon'ble Ministers, Chief Secretary to Government and Secretaries of the different Departments every day for necessary follow up action. Important news about the Departments published in dailies are scanned and sent

through mail and Whatsapp to the concerned Secretaries every morning.

MEMORIALS

The Information and Public Relations Department has been taking various steps to glorify and commemorate the great scholars, those who dedicated themselves for the development of the Tamil language and brought fame to Tamil Nadu, the social reformers, great poets and music scholars who inculcated the spirit of freedom through their writings and songs, and the freedom fighters who sacrificed their lives for the freedom of our Country.

This Department has set up 71 Memorials, 4 Arangams, 5 Commemoration Pillars and one Monument and maintains them properly so that, the younger generation can know about these great leaders and benefit from the Memorials.

DETAILS OF MEMORIALS IN TAMIL NADU

1. Perarignar Anna Memorial and Museum
Marina Beach, Kamarajar Salai, Chennai

2. Bharat Ratna Puratchi Thalaivar Dr.M.G.R. Memorial and Puratchi Thalaivi Amma Selvi J Jayalalithaa Memorial, Marina Beach, Kamarajar Salai, Chennai.
3. Perunthalaivar Kamarajar Memorial, Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel Salai, Guindy, Chennai.
4. Periyavar M.Bhakthavatchalam Memorial, Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel Salai, Guindy, Chennai.
5. Gandhi Mandapam, Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel Salai, Guindy, Chennai.
6. Mootharignar Rajaji Ninaivalayam, Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel Salai, Guindy, Chennai.
7. Mahakavi Bharathiyar Ninaivu Illam, Thulasinga Perumal Koil Street, Triplicane, Chennai.
8. Perunthalaivar Kamarajar Ninaivu Illam, Thirumalai Salai, Thiyagaraya Nagar, Chennai.
9. Valluvar Kottam, Nungambakkam, Chennai.
10. Mozhippor Thiyagigal Manimandapam, Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel Salai, Guindy, Chennai.
11. Thiyagigal Manimandapam, Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel Salai, Guindy, Chennai.
12. Rettaimalai Seenivasan Memorial, Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel Salai, Guindy, Chennai.
13. Kanniyathendral Quaid-e-Milleth Muhammad Ismail Manimandapam, Dams Road, Chennai.
14. Sindhanai Sirpi Singaravelar and Suyamariyathai Sudaroli Jeevarathinam Manimandapam, Royapuram, Chennai.
15. Nadigar Thilagam Sivaji Ganesan Manimandapam, Adyar, Chennai.
16. Perarignar Anna Ninaivu Illam, Chinna Kancheepuram, Kancheepuram District.
17. Tiruppur Kumaran Memorial, Tiruppur, Tiruppur District.
18. Pagutharivu Kavirayar Udumalai Narayanakavi Manimandapam, Udumalaipettai, Tiruppur District.
19. Thanthai Periyar Memorial, Vaikkom, Kottayam District, Kerala State.
20. Periyar - Anna Memorial, Erode, Erode District.
21. Dheeran Chinnamalai Manimandapam, Odanilai, Arachalur, Erode District.
22. Mootharignar Rajaji Pirantha Illam, Thorapalli, Krishnagiri District.
23. Vallal Adhiyaman Kottam, Dharmapuri, Dharmapuri District.
24. Thiyagi Subramaniya Siva Manimandapam, Papparapatti, Dharmapuri District.
25. Namakkal Kavignar Ramalingam Pillai Ninaivu Illam, Namakkal, Namakkal District.
26. Va.Ve. Subramaniya Iyer Ninaivu Illam, Varahaneri, Tiruchirappalli District.
27. Pattukkottai Kalyanasundaram Manimandapam, Pattukkottai, Thanjavur District.



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| 28. Pattukottai Azhagirisamy Ninaivu Mandapam, Avudaiyankulam, Pattukkottai, Thanjavur District. | 37. Veeramangai Velunachiyar Ninaivu Mandapam, Surakulam, Sivagangai District. |
| 29. Thillaiyadi Valliyammai Memorial, Thillaiyadi, Nagapattinam District. | 38. Thiyaga Seelar Kakkan Manimandapam, Thumbaipatti, Madurai District. |
| 30. Tamizhisai Moovar Manimandapam, Sirkazhi, Nagapattinam District. | 39. Thiyagi Viswanathadass Ninaivu Illam, Thirumangalam, Madurai District. |
| 31. Thamizh Thatha Dr. U.Ve.Sa.Ninaivu illam, Uthamathanapuram, Tiruvarur District. | 40. Parithimar Kalaignar Ninaivu Illam, Vilacheri, Madurai District. |
| 32. Thiyagi P. Srinivasa Rao Ninaivu Mandapam, Thiruthuraipoondi, Tiruvarur District | 41. Mozhignayiru Devaneya Pavaanar Manimandapam, Sathamangalam, Madurai District. |
| 33. Manuneethi Chozhan Ninaivu Mandapam, Tiruvarur, Tiruvarur District | 42. Perunthalaivar Kamarajar Pirantha Illam, Virudhunagar, Virudhunagar District. |
| 34. Kaviarasu Kannadasan Manimandapam, Karaikudi, Sivagangai District. | 43. Perunthalaivar Kamarajar Centenary Manimandapam, Virudhunagar, Virudhunagar District. |
| 35. Thavathiru Kundrakudi Adigalar Manimandapam, Kundrakudi, Sivagangai District. | 44. Thiyagi Sankaralinganar Manimandapam, Virudhunagar, Virudhunagar District. |
| 36. Maruthupandiar Ninaivu Mandapam, Tirupattur, Sivagangai District. | 45. Mahakavi Bharathiyar Manimandapam, Ettayapuram, Thoothukudi District. |



46. Mahakavi Bharathiyar Illam, Ettayapuram, Thoothukudi District.
47. Kappalottiya Thamizhan V.O.Chidambaranar Illam, Ottapidaram, Thoothukudi District.
48. Veeran Azhagumuthukone Manimandapam, Kattalangulam, Thoothukudi District.
49. Freedom Fighter Veeran Sundaralingam Memorial, Gavarnagiri, Thoothukudi District.
50. Freedom Fighter Veeran Vellayathevan Memorial, Vallanadu, Thoothukudi District.
51. Amudhakavi Umaru Pulavar Memorial, Ettayapuram, Thoothukudi District.
52. Veerapandia Kattabomman Manimandapam, Kayathar, Thoothukudi District.
53. Kappalottiya Thamizhan V.O.C Manimandapam, Tirunelveli, Tirunelveli District.
54. Poolithevan Ninaivu Maaligai Nerkattumseval, Tirunelveli District.
55. Tamil Scholar Caldwell Ninaivu Illam, Idayangudi, Tirunelveli District.
56. Thiyagi Vanchinathan Manimandapam, Sengottai, Tirunelveli District.
57. Freedom Fighter Ondi Veeran Manimandapam, Palayamkottai, Tirunelveli District.
58. Pothuvudaimai Veerar P. Jeevanandam Manimandapam, Nagercoil, Kanniyakumari District.
59. Gandhi Ninaivu Mandapam, Kanniyakumari, Kanniyakumari District.
60. Perunthalaivar Kamarajar Manimandapam, Kanniyakumari, Kanniyakumari District.
61. Sathavathani Seiguthambi Pavalar Ninavu Mandapam, Idalaakudi, Kottar, Nagercoil, Kanniyakumari District.
62. Marshal Nesamani Manimandapam Nagercoil, Kanniyakumari District

63. Muthu Mandapam (in memory of Vikrama Raja Singan, the last Tamil King of Sri Lanka) Vellore, Vellore District.
64. Freedom Fighter Gopal Naicker Manimandapam, Virupatchi, Dindigul District.
65. The Great Kings Hyder Ali, Thippu Sultan Manimandapam, Adiyanuthu Village, Dindigul District.
66. Omandur Ramasamy Reddiar Manimandapam, Omandur, Villupuram District.
67. Freedom Fighter Thiyagi Dheeran Chinnamalai Monument, Sankagiri, Salem District.
68. Swami Sagajanandha Manimandapam, Chidambaram, Cuddalore District.
69. Uzhavar Perunthalaivar Narayanasami Naidu Manimandapam, Vaiyampalayam, Coimbatore District.
70. Ramasamy Padayatchiyar Ninaivu Mandapam, Manjakuppam, Cuddalore District.
71. Dr.B.Sivanthi Aditanar Manimandapam, Thiruchendur, Thoothukudi District.

GOVERNMENT FUNCTIONS

The Government of Tamil Nadu celebrates the birthdays and observes the death Anniversaries of Freedom fighters who dedicated their lives for the freedom of our country and Tamil Savants who rendered yeoman service to Tamil language, so that the future generations will know about their greatness and sacrifices.

FIELD PUBLICITY

A new Department known as the Field Publicity Department was started in the year 2013 by Hon'ble Puratchi Thalaivi Amma with an objective to enable people of all strata to know about various Schemes of the Government. So that, they could make use of them and also to document the Government achievements in terms of benefits received by the people. LED SCREEN MOUNTED VAN The Hon'ble Chief Minister has given LED screen mounted vans with the state of art technology to 32 Districts. These new vans, with modern facilities, Publicize Government Schemes and achievements day and night at places, where people gather in large numbers and also at the venues of Government functions. The day-to-day movement of these LED screen mounted vans is monitored by the Field Publicity wing through the GPS installed in the vans.

FILM AWARDS, SMALL SCREEN AWARDS & SUBSIDY

FILM AWARDS

To encourage film industry to produce films that reflect social thought and human



values, the Government of Tamil Nadu presents Film Awards to the best Tamil feature films, best Actors, best Actresses and Technicians.

The Government of Tamil Nadu constitutes a Selection Committee to select the best Feature films, best artists and technicians.

SMALL SCREEN AWARDS

The Government of Tamil Nadu is presenting Small Screen Awards to Television Serials viz., best Mega Serials, Short Serials, Actors, Actresses and Technicians of small screen which have a mega impact in entertaining public.

For the Best Mega Serial, a cash prize of Rs.2 lakh for the first prize and a cash prize of Rs.1 lakh for the second prize are given along with a Memento and a Certificate.

CINE WORKERS WELFARE BOARD

The Government of Tamil Nadu has created Cine Workers Welfare Board under the Department of Information and Public Relations to provide various assistance to the

workers, Technicians and their family members of Tamil Nadu Film and Television Industries.

Workers and Technicians of 39 associations of the Tamil Nadu Film and Television Industries are eligible for membership of the Tamil Nadu Cine Workers Welfare Board. Till date 21,679 Members have been enrolled.

Members of film and television industries are provided with financial assistance under various categories viz., Educational assistance, Marriage assistance, Maternity assistance, abortion assistance, Spectacles assistance, assistance for death due to accident, assistance for natural death, funeral assistance, etc.

TAMIL NADU FILMS DIVISION NEWS COVERAGE

Government functions participated by the Hon'ble Chief Minister, Hon'ble Deputy Chief Minister, Hon'ble Ministers and VIPs and other Government functions are recorded through Video coverage by Tamil Nadu Films Division and the same is edited and sent to Government and private Television channels



through the Media Centre at Secretariat, Chennai for telecasting, so that the people know the day to day functions of the Government.

PRODUCTION AND RELEASE

The Tamil Nadu Films Division produces News Bulletins, Video News Magazines, short films and jingles on Schemes and Achievements of the Government and release them for publicity.

M.G.R GOVERNMENT FILM AND TELEVISION INSTITUTE

M.G.R Government Film and Television Institute is a prime Technical Training Institute imparting Film technology and Techniques of Film Production and aesthetics of Art. The objective of this institute is to teach students the technical aspects in producing films and television programmes and allied subjects of film making.

This institute functions under the Department of Information and Public Relations, on an area of 15.25 acres. M.G.R Government Film and Television Institute is one among the three major Institutes in India. The other two are Film and Television Institute of India, Pune, and Satyajit Ray Film and Television Institute, Kolkatta.

TAMILARASU

Tamilarasu is a monthly magazine being published both in Tamil and English on behalf of the Department of Information Public Relations. As a print medium, Tamilarasu magazine brings out details of the Tamil Nadu Government's policies, Welfare Schemes, their implementation and the Government's achievements and announcements.

In this way, Tamilarasu magazine is providing useful information to its readers as well as public. Speeches of Hon'ble Governor of Tamil Nadu, speeches and announcements of the Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu, Achievements of the Government of Tamil Nadu, Welfare Schemes and their implementation, extensive write ups on development schemes in the Districts and interviews and success stories of the Beneficiaries across the State are published in Tamilarasu magazine in a way that all sections of people can understand and benefit from it.

The cost of a single copy of the Tamil / English issue is Rs.20. The Annual subscription for each is Rs.240. The life subscriptions (10 years) for Tamil and English editions are Rs.2,000 and Rs.2,400 respectively. Subscribers can register themselves through the website: www.tamilarasu.org.

SPECIAL PUBLICATIONS

Special Publications with speeches of Hon'ble Chief Minister, both in Tamil and English are published regularly and sent to the Information Public Relations Officers in the Districts for distribution to the public free of cost. Further, applications and forms relating to other sections of the Information and Public Relations Department are also printed in the Tamilarasu Press.

PAMPHLETS

On behalf of Tamilarasu, pamphlets on the bio-graphy of leaders were printed from May 2011 till date and sent to concerned Memorials in the Districts for display and distribution to the visiting public.



“STERLING THREE YEARS’ PERFORMANCE TESTIFIED BY NUMBER ONE POSITION” THREE YEARS SPECIAL PUBLICATIONS

On completion of three years rule under the dynamic leadership of Hon’ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu Thiru. Edappadi K.Palaniswami, achievements of the Government in the past three years were compiled in Tamilarasu and released by the Hon’ble Chief Minister at Three years Achievements Function on 17.02.2020. Following are the special publications released at the function:

1. STERLING THREE YEARS’ PERFORMANCE TESTIFIED BY NUMBER ONE POSITION - (Three Years achievements Tamil Edition).
2. STERLING THREE YEARS’ PERFORMANCE TESTIFIED BY NUMBER ONE POSITION - (Three Years achievements English Edition).

3. Speeches of the Hon’ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu Thiru. Edappadi K.Palaniswami at various functions Part-1.
4. Speeches of the Hon’ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu Thiru. Edappadi K.Palaniswami at various functions Part-2.
5. Speeches of the Hon’ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu Thiru. Edappadi K.Palaniswami in the Tamil Nadu Legislative Assembly.
6. Compilation of quotes from the speeches of Hon’ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu Thiru. Edappadi K.Palaniswami at various functions.
7. Announcements made by Hon’ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu Thiru. Edappadi K.Palaniswami in the Tamil Nadu Legislative Assembly, under Rule 110.
8. THREE YEAR ACHIEVEMENTS - 32 District wise.

EXHIBITION

Government Exhibitions are organised in the Districts by Information and Public Relations Department on behalf of Government of Tamil Nadu to enable people to easily understand the Schemes, Achievements and Activities of the Government and to benefit from the schemes.

Six Government exhibitions are being conducted annually in the District headquarters of Madurai, Coimbatore, Salem, Vellore,

Permission for conducting private exhibitions in the Districts is given by the Information and Public Relations Department based on the recommendations from the District Collector, after duly obtaining recent 3 years' Income Tax Returns and having collected the amount to Chief Minister's Relief Fund as fixed by the Government.

INDIA INTERNATIONAL TRADE FAIR, NEW DELHI

This Department also participates every



Tirunelveli and Tiruchirappalli and on rotation basis in four other Districts, totalling 10 exhibitions every year.

80 Government exhibitions have been conducted (From March 2011 to February 2020) and a revenue of Rs.14,05,76,000 has been generated to the exchequer of Government.

PRIVATE EXHIBITIONS

Exhibitions conducted by private individuals solely for commercial purpose have been streamlined now by framing rules and regulations for the benefit of visiting public.

year in India International Trade Fair (I.I.T.F), New Delhi showcasing the policies, welfare schemes, activities and achievements of the State Government in an attractive manner.

As the Fair is conducted on All India basis, the participating States will have the opportunity to know about the schemes and achievements of Tamil Nadu. It also creates a national level marketing opportunity to the products made by the women's Self Help Groups of our State.



The Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu **Thiru. Edappadi K. Palaniswami** called on the Hon'ble Governor of Tamil Nadu, **Thiru. Banwarilal Purohit**, at Raj Bhavan, Chennai on 04.05.2020 and explained to him the series of preventive measures being taken in Tamil Nadu by various Departments against Corona Virus infection. Hon'ble Minister for Health Dr C. Vijayabaskar and high Government officials were present during the occasion.