

Anna Univ to get research park and centres for AI, robotics & IoT

Besides 11 new units in the university, govt plans to set up 10 arts colleges; 11 govt engg institutes to get foreign-language centres to help students pursue higher studies abroad

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @ Chennai

HIGHER Education Minister K Ponmudy on Monday announced that 11 new centres — including ones for artificial intelligence, data science, robotics, and Internet of Things (IoT) — will be set up at Anna University with support from TIDCO and SIPCOT, and 10 new arts colleges will be established in Tamil Nadu. He said this in the Assembly during the debate on grants for his department.

Besides, a research park will be set up at Anna University at a cost of ₹50 crore, and a marine sports and tourism centre will be established at Alagappa University's Thondi campus at a cost of ₹50 lakh, the minister said. The government also plans to establish sports facilities at 10 government engineering colleges at a cost of ₹80 crore.

To help government engineering college students pursue higher studies abroad, a centre for foreign languages will be established at 11 government engineering colleges at a cost of ₹11 crore. Besides, government polytechnic institutes will offer new courses such as apparel design, agriculture engineering, and automobile engineering. At the government polytechnic institute in Madurai, a new Prose course will be introduced at a cost of ₹2 crore,

130 cr for new hostels

Hostels will be set up at Alagappa University, Bharathiar University, Anna University's Guindy campus and Marina campus in the University of Madras, and Bharathidasan University's Khajamalai campus at a cost of ₹131.06 crore, Ponmudy said

Ponmudy announced.

To provide training on world skills in electrical installation, industrial controls and drivers, supervisory control, data acquisition, and digital manufacturing, smart manufacturing technology centres will be established at six government polytechnic institutes at a cost of ₹10 crore. The Tamil Nadu Unmanned Aerial Vehicle Corporation will be expanded at a cost of ₹5 crore.

New hostels will be established at Alagappa University, Bharathiar University, Anna University's Guindy campus and Marina campus in the University of Madras, and Bharathidasan University's Khajamalai campus at a cost of ₹131.06 crore. Besides, buildings will be constructed at 16 government arts and science colleges at a cost of ₹199.36 crore, the minister said. This apart, infrastructure such as classrooms and labs will be created at 26 government polytechnic institutes and 55 government arts and science colleges at a

cost of ₹200 crore. The department has also allocated ₹100 crore to improve labs and libraries at polytechnic institutes and colleges.

Anticipating that more women will join government colleges due to the government's promise of monetary aid, the department plans to establish 10 arts and science colleges in Tiruchy, Viluppuram, Pudukkottai, and Erode, among other districts.

To enhance the employability of BE, BTech and MCA students, industry skill-based courses will be introduced at Anna University with the help of IBM with financial support of ₹6 crore from the TN Skill Development Corporation. A degree course in engineering under the Work Integrated Learning model will be introduced, and a new admission process will be introduced in Anna University and its colleges to enable polytechnic students to get lateral entry to engineering courses.

To enable students in government colleges to pursue PhD research programmes, such courses will be started at 10 government arts and science colleges, Ponmudy said.

He added that diploma courses in civil engineering and a diploma in mechanical engineering have been introduced in Tamil medium in Central Polytechnic College, Chennai, and government polytechnic colleges at Coimbatore, Madurai, Tiruchirappalli and Nagercoil from 2022-23.

Strongly resist Shah's agenda of imposing Hindi: Alagiri

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE

@ Coimbatore

TAMIL Nadu Congress Committee (TNCC) president KS Alagiri on Monday said the Union government is trying to impose Hindi on non-Hindi speaking States. He said this while flagging off a *pada yatra* by 56 Congress cadre from Coimbatore to Chennai to condemn the fuel price hike.

Commenting on Home Minister Amit Shah's remarks that Hindi should be the link language, he said, "Amit Shah made the remarks with an intention to make Hindi the national language. He is trying to impose Hindi on other States. We strongly oppose his agenda. Congress is not against any language but we oppose imposition of one language. Let people decide what language they want to speak."

He said the cadre will walk 550 km from Coimbatore to Chennai condemning the Union government for not reducing the fuel price hike. "To reduce the price, the government should bring petrol, and diesel under GST," he added. The cadre will walk up to 30 km a day till April 28.

