

Climate Change Mission on track

Tamil Nadu hopes to top the table through nine components of the mission; it will focus on coastal habitats, climate smart villages this year

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Tamil Nadu is hoping to take the lead in tackling the impact of climate change through nine components under its Climate Change Mission for 2022-23. The State has already made climate change an integral part of its Environment and Forest Department.

This year, it has earmarked ₹77 crore for the mission; of this sum, ₹50 crore will be spent on the rehabilitation of coastal habitats to help them adapt themselves to climate change through eco-friendly solutions. Formation of bio-shields through the cultivation of casuarina, palmyrah, cashew and other specialised species will be taken up. “Also, the government will propagate mangrove plantations in coastal districts where it grows naturally in local eco-systems,” says Supriya Sahu, Additional Chief Secretary, Environment, Climate Change and Forests Department.

The objectives are the protection of coasts, the reduction of soil erosion, salinity control and improvement of biodiversity. While palmyrah and cashew plantations are drought-resistant, the mangroves will act as coastal de-



A natural barrier: The government will promote mangrove plantations in coastal districts. ■ S.S. KUMAR

fence. There will be focus on protecting and enhancing the growth of seagrass and coral reefs as they support marine bio-diversity. An action plan and an atlas for sustainable coastal management will also be ready by the end of this fiscal, she said.

Another major programme this year would be the creation of Climate Smart Villages to understand the

vulnerability of local communities to climate change. “These demo sites will be used to develop future solutions to build climate resilience and increase adaptation and mitigation,” Ms. Sahu added.

Initially, village- and community-level agriculture would be implemented by setting up village-level climate change information centres for weather smart ac-

tivities like agro advisories. Carbon/nutrient smart practices would be implemented for better management of agroforestry, land use, livestock management and bio-fuels.

Learning from smart villages would help the State understand ground-level climate-related interventions which could be upscaled to climate-proof government schemes.

Besides, two temples, one at Madurai and the other near Chennai, would be taken up for climate-proofing as pilot projects for climate-resilient green temples. The activities would include efficient solar lighting, water and heat management, greening, eco-restoration of temple tanks, removal of plastics and microplastics. It would also include enrichment of temple gardens. Un-

der the carbon enrichment programme, a demo site would be set up at the Nanmangalam forest in Chennai. By using the bio-mined enriched soil from the Perungudi dump, the Forest Department, along with the Greater Chennai Corporation and Anna University, would try to enhance the growth of trees and forest expansion in the degraded forest landscape at Nanmangalam.

Special purpose vehicle

Earlier this year, the government set up a special purpose vehicle, called The Tamil Nadu Green Climate Company, to oversee the efficient implementation of the three missions – Green Tamil Nadu Mission, Tamil Nadu Climate Change Mission and Tamil Nadu Wetlands Mission – to achieve the goals.

While these missions would be implemented through the Department of Environment, Climate Change and Forests, the special purpose vehicle would involve the academia, the private sector and society for transitioning the State to climate-friendly platforms, championing renewable energy, sustainable and resilient infrastructure, agriculture management and protection of forests, resilience and adaptation to the impact of climate change.

Climate Change Mission for 2022-23

Here are the allocation for various activities under the mission



₹45 lakh

38 district-level stakeholders workshop

₹50 crore

Rehabilitation of coastal habitats

₹1 crore

Carbon enrichment programme

₹2 crore

Sustainable habitat

₹5 crore

Climate literacy and International Climate Summit

₹10 crore

Climate smart villages

₹1.05 crore

Launch function for the Climate Change Mission

₹3 crore

Climate-resilient green temples

₹3 crore

Key staff for the Green Climate Company project management unit