

**Speech of the Honourable Minister for Environment, Government of Tamil Nadu Thiru. Siva V. Meyyanathan**

Shri.Bhupender Yadav ji, Honourable Minister of Environment Forest and Climate Change & Labour and Employment, Govt. of India Shri. Ashwini Kumar Choubey ji, Honourable Minister of State for Consumer Affairs. Food and Public Distribution, Environment Forest and Climate Change, Govt. of India Shrimathi.Leena Nandan I.A.S, Secretary, Ministry of Environment Forest and Climate Change, Govt. of India Shri. Naresh Pal Gangwar I.A.S, Additional Secretary, Ministry of Environment Forest and Climate Change, Govt. of India Tmt. SupriyaSahu, I.A.S, Additional Chief Secretary to Government, Govt. of Tamil Nadu. Respected Chief Secretaries, Additional Chief Secretaries, Chairman and Chairperson, Member Secretaries of State Pollution Control Boards, Commissioners and Honourable Mayors and other dignitaries.

Ladies and gentlemen,

First of all, I extend a warm welcome to all the Guests to Tamil Nadu and I also cordially welcome you all for this workshop organized by MoEFCC, Government of India and the Tamil Nadu Pollution Control Board, Government of Tamil Nadu.

It is a matter of immense pleasure and privilege to be here this morning, in the midst of a group of very eminent people assembled here for the "Sensitization Cum Review Workshop on the National Clean Air Programme (NCAP)"

"இதனை இதனால் இவன் முடிக்கும் என்று ஆய்ந்து  
அதனை அவன்கண் விடல்"

**After having considered, "this man can accomplish this, by these means", let (the king) leave with him the discharge of that duty.**

These are the words of the great Tamil saint Thiruvalluvar and following the golden verse, I am glad that the opportunity to conduct this important workshop has been assigned to the state of Tamil Nadu.

The State of Tamil Nadu is well known for its age old culture and ethnicity in conserving the nature and managing the natural resources, it is also a well established fact that Tamil Nadu is adopting a sustainable development in coherence with nature and also pioneered new mechanism to control and monitor the pollution. Considering this conducting "**Sensitization cum Review Workshop**" for the southern region in Tamil Nadu would be appropriate and appreciable.

To conserve the nature, the Government of Tamil Nadu has taken lot of initiatives, the industrial parks are instructed to use their open space reserves (OSR) to develop green belts with native trees, which helps in reduction of global warming, recharge of ground water and avoids soil erosion.

In another initiative the tertiary treated water from common Sewage treatment Plants from greater Chennai City Corporation is being supplied to the nearby Industrial parks for the industrial purposes which has enormously reduced the intake of raw water.

The Government of Tamil Nadu emphasizes all the highly polluting industries to achieve Zero Liquid Discharge (ZLD) of trade effluent thereby recycling the treated waste water and reducing the consumption of raw water for industrial purpose.

To prevent dumping of solid waste into water bodies and to enhance vigil and monitoring five "Flying squads" have been formed by the present State Government in Chennai, Vellore, Salem, Namakkal and Tiruppur Districts.

Ambient air pollution has become one of the major health threats to the Indian population during recent decades. An effective clean air action plan is a powerful tool for achieving clean air for cities, comprising a list of mitigation measures for every air pollution source. The Clean air programme is a collection of regulations, policies, and programmes, which aims to improve air quality and public health by identifying cost effective measures to reduce emissions from all the known sources.

In this pursuit, to mitigate and abate the air pollution, the TNPCB is operating 28 NAMP stations in Tamil Nadu under National Air Quality Monitoring Programme (NAMP) funded by the CPCB. All the above stations are functioning on 24 hours basis twice a week. The survey results are displayed in the TNPCB website.

In Tamil Nadu, CPCB has identified Thoothukudi as the Non-attainment city (NAC) in the year 2018, Trichy, Madurai and Chennai as Non-attainment and million plus cities under NCAP in the years of 2019, 2020 and 2021 respectively. High levels of particulate matter are due to movement of vehicles, re-suspension of road dust, burning of solid waste, use of fuels in domestic and commercial establishments, industrial emissions etc. Under the National Clean Air Programme (NCAP), the Government of India provides funding to ULBs to improve air quality in the country's non-attainment cities. The action plans to improve the air quality in the four Nonattainment cities of Tamil Nadu have been approved by CPCB and are under implementation by the line departments like Greater Chennai Corporation (GCC), Municipal Administration and Water Supply Department, Transport Department and Public Works Department.

To monitor other towns in districts under the NAMP, the Board has established additional 24 stations from October 2021, covering 8 districts with three stations in each district. The Districts are Dharmapuri, Kanyakumari, Perambalur, Sivagangai, Thiruvavur, Theni, Villupuram and Thiruvannamalai. Hence under the NAMP project, in total, TNPCB has established 52 stations in the State. Care Air Centre is functioning at the Head Office of TNPCB. The purpose of this Centre is to monitor industrial stack emissions and the Ambient Air Quality of surrounding areas on real time basis (24x7). Major air polluting industries such as Cement, Oil Refinery, Petrochemicals, Thermal Power Plants, Fertilizers, Iron & Steel industries etc. are connected to the Care Air Centre. In case standards are exceeded, auto generated SMS and e-mail messages are sent immediately to the industry and to the concerned Joint Chief Environmental Engineers (M) and District Environmental Engineers for further action. Besides, this system ensures self-monitoring and rectification by industries. So far, 405 industrial units are connected for stack monitoring and 154 industrial units for Ambient Air quality monitoring to this Centre. Following the success of this Scheme, the Board has expanded its network incorporating the Water Quality Watch Centre.

After assumption of the new Government under the dynamic leadership of our **Honourable Chief Minister Thiru. M.K. Stalin**, Tamil Nadu pollution Control Board has proposed to establish 25 more CAAQM stations in the remaining Districts of Tamil Nadu. Necessary Government Orders has been passed for an amount of Rs. 64 Crores for the year of 2022-2023. Forecast of Air quality on a Real Time basis with early warning system will also be established as one of the modules of the proposed state of the art '**Integrated Environmental Monitoring Studio**' at Chennai.

In order to reduce the levels of urban air pollution, traffic congestion and carbon footprint, the Tamil Nadu Pollution Control Board has launched a drive to popularize ECOMmute, wherein people are encouraged to commute by walk, cycle, Evehicles or public transport and also given awareness to school students about the concept of ECOMmute.

**The Honourable Chief Minister Thiru. M.K. Stalin** has announced free transport for women in the government buses which helped lot of women to switch to the public transport and avoided using their individual vehicle which in turn helps in reduction of Automobile emission.

Action on various fronts have been taken by the Tamil Nadu Government for effective implementation of the ban on Single Use plastic. **The Honourable Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu inaugurated a mega event titled "MeendumManjappai campaign" on 23.12.2021** at the Kalaivanar Arangam, Chepauk, Chennai and launched the "Manjappai" logo for the campaign. The Honourable Chief Minister also inaugurated an exhibition of stalls displaying various eco-friendly alternatives along with the machinery for the production of eco-friendly alternatives such as banana leaf products, fibre/rice bran/rice husk / agricultural products, areca leaves products, edible cutlery products, coconut shell products, coir products, pottery products, palm products, cloth/jute products, compostable carry bags/cutlery products, cloth banners, including a stall demonstrating activities undertaken under Extended Producer Responsibility initiatives in the State (EPR). An awareness short film on the ill effects of single use plastic acted by a leading Tamil actor was screened and an appeal was also made to the public to use traditional cloth bags (Manjappai) and avoid single use plastics.

The "Meendum Manjappai" campaign is being conducted at the District level in all districts of Tamil Nadu to create a People's movement against throwaway plastic involving all stakeholders from various sectors like Traders Association, Merchants Association, Social clubs, Local Bodies, Schools, Colleges and Industries. Nearly 174 plastic units are closed by the Tamil Nadu Pollution Control Board, 1715 tons of plastic has been seized and a fine of Rs.1133.17 Lakhs Has been collected.

The golden words of **Muthamizh Aringar kalaingar Thiru. M. Karunanidhi**, states

**"அகந்தூய்மைவாய்மைக்குபுறந்தூய்மைவாழ்விற்கு"**

**Practicing truth is for Mental Health whereas keeping our surrounding clean is for Physical Health**

Under the guidance of that great leader, the Government is committed to keep Tamil Nadu Green and clean.

Thank you one and all

**Nandri! Vanakkam!**

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