

Intelligent Transport System to be implemented in January

Greater Chennai Corporation to execute pilot project for city with funding from JICA. Locations are finalised, design work and data collection from all stakeholders are in progress, say officials

Aloysius Xavier Lopez
CHENNAI

The pilot project of the Intelligent Transport System for the city, with funding from the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA), is set to be implemented by the Greater Chennai Corporation (GCC) in January.

According to officials, the locations for the implementation of the pilot project have been finalised and design work is in progress. Data collection from all stakeholder departments are under way. The contract was signed with L&T on March 31, and the contract agreement was approved by JICA on June 6. The contract amount for



Going hi-tech: The pilot project of adaptive traffic signal control system will be implemented on E.V.R. Periyar Salai.

the project is ₹530 crore.

Bus shelters at Park Station, Shanthi Theatre, LIC, Udhayam Theatre/Ashok Pillar and Anand Theatre will get a passenger information system. Sterling Road and Liberty Theatre bus stops and Royapettah police station bus shelter will also get the

system in January.

"Passengers at the bus shelters will see the estimated time of arrival of the bus," an official said.

The pilot project of adaptive traffic signal control system will be implemented at the junction of E.V.R. Periyar Salai and Barnaby Road.

Another pilot project for red light violation detection system will be implemented at the junction of E.V.R. Periyar Salai and New Avadi Road (Pachiyappa's) Junction. The pilot project of traffic incident detection system will be implemented at Koyambedu flyover.

Automatic traffic counter-cum-classifier system will be implemented on a stretch of Poonamallee High Road at NSK Nagar. A speed limit violation detection system will be implemented along Anna Salai, near Thomas Monro statue. A variable message sign will be set up along Anna Salai. "Commuters and motorists will see reduction in stopping time at signals," an official said.

EVA STALIN

STALIN IAS ACADEMY - BEST IAS COACHING IN CHENNAI

12/24, Muthurangan Muthali St, West Tambaram, Chennai - 600045

<https://www.evastaliniasacademy.in/>

Contact Number - +91-8678969915, +91-9940332851

'Low pressure likely to form over south Andaman Sea by Nov. 26'

The Hindu Bureau
CHENNAI

The Regional Meteorological Centre, Chennai, said on Wednesday that most parts of Tamil Nadu, Puducherry and Karaikal will experience light to moderate rain for the next three days.

On Thursday, heavy rain is likely to occur at isolated places in the Nilgiris, Coimbatore, Tiruppur, Dindigul, Theni, Madurai, Sivagangai, Virudhunagar, Ramanathapuram, Thoothukudi, Tirunelveli, Tenkasi and Kanniyakumari districts. Addressing a press conference here, S. Balachandran, Additional Director General of Meteorology, Chennai, said a low pressure was likely to form over the south Andaman Sea around November 26. It was likely to move west-northwestwards and concentrate into a depression over the south-east Bay of Bengal and the adjoining Andaman Sea on November 27. "We are watching the Bay and the systems that are developing there. We have to wait and watch whether this system will bring rain to our State," he added.

In the 24 hours ending 8 a.m. on Wednesday, Tiruppur recorded the highest rainfall of 17 cm.

Unheeded advice

The time has come for the Governor's role to be reconsidered

Ongoing proceedings before the Supreme Court raise concerns about the conduct of some Governors. The key issue that has forced State governments to approach the court for redress is the perverse manner in which incumbents in Raj Bhavan have used the absence of a time-frame for granting assent to Bills to harass and frustrate elected regimes. When the court raised the question, "What was the Governor doing for three years?" with respect to the Tamil Nadu Governor, R.N. Ravi, it was underscoring the fact that he disposed of pending Bills only after the court's observations about the delay in an earlier hearing. The Governor's reluctance to act until an aggrieved government approached the court seems deliberate. The hearing was marked by some questions and answers about the implications of the Governor's action in withholding his assent to 10 Bills, and the response of the State Assembly in passing the Bills for a second time. Preliminary observations by the court suggest that the scheme of Article 200 of the Constitution, which deals with the presentation of Bills passed by the legislature to the Governor for assent, will come under a good deal of scrutiny in this matter. With the court noting that the Governor cannot refuse assent to the re-enacted Bills, the present legislative impasse can be given a quick resolution if Mr. Ravi acts on the observation. However, the matter should not end there.

The larger issue requires a clear enunciation of the law. The tenor of Constituent Assembly debates indicates that it intended to make the power of granting or withholding assent to Bills, or even returning them for reconsideration, exercisable solely on the advice of the Council of Ministers. However, in practice, many Governors have acted on their own, especially in reserving Bills for the President's consideration. The Supreme Court must now come up with an authoritative decision so that uncooperative Governors do not use such grey areas to their advantage. It must also be clarified whether 'withholding assent' is a final act of rejection of a Bill or it needs a follow-up action in the form of returning the Bill with a message for reconsideration by the House, as stated in the first proviso to Article 200. The proviso bars Governors from withholding assent to any Bill they had returned for reconsideration and has been adopted again by the legislature. The issue has also highlighted constitutional ambiguities on the role of Governors. The 'aid and advice' clause that is at the core of parliamentary democracy is somewhat undermined by clauses that allow Governors to give themselves discretion they were never meant to have. Such provisions need wholesome reconsideration.

STALIN IAS ACADEMY - BEST IAS COACHING IN CHENNAI

12/24, Muthurangan Muthali St, West Tambaram, Chennai - 600045

<https://www.evastaliniasacademy.in/>

Contact Number - +91-8678969915, +91-9940332851

Glimmer of hope

The pause in war after the hostage
release deal gives peace a chance

The Israel-Hamas deal to release hostages and Palestinian prisoners in return for a pause in fighting offers a much-needed humanitarian relief to the 2.3 million people of the Gaza Strip who have been living in unspeakable misery since October 7. According to the deal, clinched in talks mediated by Qatar, Hamas will release 50 civilian hostages while Israel will release 150 Palestinian prisoners. Both sides will also halt fighting for four days. The Israeli government has stated that if Hamas releases more hostages, the pause in fighting could be extended, offering a glimmer of hope for securing a more sustained ceasefire. Hamas captured about 240 hostages during its October 7 cross-border attack in Israel, in which at least 1,200 people were killed. When Israel launched its counter-attack the same day, it promised to "crush Hamas", eliminate security threats from Gaza for good, and free the hostages. In the past six weeks, Israeli attacks have turned Gaza into a graveyard, killing at least 13,000 Palestinians, a vast majority of them women and children. But Israel simultaneously began indirect talks with Hamas seeking to free hostages, which resulted in the current deal.

But this is not enough. What the people of Gaza, who have been bombed, shelled, displaced, and denied essential supplies such as food, fuel and medicines, immediately want is a lasting ceasefire. Israel initially refused to have any talks with "Hamas terrorists" and promised to dismantle the Islamist militant group. Israel's anger was understandable given the horrors unleashed by Hamas. But in its response, a vengeful Israel is collectively punishing the people of Gaza. Several Israeli Ministers have issued dangerous and repugnant statements, from nuclear threats to welcoming epidemics in southern Gaza. But after six weeks of fighting, Israel is far from achieving its own declared objectives, which raises questions about the effectiveness of its military strategy. It stormed Al-Shifa Hospital, Gaza's largest medical facility, alleging that a Hamas command centre was located beneath it. More than a week since, Israel is yet to produce any credible evidence to back this claim. But the fact that Israel and Hamas have reached a deal suggests that both sides are ready to engage with each other even amidst high decibel propaganda and bloody fighting. They should build on the momentum generated by the deal and extend the pause into a full-fledged ceasefire. That is the only way to release all the hostages, provide lasting relief to the Palestinians, and calm spiralling tensions in West Asia.