

## **Press Release**

### **Government of Tamil Nadu Launches Tide Turner, Green School and Urban Cooling Initiatives with United Nations Environment Programme on the sidelines of G-20 Environment and Sustainability Summit at Chennai.**

The Department of Environment, Climate Change and Forests Department, Government of Tamil Nadu (ECCF), on Thursday (27.07.2023) launched several Green Initiatives in partnership with United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP). The initiatives were launched by Ms. Inger Anderson, Executive Director, United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) at a function organized in Kalaivanar Arangam by the Environment, Climate Change and Forests Department, Government of Tamil Nadu.

Hon'ble Minister for Environment and Climate Change Thiru. Siva. V.Meyyanathan, Hon'ble Minister for Development Cooperation and Global Climate Policy Thiru. Dan Jannik Jorgensen, Environment, Climate Change and Forests Department Additional Chief Secretary to Government Tmt. Supriya Sahu, IAS., were present on the occasion.

United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) and the Government of Tamil Nadu have signed a three-year agreement to help Tamil Nadu deliver clean, efficient, and equitable cooling and adapt to rising extreme heat. The agreement with the Environment, Climate Change and Forest Department (ECCFD), the Municipal Administration and Water Supply Department (MAWS) and the Housing and Urban Development Department (HUD) was signed on March 1st, 2023. Under this MoU, UNEP and the Government of Tamil Nadu will cooperate on a

range of issues, including sustainable cooling, plastic waste management, and environmental education.

The Tide Turner Plastic Challenge (TTPC), is a flagship of United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) initiative across all schools of the State. The TTPC is perhaps the world's largest youth-led movement against single use plastic products (SUPP). It has now engaged over 650,000+ youth across 50 countries and India leads in terms of youth participation and creating innovative ground level solutions with longitudinal impact.

The Challenge uses gaming approach to engage youth in multiple levels of challenges. In the first level participants gain knowledge and audit their own plastic footprint and take action to reduce it. In the next leadership level, they are expected to influence and mobilize their institutions and communities for collaborative action. At the final championship level, they show discernible change on the ground. Participants receive certificates and badges commensurate with their performance. Green Tamil Nadu Schools initiative covers 25 schools in the state.

With Climate Change becoming a reality, young children need to be prepared for climate change adaptation and mitigation. The green revolution should begin with the younger generation. 25 Green Schools have been selected to implement the green vision of the Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu. These schools shall undertake various green measures like energy efficiency by using solar lighting and use of solar pumps, setting up of solar borewell, adapting rain water harvesting, composting, creating vegetable garden, medicinal garden and planting of fruit trees, reducing water use, recycling of waste water, creating a plastic free environment etc. All the electricity requirements for the school will be met by Solar power.

These schools shall be the torchbearers of the green school initiative which will inspire all other schools to follow the green footprints. The schools shall also ranked on a green index to create a repository of information on green initiatives. An amount of Rs.5 crore has been allocated for this scheme.

Tamil Nadu's Plastic waste management initiative such as, "Meendum Majappai" and UNEP's Tide Turner's Plastic Challenge, together are two initiatives that can create a ripple in reaching out to the community and creating a change in society's behaviour around single use plastic consumption.

The initiative for urban cooling was also launched on the occasion Government of Tamil Nadu and UNEP shall strive to implement several innovative solutions to bring down the Heat Index. The initiative will also cover training and capacity building of stakeholders like builders, architects, planners and residents welfare associations etc.

**Additional Chief Secretary to Government,  
Environment, Climate Change and Forests Department.**

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