

**Hon'ble Chief Minister's Speech in the Video Conference Meeting  
with Hon'ble Prime Minister on 11.5.2020**

**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 10.5.2020, 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. Kaba Sura 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 11.5.2020 to

17.5.2020 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 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 through out 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 31.5.2020. We know from Press that regular train service to Chennai and from Chennai will commence from 12<sup>th</sup> May. As the positive cases in Chennai are showing an increasing trend, don't permit train service up to 31.5.2020, 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 2<sup>nd</sup> 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 2019-20, may be allowed for 2020-21. The pending GST compensation amount may be released now.

50 per cent of the 2020-21 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 2020-21.

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 2020-21. A credit re-structuring package may also be provided so that they do not have repayment obligations till 31<sup>st</sup> 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.**

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