

PRESS RELEASE

Speech of the Honourable Minister for Public Works, Highways and Minor Ports, Thiru.E.V.Velu at the National Sagarmala Apex Committee Meeting at New Delhi on 06.05.2022

Hon'ble Union Minister for Ports, Shipping and Waterways, Thiru Sarbananda Sonowal-ji, Hon'ble Union Ministers, Hon'ble Chief Ministers and Hon'ble Ministers of Coastal States, Government Officials,

Vanakkam to all and Greetings from Tamil Nadu

Tamil Nadu is one of the fast developing states under the strong and dynamic leadership of our beloved leader, the torch bearer of Dravidian model of administration Thiru M.K.Stalin.

I am happy to inform that all developmental works taken up at Cuddalore and Kanyakumari Minor Ports with financial support from Government of India, through Sagarmala Scheme are under progress.

The development works at Cuddalore Minor Port are nearing completion and Government of Tamil Nadu is taking action to bring the Port into operation. It will create job opportunities and increase cargo handling capacity of Minor Port in Tamil Nadu.

Here I wish to bring out two new proposals for your kind consideration and approval.

The first proposal is **DREDGING OF PAMBAN CHANNEL**

Pamban Channel connects East and West Coast of India by sea, has a depth of 2 metres only. Small vessels and fishing boats are using the Channel for transit purpose. This is an important channel in the Southern Coast of India for sea borne trade from East Coast to West Coast which needs development by deepening the Channel. Indian Railways is constructing a new Rail Bridge with a New Automatic Lift Span at the Centre. In the meantime, Tamil Nadu Maritime Board has conducted Feasibility Study for dredging the existing Pamban Channel upto 10 metres. This channel is very important for Indian Navy and Coast Guard for moving defence ships and also will improve Coastal trade through Small and Medium ships transit. This important Ship channel will complete the Sagarmala Chain at the Southern part of India. So the dredging of Pamban Channel is very much essential.

The Second proposal is **Holistic Development of Rameswaram Island**

Rameswaram Island is an important Place and we intend to develop the coastal areas of Rameswaram Island in line with the Holistic Development of Islands Scheme of the Union Government by way of providing passenger ferry service to pilgrims, tourists visiting the famous Ramanathaswamy Temple at Rameswaram. New Proposal with

Detailed Project Report will be forwarded for construction of Passenger Jetties around the Island.

The above proposals are of National Importance and INNOVATIVE. I request the Government of India to consider and provide 100% Financial Assistance (Grant) for implementing the above projects.

I thank the Hon'ble Union Minister for giving me this opportunity in addressing the views of Tamil Nadu in this National Sagarmala Apex Committee meeting.

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