

THIRD WORLD STATISTICS DAY – 2020**(19.10.2020 to 21.10.2020)****Organised by****Department of Economics and Statistics,
Planning and Development Department, Government of Tamil Nadu**

The World Statistics Day is organised globally every fifth year according to the United Nations General Assembly Resolution. Worldwide importance of official data has been acknowledged and accordingly, the first World Statistics Day was celebrated on 20th October 2010 with the theme “organising the many contributions and achievements of official statistics” and in the Second World Statistics Day the focus was on “Better data, better lives”. This year, the third World Statistics Day was celebrated around the globe on 20th October 2020 with the theme “Connecting the world with data we can trust”. The Department of Economics and Statistics of the Planning and Development department organised the virtual **event** of the Third World Statistics Day from 19th October to 21st October, 2020 with the theme “**connecting the world with the data we can trust**”. The focus was not only on data collection but to share and build the capabilities of the department officials on the recent technological developments in the field of statistics.

On the first day of the virtual **event** of World Statistics Day – 2020 on 19.10.2020, Intra-department **quiz programme** on **Official Statistics** for the Staff of the Department of Economics and Statistics at the Regional and District level was organised in the forenoon session. The afternoon session, commenced with the special address by the District Collectors of Thoothukudi, Thiruvannamalai, and Virudhunagar on the topic “**Use of Statistics for District Administration**”. The Collectors shared how they used different types of data for field work and programme implementation. Official and Staff of the department from 125 locations across the State, virtually participated. This was followed by a presentation on “**the use of Big Data in Official Statistics and Governance**” by Thiru. Brijendra Singh, Deputy Director General, NAD, Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation, Government of India. The technical session for the day ended with the presentation by Ms. Aparna Krishnan, Project Director, JPAL-South Asia on the topic “**Data quality Framework for data we trust**”.

Day 2: 20th October, 2020**Session 1**

The **Hon’ble Minister for Co-operation, Statistics and Ex-servicemen welfare, Thiru. Sellur K. Raju** inaugurated the World Statistics Day on 20.10.2020 forenoon at the New Conference Hall, 10th Floor, Namakkal Kavingnar Maaligai, Secretariat. Hon’ble Minister delivered the inaugural address and emphasised the importance of Sustainable Development Goals



(SDGs). He pointed out that the SDGs were based on People, Planet, Prosperity,

Peace, and Partnerships and covered 17 critical goals. The State has taken various steps to ensure the achievement of these goals so as to achieve the social, economic and environmental concerns of the State. The role of the Department of Economics and Statistics has been to continuously support the administrative functions of the various departments. The Hon'ble Minister in his inaugural address commended the department and highlighted the importance of Statistics in policy making and framing programmes which would pave way for achieving the SDG goals for Sustainable Development of the State.



The Chief Secretary to Government, **Thiru. K. Shanmugam, I.A.S.**, delivered the **Special Address** wishing everyone on the World Statistics Day and acknowledged the role of the department. The Chief Secretary spoke about the importance of a robust statistical system and how data helped to look at the past and present and helped in the projections for the future. He encouraged the department to develop an innovative and reliable data collection system that after analysis would help in forming a framework that would be both impressive and reliable. During the pandemic time, the availability of data allowed the State to ramp up its infrastructure and take necessary action at the right time and right place. He said that data is important in the context of micro economics, macro economics - employment growth, the market trends and pointed out that the reliability of the information is what is useful for the administrators and their ability to have the assessment of various parameters. The Chief Secretary pointed out that the Dept. of Economics and Statistics has helped the State to interlink all Stakeholders and this **event** is due recognition for its services.

On this occasion, the following **four books prepared by the Department of Economics and Statistics were released by the Hon'ble Minister.**



1. **SDG Tamil Nadu Indicator framework:** The book has presented the indicators that would be used at the State, district and block level to monitor the progress of the State in the Sustainable Development Goals.

2. **Tamil Nadu at a glance – October 2020** is a compilation of the state's current Statistical profile.

3. **Key Development Indicators – 1950-2020** compiles the historical data sets of the key development indicators.

4. **Estimates of State Domestic Product Tamil Nadu – 2019-2020** presents the State's current economic situation with details of the shares of the different sectors.

The Hon'ble Minister gave away the Prizes to the winners of the quiz competition for the headquarters while for the remaining regions winners announced and prizes have been sent to respective regions.

The **Key Note** address was given by the Senior Officials of the Government – **Thiru. Hans Raj Verma, I.A.S.**, Additional Chief Secretary to Government, Rural Development & Panchayat Raj and Information Technology Department discussed the need for reliable data and the need to embrace techniques of Artificial Intelligence, block chain technologies that would be available for the State to utilise for inclusive growth. **Dr. Atulya Misra, I.A.S.**, Additional Chief Secretary to Government, Revenue & Disaster Management Department highlighted that the Department of Revenue collected its own set of data which has been utilised for the implementation of the various social security schemes and also utility of Statistics in building preventing measures under disaster management, **Thiru N. Muruganandam, I.A.S.**, Principal Secretary to Government, Industries Department speaking about how William Deming had said that apart from trust in god everything else would need to be backed by data and this function is being conducted by all those who are involved in the official data collection, analysis and presentation of data for utilisation by the administration, highlighted that the department would be going ahead with data centres and hubs for real time data collection that would allow for the interaction and interface for data driven decision making for policy makers.

Thiru Gagandeep Singh Bedi, I.A.S., Agricultural Production Commissioner & Principal Secretary to Government, Agriculture Department spoke about how the State had bagged 5 Krishi Karman awards based on the inputs received from the department of Economics and Statistics. He pointed out how the department was



able to utilise the data generated for improving farmer's welfare and income including crop productivity. The programme had an audience of 60 members seated with 7 dignitaries and a virtual audience from 300 locations across the Country/State who had tuned in live through the virtual 'you-tube' platform.

Day 2: 20th October, 2020

Session 2

In the afternoon of 20.10.2020, the virtual sessions commenced with the inaugural address by **Hon'ble Vice Chairman, Thiru C. Ponnaiyan**, State Development Policy Council, who stressed on the **Importance of data and statistics in policy making and policy coherence**. The Hon'ble Vice Chairman insisted that the focus area of Data Collection should be towards Primary Data particularly for addressing agriculture, Poverty Reduction, Reducing Malnutrition, improving better intervention in the Public Distribution System, Self-Help Groups and Women Empowerment. The Vice Chairman was present throughout the long deliberations and spoke about household food security which can be achieved by moving from livelihood security to the nutritional security. He highlighted that these aspects are the top priorities of Government towards all sections of people. The Vice Chairman also highlighted about need of the demand driven data collection by the Department of Economics and Statistics.

The technical session had senior most officers of Departments from finance, health and training who shared their views on how the data was being used for decision making and how data system process can be enhanced further in the state. The Additional Chief Secretary to Government, **Thiru. S. Krishnan, I.A.S.**, spoke on **Evidence based Policy making for Good Governance** with a stress on sharing of data among the departments to facilitate decision making and it being available at the right time being critical. He urged the department to come out with periodical analytical reports and take up evaluations of the programmes and schemes on a regular basis to improve the reach and performance. He also encouraged the department to look for institutional partnerships in their surveys and data collection. The Principal Secretary, Health and Family Welfare,

Dr. J. Radhakrishnan, I.A.S., in his talk on the **Role of Statistics in Health Management** shared how statistics was critical for tracking the vital events and also highlighted the importance of the State Health Intelligence Unit which was helpful in analysing the COVID-19 situation in the State and also take necessary and suitable actions to revamp the State's health system to deal with the exigencies that may arise during the pandemic.

Dr. V. Irai Anbu, I.A.S., Additional Chief Secretary to Government/DDG, Anna Institute of Management, in his address stressed the importance of the **Training needs in Statistics in Modern Era** and need to train people who are working in that particular area so that they could use it effectively. He insisted the capacity building of department under recent additions in field of Statistics like Machine learning, Artificial Intelligence in data analysis, big data analysis, neural network and python programming.

Dr. Pinaki Chakraborty, Director, National Institute of Public Finance and Policy, New Delhi delivered his speech on **Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)** and how it helps in connecting the world. He spoke about the non-linearity of data and how the incremental improvement is the challenge for States like Tamil Nadu who have already achieved the national targets and are still aiming high.

Dr. Rajeswari Kasthuri, Deputy Director General (FOD), NSO, Chennai elaborated on the **Need for Socio-Economic Surveys** and how Understanding the various facets of socio-economic conditions like health, education, rural debt, housing conditions, tourism etc. in the country is possible only through periodic socio-economic surveys backed by secondary data sources. **Dr. Kripa Anantpur**, Associate Professor, Madras Institute of Development Studies (MIDS) spoke on the importance of **Panel Surveys for Policy decisions** and highlighted how the panel survey provided valuable, timely data to the GOTN to help make informed policy decisions. She also pointed out how in the next 2 waves of Survey of recent Covid -19 survey they have conducted in collaboration with Department of Economics and Statistics would help track changes over time for the same households for some of the same variables and provide information on new issues that are likely to emerge as a consequence of the Pandemic. The data focus was also on online Education and risk Perception. The session had virtual presence of participants in 127 locations of the State virtually.

Day 3 : 21st October, 2020



The forenoon of the third day of the **virtual events** on 21-10-2020 focused on the innovations, challenges and also a look at the emerging data scenario with artificial intelligence, big data and data processing techniques with new technologies and tools.

Dr. Rajnikaanthan, I.A.S., Director of Census Operations of India, Tamil Nadu delivered the speech on the **Technological Innovation in Census methods** and how data

collection, validation and quality check has become easier with technology and how these would be implemented in the census of 2021 which would be bringing in the interactive data submission by the individuals themselves onto the census portal. The **Challenges and issues in Agricultural Statistics** was discussed by **Dr. K.R. Ashok**, Director, Tamil Nadu Agriculture University (CARDS) highlighted how agricultural data is required to support policy level interventions and optimum use of resources from the farm level up to the State level. **Dr. R. Gopinath**, Principal Scientist, M.S. Swaminathan Research Foundation spoke about dissemination of data and the need of unit level data and how input surveys are required to capture climate change impact on agriculture including changes in the cropping pattern of variety wise area under major crops. **Thiru. M.R. Jagannathan**, Joint Director, Agriculture Department discussed how the data related to the indicators of SDGs were relevant and need to understand the minimum data requirements along with the interlinkages and integration service framework between data of different departments. He also spoke about utility of satellite images in assessing crop coverage and yield estimation and predominant role played by the department of Economics and Statistics in using remote sensing data.

The second part of the session had three speakers who spoke about the use of Technology in Data and Statistics today and future, State's capability and preparedness to collect, analyse and present data for decision making for the policy makers. **Dr. Santhosh K.Misra, I.A.S.**, CEO, TNeGA delivered his address on responsible **Artificial Intelligence for social empowerment using Data Analysis** and the challenge being in the development of an integration and exchange platform for looking at and presenting intelligent inferences from the huge data that is available with the government departments. He spoke about the State Family Database Survey that the State had initiated. **Ms. N. Shanthi**, DGM, ELCOT and Thiru. Senthilkumar, Dy. DGM, ELCOT spoke on the topics of **IT Tools in Data Processing** and how the State had scaled up its capabilities and technology to provide data analytics and projections as required by the policy makers. **Thiru.Vijaya Kumar**, Joint Director, Centre for Development of Advanced Computing (CDAC) made his presentation on **Big Data and Statistics**. This session had virtually witnessed by the participants from 211 locations across the State , listening to the speakers on the current advances in data analytics and challenges to be addressed.

The afternoon session of 21.10.2020 focused on training and capacity building needs of the department and also a talk on making data work for the people, **Thiru. Vinit Dev WankHede, I.P.S.**, Additional Director General of Police, State Crime Records Bureau (SCRB) made a presentation on **Crime Statistics** and how the crime tracking and networking has been able to improve the state's safety and security based on the data collected through the CCTVs and also through its data networking of crime spots. **Dr.Akila Radhakrishnan**, UNICEF, Social-Policy Specialist, Chennai spoke on the Theme for 3rd World Statistics Day, "**connecting the World with data we can trust**" – **Indian Perspective**. Her point on how data collected from the public should be made available to the people and also the need for building in a human face to it along with a focus on it being available at the disaggregated level put in a

fresh perspective on the utility of data. **Dr. D. Sampangi Raman**, Head, Indian Statistical Institute, Chennai highlighted the importance of **Industrial Statistics**.

The last session on the **Capacity Building on Statistics** was given by **Dr. B. Viswanathan**, Director, Tamil Nadu State Statistical Training Institute (TNSSTI), Department of Economics and Statistics. This session was virtually viewed in 227 locations by the Stakeholders and department officials.

The three-day World Statistics Day – 2020 events on connecting the world with the Data we trust has also been an attempt to show how the Department of Economics and Statistics is gearing itself to the changing concepts of digital India. The leadership and the commitment shown by the top levels of Government is reflected in the administrative heads of the Additional Chief Secretary to Government, Planning and Development Department **Tmt. Jayashree Raghunandan, I.A.S.**, and the Commissioner, Department of Economics and Statistics **Dr. Atul Anand, I.A.S.**, who worked closely with the officers of the Economics and Statistics Department throughout the planning, designing and conduct of the programme showing the top position accorded to the development of the statistical framework of the State. The heartening fact that even during the pandemic situation all the sessions had a good virtual attendance of an average of 125 locations, people attending every session indicates that the commitment of the department does not stop at the headquarters level who are more tuned to the State's visioning, but is supported ably by the district teams. The presence of the senior officers and administrators in the different sessions highlighting the State's capabilities on the current technological advances like Big data and AI shows that the State is clearly working on its potential that is poised to take the State along the path of a high growth trajectory with evidence based decision making rooted in a strong framework of integrated data collection systems that would leave no one behind. The programme primarily helped to understand the inter-departmental strengths and availability of technological know-how for cross learning and building on the State's strengths to project it at the national and global levels while at the same time using these for those people on the last mile of connect. It would also ensure that there would be equity and inclusiveness in the policies of the State where all the citizens of the State would enjoy a high standard of living and a peaceful life.

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