

**PRESS NOTE OF HON'BLE MINISTER FOR ENVIRONMENT
AND CLIMATE CHANGE**

The coastline of Tamil Nadu has a length of about 1076 km and Kovalam Beach, Chengalpattu, has been selected as the 9th Beach in India and the Blue Flag Certification was awarded on 21.9.2021. The certification for blue flag beach is done by Denmark Environment Agency by selecting worldwide protected and clean beaches.

The Department of Environment is the implementing agency for the blue beach activities. The beach is cladded with green cover and has 37 facilities for the visitors which includes safe swimming zone area, shower and change area, Reclining Bamboo Lounger chairs, hammocks, sit out Umbrella, outdoor fitness equipments, children play area, bamboo made litter bins, toilet and 7 stage purified drinking water vending Kiosk. The beach sand is regularly cleaned using the sand cleaning machine. But the main attraction of the beach is the Amphibious Wheel chair for the differently abled who can swim in the bathing zone safely. The season for bathing in the beach has been identified from 15th January to 15th September and this will be announced every year depending on the monsoon and the water current in the place.

The Honourable Minister for Environment and Climate Change Thiru. Siva Meyyanathan mentioned that the beach is a zero Liquid waste managed beach which has a Gray water treatment plant, 40 KW Off-grid solar power plant and a solid waste management unit with an automatic composting machine of 50 kg/day processing capacity.

The Honourable Minister for Environment and Climate Change also added that for the safety of the visitors 4 CCTV cameras have been installed for surveillance and Life Guards are stationed at the watch tower for any emergency call, the first aid centre caters to the immediate medical care for the visitors including CPR. The beach is open for visitors from morning 6 am to 6 pm and is well lit with 60 numbers of LED Street Lights

Care is taken to have the highest standards of cleanliness in the bathing zone and the level of Intestinal Enterococci is 56 cfu/100ml (acceptable level is 100) similarly E coli level is 62 cfu/100ml (acceptable level is 250).

Issued By: - DIPR, Secretariat, Chennai - 9.