

## Tamil Nadu government announces pay hike on I-Day

Tamil Nadu Chief Minister M. Karunanidhi Friday announced that the state would follow the central government in implementing the recommendations of the Sixth Pay Commission.

The chief minister made the announcement at a parade at Fort St George here to mark the country's 62nd Independence Day.

He also announced that Anganwadi helpers, cooks and their assistants working in the noon meal centres will be on pay scales instead of a consolidated amount and will be eligible for pension.

Noon meal centre employees who have put in 10 years of service will get a pay hike. Measures for the noon meal centre employees will come into effect from Sep 15, the birth date of former chief minister and DMK founder C.N. Annadurai.

The chief minister said a new secretariat complex will be built at an outlay of Rs.2 billion and a new library at a cost of Rs.1.2 billion.

Karunanidhi presented the Kalpana Chawla Award to B. Jothi Nirmala, collector of Kanyakumari district, for her daring initiative to end illegal sand quarrying and illicit liquor trade. The award consists of a gold medal, certificate and a cash reward of Rs.500,000.

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