

Speech of Thiru. Thangam Thenarasu, Minister for Finance and Human Resources Management, Government of Tamil Nadu, presenting the Budget Estimates for the year 2024-25 to the Legislative Assembly on 19th February 2024.

Hon'ble Speaker,

It is my great honour and privilege to deliver the Budget Speech for the financial year 2024-25 in this august House. This budget will propel the growth of Tamil Nadu, which is currently the second largest economy in the country. I whole-heartedly thank our Hon'ble Chief Minister for his continued guidance and support in preparation of this Budget.

2. I commence my speech with the immortal kural of Saint Thiruvalluvar.

**“காட்சிக்கு எளியன் கடுஞ்சொல்லன் அல்லனேல்
மீக்கூறும் மன்னன் நிலம்”.**

(குறள் – 386)

“Where king is easy of access, where no harsh word repels,
That land's high praises every subject swells”

(Kural 386)

The whole world will exalt the country of the king who is easy of access, and who is free from harsh language.

The words of Thiruvalluvar shall forever ring true!

3. It is a matter of great pride to Tamil Nadu that our Hon'ble Chief Minister is an epitome of kindness, who embraces even the harshest of his critics affectionately. He is a leader nonpareil, easily accessible to the people from even the remotest corners of our State.

4. As a prelude to my speech, I would like to highlight before the Assembly a few major milestones that are etched in the annals of history. Over the last century, several pioneering welfare schemes that were announced in the Budgets placed before this august House have made Tamil people stand tall with pride, paving the way for the successful growth story of Tamil Nadu.

- ❖ Mullai Periyar Dam, the lifeline of southern Tamil Nadu, was constructed based on a proposal worth 87 lakh rupees sent to the British Government in 1894 by Col. Pennycuick, the then PWD Secretary of Madras Presidency.

- ❖ Exactly 100 years ago in 1924, during the Prime Ministership of Raja of Panagal of Justice Party in the then Madras Presidency, the construction of Mettur Reservoir across the Cauvery River was announced in the budget and was completed ten years later, in 1934-35, at a total allocation of 647 lakh rupees. Today, it serves to benefit 16 lakh acres of irrigated land across 12 districts.
- ❖ In the Budget of 1939-40, the General Sales Tax was introduced in Madras Presidency for the first time in the country, at the rate of 1 per cent, generating a revenue of 439 lakh rupees during its first year.
- ❖ The noon meal programme was introduced for the first time in the country in 1921 to students in Thousand Lights School at a cost of 1 anna per day per student by the then Chairman of Madras Municipal Corporation, Sir PT Thyagarayar. In the budget of 1957-58, this was expanded throughout the State by Perunthalaivar Kamarajar, at a maximum cost of eighteen rupees per year per student, with an allocation of 10 lakh rupees for this scheme.
- ❖ With the objective of ensuring that the poor and marginalized lead their lives with dignity,

Muthamizh Arignar Kalaignar set up the Slum Clearance Board in 1970 and a sum of Rs.4 crore was allocated in the Budget Estimates of 1971-72.

- ❖ In the Budget Estimates of 1982-83, the Nutritious Meal Programme introduced by Makkal Thilagam M.G.R. and later expanded across the country was provided with an allocation of Rs.100 crore.
- ❖ In 1990, Muthamizh Arignar Kalaignar illuminated the lives of farmers by introducing free electricity connections for agriculture, and a sum of Rs.550 crore was allocated as subsidy.
- ❖ With the objective of improving the educational status of Adi Dravidar and tribal girl children in secondary schools, the free bicycle scheme was introduced in 2001-02 at a cost of Rs.20 crore, giving wings to their dreams.
- ❖ As a pioneering initiative in the entire nation, Muthamizh Arignar Kalaignar introduced a scheme of providing 1 kg rice at a cost of 1 rupee to ensure the nutritional security of the poor and downtrodden, and a sum of Rs.2,800 crore was allocated as subsidy in the Budget Estimates of 2009-10.

5. Following these landmark schemes that have been significant milestones in our State's history, Rs.500 crore was allocated for the Chief Minister's Breakfast Scheme introduced by our Hon'ble Chief Minister and Rs.7,000 crore was allocated for 'Kalaiginar Magalir Urimai Thogai', the flagship scheme of this Dravidian Model Government in the Budget Estimates 2023-24. These schemes will be etched in the history of our Legislative Assembly for posterity.

6. These people-oriented welfare schemes, which have stood the test of time, have played a major role in Tamil Nadu's growth story. Our State's developmental trajectory was established on a foundation of compassion towards the well-being of poor and downtrodden, supported by significant funding.

7. Tamils have always prospered when **compassion and treasure** go hand-in-hand. The prosperity of Tamil Nadu is known to the entire country and I believe that the members of this assembly will agree to the same.

Hon'ble Speaker!

8. During the discussions on the Budget Estimates 1967-68, the then Finance Minister Perarignar Anna had remarked **"The lives of 3.5 crore people are determined by the 64 pages in this Budget. We have poured our heart and soul into the Budget. It contains the aspirations and dreams of the people who elected us"**. These profound remarks of Arignar Anna have been the lodestar for this Budget.

9. Guided by these ideals of Arignar Anna, we have strived to transform this Budget from a mere list of numbers and statistics to a compendium of aspirations of millions of Tamil people. We are driving our economy forward amidst several unanticipated challenges and constraints.

10. One hand, the coastal State of Tamil Nadu has been frequently affected by natural disasters; on the other hand, the state is being meted out step-motherly treatment by the Union Government, which has completely forgotten the principles of co-operative federalism. The ideals of Thanthai Periyar, Arignar Anna, Muthamizh Arignar have been the guiding force in preparing this Budget, which aims to propel Tamil Nadu's growth and development amidst these challenges.

Hon'ble Speaker !

11. "Virtues are the bedrock of a Government"- This Government, which is functioning on these ideals, under the leadership of our Hon'ble Chief Minister, has a grand Tamil dream. Akin to the colours of a rainbow, this dream has seven major objectives:

- 1. Social Justice**
- 2. Welfare of the marginalized**
- 3. Transforming young Tamils as global achievers**
- 4. Knowledge based economy**
- 5. Equality focused on welfare of women**
- 6. Sustainable Green Future**
- 7. Tamil Language and Culture**

This Budget has been prepared on these 7 pillars.

Tamil Development

12. The twin epics of Tamil literature, Silappathikaram and Manimegalai, which elaborate on the cultural traditions and social tenets of the Tamil community including unity, integrity in public affairs, citizen rights, excellence in trade, communal harmony, hunger eradication, and feminism will be translated into 25 Indian and foreign languages at a cost of Rs.2 crore.

13. With a view to showcasing our rich Tamil literary works to the world and encouraging new works in Tamil by drawing inspiration from works of notable international scholars and authors, this Government has successfully organized the Chennai International Book Fair for the second consecutive year. This event witnessed participation of more than 75 publishers and literary agents from 40 countries. Further, a total of 752 Memoranda of Understanding (MoUs), including 483 MoUs dedicated to translating Tamil works into other languages, were signed during the event.

14. It is noteworthy that the Government has taken efforts to translate twice as many literary works in two years than were done in the last two centuries. Beginning this year, efforts will be taken to house translations of important Tamil literary works in the top 100 universities and renowned libraries across the world.

To spread the euphonious notes of Tamil language across the world, an allocation of Rs.2 crore will be made in the coming year.

15. Muthamizh Arignar Kalaignar, during his tenure as Chairman of the Tamil Nadu Textbook and Educational Services Corporation, accomplished the admirable feat of publishing 875 Arts and Science textbooks of 32 departments in Tamil for college students. Following his steps, the Corporation has published 340 translated volumes in a variety of subjects including medicine, engineering, arts, science, and literature to commemorate his centennial year. In the next three years, 600 more textbooks in Tamil will be published by the Corporation.

16. In the twenty-fifth year since the 'TamilNet-99' conference was held under the guidance of Muthamizh Arignar Kalaignar, this Government has conducted the International KaniTamil-24 Conference this year with resounding success. This event witnessed wider participation of Tamil scholars, technology experts, and senior executives in IT and e-commerce companies from across the world, who deliberated and developed action plans on the role of Tamil in emerging technologies. In order to ensure that Tamil flourishes in the rapidly advancing technological landscape, an

allocation of Rs.5 crore will be made to enable startups to develop Natural Language Processing and Large Language Models based on machine learning and artificial intelligence.

17. With over 90,000 Tamil books, periodicals, and rare publications, along with approximately eight lakh pages of palm scripts, the Tamil Digital Library, created by the Tamil Virtual Academy, has become the largest digital library in South Asia. This digital repository has been accessed by a staggering five crore readers in the last two years. In order to enable future generations to appreciate the richness of Tamil language and the glorious history of Tamil people, a project to digitize rare books and documents will be undertaken at a cost of Rs.2 crore.

Documentation of Linguistic Resources of the Tribes

18. With a view to documenting and preserving the Saurashtra and Baduga languages spoken in Tamil Nadu, along with the linguistic resources and phonetic forms of various tribes such as Todar, Kothar, Solagar, Kani and Narikuravar from an ethnographical perspective, the Government of Tamil Nadu will allocate Rs.2 crore for the benefit of future generations.

Culture

19. In their journey of cultural heritage, Tamil people worldwide are unified across generations by one single word "Keezhadi". The entire Tamil community rejoiced and celebrated when archaeological excavations near Madurai, on the banks of the Vaigai River, revealed the remains of a thriving and prosperous Sangam-era civilization. With the assistance from linguists, historians, researchers and technical experts, this Government is making every effort to firmly establish the rich ancient and cultural legacy of the Tamil people, based on credible evidence recognized by the academic community.

20. Taking this effort forward, archaeological excavations will be undertaken in eight locations across Tamil Nadu viz. Keezhadi in Sivagangai District, Vembakottai in Virudhunagar District, Porpanaikottai in Pudukottai District, Keelnamandi in Thiruvannamalai District, Tirumalapuram in Tenkasi District, Konkalinagar in Tirupur District, Marungur in Cuddalore District, and Chennanur in Krishnagiri District in 2024-25. Further, archaeological exploration will be conducted in major sites outside Tamil Nadu including Musiri (Pattanam) in Kerala, Palur in Odisha, Vengi in Andhra Pradesh, and Maski in Karnataka, in an attempt to rediscover the history of ancient Tamils.

An amount of Rs.5 crore will be allocated for this purpose. **I am happy to note that Tamil Nadu is the only State in the country which has been consistently providing significant funding for archaeological excavations.**

21. Further, a pilot study to undertake deep sea excavation will be conducted, in collaboration with the National Institute of Ocean Technology and the Indian Maritime University, in the coastal regions of Korkai and Alagankulam, the ancient ports of the Pandyas, at a cost of Rs.65 lakh.

22. An open-air museum will be constructed at the Keezhadi excavation site, at a cost of Rs.17 crore, in order to showcase the brick structures, ring wells, and factory zones found in the Keezhadi excavations. Moreover, to determine the genetic antiquity, migration patterns, agricultural practices, cultural traditions, and dietary habits of the Tamil people, an amount of Rs.3 crore will be sanctioned for a study using advanced genomic methodologies at the genetics laboratory of Department of Culture in Madurai Kamarajar University.

23. In 1924, the former Director General of Archaeological survey of India, Sir John Marshall, discovered the Indus Valley Civilization. To commemorate this event, an 'Indus Valley Civilization Centenary

Conference' will be convened this year in Chennai inviting participation from renowned scholars across the world.

Rural Development

24. Even in the twenty-first century, huts persist in rural areas as an enduring symbol of poverty. In the Indian society plagued with disparity, this transition to safe and permanent houses accords an opportunity to people to live with dignity. Fully aware of this reality, Muthamizh Arignar Kalaighar introduced a pioneering initiative in 1975 marking the first instance in the country where permanent houses were constructed for hut-dwellers in rural areas. Subsequently, the 'Kalaighar Veedu Vazhangum Thittam' was launched in 2010 for achieving the goal of a hut-free Tamil Nadu.

25. In the recent survey conducted by this Government for replacing huts with safe and permanent concrete houses in rural areas of Tamil Nadu, it has been found that approximately eight lakh huts continue to exist. Hence, to create a **'Hut-Free Tamil Nadu' by 2030, eight lakh concrete houses will be constructed in rural areas. In the first phase, one lakh new houses will be built at a unit cost of Rs.3.50 lakh per house in the coming year.**

26. The selected beneficiaries will be provided with house sites in case they are landless and will be provided with funds for constructing the house directly into their bank accounts. With a scientific survey and transparent selection process, **a new scheme, 'Kalaignarin Kanavu Illam', will be implemented in the coming year at a cost of Rs.3,500 crore,** providing an opportunity for the poor to build their dream homes.

27. Under the 'Mudhalvarin Grama Salaigal Membattu Thittam' launched by the Government to expand the network of quality roads to remote villages, road development works covering 2,000 km will be taken up at a cost of Rs.1,000 crore in the coming year.

28. With the noble intention of providing basic amenities to all hamlets of Tamil Nadu, thus making them self-sufficient, works are being taken up under the 'Anaithu Grama Anna Marumalarchi Thittam-II' implemented in 2,482 Village Panchayats at an estimated cost of Rs.1,147 crore in the coming year.

29. More than a century ago, in the year 1919, safe piped drinking water was supplied for the first time in the country in the town of Erode by the then Chairman of Erode Municipality, Thanthai Periyar. Water was pumped from Cauvery River and stored in an overhead

tank with a capacity of 5 lakh litres to be distributed through city-wide pipeline network. It is a matter of pride to all of us that Thanthai Periyar, who guided our State with the clarion call of 'Maanamum Arivum Manidhanukku Azhagu (Dignity and Knowledge are the virtues of mankind)', prioritized the supply of safe drinking water as the primary duty of local bodies, and successfully implemented this scheme. The Dravidian Model Government, led by the Hon'ble Chief Minister, which is marching ahead on the path laid out by Thanthai Periyar, has provided 46 lakh drinking water connections to rural households in the last three years. **Further, in the coming year, 2,000 new overhead tanks will be constructed in rural local bodies, at a cost of Rs.365 crore, replacing the old structures.**

30. Tamil Nadu stands out as the most urbanized State in the country. In the rapidly growing extended areas adjacent to Municipal Corporations such as Greater Chennai Corporation, there is a felt need to develop road infrastructure, drinking water supply and street lighting facilities. Recognizing this, **various development works including upgradation of roads will be carried out in these areas, at an estimated cost of Rs.300 crore, in the coming year.**

31. Even 2,000 years ago, Tamil society had reached the pinnacle of effective water management, as is evident from the construction of Kallanai Dam to the establishment of chain of lakes and ponds, symbolizing the phrase 'Vinnin Mazhaithuli Mannin Uyirthuli' (Rain is the Life of the Soil)'. These water bodies have gradually deteriorated over time due to encroachment and lack of maintenance. In an effort to address this issue, a landmark initiative will be launched in the coming year to restore waterbodies by rehabilitating minor irrigation tanks, ponds and their feeder channels in Panchayat Unions. **This major project, aimed at restoring 5,000 water bodies, will be implemented through community participation under the guidance of leading scientific institutions, at an estimated cost of Rs.500 crore.**

32. Tamil Nadu stands tall as the best performer in the country in implementing the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme, which was launched by the United Progressive Alliance (UPA) Government to provide a social security net to the poor in rural areas. Currently, employment is being provided to 92 lakh workers including 26 lakh Adi Dravidar workers, and 1.6 lakh tribal workers. It is noteworthy that 79 lakh women are benefiting under this scheme.

An allocation of Rs.3,300 crore has been earmarked for this scheme in the Budget Estimates.

33. In order to prevent environmental pollution in rural areas due to non-biodegradable waste including plastic waste, a new agency dedicated to creating a hygienic environment in Tamil Nadu will be established. It will be responsible for ensuring timely collection and recycling of non-biodegradable waste, as well as providing fuel for industrial use by creating an effective solid waste management system, through local bodies.

Poverty Alleviation

34. Over the past century, Tamil Nadu has made significant strides in reducing poverty through a multitude of pioneering social welfare programmes, setting an example for the entire nation. The recent report by Niti Aayog, the Union Government's policy think tank, has endorsed this progress, highlighting Tamil Nadu's remarkably low multidimensional poverty index of only 2.2 per cent. This Government remains steadfast in its commitment to identify and uplift those living in extreme poverty. **In the next two years, this Government will launch the final assault on poverty, rescuing around five lakh of the poorest families from poverty by providing all the**

necessary Government assistance in an integrated manner.

35. Under this scheme, most vulnerable sections of the society including the destitutes, elderly persons living alone, single-parent families, orphaned children, mentally challenged, differently-abled persons, and families with children requiring special assistance will be identified. In addition to fulfilling their basic needs, the requirements of education, employment opportunities, skill development and housing will be met under this scheme. The identification of the poorest of the poor families will be carried out through convergence of official databases, field inspections, community participation, and Gram Sabha sessions. The participation of elected representatives, charitable organizations, and banks will be ensured in this grand initiative namely, **‘Chief Minister’s Thayumanavar scheme’**. In the Budget Estimates, a sum of Rs.27,922 crore has been allocated for the Rural Development and Panchayat Raj Department.

Municipal Administration and Water Supply

36. The Government is executing various schemes aimed at providing essential amenities such as drinking water connections, public health facilities, link roads, street lights, modern electric crematoria, libraries,

knowledge centres, underground drainage systems and other social infrastructure in urban areas. In the last three years, under Kalaigal Nagarpura Membattu Thittam, projects at a cost of Rs.1,328 crore have been completed and works at a cost of Rs.1,659 crore are under various stages of implementation. In the coming year, an amount of Rs.1,000 crore will be allocated to implement this scheme. Further, works under AMRUT 2.0 scheme with Union share of Rs.4,942 crore and State share (including share of local bodies) of Rs.9,047 crore are under progress. **In the coming year, 4,457 km length of urban roads will be upgraded at a cost of Rs.2,500 crore through convergence of various schemes.**

37. The Government of Tamil Nadu has launched 'Singara Chennai 2.0' to provide modern, world-class infrastructure and services in Greater Chennai Corporation and its 42 extended areas. In the last three years, 1,183 projects at a cost of Rs.1,500 crore have been undertaken by this Government so far. An allocation of Rs.500 crore is provided in the next financial year for this scheme.

38. The rapid urbanization of Chennai has led to a significant increase in vehicular traffic and congestion across the city. To address this issue, roads with high

traffic density have been identified and in the initial phase, New Avadi Road, Paper Mills Road, and Sembiyam-Redhills Road will be widened to 18 meters, while Dr.Radhakrishnan Road and Kalki Krishnamurthy Road will be widened to 30.5 meters. This project, amounting to Rs.300 crore, will be executed using the Transfer of Development Rights (TDR).

39. With an aim of transforming Chennai as Singara Chennai, Chennai Metropolitan Development Authority is establishing modern public infrastructure amenities including an urban public square with natural landscapes, exhibition halls and open-air theatres in Island Ground at a cost of Rs.104 crore. In addition, beaches at Besant Nagar, Ennore, and Kovalam will be embellished with modern facilities at a cost of Rs.100 crore.

40. While Chennai is one of the fastest growing cities in the country, certain areas of the city especially in North Chennai experience acute deficiencies and gaps in infrastructure. **To ensure balanced and equitable development across the city, 'Vada Chennai Valarchi Thittam', a new initiative is being implemented by this Government.** Under this scheme, development works to the tune of Rs.1,000 crore will be undertaken. These include construction of new tenements

at Water Basin Road through Tamil Nadu Urban Habitat Development Board (TNUHDB) at an estimated cost of Rs.75 crore, super-speciality block in Children's Hospital, Egmore at a cost of Rs.53 crore, 2 new blocks in RSSM hospital, Royapuram at a cost of Rs.96 crore, 3 new floors in Government Peripheral Hospital, Periyar Nagar at a cost of Rs.55 crore, new ITI at a cost of Rs.11 crore, restoration of Retteri, Villivakkam and Padi lakes at a cost of Rs.30 crore, and modernization and computerization of 10 schools at a cost of Rs.45 crore.

41. The capacity of the existing sewage treatment systems and the sewage disposal machines of Chennai Metro Water Supply and Sewerage Board are insufficient to meet the growing needs of the burgeoning population in North Chennai areas of Greater Chennai Corporation. Therefore, a new project to improve the sewerage and drinking water infrastructure, and reduce water pollution in North Chennai will be initiated at a cost of Rs.946 crore.

42. A state-of-the-art Hi-tech Film City will be established in Poonamallee near Chennai, spanning approximately 150 acres, at an estimated cost of Rs.500 crore. This city of dreams will contain studios with cutting-edge technologies such as VFX and animation, LED wall facilities, and infrastructure for film shooting

and post-production activities. This will be established through public-private partnership (PPP).

43. This Government is committed to creating clean and green living spaces for urban residents in the State. It is also committed to revitalizing the major waterways of Chennai including Adyar, Coovum, Buckingham canal, and Kosasthalaiyar. In the initial phase, the Adyar River which flows from Guduvanchery in Chengalpet district through Tambaram, Tiruneermalai, Manapakkam, Alandur and Saidapet before reaching the Bay of Bengal will undergo restoration and beautification through the Chennai Rivers Restoration Trust. This initiative, with an estimated cost of around Rs.1,500 crore, will be implemented through public-private partnership. This includes notable features such as the installation of a 70 km long sewage pipeline on the banks of Adyar River as an alternative channel for sewage discharge, establishment of 14 sewage treatment plants with cumulative capacity of 110 MLD, and increasing green spaces by developing four parks along the riverbanks. The project is scheduled to commence shortly and is expected to be completed within a duration of 30 months. The works from Saidapet to Thiru.Vi.Ka. bridge will be prioritized and completed within a target period of 15 months.

44. காவிரி தென்பெண்ணை
பாலாறு-தமிழ்
கண்டதோர் வையை
பொருநநதி- என
மேவிய ஆறு பலவோடத்
திருமேனி செழித்த தமிழ்நாடு

The Government is implementing several schemes following the sentiment echoed in the profound words of Mahakavi Bharathiyar. Comprehensive survey work and detailed project reports will be prepared for riverfront development along the banks of Vaigai, Cauvery, Thamirabarani and Noyyal rivers that flow throughout the cities of Madurai, Tiruhirappalli, Tirunelveli, Erode and Coimbatore with the objective of river restoration and promoting public spaces such as open-air stadia and riverside parks with lush greenery. An amount of Rs.5 crore will be earmarked for this purpose.

45. Creation of parks and expansion of green cover are vital for reducing air pollution in urban areas that are experiencing a rapid growth of skyscrapers. Hence, various initiatives such as planting of tall trees, Miyawaki forests, green roofs, vertical gardens, green subways, green screens, and planting trees along foot pavements will be undertaken to expand green spaces across all corporations and municipalities in Tamil Nadu,

including the Greater Chennai Corporation. **This new 'Urban Greening Project' will be implemented with active involvement of Green Tamil Nadu Mission, Non-Governmental Organizations and through community participation.**

46. Currently, pilot projects for 24x7 drinking water supply are under various stages of implementation in 12 Municipal Corporations/Municipalities including Erode, Vellore, Cuddalore, Tiruchirappalli, Thoothukudi, Tirunelveli, Dindigul, Tambaram, Nagercoil, Karaikudi, Rajapalayam, and Pudukottai. Expanding the coverage, projects for provision of uninterrupted 24x7 drinking water supply will be initiated in Madurai and Salem Corporations in the coming year.

47. In Greater Chennai Corporation, a project is under implementation to build new public toilets to upgrade and modernize existing structures, and manage their operation and maintenance through the public-private partnership mode, at a cost of Rs.430 crore. Similarly, steps will be taken to develop, operate, and maintain modern public toilets in Coimbatore, Tiruchirappalli, and the remaining areas of Greater Chennai Corporation in the coming year.

48. With the objective of fulfilling the drinking water needs of Chennai city, a 150 MLD Desalination

Plant is being established in Nemmeli at a cost of Rs.1,517 crore, benefiting 9 lakh people. The works are nearing completion and the plant will be operationalized soon.

Water Supply

49. The second phase of the Hogenakkal combined water supply scheme, which is successfully operating since 2007, will be undertaken at a cost of Rs.7,890 crore. This scheme will benefit 40 lakh people living in Hosur corporation, Krishnagiri and Dharmapuri Municipalities, 16 Town Panchayats, and 6,802 rural habitations located in 20 Panchayat Unions of Dharmapuri and Krishnagiri Districts, thereby giving a boost to the industrial growth in the region.

50. A combined water supply scheme using Kollidam River as source will be implemented for providing water to approximately 65,000 people in Perambalur Municipality, and SIPCOT Industrial Complex located at Erayur and Padalur in Perambalur District, at an estimated cost of Rs.366 crore.

51. In order to provide clean drinking water to approximately two lakh residents living in 216 rural habitations covering four Panchayat Unions in Namakkal district, namely Senthamangalam, Erumapatti,

Kapilarmalai, and Paramathi, a combined water supply scheme will be implemented with Cauvery river as the source, at a cost of Rs.358 crore.

52. A combined water supply scheme, with Vaigai as the source, will be undertaken at a cost of Rs.565 crore to benefit approximately six lakh residents of 425 rural habitations in Dindigul Corporation, Chinnalapatti and Sevukambatti Town Panchayats, and Panchayat Unions of Attur, Nilakottai, and Vathalakundu. In the Budget Estimates, a sum of Rs.25,858 crore has been allocated for the Municipal Administration and Water Supply Department.

Women Welfare

53. Following the golden words of Dr. Ambedkar **“I measure the progress of a community with the degree of progress women have achieved”**, the Government of Tamil Nadu is dedicated to fostering an egalitarian society where gender inequality is eliminated. To accomplish this vision, the Government has initiated numerous pioneering and exemplary welfare schemes for women such as ensuring equal property rights, reservation in education, employment, and local bodies, and initiatives such as the Vidiyal Payana Thittam. In adherence to our commitment of “We do what we say and we say what we do”, an amount of

Rs.1,000 per month is being directly deposited in the bank accounts of 1.15 crore women heads of households under the Kalaighar Magalir Urimai Thittam.

54. The monthly assistance of Rs.1,000 will not only help the women heads of households who are adversely affected in their daily lives due to ever-increasing family expenses but also helps them to set aside a substantial amount as savings. The objective of this scheme, its data-driven selection process, use of technology in implementation and transparency have received widespread acclaim. **We hope that this pathbreaking scheme will be replicated in various States across the country in future, thus benefiting women nationwide. For this scheme, an amount of Rs.13,720 crore has been allocated in the coming year.**

55. One among the first five files signed by the Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu on his first day of assuming office, was the 'Vidiyal Payana Thittam' to provide free bus travel to women. Various studies indicate that this hugely popular scheme has significantly contributed to the socio-economic empowerment of women. Through this scheme, the percentage of women ridership has increased substantially from 40 per cent to 65 per cent. On average, 50 lakh women travel daily in

the buses run by State Transport Corporations and a total of 444 crore trips have been made by women. This scheme has been extended to transgenders, and severely disabled persons and their attendants. **For the benefit of women living in hilly areas, this scheme will be further extended to hilly areas of Nilgiris, Kodaikanal and Valparai from the coming year. In the Budget estimates 2024-25, an amount of Rs.3,050 has been provided as subsidy for this scheme.**

56. A progressive State moulds the objective and execution of its welfare programs to suit the constantly evolving needs of society. As such, the Moovalur Ramamirtham Ammaiyar Puthumai Penn Thittam has been introduced to promote higher education among girl students from economically disadvantaged sections by providing monthly assistance of Rs.1,000 to 2.73 lakh beneficiaries. I take pride in informing this august House that the enrolment of girl students in the first year of higher education has increased by 34 per cent this year, with an additional 34,460 girl students enrolling after the implementation of this scheme. Beginning from the next academic year, **this scheme will be extended to girl students studying in Government-aided schools in Tamil medium. A sum of Rs.370 crore will be**

allocated for the implementation of this scheme in the coming year.

Chief Minister's Breakfast Scheme

57. **"Nothing is more powerful than an idea whose time has come"**. This timeless phrase of French literary doyen, Victor Hugo, has been brought to life by our Hon'ble Chief Minister in the twenty-first century.

58. The flagship schemes of Mid-Day Meal scheme and Nutritious Meal Programme continue to be effectively implemented in the State. However, several scholars and nutritionists for long have been requesting to introduce a breakfast scheme as many students attend school without having breakfast, resulting in malnutrition and an inability to concentrate in studies. **But, Time waited for our Hon'ble Chief Minister to script history.**

59. Founded on the principles of social justice, the flagship scheme of this Dravidian model Government 'The Chief Minister's Breakfast Scheme' was inaugurated at Madurai in 2022 on the birth anniversary of Perarignar Anna, and later expanded in 2023 to all the 30,992 Government schools from classes I to V, benefiting 15 lakh students. Research studies indicate that the implementation of this scheme has led to an

improvement in attendance, nutritional levels, and learning outcomes of the students.

60. To uphold the noble vision of our Hon'ble Chief Minister, who proclaimed, **"We are willing to make any sacrifice to ensure widespread access to school education, foster enjoyable learning experiences, and ensure students learn without hunger"**, the scope of this scheme will be broadened to encompass **Government-aided schools in rural areas of the State starting from the upcoming academic year, thus benefiting around 2.5 lakh students enrolled from Class I to Class V. In the next financial year, an allocation of Rs.600 crore will be earmarked towards this initiative.**

61. To address severe malnutrition among children, the **'Uttachatthai Uruthi Sei'** initiative has been successfully implemented in Tamil Nadu. This program has resulted in 74 per cent of malnourished children under the age of six months attaining normal nutritional levels. In order to uplift the nutritional status of severely malnourished children in this age group, a nutritional kit will be provided to their mothers. A total of 500 new anganwadis will be constructed at a cost of Rs.70 crore to ensure basic infrastructure facilities for anganwadis currently functioning in rented buildings.

In the Budget Estimates, an amount of Rs.3,123 crore has been allocated for the Integrated Child Development Scheme.

62. The seeds for Self-Help Group (SHG) mission, which were sown in Dharmapuri district in 1989 by Muthamizh Arignar Kalaignar today, have transformed into a nationwide movement, bringing prosperity to the lives of crores of women. This Government is making continuous efforts to strengthen the SHG network and provide skill training to cultivate a habit of saving among women, thereby transforming them into entrepreneurs and enabling them to claim their rightful place in the society. In furtherance of this, 10,000 new SHGs will be formed this year to include women from marginalized sections, who have not been part of the SHG network so far. The credit disbursement target has been fixed at Rs.35,000 crore for the year 2024-25.

63. One of the flagship schemes that stands out in Tamil Nadu is the '**Thozhi**' working women's hostel scheme. Currently, 'Thozhi' hostels, equipped with modern amenities, are functioning across 10 locations including Tambaram, Thiruchirapalli, and Guduvanchery, benefiting 1,145 women at a cost of Rs. 35 crore. 3 new 'Thozhi' hostels are being constructed in Chennai, Thiruvannamalai, Hosur at a cost of Rs.36 crore,

benefitting 432 women. Building upon this success, **new 'Thozhi' hostels will be constructed this year in important cities such as Chennai, Coimbatore and Madurai, at a cost of Rs.26 crore, benefiting 345 women.**

64. Tamil Nadu has been a frontrunner in successfully implementing several innovative schemes for the welfare of transgenders. Higher education plays a pivotal role in enhancing the socio-economic status and success of individuals belonging to the third gender. However, only a limited number of transgender individuals are pursuing higher education in Tamil Nadu at present. In light of this, **the Government will cover all educational expenses including tuition and hostel fees for transgender individuals who want to pursue higher education.** An additional allocation of Rs.2 crore will be made to the Transgender Welfare Board by the Government for this initiative in the coming year.

65. In accordance with the recommendations put forth by the One-man committee chaired by former Justice Thiru. K. Chandru, which was constituted to provide comprehensive suggestions for the efficient operation and administration of Government Observation Homes, Special Homes, and Places of Safety, the Government has decided to implement necessary reforms

in this sector. Consequently, the department, currently known as the 'Directorate of Social Defence', will suitably be renamed as the '**Department of Children Welfare and Special Services**'. Furthermore, additional posts including the Chief Protection Officer will be created, and efforts will be made to strengthen human resources within the department.

66. Further, in the first phase, a model home called '**Poonjolai**' will be set up in Coimbatore with amenities such as skill training centre, counselling rooms, library, family members' visiting room, medical examination room, park and playground for children. In the Budget Estimates, a sum of Rs.7,830 crore has been allocated for the Social Welfare and Women Empowerment Department.

School Education

67. Muthamizh Arignar Kalaighar once stated, "**Education alone is the greatest weapon for achieving equality**". With a profound commitment to educational advancement, and to commemorate the centenary of Perasiriyar Anbazhagan, a distinguished educationist who made significant contributions to Tamil Nadu's educational landscape, this Government announced the ambitious scheme 'Perasiriyar Anbazhaganar School Development Program', with an

outlay of Rs.7,500 crore over a period of 5 years. Projects at a cost of Rs.2,497 crore are being undertaken and **construction of new classrooms at a cost of Rs.1,000 crore will be further undertaken in the coming year.**

68. Model schools function as centres of excellence for achieving the lofty objective of transforming Government school students into achievers. Every student enrolled in these institutions has the opportunity to secure admission in premier higher education institutions across the country. In the last three years, 38 model schools have been established at a cost of Rs.352 crore. Further, 28 schools in various districts have also been upgraded as 'Schools of Excellence' at the cost of Rs.100 crore.

69. In order to introduce modern technology among students, and create a conducive environment for learning and modern pedagogy, works for setting up 8,209 Hi-Tech labs at a cost of Rs.525 crore and 22,931 smart classrooms at a cost of Rs.435 crore in all Government middle schools and elementary schools respectively are being undertaken. Further, **15,000 smart classrooms will be established in the upcoming financial year at an estimated cost of Rs.300 crore.**

70. During the COVID pandemic, it was not just the physical confinement of children within four walls of their homes but also their educational aspirations. The Hon'ble Chief Minister launched the 'Illam Thedi Kalvi' programme aimed at bringing the dropout children back to schools and bridging learning gaps. This initiative, implemented by volunteers in all habitations throughout the State, has significantly contributed to recovery of learning loss among children. A sum of Rs. 100 crore has been allocated in the Budget for implementation of the second phase of this scheme, in select focus areas, in the next academic year.

71. Book fairs are being conducted in all the districts of Tamil Nadu on the lines of Chennai Book fair, with the noble intention of creating community of book lovers. From 2022-23, these events are being conducted with a financial assistance of Rs.13 crore. In the last year, more than 55 lakh book lovers have participated in these events, which have witnessed a sale of books worth Rs.50 crore.

72. Libraries are an invaluable platform where youth can sharpen their intellectual abilities. In order to improve the infrastructural facilities of public libraries to attract children, teenagers, and youth, a special scheme will be implemented at an estimated cost of Rs.213 crore.

In the Budget Estimates, a sum of Rs.44,042 crore has been allocated for the School Education Department.

Higher Education

73. Tamil Nadu continues to maintain the pole position in the country in gross enrolment ratio in higher education. This Government is taking several measures to sustain the level of achievement and continue providing quality higher education in the State. The infrastructure in Government colleges are being upgraded under the 'Perunthalaivar Kamarajar College Development Scheme'. Civil infrastructure will be upgraded in Government Arts and Science colleges, Engineering colleges and Polytechnics at a cost of Rs.200 crore in the coming year. Computers and other scientific equipment, with Integrated Learning Management Systems, will be provided to 236 Government educational institutions including Arts and Science, Engineering and Polytechnic colleges at a cost of Rs.173 crore. A new scheme will be implemented at a cost of Rs.3,014 crore to upgrade 45 Government Polytechnic Colleges to Industry 4.0 standards.

74. The Government introduced the 7.5 per cent horizontal reservation for Government school students in professional courses including engineering and agriculture in 2021-22. Further, the entire expenditure

on education including tuition fees, hostel fees, and transportation fees is being borne by the Government as part of this initiative. In the coming year, the entire cost of education of 28,749 students studying in various professional courses under this scheme will be borne by the Government at a cost of Rs.511 crore.

75. Coimbatore, one of the fastest growing cities in India, has a diversified industrial eco-system, and is best known for its passionate entrepreneurs, premier educational institutions and warm hospitality. **To kindle the quest for knowledge among citizens, especially youth, a grand library and science centre named after Muthamizh Arignar Kalaighnar will be set up in Coimbatore.** This institution will house books, magazines, literary journals, along with exhibits on various engineering and scientific streams like astronomy, robotics, virtual reality, natural science, among others. Further, an incubation hub to nurture start-ups, and micro and small industries will be included. This monument will act as the epitome of the rich Tamil intellectual community. In the Budget Estimates, a sum of Rs.8,212 crore has been allocated for the Higher Education Department.

Naan Mudalvan

76. With the vision of transforming Tamil youth into global leaders, the Hon'ble Chief Minister launched the Naan Mudalvan programme. So far, about 28 lakh students have been trained under this landmark scheme. Further, around 18,000 Engineering and 20,000 Arts and Science college teachers have been imparted training under this scheme. Notably, 1.19 lakh students trained under this scheme have secured placements last year.

77. Establishing a robust infrastructure for skill training in colleges across Tamil Nadu is crucial. To this end, **new Skill Labs will be established in 100 Government and Government-aided Engineering, and Arts and Science colleges in the coming year at a cost of Rs.200 crore.**

78. In an effort to increase the success rate of aspirants from Tamil Nadu appearing in Union Public Service Commission examination, 1,000 candidates are selected annually and provided with assistance of Rs.7,500 per month during preparation and an incentive of Rs.25,000 on clearing the preliminary examination. This programme is being implemented since the last year with an allocation of Rs.10 crore. Following this, with an objective of increasing the number of youth clearing **Staff Selection Commission, Railway and Bank**

examinations, 1,000 candidates will be selected annually and provided quality training, with boarding and lodging facilities, for six months in Chennai, Coimbatore, and Madurai regions. A sum of Rs.6 crore will be allocated for this purpose in the coming year.

79. In order to enable Government school students to become achievers, this Government has been implementing several novel initiatives. As part of this ongoing effort, a new scheme will be introduced in the coming year to provide financial assistance to Government school students for pursuing post-graduation and research studies in renowned universities abroad.

80. The Moovalur Ramamirtham Ammaiyar Pudhumai Penn Scheme has been successful in achieving the objective of increasing enrolment of girls and has now revolutionised the participation of girls in higher educational institutions. On the same lines, **to help boys from poor and marginalized background, studying in Government schools, realize their dreams of higher education and transform them into achievers, a grand scheme "Tamizh Pudhalvan" will be implemented from the coming financial year.** Under this scheme, boys who have studied in Government schools from 6th to 12th standard will be

provided financial assistance of Rs.1,000 per month in their bank accounts directly. This assistance would enable them to purchase textbooks, general knowledge books and magazines to improve their academic performance. Through such initiatives, the potential of the youth will be harnessed and channelized to enable them to become future pillars of our State and the Nation. **This ambitious scheme will benefit around 3 lakh students** and will be implemented at a cost of Rs.360 crore from the coming year.

81. **The Government will take proactive steps to ensure that education loans to the tune of Rs.2,500 crore** will be sanctioned and disbursed by various banks to one lakh college students in the coming year. This will fulfill the educational aspirations of students and reduce the financial burden on their parents.

Youth and Sports Welfare

82. With the lofty goal of making Tamil Nadu as the 'Sports Capital of India' and to ensure that sports talent from Tamil Nadu succeed in Olympics, four Olympic Academies will be established in Chennai, Madurai, Trichy and the Nilgiris to provide world-class training in various sports including badminton, volleyball, basketball and

athletics. Apart from providing world-class training, they will also serve as Centres for Sports Science.

83. The Chief Minister's Youth Festivals will be conducted throughout the State with the aim of harnessing the energy of our youth, nurturing their interest and ultimately moulding them into globally acclaimed achievers. Competitions in speech, singing, music, and dance will be held to showcase the artistic talents of young individuals. 'Kalaingar Sports Kit' containing 33 items of exercise and sports equipment for sports including cricket, volleyball, football, badminton, silambam will be provided in every village panchayat of the State.

84. The Government is firmly committed to the principles of inclusive growth. As part of this endeavour, six sports centres exclusively for para-athletes are being established for the first time in the country. With the aim of enhancing the skills of differently abled sports persons, these centres will have specialized playgrounds for various sports including badminton, volleyball, and fencing.

85. India's first Tamil Nadu Olympic Water Sports Academy will be established in Pirappanvalasai in Ramanathapuram district. This initiative aims to stimulate the interest of youth in marine water sports,

while also establishing world class infrastructure for aquatic sports. In the Budget Estimates, a sum of Rs.440 crore has been allocated for the Youth Welfare and Sports Development Department.

Labour Welfare

86. This Government is dedicated to improving the skills of youth to equip them to acquire quality jobs. Towards this, 71 Government Industrial Training Institutes have been upgraded to meet the standards of Industry 4.0 and transformed into 'Centres of Excellence', at a cost of Rs.2,877 crore.

87. In addition, the **Government will set up 10 new Government Industrial Training Institutes** at Veppur in Cuddalore district, Guziliamparai in Dindigul district, Pochampalli in Krishnagiri district, Sendamangalam in Namakkal district, Gandarvakottai in Pudukkottai district, Kamuthi in Ramanathapuram district, Natrampalli in Tiruppathur district, Koothanallur in Tiruvarur district, Chengam in Tiruvannamalai district and Eral in Thoothukkudi district with smart classrooms to enhance learning skill of students, at a cost of Rs.111 crore.

Health and Family Welfare

88. The State has already achieved the Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) related to maternal and child health, set to be accomplished by 2030, through consistent and sustained efforts of the Health and Family Welfare Department. To reduce the increasing incidence of non-communicable diseases in Tamil Nadu, it is crucial to control high blood pressure and diabetes, which are the main contributors to the overall increase of these diseases. With this objective, the Government of Tamil Nadu is implementing the 'Makkalai Thedi Maruthuvam' programme. A sum of Rs.243 crore will be allocated for this laudable scheme to provide healthcare services to people at their doorsteps.

89. With more than 50 per cent of treatment under health insurance scheme being availed in the Government hospitals, Tamil Nadu has become the leading State for nation. In order to further enhance healthcare services in Government hospitals, an amount of Rs.200 crore from the insurance corpus fund will be allocated towards upgrading their infrastructure facilities.

90. This Government is taking earnest efforts to expand the pioneering 'Innuyir Kappom: Nammai Kaakkum - 48 Thittam', which has saved invaluable human lives and has benefitted more than 2 lakh people

so far. Considering the costs of treatment, the maximum threshold for availing **free of cost treatment during the first 48 hours post accident will be raised from one lakh rupees rupees to two lakh rupees.**

Enhancing the Healthcare Infrastructure of Tamil Nadu

91. The infrastructure of the Intensive Care Units (ICUs) and diagnostic services across the State will be further upgraded in the coming financial year. The Government hospitals at Rameswaram in Ramanathapuram District, Sendurai in Ariyalur District, Sriperumbudur at Kancheepuram District, Arakkonam in Ranipet District and Government Medical College hospitals in Theni and Salem will be equipped with six intensive care units with 50 beds each, at an estimated cost of Rs.142 crore. A 100 bedded ICU will be constructed at Perundurai Government Medical College hospital in Erode district at an estimated cost of Rs.40 crore. Further, additional buildings will be constructed in 25 Taluk and non-Taluk hospitals at a cost of Rs.87 crore. The Tamil Nadu Government Dental College hospital in Chennai will also be upgraded at a cost of Rs.64 crore.

92. More than providing quality treatment to cancer patients, early detection of the disease is critical

in reducing mortality. With this objective, this Government has strengthened cancer departments in various hospitals across the State. This Government will implement a new Cancer Management Mission that will focus on several disease management strategies including creating awareness about the incidence of this disease, early detection, effective treatment and rehabilitative care. Further, additional equipment for advanced cancer treatment will be provided to the Government Arignar Anna Memorial Cancer Hospital to upgrade this institution into a 'Centre of Excellence'.

93. De-Addiction Centres will be established in 25 Government Hospitals to specifically cater to the treatment of persons affected by substance abuse due to alcohol, drugs and other psychotropic substances by offering institution based counselling, treatment and rehabilitation services at a cost of Rs.20 crore. In the Budget Estimates, a sum of Rs.20,198 crore has been allocated for the Health and Family Welfare Department.

Industrial Development

94. India's first PM-MITRA Textile Park (Pradhan Mantri Mega Integrated Textile Region and Apparel Park) was launched in Virudhunagar district last year as a joint effort of the Union and the State Governments. This park is poised to become an integrated hub for value-added

textiles and apparel industries. The development works for this Park will commence in the coming year at a cost of Rs.1,683 crore, creating two lakh job opportunities. Further, an Integrated Textile Park, spanning 111 acres will be developed by SIPCOT in Salem district with an anticipated investment of Rs.800 crore, leading to creation of 8,000 employment opportunities.

95. In order to create employment opportunities in Thanjavur region, SIPCOT will establish a new industrial park, spanning 300 acres near Sengipatti, at a cost of Rs.120 crore. Dedicated efforts will be made to focus on non-polluting industries such as food processing and non-leather footwear in this park.

96. In order to fulfil the requirement of foreign investors who wish to commence business operations immediately, SIPCOT will implement a policy to promote Plug and Play facilities from the coming year. In the first phase, these Plug and Play facilities will be set up in Shoolagiri in Krishnagiri district and Manallur in Tiruvallur district through public-private partnership.

97. As the State with the highest contribution to the number of women working in industries in India and with significant gender parity in its labour ecosystem, Tamil Nadu is a favoured destination for progressive investors. Well aware of these advantages, the

Government will introduce a special scheme to incentivize additional women employment in the State. This scheme will offer a **payroll subsidy of 10 per cent of the salary of women, differently abled and transgender employees for two years to all new industrial units providing direct employment to over 500 such individuals from Tamil Nadu. In addition, creches for infant children will be established in all major SIPCOT industrial estates under public-private partnership to support working women.** A new tailor-made skill training programme will be introduced to facilitate women willing to re-enter the job market after taking a sabbatical for reasons such as marriage and pregnancy.

98. The recent Global Investors Meet served as an ideal platform for ensuring balanced development of the State. Among the Memoranda of Understanding (MoUs) signed to the tune of Rs.6.64 lakh crore, investments totaling Rs.1.12 lakh crore were committed in southern districts of the State. Presently, ISRO is developing a spaceport in Thoothukudi district for launching Small Satellite Launch Vehicles. In proximity to this facility, **TIDCO will establish a new 'Space Industrial and Propellant Park', at an extent of 2,000 acres, to promote space technology industries.**

99. As a testimony to Tamil Nadu's successful transition to a knowledge based economy, large number of prominent multinational companies are now establishing their Global Capability Centres (GCC) in the State. State-of-the-art research, design, product prototyping and testing for the global market are now being done in the State. In order to make Tamil Nadu as the prime destination for GCCs in India, the State will incentivise the creation of high paying jobs in new GCCs by providing a payroll subsidy of 30 per cent in the first year, 20 per cent in the second year and 10 per cent in the third year for jobs with pay above Rs.1,00,000 per month. The Government will also facilitate setting up of GCCs in Coimbatore and Madurai. In the Budget Estimates, a sum of Rs.2,295 crore has been allocated for the Industries, Investment Promotion and Commerce Department.

Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises

100. In the Budget Estimates 2024-25, an allocation of Rs.101 crore has been earmarked to provide subsidy assistance under the New Entrepreneur cum Enterprise Development Scheme (NEEDS). Further, steps are being taken to onboard majority of the Public Sector Undertakings (PSUs) to participate on the Trade Receivables Electronic Discounting System

(TReDS) platform to ensure timely settlement of dues to Micro, Small, and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs).

101. I am delighted to state that Tamil Nadu has been recognized as a forerunner in the country in creating a conducive ecosystem for start-ups owing to the dedicated efforts made by this Government over the past three years. To sustain this momentum, **Chennai will host the 'Global Start-up Summit' in January 2025, bringing together leading startups and accomplished young entrepreneurs from across the world.**

102. To identify and support enthusiastic and dynamic entrepreneurs capable of addressing diverse social development challenges, climate change needs, and improving public services, the Periyar Social Justice Venture Lab will be established. This centre will focus on start-up companies founded and led by individuals belonging to the marginalized sections including SC/ST communities.

103. Three new industrial estates dedicated to **Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises will be established in Ottanchathiram Taluk in Dindigul District, Manamadurai Taluk in Sivagangai District and Thiruthuraipoondi Taluk in Thiruvarur District. These industrial estates will be developed by**

the Tamil Nadu Small Industries Development Corporation (TANSIDCO), on a total area of 80 acres, at an estimated cost of Rs.32 crore. This initiative is expected to create direct employment opportunities for 3,000 people.

104. To facilitate early commencement of business activities for Micro enterprises, **a four-storied industrial complex, with plug and play facilities, will be constructed at Kurichi Industrial Estate in Coimbatore district, over an extent of 1.2 acres, at a cost of Rs.37 crore by TANSIDCO.** This will generate direct employment opportunities for 1,000 persons and indirect employment for 500 persons.

105. With the objective of fostering innovation and supporting the growth of technology-based Start-ups, **a state-of-the-art Industrial Innovation Centre, covering an area of 26,500 sq.ft, will be constructed in Madurai at an approximate cost of Rs.24 crore.** It will offer a collaborative workspace for innovators and startups, and will contain industry 4.0 equipment, and facilities for product development, prototyping, and training.

106. **A three-storied industrial complex, spanning 5 acres of land, will be developed at Sakkimangalam Industrial Estate in Madurai**

district by TANSIDCO at a cost of Rs.118 crore.

This initiative will support Micro, Small, and Medium entrepreneurs and is expected **to create employment opportunities for 4,500 individuals.**

107. Under the Micro Cluster Development programme, six clusters, with common facilities, will be set up with Government grant at a total project cost of Rs.25 crore viz., the Apparel cluster in Vellayapuram - Virudhunagar, Siddha Medicines Cluster in Acharapakkam - Chengalpet, Apparel cluster in Azhagiyapandiyapuram - Kanyakumari, Silk cluster in Rakipatti - Salem, Yarn cluster in Katheri - Namakkal and Apparel cluster in Rangiyam - Pudukottai.

108. In order to safeguard the livelihood of small tea growers of the Nilgiris district, an incentive of Rs.2 per kg will be provided to the members of 16 co-operative tea factories who supplied green tea leaves during the last year. An amount of Rs.9 crore will be allocated for this purpose, benefiting approximately 27,000 small tea growers. In the Budget Estimates, a sum of Rs.1,557 crore has been allocated for the Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises Department.

Information Technology

109. This Government has been successfully implementing end-to-end computerization of Government offices with the objective of simplifying Government administrative procedures and ensuring transparency. In order to expand the e-office project, the Government will organize skill training for employees, and provide necessary hardware and software products to heads of departments and subordinate offices in the coming year. A sum of Rs.30 crore has been allocated for this purpose in the Budget Estimates.

110. With a view to increasing the speed of accessing online Government services, the State Data Centre will be upgraded with cloud computing infrastructure and disaster data recovery facility by the Electronics Corporation of Tamil Nadu Ltd (ELCOT) at a cost of Rs.200 crore over the next five years.

111. In an effort to ensure widespread information exchange in the digital world, free Wi-Fi services will be provided at 1,000 prime locations in all the Municipal Corporations including Coimbatore, Madurai, Trichirappalli, Salem, similar to the one being set up in Chennai.

112. Muthamizh Arignar Kalaignar, the architect of modern Tamil Nadu, established Tidel Park in Chennai in the year 2000, laying the foundation for the Information Technology boom in Tamil Nadu. To ensure that all regions in Tamil Nadu are linked to the digital highway initiated by Muthamizh Arignar Kalaignar, new **Tidel Parks are being set up in Madurai at a cost of Rs.350 crore, covering 6.4 lakh sq. ft., and in Trichy at a cost of Rs.345 crore covering 6.3 lakh sq.ft.** Additionally, Neo Tidel parks are being established in Thanjavur, Salem, Vellore, Tiruppur, and Thoothukudi. These initiatives are expected to generate employment opportunities for 13,000 people.

113. The Government is carefully analyzing the recent developments in the field of Artificial Intelligence (AI) and their implication across various sections of the Tamil society. **Under the guidance of the Hon'ble Chief Minister, the 'Tamil Nadu Artificial Intelligence Mission' will be established** to develop guidelines for constructively leveraging AI in education, employment, industry, research and medicine, and to establish clear protocols for its utilization. This mission will involve professors from leading educational institutions in Tamil Nadu, executives from the electronics industry, and experts in the field.

114. With Coimbatore emerging as one of the fastest growing cities in the country, there is an increasing need for office spaces catering to high-end jobs in sectors such as Information Technology, Life Science, Aerospace, and Research and Development in Engineering. Considering these factors, a state-of-the-art IT Park in two phases will be constructed by ELCOT in Vilankurichi, covering an area of 20 lakh sq. ft., at an estimated cost of Rs.1,100 crore.

Water Resources

115. Realizing that water is the elixir of life, this Government is taking various initiatives to preserve and protect water resources of the State.

116. In Chennai and surrounding districts that were significantly affected by Cyclone Michaung, 22 permanent flood prevention and mitigation works are being undertaken at a cost of Rs.350 crore. In order to restore the damages caused by the unprecedented rainfall and consequent flooding in the southern districts, works for permanent flood control are being undertaken at a cost of Rs.280 crore.

117. To effectively harvest rainwater and ensure assured water supply for irrigation purposes, construction of water recharge structures and maintenance works of

irrigation systems including construction of sub-surface dykes, renovation of channels and construction of new anicuts will be taken up in the current year at a cost of Rs.734 crore. In addition, repair and replacement of old and damaged shutters in barrages and dams will be taken up at a cost of Rs.66 crore.

118. The works for first phase of 'Extension, Renovation and Modernization of Grand Anicut Canal system' are being undertaken at an estimated cost of Rs.1,037 crore for effective water management in Cauvery Basin, and are nearing completion. **Further, works for the second phase will be undertaken at an estimated cost of Rs.400 crore in the coming year, thus benefiting an ayacut of 2.3 lakh acre in Thanjavur and Pudukottai Districts.**

119. The Government has sanctioned the implementation of 'Tamil Nadu Water Resources Information and Management System' (TNWRIMS), at an estimated cost of Rs.30 crore, for the effective management of water resources in Tamil Nadu. A web portal for this system will be launched soon. In the Budget Estimates, a sum of Rs.8,398 crore has been allocated for the Water Resources Department.

Green Energy

120. More than double the quantum of existing electricity demand will be required for transforming Tamil Nadu into a 'Trillion Dollar Economy State by 2030', as envisioned by the Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu. In this regard, Green energy will play a crucial role in achieving the ambitious target in the coming years. The Government will devise plans to generate an additional 100 billion units of renewable green energy and transform Tamil Nadu as the leading State in the country by 2030. A new Green Energy Company has been established as the first step in this journey towards a sustainable future. The institution will implement green hydrogen and pumped storage hydroelectric power generation projects along with solar energy, wind energy and other new green initiatives.

121. During the recent Global Investors Meet, 32 MoUs were signed for setting up 18,429 MW of green energy sources in Tamil Nadu. So far, permission has been granted for generating 2,570 MW of green energy power.

122. Further, 12 locations have been identified for setting up of 11,500 MW pumped storage hydro power stations in Tamil Nadu. In these locations, new pumped storage hydro-electric power stations will be established

under public-private partnership with an investment of approximately Rs.60,000 crore.

Climate Change

123. “சிறகிலிருந்து பிரிந்த
கிறகு ஒன்று
காற்றின் தீராத பக்கங்களில்
ஒரு பறவையின் வாழ்வை
எழுதிச் செல்கிறது”

Reading these words of Piramil through the lens of environment, this Government recognizes its bounden duty to protect and conserve the nature and pass it on to the future generations. Tamil Nadu stands out among all States in the country for its rich biodiversity. However, due to the vagaries of climate change, certain endangered species are on the verge of extinction in the world. The need for conservation of these species has been stressed upon by many agencies including International Union for Conservation of Nature. To address this, the Tamil Nadu Government has decided to establish ‘Tamil Nadu Endangered Species Conservation Fund’ with a corpus of Rs.50 crore. The fund will be constituted with Government contribution of Rs.5 crore in the first phase, along with contribution from Government entities, donations under corporate social responsibility, national and international

funds. This Fund will help in formulation of new schemes for protecting endangered and critically endangered species.

124. With pioneering initiatives such as the Tamil Nadu Climate Change Mission, Green Tamil Nadu Mission, Tamil Nadu Wetland Mission, declaration of 15 new Ramsar wetlands and 5 sanctuaries, Tamil Nadu stands as a paragon of natural conservation in the entire nation. Building on this legacy, the **'TN-SHORE (Neithal Meetchi Iyakkam)'** has been sanctioned at an estimated cost of **Rs.1,675 crore**. **The Mission aims to restore coastal resources across 14 coastal districts of Tamil Nadu covering a stretch of 1,076 km.** Enhancement of coastal biodiversity, coastal protection, improving livelihoods of coastal communities and pollution control in coastal areas are the four major aims of this mission.

125. This initiative will capitalize on the potential of the Blue Economy and will primarily focus on the restoration of mangroves, coral reefs, and salt marshes. Works for conserving mangroves and reviving coral reefs at Kariyachalli islands in the Gulf of Mannar will be undertaken. Additionally, works are underway to establish a sprawling botanical garden in Kadambur, Chengalpattu, spanning 137 acres, at a cost of

Rs.345 crore, in collaboration with London Kew Gardens. Sea turtle conservation centres will be established at Nagapattinam and Chennai, along with an International Dugong conservation centre at Manora in Thanjavur District. Further, works will be taken up at a cost of Rs.40 crore for the rejuvenation of Ennore Creek.

126. The Government is taking significant steps to develop beaches in Tamil Nadu to international standards. In the first phase, Blue Flag certification has been obtained for Kovalam in Chengalpattu district. Following this, **major beaches across the State including Marina in Chennai, Ariyaman in Ramanathapuram, Kayalpattinam in Thoothukudi, Kodavilai in Tirunelveli, Kameswaram in Nagapattinam, Kattumavadi in Pudukottai, Silver beach in Cuddalore and Marakkanam in Villupuram will be developed at an estimated cost of Rs.250 crore to obtain blue flag certification.** The Government shall take proactive measures to control plastic pollution by involving youth from coastal community in plastic waste management, disposal of abandoned and discarded fishing gears, and implement circular economy solutions in plastic waste hotspots.

Transport

127. Enhancement of bus fleet is imperative to continue quality transport services to remote villages in Tamil Nadu. In the coming year, 3,000 new buses will be procured, and 500 electric buses will be procured and brought into operation with the financial assistance of KfW. The mini bus service introduced in the year 1997 by Muthamizh Arignar Kalaignar received widespread recognition across the State. In the coming year, the mini bus services will be extended to rural areas adjacent to rapidly growing urban areas, with revamped guidelines.

128. In the Budget Estimates 2024-25, a sum of Rs.3,050 crore has been provided for free bus travel for women, Rs.1,521 crore for concessional travel of students and Rs.1,800 crore for diesel subsidy.

Chennai Metro Rail

129. Chennai Metro rail, which is the preferred choice of 3 lakh daily commuters, is being expanded in its second phase to cover 3 routes covering a distance of 119 km. This project is being implemented expeditiously at a cost of Rs.63,246 crore. The first elevated stretch from Poonamalle to Kodambakkam will be commissioned in December 2025. An amount of Rs. 12,000 crore has

been allocated for Chennai Metro Rail Phase-II in the Budget Estimates 2024-25.

130. The detailed project reports for a Metro Rail along Avinashi and Sathyamangalam road in Coimbatore, at a cost of Rs.10,740 crore, and a Metro Rail in Madurai connecting Thirumangalam and Othakkadai, at a cost of Rs.11,368 crore, have been sent to the Union Government for their approval on equity sharing basis. After the approval of the Union Government is obtained, these works will be commenced.

131. A detailed project report for extending the metro rail route from Chennai Airport till Kalaignar Centenary Bus Terminus in Kilambakkam, at a cost of Rs.4,625 crore, has been prepared and will be submitted shortly to the Union Government for approval on equity sharing basis. In addition to this, detailed project reports will be prepared for extending the routes from Koyambedu to Avadi and Poonamalle to Parandur, in the next phase.

132. Through a Special Purpose Vehicle to be created by a joint venture between Chennai Metro Rail Limited and Tamil Nadu Industrial Development Corporation (TIDCO), a 27-storied iconic building with heritage design, spanning approximately 10 lakh sq.ft., will be constructed opposite Chennai Central Railway

Station at a cost of Rs.688 crore. This new building will cater to the office space needs of public sector, commercial enterprises and IT companies.

133. A state-of-the-art integrated multi-modal bus terminus and office complex, equipped with ultra-modern amenities, will be developed at a cost of Rs.823 crore near the current Broadway bus terminus and Kuralagam building. The Government will provide a sum of Rs.200 crore for the formation of this iconic bus terminus.

134. The bus terminuses and depots at Anna Nagar (West), Kalaignar Karunandhi Nagar and Mandaveli will be modernized along with office and commercial complexes. Detailed project reports will be prepared for the same.

Adi Dravidar and Tribal Welfare

135. **The Annal Ambedkar Business Champions Scheme that was launched last year with the objective of promoting entrepreneurs belonging to SC/ST communities has received widespread acclaim.** Under this scheme, disbursements of Rs.156 crore as loan and Rs.84 crore as subsidy, benefiting 755 persons, have been done so far. Due to the widespread reception received, an additional allocation of Rs.75 crore has been provided for this

scheme in the current year. Moreover, a sum of Rs.120 crore will be allocated for this scheme in the coming year. In addition to this, under the recently launched 'CM Arise' scheme, entrepreneurs can avail loans up to Rs.10 lakh with 35 per cent interest subsidy. An allocation of Rs.50 crore will be earmarked in the coming year to implement this programme.

136. In order to create basic infrastructure amenities and bring about holistic socio-economic development in Adi Dravidar habitations in urban and rural areas, the Iyothee Thass Pandithar Habitation Development Scheme will be implemented at a cost of Rs.230 crore in the next year. Under this scheme, **120 community halls with facilities for marriage, indoor sports and training will be constructed at a cost of Rs.100 crore for the benefit of Adi Dravidar and Tribal communities.**

137. In order to enhance the enrolment of Adi Dravidar and Tribal communities in higher education and to provide them with modern accommodation facilities, five state-of-the-art student hostels are being constructed in Coimbatore, Madurai, Tiruchirapalli, Nilgiris and Chennai at a cost of Rs. 150 crore. Following this, girls' hostels for college students in Chennai, Thanjavur, Dharmapuri and Namakkal districts and boys'

hostel for college students in Madurai district will be constructed at a cost of Rs.75 crore this year. A comprehensive skill development programme tailored specifically for the students residing in these hostels will be imparted for their multi-faceted development.

138. In order to upgrade the basic amenities in tribal habitations and improve their living standards, a new scheme, 'Tholkudi', will be implemented in the next four years at an outlay of Rs.1,000 crore. Under this scheme, road facilities, potable water, street lights and permanent houses will be provided in tribal settlements. Further, dedicated programmes will be implemented to improve the livelihood of tribal community as part of this initiative. In the year, a new scheme will be implemented at a cost of Rs.5 crore, wherein 1,000 selected tribal youth will be selected and provided skill training on latest industrial techniques, with accommodation facilities, through the Tamil Nadu Skill Development Corporation to facilitate employment opportunities.

139. For all schools functioning under the Department of Adi Dravidar and Tribal Welfare, smart class rooms will be constructed at a cost of Rs.36 crore in the year 2024-25. Further, high-speed internet facility will be provided to all schools. In the Budget Estimates,

a sum of Rs.3,706 crore has been allocated for the Adi Dravidar and Tribal Welfare Department.

Welfare of Backward Classes

140. This Government, which is committed to the cause of social justice, has been a frontrunner in the country in implementing various welfare schemes. Following these ideals, this Government has urged the Union Government to undertake caste census along with the national census.

141. At present, 1,353 hostels for Backward, Most Backward, Denotified Communities and Minorities are being run by the Government, where food and accommodation are provided free of cost to students. Recently, this Government has increased the monthly feeding charges to Rs.1,400 for school students and to Rs.1,500 for college students residing in hostels. Over the past three years, construction works have been taken up in 12 hostels at a cost of Rs.52 crore. Further, 17 school hostels have been upgraded as college hostels based on requirements. In the coming year, a sum of Rs.124 crore for pre-matric a sum of Rs.237 crore for post-matric scholarship and a sum of Rs.193 crore for providing free bicycles to students have been allocated.

Minorities Welfare

142. Acceding to the long standing demand of minority educational institutions, this Government has issued orders for issuance of their certificates on a permanent basis. This decision has been well received among the minority communities. Further, operational guidelines to overcome the hurdles in obtaining permission for places of worship and carrying out renovation works will be issued shortly.

143. A grant of Rs.10 crore will be provided for the repair and maintenance of mosques and dargahs this year. Dargahs in several places including Thakkalai in Kanniyakumari district and Vellore and Pottalpudhur in Tenkasi will be renovated this year. Similarly, a grant of Rs.10 crore will be provided for the repair and renovation of churches in several places including Choolai in Chennai, Virudachalam in Cuddalore, and Idaikkattur in Sivagangai this year. In the Budget Estimates 2024-25, a sum of Rs.1,429 has been allocated for the Backward Classes, Most Backward Classes and Minorities welfare Department.

Welfare of Differently Abled Persons

144. It is widely recognized that Muthamizh Arignar Kalaighar not only coined the term

"மாற்றுத் திறனாளிகள்", but was also the driving force behind several groundbreaking schemes aimed at transforming lives of differently abled individuals. On similar lines, under the direct supervision of the Hon'ble Chief Minister, the Department for the Welfare of Differently Abled Persons is taking several pioneering initiatives. The RIGHTS Project is being implemented at a cost of Rs.1,763 with financial assistance from the World Bank. This project is being implemented in 15 districts in the first phase, with the objective of providing comprehensive services in their vicinity and generating suitable employment opportunities for them through appropriate vocational training. Further, under this programme, home-care treatment will be provided to the severely affected differently abled persons with the help of volunteers and NGOs.

145. A 'Centre of Excellence for Persons with Autism Spectrum Disorder' will be established in Chennai at a cost of Rs.25 crore. This centre will provide comprehensive services under a single roof which include special education, physiotherapy, occupational therapy, speech therapy, vocational training, independent living skills, caregiver training and guidance to persons with autism.

Hindu Religious and Charitable Endowments

146. Since the Government assumed office, temple renovation works and consecration ceremonies have been completed in 1,290 temples in the last 3 years. Annadanam is being provided throughout the day in 11 temples including Palani, Thiruvannamalai, Thiruvarangam and Samayapuram. As a result of the earnest efforts taken by this Government for safeguarding lands and properties belonging to temples, a total of 6,071 acre of land, 25.34 lakh sq.ft. of plots and 5.04 lakh sq. ft. of buildings worth Rs.5,718 crore have been retrieved from encroachments.

147. Works have been undertaken to renovate temple tanks of 143 temples at a cost of Rs.84 crore. More than 200 rare books have been republished by the publication division of Hindu Religious and Charitable Endowments Department. Rope-car facilities will be established in the temples of Thiruneermalai in Chengalpattu district and Thirupparankundram in Madurai district at a cost of Rs.26 crore. Further, a grant of Rs.100 crore will be provided for renovation of thousand-year old heritage temples.

Tourism

148. Tourism is a key focus sector in Tamil Nadu's journey towards becoming a one trillion-dollar economy. The Government will implement comprehensive tourism destination development programmes in key tourist destinations including Kanniyakumari, Madurai, Thanjavur, Dindigul, Coimbatore and Tiruvannamalai. The programme would include upgradation of existing attractions, development of new attractions, comprehensive maintenance plan, and an institutionalized effort to train local youth for creating job opportunities. This plan will be implemented through public-private partnership. Exclusive tourism development committees for each district chaired by the District Collector will be formed, co-opting representatives of all key stakeholders, to promote tourism in these areas.

Animal Husbandry

149. The Covid pandemic stalled the execution of the sterilization program resulting in an increase in the population of stray dogs. The menace caused by this has come to the attention of the Government. In order to strengthen animal sterilization project and to ensure effective operation of animal birth control centres across Tamil Nadu, an amount of Rs.20 crore will be allocated in

this Budget Estimates. Further, an amount of Rs.11 crore will be allocated for the Tamil Nadu Animal Welfare Board in the coming year.

Fisheries and Fishermen Welfare

150. The welfare of fishermen, who have contributed to making Tamil Nadu the fifth largest fishing industry in the country, is of paramount importance to this Government. During the fishermen's conference presided by the Hon'ble Chief Minister in Ramanathapuram in August 2023, various welfare schemes and projects were announced, benefiting 2.77 lakh fishermen, at a total financial implication of approximately Rs.1,000 crore. The livelihood assistance during fishing ban period has been increased from Rs.5,000 to Rs.8,000. The subsidized industrial kerosene provided to registered country fishing crafts in Thoothukudi, Tirunelveli, and Kanniyakumari districts has been increased from 3,400 litres to 3,700 litres. The quantity of diesel provided at subsidized rate to mechanized fishing boats and motorized country crafts has been raised from 18,000 litres to 19,000 litres and from 4,000 litres to 4,400 litres, respectively.

151. In the coming year, **coastal protection and construction works such as bait arches, fish landing centres, dredging and artificial reefs at**

Kanniyakumari, Nagapattinam, Ramanathapuram, Thanjavur, Mayiladuthurai, Thiruvarur, Chengalpattu, Villupuram, Thiruvallur, and Thoothukudi districts will be taken up at an estimated cost of Rs.450 crore.

Dairy Development

152. The Government is taking numerous measures to ensure consistent supply of quality milk to the public by enhancing the operational efficiency of AAVIN. Recently, an incentive of Rs.3 per litre has been introduced, benefiting 3.87 lakh milk producers, without affecting the interest of consumers. In addition, modernization initiatives for installing automated machines equipped with cutting-edge technology in dairy plants, including those in Tiruchirapalli, Madurai, and Salem will be undertaken at an estimated cost of Rs.60 crore. Furthermore, to ensure the highest standards in milk production, modern equipment will be provided to Milk Producers' Cooperative Societies and Unions, at an estimated cost of Rs.21 crore.

Handlooms and Textiles

153. In order to improve the quality of textile products with the help of modern technologies and to facilitate their market linkages, 10 mini textile

parks will be established by the Government in various districts including Karur, Erode and Virudhunagar at a cost of Rs.20 crore. A new policy to develop the technical textiles applied in fields of medicine, automobile and defence has been released recently to give an impetus to exports and create job opportunities in this sector. **The Government will set up a dedicated 'Research and Business Development Fund for Technical Textiles and Man Made Fibre' with a corpus of Rs.25 crore** to provide grants to research units and private companies for new product development and research. In addition, the capital subsidy for major investments under the existing policy for technical textiles will be increased from 15 per cent to 25 per cent and will be disbursed over a period of 10 years. This scheme will also be expanded to cover medium enterprises.

154. Investment in modern technologies in the spinning sector is imperative to make Tamil Nadu the leading State in this field. In pursuit of this goal, **the Government will introduce a special scheme for technological upgradation by providing interest subvention at 6 per cent, at an estimated cost of Rs.500 crore, over the next 10 years.**

155. An integrated complex, spanning 4 lakh sq. ft. comprising exhibition halls for display of handlooms and handicrafts produced in various districts of Tamil Nadu and various States **will be established in Chennai, at an estimated cost of Rs.227 crore. The complex will house a Design and Incubation Centre for handicrafts, open sales hall and commercial buildings.**

156. The new artisans welfare scheme, introduced by the Union Government, is inconsistent with the principles of social justice followed by this Government. As an alternate to this, a more progressive Artisans Development Scheme is being formulated to provide skill training and support for modernization to artisans engaged in diverse arts and craft trades such as tailors, potters and sculptors. The scheme will include advanced professional training for persons above the age of 35 years to adapt their skills and expand their profession in the modern context. Under this scheme, new entrants seeking to join the handicraft sector will be incentivized with 25 per cent subsidy linked with credit, and will be provided skill training and guidance to enhance their marketing skills. **In the Budget Estimates 2024-25, an allocation of Rs.20 crore has been made for the implementation of this scheme, benefiting 10,000 persons per annum, from the current year.**

Housing

157. A new module integrated in the **single window system will be introduced to facilitate sanction of building permissions based on self-certification, without requirement of completion certificate.** Plot sizes up to 2,500 sq.ft. and built-up area up to 3,500 sq.ft. for the **construction of residential structures having ground or ground plus one floor will be eligible for instant registration without the requirements of building permission.**

Public Works

158. The Public Works Department has earned widespread appreciation for its exquisite design and timely completion of the construction of Kalaigñar Centenary Library at Madurai, Multi Super Specialty Hospital in Guindy, Chennai and Kalaigñar Centenary Jallikattu Arena near Alanganallur, Madurai.

159. With a view to transforming Chennai into a world-class city, a state-of-the-art 'Kalaigñar International Convention Centre', spanning 3 lakh sq. ft. will be built in East Coast Road, Muttukadu, Chennai. This Centre will be equipped with modern amenities to host international exhibitions and conferences. With a

conference hall accommodating 5,000 persons, an exhibition hall with capacity of 10,000 persons, meeting halls, and an art gallery, this convention centre will be an iconic structure in Singara Chennai.

160. A new Tamil Nadu House 'Vaigai' will be constructed at an extent of 3 lakh sq. ft. with traditional Dravidian architectural design in the capital city of New Delhi, at a cost of Rs.257 crore, with adequate facilities to accommodate guests, officials and aspirants of competitive examinations.

161. The Kalaignar Centenary Jallikattu Arena recently inaugurated by the Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu, will have its premises adorned with attractions showcasing the rich history, culture, and arts of ancient Tamil civilization, including folk arts, sculptures, handlooms and handicrafts, and native flora. This centre will be an embodiment of Tamil culture attracting domestic and foreign tourists and will be established at an estimated cost of Rs.20 crore.

162. In the current year, an amount of Rs.50 crore will be allocated to renovate heritage buildings, and preserve their antiquity. Accordingly, buildings such as Muthammal Chathiram at Orathanadu in Thanjavur, the century-old marriage hall at Thiruvaiyar in Thanjavur, Directorate office at Chepauk in Chennai, Heritage

Travellers Bungalow of Highways Department at Kodumudi in Erode, and the heritage dome in the College of Engineering, Guindy will be renovated.

163. Integrating the architectural traditions of Tamil Nadu and emerging global trends, a new Design Policy, 'Future of Spaces' for structural design of various Government offices, school and college buildings will be released shortly. The policy will comprise of guidelines for incorporating aesthetics, modern technology, green practices and ergonomics in the design of buildings.

Highways

164. This Government is committed to continuously improving the quality of road network, which is critical for economic development of a region. Under the Chief Minister's Road Development Programme, road widening projects for 1,262 km length at an estimated cost of Rs.2,587 crore have been completed so far, and works to the tune of Rs.4,881 crore are under implementation.

165. In order to decongest traffic in major cities in Tamil Nadu, works for the construction of 16 bypass roads at a cost of Rs.2,824 crore have been undertaken. Further, to avoid disruption during monsoon season, construction of 1,113 high-level bridges at a cost of

Rs.2,006 crore have been taken up, out of which 683 have been completed and operationalized. Works for the construction of remaining 430 high-level bridges are in progress.

166. In the coming year, construction of an outer ring road in Sivakasi, ring road in Mannargudi, bypass road in Dindigul, a high-level bridge connecting Trichy and Srirangam, widening of Avinasi to Mettupalayam road into a four-lane road and a bridge across Koraiyar River in Marangiyur – Enathimangalam road in Villupuram district will be undertaken, at an estimated cost of Rs.665 crore, under the Comprehensive Road Infrastructure Development Programme (CRIDP).

167. The stretch between Thiruvannamiyur and Uthandi on the East Coast Road, covering a distance of 14.6 km witnesses high levels of traffic congestion. In view of this, a feasibility study to explore the possibility of constructing a four-lane elevated corridor will be undertaken in the coming year.

168. In the Budget Estimates 2024-25, a sum of Rs.8,365 crore under Comprehensive Road Infrastructure Development Programme (CRIDP), a sum of Rs.2,267 crore under Chennai Peripheral Ring Road Project and a sum of Rs.908 crore for Chennai-Kanyakumari Industrial Corridor Project have been allocated.

169. The Cuddalore port, which has been inoperative for the past 40 years, has now been upgraded with additional facilities at a cost of Rs.150 crore. In addition, tenders have also been invited to increase the handling capacity of the port to 35 lakh tonnes of goods per annum. This development is poised to drive significant economic growth in the central region of Tamil Nadu.

170. The Government has decided to create a statutory body to implement iconic world-class road infrastructure projects in Tamil Nadu, incorporating best management practices across the world. **In this regard, a bill to establish 'Tamil Nadu State Highways Authority' will be introduced in the current session.** This move aims to facilitate significant investments in road infrastructure development through public-private partnership. In the Budget Estimates, a sum of Rs.20,043 crore has been allocated for the Highways and Minor Ports Department.

Welfare of Ex-servicemen

171. The Government is committed to the welfare of the ex-servicemen who have selflessly defended the borders of our country and protected the sovereignty of our nation despite all odds. At present, the reimbursement of property tax is limited to certain

categories including widows of ex-servicemen and disabled ex-servicemen who were injured during war. Rewarding the dedication and selfless service of our ex-servicemen, the property tax reimbursement scheme will be expanded to all ex-servicemen. As a result, more than 1.2 lakh ex-servicemen will be benefitted.

Welfare of Government Employees

172. Over the past three years, 27,858 candidates have been selected through state-level recruitment agencies such as the Tamil Nadu Public Service Commission, Teachers Recruitment Board, Medical Services Recruitment Board, and Tamil Nadu Uniformed Services Recruitment Board to fill vacancies in various departments. Further, 32,709 persons have been recruited through various Government departments and local bodies. In total, 60,567 persons have secured Government employment in the two and a half years since this Government assumed office. Moreover, the Government is taking proactive measures to fill up 10,000 posts in the current year.

173. To cater to the growing need for affordable housing of Government employees, the Government will construct 95 Type-B and 133 Type-C quarters, encompassing a total plinth area of 3 lakh sq. ft. in

Todhunter Nagar, Saidapet, Chennai, at a cost of Rs.147 crore.

174. Under the Tamil Nadu Government Pensioners' Family Security Fund scheme, a sum of Rs.50,000 is paid to family members in case of death of pensioners. In 2023-24, 19,134 claims have been settled to the family members of pensioners to the tune of Rs.96 crore till 31.01.2024.

Welfare of Sri Lankan Tamils

175. The Government is committed to the welfare of Sri Lankan Tamils and is taking all necessary measures to improve their living standards. To this end, the Government had announced reconstruction of 7,469 houses for Sri Lankan Tamils residing in rehabilitation camps. In the first phase, construction works have been taken up for 3,510 houses at a cost of Rs. 176 crore, of which 1,591 houses have already been completed and the remaining are nearing completion. The works for the second phase of construction will commence shortly.

Public Grievances

176. Effective grievance redressal of public continues to be the top priority of this Government. Out of 20.31 lakh petitions received under Mudhalvarin

Mugavari so far, 19.69 lakh petitions have been resolved. Further, continuous feedback on the resolved petitions is being gathered from petitioners to facilitate necessary follow-up action.

177. With the aim of delivering services to people at their doorsteps, a new initiative called **'Makkaludan Mudhalvar'** has been launched to redress public grievances in under 30 days pertaining to 13 key departments with high public interface. Under this scheme, **3.5 lakh petitions have been resolved so far.**

178. Following this, **a new scheme called 'Ungalai Thedi Ungal Ooril'** has been launched recently. Under this scheme, District Collectors will set up camp in one Taluk for one day every month, conduct field visits, inspect Government Offices, and directly interact with the public to understand their needs and grievances, thereby **ensuring that welfare schemes and services reach the common man without hurdles.** Thus, this Government will continue to make efforts to ensure that the entire official machinery reaches out to the people in remote villages to deliver services expeditiously.

Special Programme Implementation

179. In order to ensure timely and hassle-free delivery of services and benefits to the people, our Hon'ble Chief Minister conducts periodical reviews and inspections on the status of implementation of various Government Schemes through the Special Programme Implementation Department. Under the novel initiative, 'Kala Aayvil Muthalamaichar', the Hon'ble Chief Minister has personally visited 24 districts in 6 zones to conduct review meetings and inspections. Mega infrastructure projects, which will transform the socio-economic landscape of Tamil Nadu, are being reviewed critically by the Hon'ble Chief Minister under the Iconic Projects initiative.

Law and Order

180. Over the past three years, Tamil Nadu has remained a haven of peace due to the Government's unwavering commitment to maintaining law and order and preserving communal harmony. A special focus has been placed on ensuring the safety and protection of women and children through coordinated police operations. As a result, the cities in Tamil Nadu top the list of cities safe for women in the country. Moreover, this Government is implementing stringent measures to curb

drug use and prevent illegal trafficking of substances. To enhance safety and security of citizens and protect assets, a new mobile application named 'Smart Kavalar' has been introduced. In the past two years, 46 new police stations including 39 all-women police stations have been inaugurated.

181. The Crime and Criminal Tracking Network and Systems Project (CCTNS) being implemented under the scheme for Modernization of Police Force, across 1,551 Police Stations and 372 Special units in the State, will be restructured and implemented as CCTNS 2.0, a web based system with facilities for online registration of complaints by public and sharing of information across departments, over the next five years, at a cost of Rs.124 crore.

182. In an effort to strengthen and modernised the Fire and Rescue Services department, several initiatives have been taken by the Government, at an estimated cost of Rs.373 crore, in line with the funding assistance of 15th Finance Commission. Further, the Government has sanctioned the procurement of vehicles and rescue equipment at an estimated cost of Rs.137 crore. As part of the scheme for Modernization of Prisons, a state-of-the-art high-security prison will be constructed at Tiruverumbur in Tiruchirappalli district,

at an estimated cost of Rs.104 crore. A comprehensive plan will be implemented for modernization of the Forensic Sciences department including purchase of new equipment and computers, at a cost of Rs.26 crore, in the coming year.

Commercial Taxes

183. The Government of Tamil Nadu has introduced the SAMADHAN Scheme aimed at simplifying the process involved in recovery of tax arrears from traders in the State. Under this scheme, long-pending arrears of small traders including taxes, penalties, and interest payments upto Rs.50,000 have been waived to the tune of Rs.143 crore.

184. With the objective of increasing revenue realization by the Commercial Tax Department, a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) has been signed with IIT Hyderabad to identify and combat tax evasion. This collaboration aims to enhance the operational efficiency of the department through implementation of Big Data Analytics solution. Further, a Data Analytics Unit will be established to augment GST revenue and prevent evasion. This unit will be established to facilitate real-time analysis and monitoring supported by technical experts and big data monitoring software at an estimated cost of Rs.4 crore.

185. To augment digitization of the Registration Department and modernize registration services, a new scheme under STAR 3.0 is being implemented at an estimated cost of Rs. 320 crore to leverage advanced technologies such as Big Data Analysis, Artificial Intelligence and Machine Learning. With an objective of providing modern offices, 71 century-old dilapidated buildings have been identified for re-construction in the first phase. The works are being implemented at a cost of Rs.133 crore.

Disaster Management

186. The Government has accorded sanction for procurement of 1,400 new automatic rain gauges and 100 new automatic weather stations for analyzing real-time rainfall and meteorological data at a cost of Rs.32 crore. Additionally, a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) has been signed with the Space Application Centre (SAC) to acquire weather forecasts and avail their high-speed super computing services.

187. In order to monitor natural calamities such as floods, cyclones and earthquakes, and develop situation-based functional strategies based on risk assessment, a Technical Cell will be established. Furthermore, orders have been issued to set up two C-Band Doppler Radars at Ramanathapuram and Yercaud

at a cost of Rs.56 crore to enhance the weather forecasting system.

Financial Management

188. The size of the credit economy stands at three times the size of the budget in the State. Thus, a robust and diverse credit economy is crucial for development of the State. Recognizing this well, this Government in an unprecedented move will fix the priority sector lending target at Rs.8 lakh crore for the banks in Financial Year 2024-25, with an increase of 14 per cent over the last year.

189. Optimal cash and debt management are the hallmark of prudent fiscal management. In the past, as scheme savings had been lying unutilized in several thousand bank accounts of the implementing agencies, the Government had been raising debt to meet its current liabilities. This Government has constituted a Special Task Force to mop up scheme savings and unutilized Government funds lying in bank accounts in order to address this issue.

190. To avoid such inefficiencies in fund management, this Government has leveraged technology to ensure a just-in-time release of funds to the implementing agencies such that cash does not lie idle in

bank accounts. The 'Tamil Nadu Public Fund Tracking System', has been implemented for 36 major schemes in 13 departments to track the flow of funds till it reaches the end beneficiary. These efforts will ensure that funds are released as per the pace of implementation of projects such that Government borrowing is restricted to the necessary levels, thus saving substantially on the interest payments.

191. This Government has brought a major reform through the e-procurement portal, which has been made mandatory with effect from 01.04.2023. I am glad to inform that so far 1.3 lakh procurement contracts have been floated through this portal. To further strengthen this, the Government will introduce the electronic bank guarantee system in the e-procurement portal. In furtherance of these initiatives, electronic registration of contractors of all departments through e-sevai centres will commence from 01.07.2024.

PART- B**Finances of the State Government**

Hon'ble Speaker Sir,

192. I have highlighted the major reforms and initiatives of this Government thus far. I shall now elaborate on the fiscal position.

193. The inordinate delay by the Union Government in approving the Chennai Metro Rail Project has forced the State to incur the entire project expenditure so far from its budgetary resources, resulting in an expenditure of Rs.9,000 crore in the current year. Further, the termination of GST compensation regime since 30.06.2022 has caused a revenue shortfall of approximately Rs.20,000 crore per annum. Under these challenging circumstances, the Budget for the year 2023-24 had been presented in March last year.

194. During the current year, this situation has been aggravated by the onslaught of twin disasters, which have caused a severe strain on the state finances. While unanticipated expenditure to provide necessary cash relief assistance and to undertake temporary and permanent restoration works has been incurred, there has also been a significant dip in the revenue collections.

Despite multiple requests, the Union Government has not provided any support to the State from National Disaster Response Fund.

195. On the contrary, even amidst these challenges, the Union Government continues to stifle our state by exercising arbitrary and discriminatory control over our finances. The imposition of stringent conditions on the borrowing ceiling by the Union Government has unduly restricted the ability of the State to raise resources to fund its development initiatives.

196. As a result of one such condition, the Government of Tamil Nadu has been mandated to provide Rs.17,117 crore for loss funding to TANGEDCO in the current year, failing which an equivalent amount will be deducted from the borrowing ceiling fixed by the Union Government. Moreover, an amount of Rs.14,442 crore has to be provided for loss funding in the next year. While the Government is committed to undertake power sector reforms, this condition creates a huge financial burden on the State, constraining its ability to fund development initiatives. Therefore, on lines of the Ujwal Discom Assurance Yojana (UDAY) Scheme, this Government has addressed the Union Government to exclude this amount from the Fiscal Deficit and Borrowing Ceiling of the State.

197. In these circumstances, the total revenue expenditure is estimated to be Rs.3,17,484 crore in the Revised Estimates 2023-24 as compared to Rs.3,08,056 crore in Budget Estimates. Despite the increase in revenue expenditure on account of loss funding to TANGEDCO to the tune of Rs.15,594 crore and disaster relief and restoration to the tune of Rs.2,041 crore, the increase has been contained to Rs.9,428 crore through prudent fiscal management.

198. On the receipts front, the collections from State's Own Tax Revenue are estimated at Rs.1,70,147 crore in the Revised Estimates 2023-24 as against Rs.1,81,182 crore in the Budget Estimates. This reflects a reduction from the anticipated growth levels of 20.61 per cent in Budget Estimates to 13.26 per cent in the Revised Estimates, owing to the severe impact caused by natural calamities.

199. The State's Non-Tax Revenue is estimated to be Rs.30,381 crore in the Revised Estimates 2023-24, which is a substantial increase over the Budget Estimates. This is a result of the revenue augmentation measures taken by this Government including rationalization of rates and improvement in collection efficiency.

200. The Transfers from the Union Government include Grants-in-aid and Share in Central taxes. The Grants-in-aid have been estimated at Rs.26,996 crore in Revised Estimates 2023-24, which is marginally lower than the Budget Estimates. The Share in Central Taxes has increased to Rs.45,053 crore in Revised Estimates 2023-24, as compared to Rs.41,665 crore in Budget Estimates. The increase in the Revised Estimates is due to an increase in tax collections estimated by the Union Government.

201. In aggregate, the Revenue Deficit in Revised Estimates 2023-24 is estimated to increase to Rs.44,907 crore compared to Rs.37,540 crore in Budget Estimates. Excluding loss funding to TANGEDCO, the revenue deficit is estimated to be Rs.27,790 crore in Revised Estimates 2023-24, as compared to Rs.36,017 crore in the Budget Estimates. This has been achieved through prudent fiscal management despite the adverse impact caused by the disasters on revenues and expenditure.

202. The Capital Expenditure in the Revised Estimates 2023-24 is projected at Rs.42,532 crore as against Rs.44,366 crore in the Budget Estimates. Further, the Net Loans and Advances are estimated to be Rs.6,624 crore in the Revised Estimates as compared to

Rs.10,169 crore in the Budget Estimates. This is due to the reduction in the pace of implementation of projects, as a result of the two calamities.

203. The Fiscal Deficit in Revised Estimates 2023-24 is estimated to marginally increase to Rs.94,060 crore as against Rs.92,075 crore in Budget Estimates. The Fiscal Deficit as a percentage of GSDP has increased from 3.25 per cent in Budget Estimates to 3.45 per cent in the Revised Estimates 2023-24, owing to a downward revision in the GSDP estimates.

204. I shall now elaborate on the Budget Estimates 2024-25.

205. Taking into account the State's economic growth, revision of taxes and improvement in collection efficiency, the State's Own Tax Revenue has been estimated at Rs.1,95,173 crore in the Budget Estimates 2024-25, which is a growth of 14.71 per cent over the Revised Estimates 2023-24. This includes an amount of Rs.1,43,381 crore from Commercial Taxes, Rs.23,370 crore from Stamps and Registration, Rs.12,247 crore from State Excise and Rs.11,560 crore from Motor Vehicle Taxes. In anticipation of sustained levels of collection from the State's Own Non-Tax Revenue, an amount of Rs.30,728 crore has been estimated in the Budget Estimates 2024-25.

206. As the GST compensation dues will completely end from the coming year, there is a reduction in Grants-in-Aid in the Budget Estimates 2024-25, as compared to the Revised Estimates 2023-24. The Grants-in-Aid are estimated to be Rs.23,354 crore. Based on the allocation made in the Union Budget 2024-25, the estimates fixed for Share in Central Taxes for the year 2024-25 are Rs.49,755 crore.

207. In the Budget Estimates 2024-25, the total revenue expenditure is estimated at Rs.3,48,289 crore. Beside the standard increase in committed expenditure in salaries, pensions and interest payments, the allocation for Subsidies and Transfers has been fixed at Rs.1,46,908 crore. This increase is primarily owing to an additional expenditure of Rs.5,696 crore under the Kalaigiar Magalir Urimai Thogai Thittam over the previous year, to provide for its first full year of implementation.

208. In aggregate, the Revenue deficit is estimated at Rs.49,279 crore in Budget Estimates 2024-25. This includes an amount of Rs.14,442 crore for loss funding to TANGEDCO. Excluding this amount, the Revenue Deficit is estimated to be Rs.34,837 crore in the coming year. It is notable that this is lesser than

the revenue deficit excluding loss funding to TANGEDCO as compared to the Budget Estimates 2023-24.

209. In Budget Estimates 2024-25, the Capital Expenditure is estimated at Rs.47,681 crore, which is a growth of 12.11 per cent over the Revised Estimates 2023-24. The Net Loans and Advances are estimated at Rs.11,733 crore, owing to an increase in expenditure for Chennai Metro Rail project from Rs.9,000 crore to Rs.12,000 crore. This Government is investing heavily in infrastructure projects and is committed to increasing Capital expenditure in the State.

210. In total, the Fiscal Deficit is estimated at Rs.1,08,690 crore in the Budget Estimates 2024-25, which is 3.44 per cent of the GSDP. In line with the recommendations of the 15th Finance Commission, **the Government is following the glide path of fiscal consolidation and has reduced it from 3.46 per cent in 2022-23 to 3.45 per cent in 2023-24 to 3.44 per cent in 2024-25. This has been achieved despite the impact of disasters and after an unprecedented allocation to TANGEDCO from within the budgetary resources. This Budget underscores the commitment of this Government to deliver on the promises made to the people, without wavering**

from the path of prudent fiscal management, in spite of numerous challenges.

211. The 16th Finance Commission has been constituted by the Union Government recently. Under the able leadership of Dr. Arvind Panagariya, we hope that the historical injustice meted out to progressive states like Tamil Nadu by successive Commissions in the devolution of Union taxes will be remedied. We look forward to a fair mechanism wherein Tamil Nadu will receive its due share commensurate its role in nation building, without being penalized for its development.

Hon'ble Speaker sir,

212. After our country gained independence, different States charted their own paths to development. However, it is Tamil Nadu's achievements in social progress and economic growth that have received widespread recognition from globally renowned economists and international institutions alike. **I wish to place on record the remarks of Nobel Laureate and noted economist Amartya Sen on the growth of Tamil Nadu.**

"Tamil Nadu is one of the states which had achieved rapid progress within a relatively short period despite it starting from

appalling levels of poverty, deprivation and inequality. Tamil Nadu initiated bold social programmes and has some of the best public services among all Indian States and many of them are accessible to all on a non-discriminatory basis. Tamil Nadu has one of the highest per capita income and lowest poverty rates among all Indian States. This is an important example of the complementarity between economic growth and public support.”

213. In the last 75 years, few states in the country have achieved progress only on the economic front while others have made strides only on the social front. Tamil Nadu however, has sculpted a unique path by achieving high levels of growth in all aspects including social advancement and industrial development. To state specifically,

- ❖ First in the country in Export Preparedness Index
- ❖ First in the country in manufacturing and exports of electronics and automobiles
- ❖ Leading State in creating a conducive ecosystem for Start-ups

- ❖ State with the highest contribution to the number of women working in industries in country
- ❖ First in the country in Gross Enrolment in Higher Education
- ❖ State with the most number of high quality educational institutions (146) in NIRF

214. The globally acclaimed growth story of Tamil Nadu has been scripted by the tireless efforts of its leaders, who not only adorn this assembly from their portraits, but also guide us continuously by shaping our thoughts and ideals. In the same way, working under the leadership of our Hon'ble Chief Minister is an honour for all of us.

“காவல் குழனி கொள்பவரின் ஓம்புமதி

அளிதோ தானே: அது பெறல் வருங் குரைத்தே”

(புறம்-5)

A poem from the Purananuru beautifully describes that **a leader should take care of his people like a mother takes care of her child**. Similarly, under the care and protection of our Hon'ble Chief Minister who is committed to delivering good governance, the people of Tamil Nadu are marching on the path of success with their head held high.

215. I wish to convey my gratitude and appreciation to Thiru. T. Udhayachandran, IAS, Principal Secretary, Finance Department and all officials of the Finance Department who have worked tirelessly for the preparation of this Budget.

216. I once again sincerely thank the Hon'ble Chief Minister who has been instrumental in preparing this Budget by providing invaluable guidance and unwavering support.

217. Hon'ble Speaker Sir, I commend the Budget Estimates for the year 2024-25 for the approval of this August House.

வாழ்க தமிழ்!

வெக்க தமிழ்நாடு!

Thiru. Thangam Thenarasu

Minister for Finance and Human
Resources Management

Chennai,

19th February 2024,

Masi-7

Thiruvalluvar Aandu 2055

APPENDIX

MEDIUM TERM FISCAL PLAN

The State Government is required to place a Medium Term Fiscal Plan (MTFP) before the Legislative Assembly along with the Budget in accordance with Section 3(1) of the Tamil Nadu Fiscal Responsibility Act, 2003 (TNFRA). As per Section 3(2) of the said Act, the MTFP shall set forth a multi-year rolling target for the prescribed fiscal indicators like Revenue Deficit, Fiscal Deficit and Debt to GSDP ratio, specifying the underlying assumptions made to arrive at those projections. Complying with the said provisions under the Tamil Nadu Fiscal Responsibility Act, 2003, a Medium-Term Fiscal Plan for the period from 2024-25 to 2026-27 is hereby placed before the Legislative Assembly.

Objectives

This MTFP outlines the fiscal roadmap, aimed at fiscal consolidation and debt sustainability, which will be achieved by adherence to the following fiscal norms outlined by the Fifteenth Finance Commission:

- Fiscal Deficit to Gross State Domestic Product (GSDP) within 3 per cent from 2023-24 onwards. An additional borrowing of 0.5 per cent of GSDP for a period of four years from 2021-22 to 2024-25 on fulfilment of Power Sector Reforms.

- Outstanding Debt to GSDP within 28.9 per cent in 2024-25 and 28.7 per cent in 2025-26.

Economic scenario

As per the latest estimates released by Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation, Tamil Nadu has grown at 8.19 per cent in 2022-23 in real terms, as compared to the growth of 7.24 per cent at the national level.

In the year 2023-24, the Indian Economy has been pegged to grow at 7.3 per cent in constant terms. Accounting for inflation, this translates to a nominal growth of around 13.5 per cent in nominal terms at the national level. Considering Tamil Nadu has been an engine of growth for the country, the nominal GSDP growth rate is pegged at 15.14 per cent for the year 2023-24.

For the year 2024-25, taking into account the proactive measures taken by the Government to attract investment, generate employment and carry out policy initiatives for comprehensive and sustainable growth, it is projected that the nominal GSDP growth of the State will be at the level of 15.89 per cent. In the subsequent years, the nominal GSDP growth is estimated at 16 per cent per annum.

I. **Revenue Receipts**

The Total Revenue Receipts of the State Government, including the Central Transfers, are estimated to be Rs.2,99,009.98 crore in Budget Estimates 2024-25 as against the Revised Estimates of Rs.2,72,576.80 crore in 2023-24. The estimates for 2025-26 is estimated to be Rs.3,41,851.96 crore and Rs.3,94,972.15 crore in 2026-27 which indicates a growth of 14.33 per cent and 15.54 per cent respectively. The important components are discussed below:

1. **State's Own Tax Revenue**

The State's Own Tax Revenue (SOTR) is estimated to be Rs.1,70,147.24 crore in the Revised Estimates 2023-24. It is estimated to increase to Rs.1,95,172.99 crore in the Budget Estimates 2024-25. The SOTR is estimated to be Rs.2,26,400.67 crore in 2025-26 and Rs.2,67,152.79 crore in 2026-27. The growth rates of State's Own Tax Revenue are estimated to be 16 per cent in 2025-26 and 18 per cent in 2026-27 based on present trends in tax collection and economic outlook.

2. Non-Tax Revenue

The State's Own Non-Tax Revenue has been estimated at Rs.30,727.82 crore in the Budget Estimates for 2024-25. This shows an increase of 1.14 per cent compared to Revised Estimates 2023-24 as a result of various resource augmentation measures and improvement in collection efficiency being undertaken by the Government. The Non-Tax Revenue is estimated at Rs.32,264.21 crore in 2025-26 and Rs.33,554.78 crore in 2026-27.

3. Share in Central Taxes

Tamil Nadu's share in Central Taxes is estimated at Rs.49,754.95 crore in Budget Estimates 2024-25 as against Rs. 45,052.52 crore in the Revised Estimates 2023-24. This is based on the estimates in the Union Budget 2024-25. The share of the Central Taxes is estimated to be Rs.57,964.52 crore in 2025-26 and Rs.67,528.66 crore in 2026-27 by assuming a growth rate of 16.50 percent in 2025-26 and 16.50 per cent in 2026-27.

4. Grants-in-Aid from the Union Government

The Grants-in-Aid from the Union Government have been estimated at Rs.23,354.22 crore in the Budget Estimates 2024-25. For 2025-26 and 2026-27,

Grants-in-Aid are projected at Rs.25,222.56 crore and Rs.26,735.91 crore respectively.

II. **Revenue Expenditure**

The Revenue expenditure is estimated at Rs.3,48,288.72 crore in Budget Estimates 2024-25, which shows an increase of 9.70 per cent over Revised Estimates 2023-24. The Revenue expenditure is estimated to be Rs.3,59,949.99 crore in 2025-26 and Rs.3,89,005.49 crore in 2026-27.

The important components are discussed below:

- The expenditure on account of Salaries is a committed expenditure and has been estimated to be Rs.84,931.60 crore in the Budget Estimates 2024-25. This shows an increase of 12.42 per cent over the Revised Estimates 2023-24. The expenditure under Salaries is expected to be Rs.91,726.13 crore in 2025-26 and Rs.99,064.22 crore in 2026-27 based on hike in Dearness allowance and anticipated new recruitments.
- The Non-wage Operations and Maintenance is estimated to be Rs.15,013.46 crore in the Budget Estimates 2024-25. This expenditure has been estimated at Rs.15,614.00 crore in 2025-26 and Rs.16,238.56 crore in 2026-27.

- The expenditure on account of committed expenditure on Pensions and Retirement benefits is estimated to be Rs.37,663.56 crore in Budget Estimates 2024-25. Considering the trends in retirement, the expenditure under Pension and Retirement benefits is estimated at Rs.41,429.91 crore in 2025-26 and Rs.45,572.91 in 2026-27.
- The expenditure on account of Subsidies and Transfers is estimated to be Rs.1,46,908.19 crore in the Budget Estimates 2024-25. The expenditure under Subsidies and Transfers is estimated at Rs.1,40,253.60 crore in 2025-26 and Rs.1,51,473.88 crore in 2026-27. This takes into account the expenditure for Magalir Urimai Thogai, reduction anticipated in loss funding to TANGEDCO, and increased transport subsidies, among others.
- The interest payments for public debt raised in the previous years are a committed liability of the Government and continue to increase every year. The expenditure on account of interest payments is estimated at Rs.63,722.24 crore in the Budget Estimates 2024-25. This expenditure has been projected at Rs.70,876.73 crore in 2025-26 and Rs.76,598.91 crore in 2026-27.

III. **Capital Account**

In the Budget Estimates 2024-25, an amount of Rs.47,681.30 crore has been provided as Capital Expenditure as against Rs.42,531.68 crore in the Revised Estimates 2023-24. This shows an increase of 12.11 per cent. The capital expenditure is estimated to be Rs.66,753.83 crore in 2025-26 and Rs.96,793.05 crore in 2026-27. This takes into account the increased capital spending due to sanctions of Combined Water Supply Schemes under Jal Jeevan Mission and Metro rail projects. This shows the commitment of the State to constantly improve the allocation for growth-oriented expenditure while maintaining fiscal discipline. The net loans and advances are estimated at Rs.11,733.25 crore in Budget Estimate 2024-25. This is estimated to increase to Rs.23,466.50 crore in 2025-26 and to Rs.32,853.09 crore in 2026-27.

IV. **Revenue Deficit and Fiscal Deficit**

The Revenue Deficit in the Budget Estimates for 2024-25 is estimated at Rs.49,278.73 crore. In view of the revenue augmentation measures including improvement in collection efficiencies and rate rationalization, the Revenue Deficit is expected to reduce to Rs.18,098.03 crore in 2025-26 and subsequently lead to a surplus of Rs.5,966.67 crore in 2026-27.

This will create additional space for capital expenditure in the State.

The Fifteenth Finance Commission has permitted the States to maintain the ratio of Fiscal Deficit to GSDP as 3.0 per cent in 2024-25. In addition, it has provided an additional space of 0.5 per cent of GSDP during 2021-22 to 2024-25 on fulfilment of required power sector reforms. In the Budget Estimates for 2024-25, the Fiscal Deficit is estimated at 3.44 per cent of GSDP. In the forthcoming years, Fiscal Deficit to GSDP ratio is estimated to be 2.96 per cent in 2025-26 and 2.90 per cent in 2026-27, which are within the norms prescribed by the Fifteenth Finance Commission.

V. **Borrowings**

The estimates for receipt and repayment of borrowings have been finalized on the basis of overall borrowing ceiling fixed by the Government of India. The Government plans to borrow a total amount of Rs.1,55,584.48 crore during 2024-25 and make repayment of Rs.49,638.82 crore. As a result, the outstanding debt as on 31st March 2025 will be Rs.8,33,361.80 crore. This constitutes 26.41 per cent of GSDP in 2024-25. The Outstanding Debt as a percentage of GSDP is expected to be 25.75 per cent in 2025-26 and 25 per cent in 2026-27, which are well within the norms

prescribed by the Fifteenth Finance Commission. Therefore, the State aims to maintain debt sustainability as part of its fiscal consolidation roadmap.

VI. **Guarantees**

The outstanding guarantees for each year have to be restricted at a level of 100 per cent of the Total Revenue Receipts in the preceding year or 10 per cent of the GSDP, whichever is lower. The outstanding guarantees as on 31st March, 2023 were 43.72 per cent of Total Revenue Receipts in the preceding year and 3.84 per cent of GSDP.

The outstanding risk weighted guarantees for each year have to be kept at a level of 75 per cent of the Total Revenue Receipts of the preceding year or 7.5 per cent of GSDP, whichever is lower. The outstanding risk weighted guarantees as on 31st March, 2023 stood at 15.57 per cent of Total Revenue Receipts of the preceding year and 1.37 per cent of GSDP.

Conclusion

In the current economic scenario, Tamil Nadu's growth is higher than that of the national GDP, which is a positive sign. This growth advantage is expected to continue in the coming year. Through steps such as

resource augmentation and improvement in revenue collection efficiency, the State will attempt to maintain a healthy growth in Revenue Receipts. With fiscal consolidation as the fundamental principle, the State will continue to adhere to TNFRA norms and eliminate its revenue deficit in the coming years, thereby enabling increasing investment and expenditure in growth and welfare-oriented areas.
