

## **HIGHLIGHTS FOR BUDGET ESTIMATES 2023-24**

- ❖ Owing to the unprecedented and difficult reforms undertaken, we have reduced the annual revenue deficit of around Rs.62,000 crore which we inherited on assuming office, to around Rs.30,000 crore in the Revised Estimates of the current year.

### **Tamil Development and Culture**

- ❖ To honour the legacy of Tamil martyrs Thiruvalluvar, Thalamuthu and Natarajan, a memorial will be established at Chennai.
- ❖ The Government will provide a grant of Rs.5 crore to translate Annal Ambedkar's works into Tamil language.
- ❖ To promote usage of Tamil in the technology sector, an 'International Conference on Tamil Computing' will be held.
- ❖ Efforts will be taken to promote and support sea cruises that will connect places of significance in Tamil culture.
- ❖ The Government will extend benefit of providing free bus pass to 591 elderly Tamil scholars.
- ❖ The Government will expand the widely popular Chennai Sangamam cultural programme to 8 major cities in the coming year.

- ❖ To preserve folk arts and to ensure that these traditions continue to flourish in the future, 25 part time folk art training centres will be set up across the State.
- ❖ To highlight the contribution of the Cholas who ruled the world, and to preserve artefacts and relics of that age, a 'Grand Chola Museum' will be set up in Thanjavur.

### **Welfare of Sri Lankan Tamils**

- ❖ The Government will sanction Rs.223 crore towards construction of the 3,959 houses for Sri Lankan Tamils in the coming financial year.

### **Welfare of Ex-Servicemen**

- ❖ Ex-gratia to the next of kin of armed forces personnel hailing from Tamil Nadu who are killed in war/ war-like operations will be doubled from Rs.20 lakh to Rs.40 lakh.
- ❖ The monetary grants that are offered to gallantry awards/distinguished service medal winners in armed forces hailing from Tamil Nadu will be enhanced four times.

### **Health and Family Welfare**

- ❖ The Makkalai Thedi Maruthuvam scheme will be expanded to 711 factories covering 8.35 lakh workers in the first phase.

- ❖ Kalaignar Memorial Multi Super Speciality Hospital will be inaugurated this year.
- ❖ New buildings will be constructed at a cost of Rs.110 crore in the Mahatma Gandhi Memorial Hospital, Tiruchirappalli.
- ❖ A new multi-speciality block, nurses training school and hostel will be constructed in Stanley Hospital at a cost of Rs.147 crore.
- ❖ The Government will undertake works in Government Siddha Medical College, Palayamkottai to improve the infrastructure at a cost of Rs.40 crore.

### **School Education**

- ❖ Under the 'Perasiriyar Anbazhagan School Development Scheme' the Government will construct classrooms, laboratories and toilets at a cost of Rs.1,500 crore in the coming financial year.
- ❖ The 'Ennum Ezhuthum' Programme will be expanded to classes 4 and 5 with an outlay of Rs.110 crore in the upcoming financial year.
- ❖ The Chennai international book fair will also be conducted next year.

- ❖ All schools functioning under various departments will be brought under the School Education department. It will be ensured that the service conditions and benefits of teachers and staff presently working in these schools are protected.
- ❖ To ensure that scholarship amount reaches eligible students in a timely manner, directly to their bank accounts, an integrated scholarship portal will be created.
- ❖ Kalaingar Centenary Library will welcome its first readers in June this year.

### **Higher Education and Skill Development**

- ❖ 54 Government polytechnics will be upgraded as 'Centres of Excellence' at a total cost of Rs.2,783 crore under this scheme.
- ❖ The Government proposes to establish a world class skill centre named "Tamil Nadu World Innovation and Skill Training Hub" (TN-WISH) at Ambattur at a cost of Rs.120 crore.
- ❖ Industries will be incentivized to provide on-the-job-training to youth in factories. In this Budget, an amount of Rs.25 crore has been allocated for this 'Factory Skill Schools' programme.

- ❖ Under the Perunthalaivar Kamarajar College Development Scheme works will be carried out in the coming financial year at an estimated cost of Rs.200 crore.
- ❖ To help civil services aspirants to access better coaching facilities and materials, every year 1,000 civil services aspirants will be short listed through a screening test. Each aspirant will be provided Rs.7,500 per month for 10 months to prepare for the preliminary examination. Those students who clear the preliminary examination will be provided a lumpsum amount of Rs.25,000.

### **Youth Welfare and Sports**

- ❖ The Government through the Chennai Metropolitan Development Agency will set up a state-of-the-art Global Sports City in Chennai.
- ❖ The Government will undertake a comprehensive renovation of the iconic Jawaharlal Nehru Outdoor Stadium, Chennai and equip it with modern sports facilities at an estimated cost of Rs.25 crore.

### **Adi-Dravidar and Tribal Welfare**

- ❖ Four new hostels will be constructed with modern facilities in Madurai, Coimbatore, Tiruchirappalli and Nilgiris at an estimated total cost of Rs.100 crore.

- ❖ The Government will bring a new legislation to ensure adequate allocation of funds and effective implementation of the Scheduled Castes and Tribal Sub Plans.
- ❖ In order to promote economic development of SC/ST entrepreneurs, a new scheme called 'Annal Ambedkar Business Champions Scheme' will be launched.
- ❖ To revive the Welfare Board for Puthirai Vannars, Rs.10 crore will be provided to undertake livelihood development and welfare activities.
- ❖ A new scheme named 'Iyothee Thass Pandithar Habitation Development Scheme' will be launched to ensure basic amenities in Adi Dravidar habitations in both urban and rural areas and to bring about comprehensive socio-economic development. The scheme will be implemented at a cost of Rs.1,000 crore over a period of 5 years.

### **Women and Children**

- ❖ Chief Minister's Breakfast Scheme will be expanded to cover all the 30,122 Government primary schools in the State from the coming academic year. Rs.500 crore is allotted for this scheme in this Budget which will benefit 18 lakh students studying from Class I to Class V.

- ❖ The Government will establish an exclusive 'Start-up Mission' for women. This mission will facilitate women entrepreneurs in all aspects of their business.

### **Animal Husbandry**

- ❖ To strengthen and improve the effectiveness of the Animal Welfare Board, an amount of Rs.10 crore has been provided in the Budget. This fund will be used to carry out animal breeding control activities, provide training to local Government employees and implement animal welfare activities.

### **Environment, Climate Change and Forests**

- ❖ The Government will implement the 'Tamil Nadu Coastal Restoration Mission' with the objective of preventing sea erosion, reducing marine pollution and conserving marine biodiversity. The mission will be implemented with World Bank assistance at an estimated cost of Rs.2,000 crore in the next 5 years.
- ❖ The Government will notify a new wildlife sanctuary 'Thanthai Periyar Wildlife Sanctuary', in the forest areas of Anthiyur and Gobichettipalayam Taluks in Erode district. This will be the 18th wildlife sanctuary in the State.
- ❖ In order to promote conservation of birds, encourage research in the field of ornithology and create awareness

about the role of birds in nature, the Government shall set up an 'International Bird Centre' at Marakkanam at an estimated cost of Rs.25 crore.

### **Rural Development**

- ❖ Under Mudhalvarin Graama Saalaigal Membattu Thittam scheme, important link roads and bus plying roads will be upgraded. In the upcoming financial year, works for 5,145 km of roads will be undertaken at an estimated cost of Rs.2,000 crore.
- ❖ 10,000 water bodies in rural areas consisting of minor irrigation tanks, ponds and ooranies will be renovated in the next two years at a cost of Rs.800 crore.

### **Urban Development**

- ❖ The Phase II of Hogenakkal Combined Water Supply Scheme at a cost of Rs.7,145 crore will be posed for external funding assistance.
- ❖ A world class 'Semmozhi Poonga' will be set up in Coimbatore in two phases, spanning 45 acres at a total cost of Rs.172 crore and the works are expected to commence shortly.
- ❖ The restoration of Adyar river for a length of 44 km. will be taken up. The project will include river cleaning activities such as prevention of sewage from entering the



river and construction of Sewage Treatment Plants (STPs). This project will be implemented at an estimated cost of Rs.1,500 crore through PPP mode.

- ❖ CMDA will develop 30 acres of land in Island Grounds with modern urban amenities such as urban plaza, exhibition pavilions, landscaping, open air theatre and food courts at a cost of Rs.50 crore.
- ❖ To improve the quality of living in the resettlement habitations constructed by Tamil Nadu Urban Habitat Development Board, sports cum recreation centres will be developed. Four such centres will be developed in the coming year at Kannagi Nagar, Perumbakkam, Navalur and Athipattu at a cost of Rs.20 crore.
- ❖ A Comprehensive Development Plan - "Ezhilmigu Kovai" and "Ma-Madurai" will be prepared for the integrated, holistic and planned development of Coimbatore and Madurai.

### **Flood Management**

- ❖ To further control the impact of floods and heavy rains in future by strengthening infrastructure, works for flood mitigation and desilting waterways to the tune of Rs.320 crore will be undertaken in the coming year.

**Balanced Growth**

- ❖ To ensure growth and development in backward blocks, the Government will launch a new 'Focus Blocks Programme'. Under this scheme, the most backward 50 blocks in the State, including those in hilly regions, will be identified and projects to the tune of Rs.5 crore will be taken up in each block.
- ❖ To ensure balanced and equitable development of the city, the Government will implement the 'Vada Chennai Valarchi Thittam' at a cost of Rs.1,000 crore over the next three years.

**Highways**

- ❖ A four-lane elevated flyover on Anna Salai from Teynampet to Saidapet will be taken up for construction at an estimated cost of Rs.621 crore in the coming year.

**Transport**

- ❖ It is proposed to develop bus depots as modern transit junctions to improve passenger experience. In the first phase, bus depots at Vadapalani, Thiruvanmiyur and Vyasarpadi will be developed with an investment of Rs.1,600 crore. In the second phase, three more bus depots at Tambaram, Tiruvottriyur and Saidapet will be upgraded with an investment of Rs.1,347 crore.

- ❖ The Government will procure 1,000 new buses and renovate 500 old buses at a cost of Rs.500 crore.
- ❖ The Government will create a Special Purpose Vehicle, collaborating with Indian Railways, through TIDCO to identify and undertake new railways projects in the State.

### **Metro Rail**

- ❖ The Government has decided to implement the Metro Rail project in Coimbatore city. The Metro Rail project will be implemented along Avinashi Road and Sathyamangalam Road at an estimated cost of Rs.9,000 crore.
- ❖ To transform Madurai as an engine of development for the southern region, the Metro Rail project will be implemented in the city at an estimated cost of Rs.8,500 crore.

### **Energy**

- ❖ To transform Tamil Nadu into a green power house with more than 50 per cent of power generation from renewable sources by the year 2030, the Government will create a dedicated Special Purpose Vehicle.
- ❖ Further, a new policy on repowering windmills in the State will be evolved.

- ❖ 15 new pumped storage hydro-electric projects will be established under the PPP mode with a total capacity of 14,500 MW at an estimated cost of Rs.77,000 crore by 2030.

### **Handloom and Textiles**

- ❖ A new Textile Park will be established in Salem at a cost of around Rs.880 crore in an area of 119 acres, with funding from Union and State Governments and participation of private sector.
- ❖ Acquisition of 1,052 acres of land for setting up the Mega Textile Park at a cost of Rs.1,800 crore in Virudhunagar district has been completed. This park is being established with the support of the Union Government and the works are expected to commence shortly.
- ❖ The Government will establish 10 Mini Handloom Parks at a total outlay of Rs.20 crore.
- ❖ A new Textile Policy will be released.

### **Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs)**

- ❖ With a view to supporting business incubators, StartupTN will assist them in raising funds from various sources to set up Centres of Excellence and will also bear up to 40 per cent of the cost of such upgradation.

**Industries**

- ❖ The next Global Investors Meet (GIM) will be organized in Chennai on 10th and 11th January 2024. An allocation of Rs.100 crore has been made for the Global Investors Meet.
- ❖ Two industries are proposed to be established in Ranipet and Kallakurichi districts with employment potential for 32000 women.
- ❖ New industrial parks will be developed in Virudhunagar, Vellore, Kallakurichi, and Coimbatore at an estimated cost of Rs.410 crore for providing employment opportunities to nearly 22,000 persons.
- ❖ An industrial housing facility will be established in the SIPCOT Industrial Park in Gangaikondan at an estimated cost of Rs.50 crore to accommodate 1,500 employees.

**Information Technology**

- ❖ The Government is committed to provide all services digitally to citizens in an easy and transparent manner and will launch the 'Simple Gov' initiative to achieve this end. To ensure compliance with standards and time-bound development of software, an e-Governance fund of Rs.100 crore will be created.

- ❖ To establish better connectivity and provide various digital services at an affordable cost, the Government will set up a “Unified Digital Infrastructure”. This will not only facilitate delivery of tele-medicine, education, agriculture extension and other services to far flung villages of the State but also will ensure uninterrupted internet facilities.
- ❖ It is proposed to provide free Wi-fi zones in popular public places in the cities of Chennai, Tambaram, Avadi, Coimbatore, Madurai, Tiruchirappalli and Salem.
- ❖ The Government will establish “Tamil Nadu Tech City (TNTech city)” at Chennai, Coimbatore and Hosur.
- ❖ IT Parks, each with an approximate built up area of one lakh sq.ft, will be set up at Erode, Tirunelveli and Chengalpattu.

### **Hindu Religious & Charitable Endowments**

- ❖ In the coming financial year, consecration ceremony will be conducted in 400 temples.
- ❖ In the coming year, master plan works at a total cost of Rs.485 crore will be taken up in Palani, Thiruthani and Samayapuram temples.

### **Grievance redressal**

- ❖ In order to ensure that Government schemes and services reach the last mile, a new scheme will be launched in all village panchayats and wards in urban areas.

### **Social Security**

- ❖ One lakh eligible applicants will be given social security pensions. With this, the total number of beneficiaries availing social security pensions will be increased to 35.8 lakhs.

### **Welfare of Government Employees**

- ❖ Old quarters of Government employees will be rebuilt in a phased manner. In the upcoming financial year, Rs.100 crore worth of works will be taken up.
- ❖ The house building advance will be increased to Rs.50 lakh from Rs.40 lakh per employee from the upcoming financial year.

### **Registration**

- ❖ The Government has decided to revise the guideline value to the rates prevailing till 8-6-2017 and to reduce the registration fee to 2 per cent. Henceforth, for deeds of sale, gift, exchange, 5 per cent stamp duty, 2 per cent

transfer duty and 2 per cent registration fee will be applicable.

### **Magalir Urimai Thogai**

- ❖ 'Magalir Urimai Thogai'- Rs.1,000 per month will be provided to women heads of eligible households from the upcoming financial year.
- ❖ The scheme will be launched by the Hon'ble Chief Minister on 15th September, the birth anniversary of Perarignar Anna, the great son of Tamil Nadu and a brilliant scholar.
- ❖ Rs.7000 crore has been allotted in the Budget for this scheme.