



सत्यमेव जयते

GOVERNMENT OF PUDUCHERRY

Address by

Hon'ble Lieutenant Governor

Dr. TAMILISAI SOUNDARARAJAN

on

73rd

REPUBLIC DAY

26th January 2022



Address of
Hon'ble Lieutenant Governor
Dr. TAMILISAI SOUNDARARAJAN

My beloved and respectable people of Puducherry !

On this solemn occasion of celebrating the 73rd Republic Day of India, I take great pleasure in extending my Republic Day greetings to the people of Puducherry and to the people of this great Nation.

On this historic day, it is our duty to immensely respect the framers of the Constitution, who drafted the Constitution of India that shines as a beacon of democracy in India and to uphold the ideals and principles enshrined in our Constitution.

India, the world's largest democracy, is expected to emerge as one of the world's major economic powers in 2050. India is not only a developing country but also a country that respects traditions and values.

Today, India is a pioneer not only in spirituality but also in the field of scientific research on the global arena. More than 160 crores locally manufactured vaccines have been administered under the Hon'ble Prime Minister's "Atmanirbhar Bharat" movement. India's success in successfully implementing the vaccine movement as the world's largest movement set an example to the rest of the world. In addition, the vaccine manufactured in our country has been exported to more than 90 countries. This is a moment of reckoning for every Indian.

The COVID-19 epidemic posed a major threat to the world and had an immense impact on the global socio-economic environment. However, under the long visioned guidance of the Hon'ble Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi, India has bounced back from a crisis-ridden environment.

I am proud to say at this juncture that Puducherry was one of the very few states that was able to delicately balance the need to safeguard the life

as well as the livelihood during the COVID-19 crisis without much slowdown of the economy. Restrictions were imposed with relaxations so that the livelihoods of daily earners were not affected. Corona spread was controlled with the cooperation and support of the people. I would like to express my gratitude to the people of Puducherry.

On behalf of the people of Puducherry, I would like to take this opportunity to thank all the medicos, health workers, front line personnel, police and all those who have worked tirelessly to control the spread of corona in Puducherry. In particular, I commend the friends of the press and the media for taking the Government's activities and actions immediately to the people and raising awareness among the people.

Puducherry is one of the best managed states in the country. In 2021, Puducherry has been declared the best managed Union Territory in terms of public administration. Puducherry is a pioneer state in the fields of health, education and social welfare.

In commemoration of the 150th birth anniversary of Sri Aurobindo and the centenary remembrance of Mahakavi Subramania Bharathi, the Central Government gave Puducherry the opportunity to host the 25th National Youth Festival. On behalf of the people of Puducherry, I would like to thank the Hon'ble Prime Minister of India for bestowing upon the Union Territory, the opportunity to host this momentous event.

The Government of Puducherry was always concerned in the welfare of the people and gave high priority to the development of agriculture and animal husbandry, which are the backbone of the rural economy. Production subsidy is being provided to the farmers under the crop production scheme. ₹ 11.91 crores for 12,138 paddy cultivators and ₹ 2.05 crores for the sugarcane cultivators and ₹ 1.4 crores for the cotton cultivators have also been provided. Under the Prime Minister's Kisan Samman Nidhi, the families with agricultural land will get ₹ 6,000 each per annum. So far, 11,187 farmers have been benefited.

The Government is implementing a number of development schemes to increase fish production and to improve the socio-economic status of fishermen. ₹ 5,500 per fisher family has been provided to 18,199 families in Pondicherry, Karaikal, Mahe and Yanam to the tune of ₹ 10 crores. The kin of six fishermen killed while fishing have been provided ₹ 2 lakhs each to the tune of ₹ 12 lakhs.

Under the Prime Minister's Matsya Sampada Yojana Livelihood and Nutrition Assistance Scheme, 21,371 beneficiaries have been paid ₹ 4,500 through DBT amounting to ₹ 9.61 crores.

The Government of Puducherry has been implementing various welfare schemes for the social, economical and educational development of the Adidravidar and Scheduled Tribe people. Under the Scheduled Caste Sub-plan for the current financial year ₹ 165.44 crores has been allocated and welfare schemes are being implemented in an efficient manner.

Through the Prime Minister's Housing Scheme and the Bharat Ratna Rajiv Gandhi Housing Scheme, ₹ 16.57 crores was provided. 1,707 beneficiaries have been benefited under this scheme. In the current financial year, 177 beneficiaries have been benefited. Financial assistance is being provided to Adidravidar and Scheduled Tribe parents at ₹ 75,000 each for their first two daughters' marriage.

In order to eliminate social inequalities, the incentive has been provided to 226 inter-caste couples to the tune of ₹ 562 lakhs. In the current financial year, 1,555 families have been benefited from the financial assistances provided to Adidravidar people living in the below poverty line who are unable to go to work for a long time due to chronic illness.

As a part of "Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav", series of cultural programs is being conducted under the guidance of the Union Ministry of Culture. The Government is honoring the unsung local freedom fighters and scholars of Puducherry.

Scholarships are being provided to senior artists and scholars with disabilities. A service center for businesses has been set up to facilitate the transfer of funds to small and micro enterprises without delay.

The Government is paying due attention in providing socio-economic protection for women. A special camp is being conducted every Saturday by the Department of Transport to make it easier for women to get a driving license / learners license. In addition, a “Vehicle Traffic Monitoring Center” has been set up at the Transport Department premises to help women travel safely in public transport at a cost of ₹ 4.60 crores. The construction work is being carried out under the “Nirbhaya” project, which focuses on the safety of women.

The Government is implementing various schemes for the benefit of the differently abled persons, destitute children, elderly and unprivileged. Special welfare schemes are implemented to ensure that the

disabled have equal opportunities as everyone else. 20,128 differently abled persons are being benefited in the state of Puducherry.

Financial Assistance Scheme and the Fuel Subsidy Scheme are being implemented for the differently abled persons. About 400 differently abled persons took part in a sports festival organised for the differently abled at the Indira Gandhi Stadium, Pondicherry last December. The differently abled winners were honored with awards.

Scholarships / Incentives for ₹ 21 lakhs has been provided to 1,000 students by the Puducherry Wakf Board.

Directorate for the Welfare of Backward Classes and Minorities is running hostels for underprivileged students three in Pondicherry, two in Karaikal and one in Yanam at a cost of ₹ 231.71 lakhs. A sum of ₹ 30 lakhs has been provided to 1,316 students studying Higher Secondary classes under the scheme of Post-matric Scholarship for OBC students.

Under the Eligibility and Income Based Study Assistance Scheme for 44 Minority Students in Vocational and Technical Education ₹ 9 lakhs has been provided.

Under the Prime Minister's Mathru Vandana Yojana implemented by the Department of Women and Child Development, ₹ 5,000 is paid directly into the bank account of pregnant women. So far 4,039 beneficiaries have received to the tune of ₹ 2.48 crores. A scheme to provide food, clothing and shelter to women victims of violence is being implemented with the financial assistance of the Central Government. In addition, all kinds of immediate solutions are being offered. ₹ 9.31 lakhs has been provided to the victims under POCSO Act.

11 children who lost their parents and 378 children who lost one parent to the Corona epidemic have been identified and their daily needs including education for their rehabilitation have been ensured. ₹ 10 lakhs has been allocated from the Prime Minister's Protection Fund.

Beneficiaries of the “Antyodaya Anna Yojana” have been provided ₹ 1,174.95 and cash equivalent for 5 kg. of rice is being transferred under DBT to all red cardholders of below poverty line. ₹ 12.05 crores is provided by the Central Government every month. This benefits an average of 1.78 lakhs family cardholders every month. Foodgrains provided by the Central Government under the Prime Minister’s ‘Garib Kalyan Anna Yojana’ as relief to COVID-19 have been provided to about 1.78 lakhs eligible family cardholders.

₹ 32 crores has been disbursed to the Puducherry Co-operative Sugar Mill employees as salaries and arrears. In addition, ₹ 46.31 lakhs has been provided under the Handloom Development Scheme and ₹ 45.45 lakhs under the Weavers’ Welfare Scheme to the Pontex, Ponfab and Weavers’ Co-operative Societies operating in Puducherry.

Steps are being taken to obtain financial assistance from the National Cooperative Development Corporation to upgrade cooperative stores to

supermarkets in Pondicherry and Karaikal regions. Through the Puducherry Co-operative Building Center, it is proposed to distribute sand to the beneficiaries of the 'Prime Minister's Awas Yojana'. A license has been obtained from the Revenue Department to use the quarry on the Manamedu Thenpennai River.

The Government is implementing various development schemes for industrial development with the objective of increasing employment opportunities in the State of Puducherry. The growth of industrial enterprises will create employment and accelerate socio-economic progress. Variety of training workshops with stipend for unemployed youth is being organized by District Industries Centre, which is paving the way for employment in those sectors.

Educated youth can also avail bank loans with grants to start their own business. Collaboration is being provided through the Career Guidance Centre to facilitate the new entrepreneurs to get speedy approvals. Accordingly, under the Prime Minister's

Employment Generation Program last year, ₹ 105.49 lakhs with a grant of ₹ 324.38 lakhs bank loans were disbursed to 50 entrepreneurs. In addition, under the Prime Minister's Mudra Yojana, ₹ 399.95 crores has been disbursed to 76,774 beneficiaries.

In order to meet out the growing demand of electricity in the rural areas of Pondicherry and Karaikal, a project is being implemented at a cost of ₹ 20.05 crores. The Central Government has announced a restructured power supply plan. The project will ensure uninterrupted and quality power supply to all consumers. These includes replacements of old conductors, installations of new transformers, conversion of LT overhead services into underground cable system and maintaining the substations with modernization, etc., will be carried out under this plan.

The Renewable Energy Agency of Pondicherry (REAP) is implementing a renewable energy system to generate electricity using naturally available sunlight

and wind. Through this, steps are being taken not only to create thousands of jobs but also to transform Puducherry into a pollution free state.

The Government of Puducherry is implementing various projects in collaboration with the Central Government to meet the increasing energy demand through solar power generation. So far, solar power plants with a capacity of 860 KW have been set up in Government buildings in Indira Gandhi Medical College and Research Institute, Rajiv Gandhi Government Women and Children Hospital, Rajiv Gandhi Institute of Veterinary Education and Research and Mahatma Gandhi Post Graduate Institute of Dental Sciences in Pondicherry. 100 solar LED street lights have been installed at Pondicherry tourist sites in order to promote renewable energy projects in tourist destinations.

The concerted efforts of Government departments in controlling the spread of corona in Puducherry are commendable. ₹ 15.57 crores has been allocated through the Puducherry Disaster

Response Fund and has been utilized for various activities. ₹ 7.65 crores was paid as compensation to the families, whose earning member succumbed to COVID.

In Puducherry, the system of issuing the Certificate for Legal Heir (Succession certificate) has been simplified and the system of issuing the Certificate of Succession will be implemented by the Revenue Department. This has significantly reduced the burden on the judiciary, including the difficulty and delay in filing suits for declaring title.

Search and rescue operations in times of disaster are better and uninterrupted. Trainings were conducted from time to time with NDRF support. Those who are trained were used for disaster management services during the last Northeast monsoon.

The COVID environment has provided opportunities to improve the health infrastructure of the state despite adversities. The COVID adversity was converted into an opportunity to bring in vast improvement to the health and medical infrastructure in Puducherry.

The Government is working diligently to develop tourism infrastructure in Puducherry. To this end, steps are being taken to improve road, rail, ferry and air transport facilities. Work for expansion of Puducherry Airport has been expedited. In Puducherry, efforts are being made to promote spiritual tourism, medical tourism, educational tourism and nature tourism. Five beaches have been upgraded with features to attract tourists.

Puducherry is proud of the fact that 'terracotta dolls' in Villianur and 'paper mache dolls' in Thirukkanur have been given GI - Geographical Identification Tag. 7.3 lakhs cubic meters of sand dredging work has been started under the Central Government's 'Sagarmala' project to improve the Pondicherry port. The dredged sand is being dumped on Pondicherry coast. This has created a beautiful sandy beach in Pondicherry. The Puducherry Pollution Control Board is preparing and implementing a project to clean Chunnambar in Pondicherry and Arasalar in Karaikal.

In addition, 75,000 saplings have been planted across the state to enhance the green environment of Puducherry as a part of 75th Independence Day celebrations.

Puducherry Technological University has been established as the first state university to upgrade the technical education established in the state.

The Government of Puducherry is taking earnest steps for the overall development in the State. There is no doubt that with the co-operation of the Central Government and the co-operation of the people, this Government will march towards further development.

Before concluding my speech, I would like to extend my plea to the people of Puducherry to continue their support for the fight against COVID-19. Everyone should get vaccinated. Wear face mask. Adhere to the social distance norms.

Follow hygienic practices. I am confident with the co-operation of public by following the safety protocols, we can get rid of the epidemic in its entirety.

I once again extend my Republic Day greetings to the People of Puducherry.

NANDRI ! VANAKKAM !!

JAI HIND !!!

