

**Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu Thiru M.K. Stalin Speech at**  
**30<sup>th</sup> Southern Zonal Council Meeting**

Hon'ble Union Home Minister and Chairman of the Southern Zonal Council,

Hon'ble Chief Ministers,

Hon'ble lieutenant governor and administrators,

Senior Officers of the Union Government and the State Governments,

On behalf of people of Tamilnadu, I extend my warm wishes to all of you.

Convening the meeting of Southern Chief Ministers and the Hon'ble Union Home Minister presiding over it, is a commendable effort. I view this meeting as a positive approach to solve our differences and thank the Union Government for the same.

“Federalism at the centre; autonomy for states” is our motto. When we proposed this 50 years ago, we were a minority. Today, all the state governments and regional parties have embraced our motto.

We, in Tamil Nadu, have framed our “Dravidian Model” on the basis of the principle of “Everything for Everyone”. We have been implementing many flagship welfare schemes that cater to the basic needs of our people.

On this occasion, I consider it my duty to place some key demands to the Hon'ble Union Home Minister.

After the introduction of GST, the fiscal autonomy of State governments are largely restricted. Therefore, the compensation period must be extended upto 2 years. Disaster relief funds and other such funds shall be released immediately.

- ❖ I would like to talk about “The Tamil Nadu Admission to Undergraduate Medical Degree Courses Bill” which was passed, unanimously by the Tamil Nadu Legislative Assembly and pending for assent with the union government. I request the Hon'ble Union Home Minister to intervene in the matter to get the assent of the Hon'ble President of India to the above Bill.
- ❖ Next I would like to mention about the airports. Normally, the State Governments acquire and transfer the lands to Central PSUs / Airports Authority of India free of cost for setting up of airports. If the Airports Authority of India / Government of India at a later date, transfers the assets to a third party, then the value realized must be proportionately shared with the State Government considering the huge investment made by the State. Alternatively, the value of the lands should be converted as equity of the State Government through a Special Purpose Vehicle.
- ❖ Next, I would also like to mention about creation of High-Speed Rail Corridor: It is much more economical, more energy efficient and less polluting than aero planes and automobiles. In order to increase the average speed of travel in the State passenger traffic, I insist on creation of a High-Speed Rail corridor connecting specific locations

in Tamil Nadu like Chennai, Coimbatore, Tuticorin and Madurai to each other and to neighbouring states as well. This initiative would reduce carbon footprint in line with India's net zero ambitions and enhance the economic prosperity of the State as a whole.

- ❖ Further, I would like to discuss on formation of a mechanism for signing of MoUs. Consulates / Ministries / Agencies and sometimes even foreign countries want to sign Memorandum of Understanding with the State Governments.

However, there have been instances where necessary clearances / No Objection that have to be given by the Ministry of External Affairs getting delayed. Hence, I urge that a suitable simplified mechanism be formulated by the Government of India to allow the State Governments to enter into MoUs with other Countries / their Ministries / Agencies, especially in the sectors of investment promotion, strengthening academia - industry network, etc.

Now, I would like to talk on the energy front in Tamil Nadu: Tamil Nadu has been a pioneer in promoting renewable energy source which are eco-friendly and non-exhaustive.

I would like to request the Hon'ble Union Home Minister that;

(i) the Electricity (Amendment) Bill, 2022 may be withdrawn and the Stateowned Distribution Licensees be allowed to continue to supply quality power at affordable rates to the people.

(ii) The Raigarh-Pugalur-Trissur 800 Kilo Watt HVDC system may be declared as an asset of National and strategic importance so as to avoid tariff shock to Southern Regional States.

(iii) For under drawal limit up to 500 Mega Watt, the renewable energy rich state may be benefited by receiving the amount from pool account at 100% of normal rate.

Finally, it may be insisted for carrying out the annual overhauling program and refuelling of nuclear power plants during the wind season (June & July) only for better renewable energy integration.

Tamil Nadu has the highest offshore wind potential of 27 Giga Watt in the country. Hence, Offshore wind machines can be operated with higher efficiency compared to all other sources. Tamil Nadu is willing to procure all the power generated through offshore wind. As the allocation of blocks for offshore wind energy is with the Ministry of New and Renewable Energy, I request that action may be Expedited for the allocation of blocks for offshore wind energy in Tamil Nadu.

On the internal security front Tamil Nadu Government is keeping strict, constant vigil and maintaining public order and communal harmony effectively. Hence, it is suggested that real time information if any on the internal security aspects may be shared and I suggest a better Co-ordination among intelligence chiefs of Southern States. I appeal to my brother Chief Ministers to work along unitedly on this front.

❖ We, the southern states share many things in common. Our culture and languages have many similarities and long history.

All of our languages belong to the same family called the Dravidian Family. It was also proved by Robert Caldwell in his work, “A comparative Grammar of the Dravidian or South-Indian Family of Languages”. I appeal to all my brothers here that, We should function

unitedly with the spirit of brotherhood among us, in the path of “யாதும் ஊரே யாவரும் கேளிர்”

With this love and harmony we can solve all problems and march in the path of progress and development unitedly.

Before concluding I wish to state that the Tamil Nadu may be given the opportunity to host the next Southern Zone Council Meeting.

Thank you. Nandri, Vanakkam!

\*\*\*\*\*

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

For Latest Government News, Follow Us On :



tndiprnews



tndipr



tndipr



TN DIPR



www.dipr.tn.gov.in