

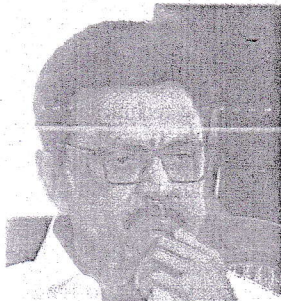
'TN dreams for not just a \$1 trillion economy, but also a green economy'

Our Bureau
Chennai

No other State in India has so many initiatives and programmes for environmental protection as Tamil Nadu has, Chief Minister MK Stalin said on Thursday. "Our dream is not just a one trillion dollar economy, but it should be a green economy," he said.

In the last four years, the State has taken many initiatives, including the Tamil Nadu Green Climate Company and the Tamil Nadu Green Mission, to increase forest cover. The State also launched the Tamil Nadu Wetland Mission and has created a record 21 Ramsar-recognised wetlands in India.

Through the Tamil Nadu Climate Change Project, the State government is trying to control carbon emissions, he said. He was speaking at an event to celebrate World Environment Day. Stalin also



Tamil Nadu Chief Minister
MK Stalin

laid the foundation stone for the Research and Development Centre of the Tamil Nadu Pollution Control Board to be constructed at Guindy at a cost of ₹44 crore.

PIONEER STATE

"There is a strong link between biodiversity and climate change. Tamil Nadu is the pioneer realising this and acting accordingly," he said.

Through the 'Tamil Nadu Neithal Restoration Project', the State government is

strengthening the resilience of key coastal areas at an estimated cost of ₹1,675 crore in collaboration with the World Bank, he said. In the last four years, over 7,000 hectares of 65 new forest reserves have been notified and given legal protection, he added.

Further, seven wildlife sanctuaries, including Agasthyamalai Elephant Reserve and South Cauvery Wildlife Reserve, have been brought under the Protected Area Network. In addition, the State has created 2,403 hectares of new mangrove forests and restored 1,207 hectares of degraded mangroves, he said. In 2021, the State government launched the "Back to Manjappai" scheme to fight plastic pollution. To day, the government is expanding the campaign to fight marine pollution. An initiative is being launched to remove abandoned fishing nets in all 14 coastal districts.