

**CONCLUDING SPEECH OF SELVI J JAYALALITHAA,
HON'BLE CHIEF MINISTER OF TAMIL NADU
AT THE COLLECTORS CONFERENCE ON 14.11.2011**

The two days of interaction with the district heads, have given me a fair idea, of the canvas in which you are operating.

I have been watching the bureaucracy from 1991. It is part of my knowledge, that the civil service, is a well trained body of service deliverers, characterized by the 3C's - Candour, Conscience and Compassion. I have seen stalwarts, who turned around ailing companies, who worked magic in the districts. The civil servants are the steel frame work of governance -- the repository of the longevity of tradition. This frame work has ensured smooth transitions of governments -- a continuity, in conformity with the Constitution. Somewhere along the journey, a disconnect has crept in. A complacency has taken over, for which there may be, many active and passive reasons.

The hall mark of good governance, is a strong and connected network. I believe that Collectors are the baton holders in my team. I have great faith in my Collectors. The process of governing, has now become complex. Let me reiterate that the aspirations of the people are high, and we have to fulfill them. I feel you will rise to my expectations.

The Prime focus in my Government is on agriculture. All inputs have to be seasonal. For example, it is a criminal waste to distribute fertilizers, after the need ceases to exist. Collectors have to have, an intelligent analysis, and synthesis of issues. A buoyant agricultural sector checks migration, restores peace and happiness, ensures food security, and creates vibrant villages.

My personal pet subject is children and youth. I passionately believe that every child should be given, an opportunity to acquire education, enjoy good health, a reasonably decent childhood, and that every child should be equipped to become a meaningful and valuable asset of Society.

Collectors should be very sensitive, to the environment of schools, hostels, and food served in the hostels. There is a plethora of beneficial programmes, in various departments. The Collectors should be fully conversant, with the objectives of the programme, and the target groups. You should integrate the programme, and see to it, that there are no inter-departmental hiccups. A multiple delivery system, has to work with precision. No individual difference should escalate, into institutional levels. Thousands of crores are spent annually -- yet we are still short of achievements. The spirit of any good welfare scheme, has to metamorphose, into achieving the actual goal, and realisation of benefits. Completion of schemes, in terms of statistics alone, will be inadequate.

Women should be a special target group – women's health, hygiene, education, and income generating programmes, warrant the Collectors' personal attention.

Please remember that women and children are very vulnerable. We cannot afford to be lax, in ensuring their support system.

You must ensure that the PDS shops are well stocked, and that there is equitable distribution. Many Rural Development programmes, have to be monitored, on a weekly basis. Women's sanitary complexes, are aimed at providing basic facilities, to ensure health and dignity.

The distribution of milch animals, is to strengthen, the backyard economy, of the women. The distribution of mixies and grinders, is again, only to spare them, daily back breaking drudgery. It is imperative that drinking water, should be made available, if not at the doorstep, at least nearby. The TWAD Board lays, numerous kilometers of waterlines. Monitoring is essential.

While the Collectors concentrate, on the maintenance of law and order, and other magisterial functions, overseeing developmental programmes, is of equal importance.

I would also like to draw your attention, to the Government lands available. It is disturbing, that Government wealth is the first casualty, poached upon by unscrupulous elements. Temple lands / local body lands / Government of India poramboke lands – every kind of land, in fact, needs vigilant and intelligent monitoring.

Constant monitoring would deter diabolical designs. Such uncared for lands lend themselves, to the spawning of slums, and will stall development programmes.

My aim is to ensure, that all needy families, in the State, are provided with houses. The aim may be of gigantic proportions -- and daring. Nevertheless, I am determined to see it through.

Human development indicators, have to be consciously achieved. Environmental concerns, warrant our attention. Sophistication, and transparency in administration, will liberate the system, from many ailments. The Delta Collectors should come up, with innovative, post-harvest measures, to tackle food grain wastage, theft and diversion.

The Coastal District Collectors, should be well-versed, in the schemes, of the Fisheries Department. Collectors in and around Chennai, should be involved, in environmental concerns - such as garbage dumping yards, back waters pollution, protection of water bodies, to mention a few.

I plan to have a monthly video-conference, with groups of Collectors. I would like to be shown, the Noon-Meal Centres, S.C., B.C. Hostels, Sanitary Complexes, village roads, PDS shops, and any other aspects, which the Collectors may like me to see.

I value the thoughts, ideas and proposals, of the District Collectors.

I will now make a list of announcements which were put forth as requests by the Collectors.

List of Announcements

1. The work on the upgradation of the Mettupalayam Road, Trichy Road, Avinashi Road, Pollachi Road and Sathyamangalam Road will be taken up.
2. Flyovers at Ukkadam, Athupalam and Western Ring Road, are sanctioned.
3. Fishermen in Ramanathapuram District, will be permitted to go for multi-day fishing, in deep seas, as against the present system, of permitting only single day fishing, according to the token system.
4. Restoration of 42 kms, of highly damaged road, in Ariyalur District, will be taken up for restoration.
5. The design of roads, in high density vehicles corridor, in the District, will be studied.
6. Construction of a flyover near Arulmigu Mariamman Temple in Erode, will be taken up.
7. Widening of the road near the CSI Church in Erode District, will be taken up.
8. The possibility of opening a new route to Ooty via Karamadai, will be explored.
9. A Truck terminal will be set up, to decongest the roads in Thoothukudi District.
10. The feasibility of widening and relaying the Periyakulam to Kodaikanal Road, will be examined.
11. An Institute of Fisheries Technology, affiliated to the Fisheries University being established at Nagapattinam, will be set up, in Tiruvallur District, to impart Vocational Training Courses, related to the Fisheries Sector.
12. In order to improve administrative efficiency and service delivery, the Ponneri Revenue Division will be bifurcated, and a new Division, comprising Ambattur and Madhavaram Taluks, with Headquarters at Ambattur, will be created.

13. The Burns Ward, at Sivakasi Government Hospital, will be upgraded.
14. The share of fund contribution, from the HR & CE Department, towards the conduct of the Maha Deepam Festival in Thiruvannamalai, will be enhanced from the present level of 50%, to 70%.
15. Chitra Pournami will be declared as a Religious Festival.
16. A Flyover at CMC Junction in Vellore District, will be sanctioned .
17. A Ring Road for Vellore, will be taken up.
18. A Training Unit will be established, for training the personnel, working in the fireworks manufacturing Industry, at Sivakasi.
19. The Construction of a bus body chassis unit in the outskirts of Namakkal, in PPP mode, will be taken up.
20. When our fishermen are reported missing in the high seas, Helicopters will be hired on need basis, for effective search and rescue operations.
21. Sophisticated high speed boats will be provided, to the Coastal Security and Marine Police, for search and rescue operations.
22. Additional Water Supply will be provided to the city of Thoothukudi.
23. An Integrated Bus stand will be set-up, in Thoothukudi.
24. A Fly-over will be provided, at the VVD junction, in Thoothukudi.
25. Self Help Groups will be trained to segregate plastic waste and make pellets for use in laying plastic-mixed Bitumen Roads.
26. SMS Based attendance system for School Teachers will be introduced in all Districts.
27. A Master Plan complex for Cuddalore District is sanctioned.
28. Solar Energy systems for new Government Hostels will be provided.
29. To enable desilting of channels before the release of Mettur water in June, administrative sanction will be issued in January every year instead of in the month of May as was done until now.

30. Integrated desilting operations and removal of water hyacinth will be undertaken in Tiruvarur District to enhance the water flow in channels.
31. A 12 Km. long Link Road will be provided to Vathal Hills, under the THAI Scheme. The Tourism Department will develop this as a Tourist spot.
32. To help the Horticulture Farmers of Krishnagiri, Aavin will examine the purchasing of the excess Mangoes and processing it as Mango Milk Shake for supply to Noon Meal Centres.
33. A High-level Bridge across Maruthayar in Ariyalur District is sanctioned.
34. All maintenance works of Tanks, Channels etc. will be taken up in January, immediately after the Mettur Dam is closed, so that they will be in good condition before the opening of Mettur Dam in June.
35. To help small-onion farmers, action will be taken to include small onions in the National Horticulture Mission.
36. The Regulatory Market in Perambalur will be strengthened by providing additional funds.
37. The District Hospital at Tiruvallur will be upgraded to provide Trauma Care so that accident victims need not be referred to Stanley Medical College Hospital which is 60 Km. away, as is being done now.
38. The minimum age limit prescribed for the Differently Abled persons to get pension is 45 years. This will be reduced to 18 years.
39. A post of P.A. to Collector (Legal matters) will be created in all the Districts.
40. Laptop Computers with printers will be provided to all the Village Administrative Officers for better service delivery to the people.
41. Korampallam Tank in Thoothukudi District will be desilted and the bunds will be strengthened.
42. As some revenue villages in Kanniyakumari District are very large, these villages will be reorganized.
43. PWD will take up investigation for taking up anti-sea erosion measures in Kanniyakumari District.

6

The various requests of the Collectors, are all agreed to, in principle. The concerned Secretaries, will undertake to ensure, that necessary action is taken, for orders to be issued, quickly.

After interacting with all of you, for the last two days, I feel confident that you will bring in, the speed and efficiency, that I expect, to the Administration. The efficient delivery of benefits, and the maintenance of law and order, will testify, to the success of your tenure.

I wish you all the best.

Thank you.

Issued By:-

DIPR, Secretariat, Chennai-9