

Press Release

Government of Tamil Nadu to Modernize its Forest Force through a comprehensive scheme over a 3 years period

The Government of Tamil Nadu on Wednesday i.e. 28th December 2022 issued orders to modernize its forest force by equipping them with modern technologies. Capacity building programmes and advance forest management practices at an outlay of Rs. 52.83 crores over a 3 year period from 2022 to 2025.

The Tamil Nadu Forest Force modernization project has six components including a Human Resource Management component to be implemented at a cost of Rs.8.55 cores. This would include in-service training programmes for frontline forest personnel, and improvement of training infrastructure at the Tamil Nadu Forest Academy etc.

Forest personnel shall be given specialized training, an exposure to best practices around the country and abroad.

Under component II, the Government has proposed to improve Forest Department's information and communication technology at a cost of Rs. 40 lakhs. Government has proposed to develop a centre for artificial intelligence to enhance monitoring and surveillance activities for better management of wildlife. A cyber cell shall be set up in the newly established Tamil Nadu Crime Control Bureau. The digital wireless network will be scaled up in the department for improving communication.

Under component III, the Government has proposed to equip the department with advanced weaponry, for which Government shall set up an expert group to advise on modern weaponry needs for wildlife protection. A command and control centre for management of Human wildlife conflict shall be set up in a priority area which will use unmanned aerial vehicles for better surveillance and monitoring.

Under component IV, Government has decided to set up high tech forest nurseries at five locations. Advanced forest fire control and rescue gears shall also be provided to the department.

The Government shall promote collaborative research work involving Advanced Institute of Wildlife Conservation (AIWC) located at Chennai with national and international agencies. The department shall also work on getting global accreditation for Tamil Nadu Forest Department projects.

Modern day forestry practices require thoughtful strategies to protect the forest heritage for years to come. The forest management practices have undergone paradigm shift over the past few decades. Today the emphasis is on sustainable forestry in tune with the advent of several new technologies in order to meet the challenges of modern times especially due to climate change. The modernization of Forest Force is being undertaken in light of the changes highlighted above.

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

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