



## **ABSTRACT**

Forests – Announcement – Tamil Nadu Digital Forests – Digitization of various activities of the Tamil Nadu Forest Department – Administrative Sanction - Approved – Orders – Issued.

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### **Environment, Climate Change - Forest (FR.14) Department**

**G.O.(Ms) No.7**

**Dated: 06.01.2022**

**பிலவ, மார்கழி - 22**

**திருவள்ளூர் ஆண்டு-2052**

**Read:**

Principal Chief Conservator of Forests (Head of Department),  
Chennai-15. Ref No. GIS/36970/2021, Dated: 05.10.2021.

### **ORDER:-**

Digital technologies around the globe are presenting an incredible opportunity for growth, and better management practices. Forestry sector is no exception. Various digital tools have enabled a host of services towards improved forestry practices. In view of the excellent opportunity available in the digital arena, the Department of Environment, Climate Change and Forests, have decided to embark on the digital pathway with the following objectives;

- i. Digitization of forest boundaries to help in the identification of encroachments.
- ii. Real time monitoring of incidents like forest fire, wildlife depredation etc.,
- iii. Creating a Centralized repository of spatial database
- iv. Geo tagging of all forestry development activities and forest assets.
- v. Monitoring of plantation activities
- vi. Climate impact assessment
- vii. Green cover monitoring
- viii. Wildlife Corridor monitoring
- ix. Human wildlife conflict reporting
- x. Easy access, retrieval and information sharing

This would help in the inventorisation of valuable forest resources. The initiative will be helpful in evidence-based decision making.

2. Therefore, with a view to advance forestry sector into a digital horizon, the Government have announced on the floor of Tamil Nadu Legislative Assembly on 03.09.2021 that "the activities of Forest Department shall be digitized for better management of forest resources and to fulfill present and future requirements of the Department", The objectives of the Digitization of Forest Department is to develop a strong geo-spatial database for better management of forest and wildlife habitats. This will provide accurate, authentic, and transparent database for project

formulation, monitoring, evaluation, etc., This will be useful for delineation of wildlife corridors, eco-sensitive zones, wetlands, zone of influence, etc.

3. The Principal Chief Conservator of Forests (Head of Department) has sent a proposal in this regard with the following major components:-

- i. DGPS Survey to be carried out to prepare necessary geo database with boundary details
- ii. Developing a centralized spatial database for Forest Department
- iii. End-to-End Computerization of Departmental Activities
- iv. Establishment of Documentation Cell at Head Quarters, Chennai
- v. Strengthening IT Infrastructure using Artificial Intelligence, Blockchain Technology and Cloud Computing etc.,
- vi. Capacity Building
- vii. Forest Resource Inventorisation on biennial basis for developing a MRV (Measurable Reporting and Verification) System for sustainable management of forests

4. Government after careful examination of the said proposal, accord administrative sanction for "Implementation of Tamil Nadu Digital Forests – Digitization of various activities of the Tamil Nadu Forest Department" at an amount of Rs.33.10 crore (Rupees Thirty three crore and ten lakhs only) to be implemented during the years 2021-2022 and 2022-2023 and also financial sanction for a sum of Rs.6,10,00,000/- (Rupees Six crore and ten lakh only) for the year 2021-2022, for carrying out the following items of work :-

| (Rs.in lakhs) |  |  |  |
|---------------|--|--|--|
| Sl. No.       | Items of Work  | Fund Sanctioned for the year 2021-2022 | Fund Sanctioned for the year 2022-2023 |
| 1.            | DGPS Survey of Forest blocks to prepare necessary geo database with boundary details | 10                                     | 1500                                   |
| 2.            | End-to-end Computerization of Tamil Nadu Forest Department                           | 100                                    | 500                                    |
| 3.            | Strengthening IT infrastructure  | 500                                    | 700                                    |
|               | <b>Total</b>   | <b>610</b>                             | <b>2700</b>                            |

5. The expenditure sanctioned in para 4 above shall be debited to the following head of account:-

- i) End to End Computerization of Departmental Activities - Rs.1,00,00,000/- (Financial Year 2021-2022)

2406 Forestry and Wildlife - 01 Forestry - 101 Forest Conservation, Development and Regeneration - State's Expenditure - JF DGPS Survey of notified Forest Areas of Tamil Nadu - 309 Grants-in-Aid - 03 Grants for Specific Schemes. (DP Code: 2406 01 101 JF 30903)

- ii) DGPS Survey and Strengthening IT Infrastructure - Rs.5,10,00,000/-  
(Financial Year 2021-22)

2406 Forestry and Wildlife - 01 Forestry - 101 Forest Conservation, Development and Regeneration - State's Expenditure - JF DGPS Survey of notified Forest Areas of Tamil Nadu - 333 Payments for Professional and Special Services – 03 - Special Service (DP Code: 2406 01 101 JF 33303)

6. The Principal Chief Conservator of Forests is authorized to draw and disburse the amount sanctioned in para 4 above.

7. The expenditure sanctioned in para 4 above shall constitute an item of "New Service" and the approval of the Legislature shall be obtained in due course of time by an inclusion in the Supplementary Estimates for the year 2021-2022. Pending approval of the Legislature, the expenditure shall initially be met by drawl of an advance from the Contingency Fund. Orders regarding this will be issued by the Finance (BG.I) Department separately. The Principal Chief Conservator of Forests shall apply to the Government in Finance (BG.I) Department in prescribed format along with a copy of this order for sanction of an advance from the Contingency Fund. The Principal Chief Conservator of Forests shall also send necessary draft explanatory notes for inclusion of the expenditure in the Supplementary Estimates for the year 2021-2022, without fail.

8. This order issues with the concurrence of Finance Department vide its U.O.No.60050/Fin.(AHDF&FW)Dept/2021 dated:06.01.2022 with Additional Sanction Ledger Number 1361 (One thousand three hundred and sixty one).

**(BY ORDER OF THE GOVERNOR)**

**SUPRIYA SAHU  
ADDITIONAL CHIEF SECRETARY TO GOVERNMENT**

To

The Principal Chief Conservator of Forests (Head of Department), Chennai-15.

The Principal Accountant General, Chennai-18

The Pay Accounts Officer, Chennai-35.

The Accountant General, Chennai-18.

Copy to

The Hon'ble Chief Minister's Office, Chennai-9.

The Senior Personal Assistant to Hon'ble Minister (Forests), Chennai-9.

The Private Secretary to Additional Chief Secretary to Government,

Environment, Climate Change and Forest Department, Chennai-9.

The Finance (AH,DF&FW / BG.I / BG.II/ WFM-I) Department, Chennai-9.

Environment, Climate Change and Forest (FR.7) Department, Chennai-9.

SF/SC.

**//FORWARDED BY ORDER//**

*V.S.Swama*  
**SECTION OFFICER** 06/01/2022