

**Hon'ble Chief Minister's Speech in the Video Conference Meeting  
with Hon'ble Prime Minister 11.8.2020**

**Hon'ble Prime Minister, Hon'ble Defence Minister, Hon'ble Chief  
Ministers and Officers, Vanakkam.**

At the outset, I sincerely thank you for your continuous guidance and support in tackling this Corona pandemic. Sir, I interact regularly with Collectors and SPs and have instructed them to strengthen focused testing, contact tracing and patient management. I have appointed Monitoring Officers in all the districts to follow up. The Government is taking all efforts to control the spread. At the same time, we are slowly relaxing the restrictions as per Government of India guidelines, to revive economic activities.

**I would like to highlight that Tamil Nadu is continuing its strategy of aggressive, targeted testing and is currently conducting the maximum number of PCR tests in the country. Tamil Nadu presently has 130 labs for COVID testing with 61 Government and 69 private labs, with an average testing capacity of 65,000 tests per day. These tests cost nearly 5 crore rupees a day. I request Government of India to fund 50% of the cost of the PCR tests from the PM – CARES fund.**

As on date, 32,92,958 samples have been tested for COVID-19, out of which 3,02,815 persons were tested positive and 53,099 active cases are in the State currently. **Tamil Nadu provides effective medical treatment due to which the State has maintained a low death rate, which is now at 1.6%, one of the lowest in the country. As on date, 2, 44,675 patients have recovered, which works out to a recovery rate of 80.8%, one of the highest in the country. Among**

**37 districts, containment measures are being carried out in 36 districts.**

All front-line workers are being given Kabasura Kudineer, Zinc and Multi vitamin tablets, in addition to prophylactic Hydroxy - chloroquine as per medical advice. The capacity of COVID Hospitals, COVID Health Centres and COVID Care Centres has been increased to 1,29,024 beds, which includes 33,576 beds in COVID Hospitals, 22,873 in COVID Health Centres and 72,575 beds in COVID Care Centres. 4,147 ventilators have been made available including 630 in the private sector.

Sir, Government of India is supplying ventilators to States through PM - CARES fund. Experts treating critically ill COVID patients have requested for higher degree of ventilatory care. Tamil Nadu has been procuring high-end ventilators to ensure that every patient gets the best critical care. **I therefore request Government of India to provide funds to Tamil Nadu for procuring high-end ventilators.** Sufficient funds for procurement of consumables have been sanctioned from SDRF and State budget. Orders have been placed by the State Government for **5.25 crore** Triple layer face masks, **48.05 lakh** N-95 masks, **41.3 lakh** PPE kits and **43.26 lakh** RT-PCR testing kits.

In order to handle the emergency situation, 2,751 Doctors, 6,893 Staff Nurses, 1058 Lab Technicians, 334 Health Inspectors, 2,751 Multipurpose Health Workers and 2,000 Paramedical Workers have been drafted.

Chennai Corporation is carrying out intensive door to door survey. Around 550 Fever Camps are conducted daily. So far 33,000 camps have been conducted and 17 lakh people were screened. We have also established 34 fixed and 10 mobile sample collection centres. So far 8 lakh RT-PCR tests have been done. With the help of 10,000 field workers, 93 NGOs and 2,700 volunteers, symptomatic cases are being

identified and vulnerable people are being provided necessary support. Apart from deputing IAS and IPS officers' teams for all 15 zones of Greater Chennai Corporation, I have also involved six Ministers to coordinate and supervise the COVID prevention and relief activities. **This proactive and aggressive approach has resulted in declining trend of new positive cases in Chennai City. Similar approach is being adopted in the rest of the state.**

Chennai Corporation has distributed free re-usable masks to 47 lakh slum dwellers to ensure compliance of its usage and to prevent infection spread. We have placed orders for supply of 4.5 crore free re-usable masks in other Corporations, Municipalities and Town Panchayats and have started the distribution.

Your announcement of extending free supply of rice and whole Channa Dal to the priority households is truly, a welcome measure. I would like to inform you that whole Channa Dal is not part of the staple diet of the people of Tamil Nadu. **Based on my earlier letter to you in this regard, I request you to release 55,637 MT of Toor Dal to the state for distribution till November.**

As per the guidelines of Government of India, we have ensured return of nearly 3.77 lakh migrant labours in 253 trains and the State Government has borne the entire cost. As on date, we have received 60,875 passengers under Vande Bharat and Samudra Setu Missions, as well as Private flights.

I have announced a special incentive package including capital subsidy, interest subvention etc. to promote manufacturing of COVID 19 related medical equipments and drugs in Tamil Nadu. **At present, 50 such companies have started their production.** Agriculture activities, food processing and other industries are in operation throughout the State. **I have also formed a high level committee**

**under Dr C.Rangarajan, former RBI Governor, to make recommendations on economic revival measures.**

I thank you for announcing the Emergency Credit Line Guarantee Schemes (ECLGS) and the Credit Guarantee Schemes for Subordinate Debt (CGSSD) Schemes for the revival of MSME sector. I have conducted meetings with the bankers at Chennai and in the districts and requested them to sanction maximum loans to the MSME units. Due to this, as on date, we have disbursed 5,329 crore rupees loans, covering 1,60,841 MSME units, thus becoming the leading State in the country and we would continue our efforts in this direction.

**I WOULD LIKE TO PLACE THE FOLLOWING REQUESTS TO THE HON'BLE PRIME MINISTER FOR KIND CONSIDERATION.**

We have received 512.64 crore rupees from Government of India in two tranches under the Emergency Response and Health Systems Preparedness package out of an envelope of 712.64 crore rupees allotted to Tamil Nadu. I request this package for the Tamil Nadu may be stepped up to 3,000 crore rupees as per my earlier request.

Both Central and State Tax revenue will fall short of the Budget Estimates. To make up for the shortfall, Tamil Nadu may be allocated 9,000 crore rupees special grant to combat COVID-19 and it's after effects on the State's economy.

The GST compensation for April-June, 2020 may be released early.

As we have already fully exhausted the State Disaster Response and Mitigation Fund, I also request an ad-hoc grant of 1,000 crore rupees from NDRF immediately to fight the pandemic.

Releasing pending CMR subsidy of 1,321 crore rupees at this time, will 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. I request you to instruct the concerned Ministry to remove the requirements for the power sector reform and also to allow greater latitude to States in implementing the reform agenda.

In the COVID scenario, my Government has proposed several externally aided projects to Government of India, for posing to various external financial agencies. Early approval of Department of Economic Affairs and concerned Government of India Agencies will enable quick disbursement, which would contribute to the broader economic revival efforts.

I request you to instruct SIDBI to provide at least **1,000 crore** rupees as refinance facility to Tamil Nadu Industrial Investment Corporation Limited from the RBI special packages. This will help to revive the MSME industries in Tamil Nadu.

The special loan product for Covid-19 for SHGs should be implemented by all banks with an enhanced loan amount of at least 2 lakh rupees per group and with enhanced interest subvention.

All districts in Tamil Nadu should be brought in Category-I for enhanced upfront interest subvention.

The CGFMU Scheme of enhanced bulk loans with Government of India guarantee to SHGs should be implemented immediately and also extended to Panchayat Level Federations in Tamil Nadu.

**Thank you, Vanakkam.**

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