



GOVERNMENT OF PUDUCHERRY



Address by



Hon'ble Lieutenant Governor

Dr. TAMILISAI SOUNDARARAJAN

on

74th

REPUBLIC DAY

26th January 2023



Address of
Hon'ble Lieutenant Governor
Dr. TAMILISAI SOUNDARARAJAN

My beloved and respectable people of Puducherry!

“Our Nation is ours is known to us
It is our own rights known to us”

As the quote of Mahakavi Bharathi, it is the special and historical day where our people get full democratic rights with citizenship pride. In this auspicious day, I feel pleasure in conveying my Heartiest 74th Republic Day Greetings to all the people of Puducherry.

On this occasion, in enjoying the prides of democracy, we have to remember and praise our National Leaders and Freedom Fighters, who took efforts for this and also it is our greatest duty to protect the dignity of the leaders who paved the respectful constitution law for our Indian Nation; which is the biggest democratic country in the world. The world is amazingly observing India's Development.

It is leading not only in economic, science, education, medicine and in all sectors but also in praising the tradition, honor, values of our Nation.

“Say not, it's hard in weak depending hour
For strenuous effort gives prevailing power”

Despite how big the task, with strenuous effort, no frustration the task will result in great pride. Our Hon'ble Prime Minister has announced many welfare measures for the development of our Nation. All these schemes are rapidly executed in all states.

India has assumed the Presidency of the G-20 for the period from 01st December 2022 to 30th November 2023 and during this period various meetings are being held at various levels across the country. And, one such G-20 meeting is scheduled to be held at Puducherry on 30th January 2023 which is not only a pride for Puducherry, but it has

given an opportunity to showcase, our heritage and cultural, values, art & crafts, and artisans talents globally. And, we would capitalize this opportunity to promote Puducherry as tourist destination to attract tourists from across the world.

It gives me immense pleasure to share with you all that according to the report titled “Social Progress Index: States and Districts of India” released by the Economic Advisory Committee to Hon’ble Prime Minister, the Union Territory of Puducherry has emerged as No. 1 States/Union Territory with the highest Social Progress score of 65.89% for its remarkable performance in the components of personal freedom and choice, shelter, water and sanitation.

Agriculture is considered to be the back bone of rural economy. The Department of Agriculture & Farmers Welfare is implementing various schemes for increasing the Agricultural Production in Puducherry by issue of Agricultural inputs at subsidized cost, transfer of Technology know how to the farmers by conduct of trainings and field visits.

The major thrust areas identified by the Department *viz.*, management of Labour shortage in agricultural operations by appropriate farm mechanization, making available the technological inputs at subsidized cost, sustaining the area under agricultural and horticultural crops have been duly addressed by the implementation of various schemes.

During 2022-23 an amount of ₹ 91.25 lakhs was extended as production incentives to 1,097 general farmers who cultivated paddy crops in Sornavari, an amount of ₹ 1.39 crore was extended to 1,614 nos. of general farmers who cultivated paddy crops in Navarai, an amount of ₹ 4.45 crore was extended to 5,313 nos. of general farmers who cultivated paddy crops in Samba season, an amount of ₹ 1.88 crore was extended to 831 nos. of sugarcane cultivators.

During 2022-23, 2,000 nos. of Free Vegetable mini-kits were distributed at a cost of Rs. 4.5 lakhs, an amount of ₹ 22.50 lakhs was extended for Roof Top Garden Horticulture Kits worth ₹ 3,000 with 75% subsidy for 1,000 nos. of beneficiaries during the year 2021-22.

Under the CSS on National Horticulture Mission, financial assistance of ₹ 4.00 lakhs was extended to 2 beneficiaries for construction of pack house and financial assistance of ₹ 47.69 lakhs was extended to 12 beneficiaries for establishment of Mushroom production units 10 at Puducherry and 2 at Karaikal Region.

The Hon'ble Prime Minister Award for Excellence in Public Administration was awarded to the Puducherry Market Committee for successful implementation of the scheme (e-NAM) National Agriculture Market. Under the Scheme PM-KISAN-an amount of ₹ 13.06 crore were released benefitting 10,955 no. of farmers.

Government of Puducherry is constantly emphasizing on animal welfare and livestock development to improvise the production of protein rich food and there by find way for the increase in subsidiary income of farmers. Under the Government of India's Scheme, "Establishment and Strengthening of Veterinary Hospitals and Dispensaries" a Veterinary Ambulance Unit has been procured and is now functioning as Mobile Veterinary Dispensary in Puducherry Region.

Under backyard poultry scheme around 5,400 Giriraja and Girirani cocks and hens have been distributed at 50% subsidy. Around 10,000 numbers of turkey poults are to be distributed to poultry farmers during this year.

Puducherry Adidravidar Welfare and Scheduled Tribes Welfare Department is implementing various welfare financial schemes exclusively to uplift the downtrodden community people from the present condition. Under the scheme

“Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana and Bharat Ratna Rajiv Gandhi House Construction Scheme” ₹ 4.00 lakh in three installments per house has been granted. With a view to eradicate the untouchability among the society, the Adidraavidar Welfare and Scheduled Tribes Welfare Department has granted an incentive of ₹ 2,50,000 each to Inter-Caste Married Couples. For the poor Adidraavidar bride marriage, financial assistance is increased from ₹ 75,000 to ₹ 1,00,000 lakh is granted for each of the first two daughter's in a family for performance of their daughters' marriage.

The Differently Abled Section of the Social Welfare Department, Puducherry is the sole steward of the Differently Abled Persons for all the four regions of the Union Territory of Puducherry. This section is entrusted with the task of implementing many Welfare Schemes aiming to uplift their Social status and also for ensuring equal opportunities to them for the elevation of their position in the society like the normal persons.

The monthly Financial Assistance is an important scheme under which 20,224 nos. of differently abled persons are being given Monthly Financial Assistance ranging from ₹ 2,000 to ₹ 3,800 depending upon their ages and stages. Out of total allocation of ₹ 63.74 crores for the year 2022-23, ₹ 46.93 crores has already been incurred towards Financial Assistance of Differently Abled persons till date. 1,053 nos. of new beneficiaries have been included during the year 2022-23.

Further, Grant of financial assistance for eye donation is granted to 24 person's of kith and kin of eye donors for an amount of ₹ 10,000 each to a tune of ₹ 2.4 lakhs in this Financial Year. Fuel Subsidy was enhanced from ₹ 61 to ₹ 91 per liter for each Differently Abled Persons and also Exgratia for funeral expenses has been enhanced from ₹ 10,000 to ₹ 15,000. As per The Transgender Persons (Protection of Rights) Act, 2019, 36 nos. of Transgender ID Card and Identity Certificate were issued to Transgender Persons.

Department of Women and Child Development is imparting a Scheme for Financial Assistance to Marriage of Bride of Poor Parents, each ₹ 25,000 for 1,466 beneficiaries to an outlay of ₹ 3,66,50,000 and grant of Financial Assistance to daughter of destitute widows, 134 beneficiaries are assisted with ₹ 25,000 each to a tune of ₹ 33,50,000. In addition to the above Scheme a grant of hike from ₹ 25,000 to ₹ 30,000 will be made after the Government Official Gazette publication in January 2023. Children's Day and National Integration Week (Ekta Week) were celebrated. Awareness Programme against Women Violence and Common Service Centre Programme for women were conducted.

The Puducherry State Co-operative Bank is issuing Special Jewel Loan at lower rate of interest at 7.25% to its Customers. The Pondicherry State Co-operative Housing Federation had constructed 61 flats at Muthupillaipalayam and 40 flats were sold to their members.

All the Primary Agricultural Co-operative Credit Societies will be digitized and brought within the National digital framework of Primary Agricultural Co-operative Societies to make those bodies work in a professional e-Environment and all preliminary work of data updation has been completed. Subsidy for Tractor Hire Charges of ₹ 1.44 crores has been released to Primary Agricultural Co-operative Credit Societies during the year 2022-23.

The Puducherry Government, is always concerned about the welfare of the people. It is not only paying attention to the economy but also to the Health and Hygiene of the people. Our Government has handled 'COVID-3rd Wave' successfully with very minimal mortality when compared to the National Average.

Our Puducherry Health and Family Welfare Services, received the Silver Medal Award for the reduction of Tuberculosis incidence by 40-59% in the last year

March 2022 . Puducherry won the Third Place as the Best Performer under UT cadre in the country for implementation of the National Oral Health Programme.

With a view to provide food security to all, under the Targeted Public Distribution System, the Government has implemented the National Food Security Act, 2013 (NFSA) by means of DBT in lieu of food grains in all the four regions of the Union Territory of Puducherry.

Cash equivalent is being credited directly to the beneficiaries of Aadhaar linked Bank Account of “Antyodaya Anna Yojana” (AAY) ₹ 1,240 per card for 35 kg. of rice and ₹ 177 per member for Priority House Hold (PHH) red card holders in lieu of 5 kgs. rice.

The DBT method for NFSA is being implemented in the Union Territory of Puducherry for the last seven years, an average of ₹ 12.94 crores is sanctioned by Government of India every month. Nearly 1.62 lakhs Family Ration Card holders are getting benefited every month under this Scheme.

Under Union Territory Free Rice Scheme cash equivalent of 20 kg. of free rice per month *i.e.* ₹ 600 to each PHH/AAY card holders and cash equivalent of 10 kg. free rice per month *i.e.* ₹ 300 to each Non-PHH card holders of the Union Territory of Puducherry has been directly transferred to their bank accounts through DBT mode for the months of April to November 2022. Under this Free Rice Scheme, so far ₹ 123.17 crores have been spent in the current financial year. In pursuance of the approval of the Puducherry Council of Ministers, the Government of India has been addressed on 27-9-2022 to permit the Distribution of Rice through Fair Price Shops by reopening them.

Further, lump sum financial assistance of ₹ 5,000 per card in respect of AAY/PHH card holders and ₹ 4,500 per card in respect of Non-PHH card holders of Yanam region was granted on account of heavy rainfall and flood occurred in river Godavari at Yanam region in July 2022. In addition to the above rain relief, cash equivalent *in lieu* of 25 kg. rice at

₹ 1,000 was also granted to AAY/PHH card holders of Yanam region. Under this relief measure, ₹ 8.8 crore was spent and 15,600 family card holders were benefited.

Food Grains at free of cost is allocated by the Government of India under 'Prime Minister Karib Kalyan Anna Yojana' (PMGKAY) was distributed to 1.62 lakhs AAY / PHH family card holders in all regions, till December. Deepawali Sirappu Angadi was conducted for 10 days during that season. Further, In lieu of free rice and sugar for Deepawali Festival, cash equivalent of ₹ 430 was issued to all family card holders.

Government of India, Ministry of Culture, is conducting "Azadi ka Amrit Mahotsav" since March 2021. More than 100 cultural troupes around 1,500 artists have showcased their talents and an amount of ₹ 50 lakhs has been spent so far. The programme will continue till August 2023.

As a part of “Azadi ka Amrit Mahotsav”, “Har Ghar Tiranga” programme was carried out in this Union Territory and this Department had purchased 3 lakh 10 thousand National Flags and distributed to the household.

The Commemoration of Sri Aurobindo's 150th Birth Anniversary held at Kamban Kalai Arangam, Puducherry on 13-12-2022. Virtual meeting by the Hon'ble Prime Minister, was held, in that Coin and Stamps of Sri Aurobindo were released to mark the occasion.

Cultural programmes will be conducted during the visit of “G20” presidency as a memorable for the foreign dignitaries showcasing India's Diversity, Heritage and Culture *etc.*

Deepavali cash gifts were issued to its members of Puducherry Unorganised Labourers Welfare Society at ₹ 1,000 for 24,891 members for the total cost of ₹ 2,48,91,000 for the year 2022.

Labour Department conducted 'Mega Job Fair' in both Puducherry and Karaikal region. In Puducherry Mela 38 companies exhibited, in which, 2,650 candidates participated and 148 candidates got appointment at the same time 40 companies exhibited in Karaikal Mela in which, 1019 candidates participated and 225 candidates got appointment.

Kala Utsav is an initiative of the Department of School Education & Literacy, Ministry of Education, Government of India, to promote arts in education by nurturing and showcasing the artistic talent of school students. The competition is being conducted at District, State and National Levels. For this, an amount of ₹ 5.18 lakhs has been utilized during 2021-22 and ₹ 6.00 lakhs for the year 2022-23. 'Khelo India Youth Games 2021' was held at Haryana during June 2022. 68 Athletes (33 Male and 35 Female Athletes) participated in that Games in 12 various individual sports events.

Hon'ble Prime Minister has launched the dedicated National portal for the installation of roof top solar panel for generating electricity in residential households. So far 33 nos. of application has been received and 19 nos. of approvals has been accorded for installation. By this, the consumer can install roof top solar panel from 1 KW to 10 KW. Balance of consumptions, the residents can provide the electric power to the Electricity Department. Under this scheme the subsidy of 40% on Capital cost for the plant with installed capacity upto 3 KW and 20% subsidy for the plant with installed capacity above 3 KW and upto 10 KW will be provided by the Government of India.

During the Financial Year 2022-23 (Upto November 2022) 18 nos. of new distribution transformers of various capacities were energised and enhanced to higher capacities. 39 kms. of HT and LT lines were energised. 4 nos. of new HT Industrial Services and 13 nos. of LT Industrial Services were energised. Further, 5,978 nos. of

Domestic services, 963 nos. of Commercial services and 26 nos. of Agricultural services, 2,304 nos. of LED Street lights and 1,225 nos. of street lights were effected.

Under the 'Swachh Bharath Mission Scheme' as on last year December 2022 to this year 2023, 600 Individual Houldhold Latrines were targeted and 156 have been constructed and 444 were under construction. District Rural Development Agency imparts skill training to rural youth for adding diversity to the incomes of rural poor families and cater to the career aspirations of rural youth under "Deen Dayal Upadhyaya Grameen Kaushalya Yojana".

Under the Scheme "Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana" various Village areas in Puducherry (Sedarapet, Embalam, Uruvaiyar, Manaveli, Patthukannu) improvement to the roads are in progress. Re-laying various roads and internal streets at Karaikal region, has been taken up at an estimated cost of ₹ 22.40 crore under NABARD loan assistance.

To rescue people from the fire hazards, the Fire Service Department attended 578 nos. of fire calls so far in the last year and 679 nos. of special service calls also been attended.

Forest Department has planted 1,59,091 nos of tree saplings from April, 2022 to October, 2022, which is above the target set by Ministry of Environment, Forests & Climate Change. During this year 15 nos of Forest offense cases and 2 nos. of Wildlife offense cases have been registered.

Government has approved the establishment of two Van Vigyan Kendras (VVK), one each in the premises of Krishi Vigyan Kendras (KVK) of Puducherry and Karaikal respectively. Memorandum of Understanding between Institute of Forest Genetics and Tree Breeding (IFGTB) and Government of Puducherry will be signed shortly and work is being scheduled to begin between 2023-24.

It is proposed to implement new Central Government Schemes Nagar Van Yojana (NVY) in the Union Territory of Puducherry. Under this Scheme, Department of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare, Puducherry has submitted a proposal for the rejuvenation and development of Botanical Garden with an estimated cost of ₹ 44.00 lakhs covering 11 hectares and that has been forwarded to Government of India for sanction in this financial year. Ministry of Environment, Forests and Climate Change under the Centrally Sponsored Scheme-Forest Fire Prevention and Management has approved the APS to the tune of ₹ 214.50 lakhs and released, ₹ 43.40 lakhs as 1st installment amount to implement the components of APS in the Union Territory of Puducherry.

Oussudu Vigilance Tower will be constructed under Centrally Sponsored Scheme. Eco Tourism will be developed in Oussudu Wildlife Sanctuary.

Ban relief assistance of ₹ 5,500 was provided to 17,836 fishermen families during the ban period of 61 days in Puducherry, Karaikal, Mahe and Yanam regions to the tune of ₹ 9.81 crores. An amount of ₹ 8.47 lakhs has been released as Grant-in aid to the Fish Farmers Development Agency, Puducherry. Under the 'Pradhan Mantri Matsya Sampada Yojana' Scheme component namely viz., insurance to fishermen. 34,200 fishermen of Union Territory of Puducherry are insured.

The National Disaster Management Authority, is implementing a Scheme "Aapda Mitra" to impart training to community volunteers by Field Experts in Disaster Response. The Aim of the Scheme is to provide rescue operation to the general public in the aftermath of disaster to undertake basic relief and rescue tasks during emergency situation such as flood/flash flood & urban flooding.

Police Department conducted Awareness Rallies on 26th June 2022 on the event of 'International Day against Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking'. In order to ensure smooth and accident free traffic, plans for each road have been prepared including one side parking, one way traffic, improvement of road engineering and installation of new signals at important junctions etc. Effective steps are being taken by the Puducherry Police in enhancing the safety and security of women and children. 'Women Help Desk' is functioning separately in all the Police Stations.

Directorate of Survey and Land Records issued Free House Patta to Landless poor under "The Pondicherry Land Grant Rules, 1975". 107 nos. of Free House Site Patta in Puducherry, 42 Free House Site Patta in Karaikal District have been issued.

A control room is constructed and inaugurated for "Vehicle Tracking and Monitoring Centre" in the Transport Department complex at a cost of ₹ 4.60 crores by the financial

assistance under the Scheme for providing safety and security to women namely “Nirbhaya Framework” through the Ministry of Road Transport and Highways (MoRTH). The Transport Department is implementing various schemes for the welfare of women under the guidelines of this Government. This Department is issuing Learner License and Driving License to motivate women as special programme for Women on all Saturdays every week. The Department has derived a Scheme of costless training programme to drive e-autos for women to ensure economic upliftment and safety journey in public transport.

Government of Puducherry has provided an amount of ₹ 12 crores in the budget 2022-23, towards purchase of new buses for Puducherry Road Transport Corporation.

Under “Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana” Scheme, 892 houses have been completed upto November 2022 during this financial year. This Government has enhanced the State

share for the General/OBC Category beneficiaries from ₹ 50,000 to ₹ 2 lakh to 765 beneficiaries during March 2022. Further, financial assistance to 796 beneficiaries in the revised pattern of assistance. Totally, ₹ 60.07 crores have been disbursed to PMAY beneficiaries during this financial year.

Under the Prime Minister's 'Pradhan Mantri Mudra Yojana' Scheme an amount of ₹ 391.07 crore has been disbursed as financial loan to 60,346 mudra accounts.

Further, an outlay of ₹ 10,696.61 crore has been allocated for implementing various development and welfare Schemes in the Annual Budget Estimate 2022-23 under Capital land Revenue Head.

The Directorate of Economics and Statistics, Puducherry acts as the Nodal Agency for planning and integrated development of all the statistical activities in the

Union Territory of Puducherry. As per the estimates of this department, it is estimated that Gross State Domestic Product (GSDP) Income of the Union Territory of Puducherry during 2022-23 is ₹ 39,019.14 crore and individuals Per Capita Annual Income for the year 2022-23 is ₹ 2,44,470.

The Revenue Target for the Commercial Taxes Department for the Financial Year 2022-23 is ₹ 3,035 crore. The Revenue collection for the Financial Year 2022-23 upto the month of December, 2022 is ₹ 2,072.12 crore, including GST compensation received from Government of India. Considering the demand of the traders, Settlement of Arrears Scheme for collection of long pending arrears is extended for a period of 3 months with effect from 01-12-2022 to 28-02-2023.

Department of Hindu Religious Institutions and Wakf sanctioned ₹ 2,14,50,000 as grant-in-aid to 11 purview and 26 non-purview temples for renovation and repairs.

Directorate of Information Technology has initiated a process to set-up Hon'ble Prime Minister's guidelines Scheme of "Wi-Fi Access Network Interface" at public places with heavy foot falls such as Bus Stand, Outside Hospitals, Tourist spots etc. By this facility public will be benefitted by economically effective Broad Band.

By the quotes of Mahakavi Bharathi

"To conclude this rising target
Compliance is the only way "

by the Co-operation with Union Government and Puducherry Public, Government is marching towards this development. There is no doubt, Puducherry will have special Icon in National Level. In this Historical and Auspicious day we will put our effort only towards development and achieving our goal.

I once again convey my Republic Day Greetings to the people of Puducherry.

NANDRI ! VANAKKAM !!

JAIHIND !!!



Raj Nivas, Pondicherry