D.O.Lr. No. 15188/IT(e.Gov.II)/2019, Dated 21.10.2019

Dear------

Sub: Information Technology Department – ELCOT- Implementation of Tamil Nadu Open Government: Data (TNOGD) – Publishing datasets on TNOGD portal - Action taken – Regarding


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I wish to inform you that the Hon’ble Minister for IT made an Announcement On the floor of Legislative Assembly during the Budget Session 2017-18 for “Implementing ‘Open Government Data’ in all Government Departments for sharing the data pertaining to Government Welfare Schemes and Conducting Hackathons using this data”.

2. Open Government Data (OGD) is a platform for supporting Open Data Initiative of Government of Tamil Nadu. OGD offers many opportunities and promises significant benefits to Government, Citizens and Business. It can represent a transparent way of informing about the functioning of the administration.

3. I wish to inform that necessary orders have been issued in the Government Order cited for implementation of TNOGD portal. A State instance for TNOGD was created with the help of NIC and is operational at the address https://tn.data.gov.in/. ELCOT was entrusted to implement the TNOGD project. The TNOGD portal is intended to be used by the Government Departments and other organizations of Government of Tamil Nadu to publish the datasets, documents, services, tools and applications collected by them, in machine readable structured format for public use.

4. In order to implement Open Government Data portal for all Government Departments, instructions had already been issued for nomination of Chief Data Officer (CDO) and Data Contributors in all Government Departments, and each Department shall form a National Data Sharing and Accessibility Policy (NDSAP) Cell consisting of Chief Data Officer who heads the Team, one or more Data Contributor(s) nominated by CDO as per the requirement and a Technical Team to do the Data conversion.

5. To start with, ELCOT conducted a sensitization Workshop on the OGD Portal successfully with 240 participants from various departments on 11.10.2017. After 2 years of steady progress, a second workshop was organized on 12.09.2019, for the officials of Department of Economics and Statistics (DES). Nearly, 80 statistical officers from DES headquarters, line Departments and from all the 32 districts of the State participated in the workshop. During these workshops, OGD team from NIC,
Hqrs, New Delhi briefed about the overview of OGD, its objectives, usefulness and on the respective similar portals (Government and State Portals) operational now.

6. I also wish to inform that ELCOT has also been conducting regular bimonthly review meetings with various Departments. So far 10 such meetings have been conducted to explore the possibility towards the contribution of shareable datasets. The Department of Economics and Statistics has contributed their 9 years of "Statistical Hand Book (SHB)" datasets from the year 2010 to 2018 and the same has been uploaded in the TNOGD portal https://tn.data.gov.in and it is available now in the format useful for analytical purposes. So far, 14430+ different data sets have been updated into the TNOGD portal covering 51 Government Departments and 98 Chief Data Officers' accounts have been created in the portal.

7. At this juncture, I wish to inform that the draft "Tamil Nadu Data Sharing and Accessibility Policy (TNDSAP) and Implementation Guidelines of TNDSAP" towards the usage of the data are under scrutiny.

8. In this regard, I request you to give necessary instructions to the Heads of Department under your control to share the possible datasets within a month's time with ELCOT for publishing in the TNOGD portal. In case of any clarifications, on sharing of data, the TNOGD team of ELCOT may be contacted by email tnogd@elcot.in.

9. I am, therefore, to request you to personally look into this matter extend your support to move ahead in the direction towards achieving the targeted implementation of Open Government Data in the Tamil Nadu State.

Yours sincerely,

Sd/xxx

(SANTHOSH BABU)

To
All ACS/Principal Secretaries / Secretaries to Government, Department of Secretariat, Secretariat, Chennai-9 (w.e).

Copy to:

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Section Officer
30/10/19
DEPARTMENT OF INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY

Tamil Nadu Data Sharing and Accessibility Policy (TNDSAP) – 2018

1. Preamble

1.1 Asset and value potentials of data are widely recognized at all levels. Data collected or developed through public investments, when made publicly available and maintained over time, their potential value could be more fully realized. There has been an increasing demand by the community, that such data collected with the deployment of public funds should be made more readily available to all, for enabling rational debate, better decision making and use in meeting civil society needs. Principle 10 of the United Nations Declaration on Environment and Development (Rio de Janeiro, June 1992), stated

"...........each individual shall have appropriate access to information concerning the environment that is held by public authorities ....... and the opportunity to participate in the decision-making process. States shall facilitate and encourage public awareness and participation by making information widely available."

Section 4(2) of the Right to Information Act, 2005 reads

"It shall be a constant endeavor of every public authority to take steps in accordance with the requirements of clause (b) of sub-section (1) to provide as much information suomotu to the public at regular intervals through various means of communication, including internet, so that the public have minimum resort to the use of this Act to obtain information”

1.2 The principles on which data sharing and accessibility need to be based include: Openness, Flexibility, Transparency, Legal Conformity, Protection of Intellectual Property, Formal Responsibility, Professionalism, Standards, Interoperability, Quality, Security, Efficiency, Accountability, Sustainability and Privacy.

1.3 A large quantum of data generated using public funds by various organizations and institutions in the country remains inaccessible to civil society, although most
of such data may be non-sensitive in nature and could be used by public for scientific, economic and developmental purposes. The Tamil Nadu Data Sharing and Accessibility Policy (TNDSAP) is designed so as to apply to all sharable non-sensitive data available either in digital or analog forms but generated using public funds by various Departments/Subordinate offices/organizations/ agencies of Government of Tamil Nadu. The TNDSAP policy is designed to promote data sharing and enable access to Government of Tamil Nadu owned data for state planning and development.

2. Definitions

2.1 Data – Data means a representation of information, numerical compilations and observations, documents, facts, maps, images, charts, tables and figures, concepts in digital and/or analog form.

2.2 Data Archive – A place where machine-readable data are acquired, manipulated, documented, and distributed to others for further analysis and consumption.

2.3 Data Generation– Initial generation/collection of data or subsequent addition of data to the same specification.

2.4 Dataset – A named collection of logically related features including processed data or information.

2.5 Geospatial Data – All data which is geographically referenced

2.6 Information – Processed data

2.7 Metadata – The information that describes the data source and the time, place, and conditions under which the data were created. Metadata informs the user of who, when, what, where, why, and how data were generated. Metadata allows the data to be traced to a known origin and known quality.

2.8 Negative List – Non-sharable data as declared by the departments/organizations
2.9 Restricted Data – Data which are accessible only through a prescribed process of registration and authorization by respective departments / organizations.

2.10 Sensitive Data – Sensitive data as defined in various Acts and rules of the Government of India.

2.11 Sharable Data – Those data not covered under the scope of negative list and non-sensitive in nature

2.12 Standards – Any application that embeds data handling functions (e.g., data collection, management, transfer, integration, publication, etc.) and operates on data in a manner that complies with data format and data syntax specifications produced and maintained by open, standards bodies.

3. Need for the Policy

Evidence-based Planning of socio-economic development processes rely on quality data. There is a general need to facilitate sharing and utilization of the large amount of data generated and residing among the entities of the Government of Tamil Nadu. This would call for a policy to leverage these data assets which are disparate. The current regime of data management does not enable open sharing of Government owned data with other arms of the government nor does it expect proactive disclosure of sharable data available with data owners. Such regimes could lead to duplication of efforts and loss of efficiency of planning of activities focused on national development. Efficient sharing of data among data owners and inter and intra governmental agencies and with public calls for data standards and interoperable systems. Hence, Tamil Nadu Data Sharing and Access Policy aims to provide an enabling provision and platform for providing proactive and open access to the data generated through public funds available with various departments / organizations of Government of Tamil Nadu.

4. Objectives

The objective of this policy is to facilitate the access to Government of Tamil Nadu, owned shareable data and information in both human readable and machine readable forms through a network all over the country in a proactive and
periodically updatable manner, within the framework of various related policies, Acts and rules of Government of Tamil Nadu, thereby permitting a wider accessibility and use of public data and information.

5. Scope of this Policy

The Tamil Nadu Data Sharing and Accessibility Policy will apply to all sharable data and information created, generated, collected and archived using public funds provided by Government of Tamil Nadu directly or through authorized agencies by various Departments /Organizations / Agencies and Autonomous bodies.

6. Benefits of the data sharing policy

6.1 Maximizing Use – Ready access to government owned data will enable more extensive use of a valuable public resource for the benefit of the community.

6.2 Avoiding Duplication – By sharing data the need for separate bodies to collect the same data will be avoided resulting in significant cost savings in data collection.

6.3 Maximized integration – By adopting common standards for the collection and transfer of data, integration of individual datasets may be feasible.

6.4 Ownership information – The identification of owners for the principal datasets provide information to users to identify those responsible for implementation of prioritized data collection programs and development of data standards.

6.5 Better decision-making – Data and information facilitates making important decisions without incurring repetitive costs. Ready access to existing valuable data is essential for many decision making tasks such as protecting the environment, development planning, managing assets, improving living conditions, national security and controlling disasters.

6.6 Equity of access – A more open data transfer policy ensures better access to all bonafide users.
7. Data Classification

Different types of datasets generated both in geospatial and non-spatial form by different departments/organizations are to be classified as shareable data and non-shareable data. The types of data produced by a statistical system consist of derived statistics like national accounts statistics, indicators like price index, data bases from census and surveys. The geospatial data however, consists primarily of satellite data, maps, etc. In such a system, it becomes important to maintain standards in respect of metadata, data layout and data access policy. All departments will prepare the negative list within one year of the notification of the policy, which will be periodically reviewed by the Coordination Committee.

8. Types of Access

8.1 Open Access – Access to data generated from public funding should be easy, timely, user-friendly and web-based without any process of registration / authorization.

8.2 Registered Access – Datasets which are accessible only through a prescribed process of registration / authorization by respective departments / organizations will be available to the recognized institutions / organizations / public users, through defined procedures.

8.3 Restricted Access – Data declared as restricted, by Government of Tamil Nadu policies, will be accessible only through and under authorization.

9. Technology for Sharing and Access

A state-of-the-art data warehouse and data archive with online analytical processing (OLAP) capabilities, which includes providing, a multi-dimensional and subject oriented view of the database needs to be created. This integrated repository of data portals of various departments as a part of https://tn.data.gov.in will hold data and this repository over a period of time. The main features of the data warehouse need to include:

a) User friendly interface
b) Dynamic / pull down menus
c) Search based Report
d) Secured web access  
e) Bulletin board  
f) Complete Metadata  
g) Parametric and Dynamic report in exportable format

10. Legal framework

Data will remain the property of the agency/department/entity which collected them and reside in their IT enabled facility for sharing and providing access. Access to data under this policy will not be in violation of any Acts and rules of the Government of Tamil Nadu in force. Legal framework of this policy will be aligned with various Acts and rules covering the data.

11. Pricing

Pricing of data, if any, would be decided by the data owners and as per the government policies. All Departments will upload the pricing policy of the data under registered and restricted access within three months of the notification of the policy. A broad set of parameters would be standardized and provided as guidelines for the use of data owners.

12. Implementation

a) The Department of Economics and Statistics, under the control of Planning Development and Special Initiatives Department, serving the nodal functions of coordination and monitoring of policy, in close collaboration with Department of Information Technology by creating https://tn.data.gov.in through ELCOT/National Informatics Centre (NIC).

b) All sharable data will be made available on 'as-is where-is' basis.

c) Detailed implementation guidelines including the technology and standards for data and metadata would be brought out by Department of Information Technology, Government of Tamil Nadu.

d) All the data users who are accessing/using the data shall acknowledge the department/organization in all forms of publications.
e) All Departments will upload at least 5 high value datasets on https://tn.data.gov.in within three months of the notification of the policy.

f) Uploading of all remaining datasets should be completed within one year

g) Thereafter, all datasets are to be uploaded regularly every quarter.

h) https://tn.data.gov.in will have the metadata and data itself and will be accessed from the portals of the departments.

i) The metadata in standardized formats is to be ported on https://tn.data.gov.in which enables data discovery and access through departmental portals. All metadata will follow standards and will minimally contain adequate information on proper citation, access, contact information, and discovery. Complete information including methods, structure, semantics, and quality control/assurance is expected for most datasets.

j) Government of Tamil Nadu will design and position a suitable budgetary incentive system for data owners for increasing open access to the sharable data.

k) Department of Information Technology will constitute a "High Level Advisory Committee" towards the formulation of policy and implementation guidelines and also a "Coordination Committee" for facilitating the implementation of the policy and its provisions thereof.


The implementation of Tamil Nadu Data Sharing and Access Policy is expected to entail expenditures for the Project Management Unit, the data owners and data managers for analog to digital conversion, data refinement, data storage, quality up-gradation etc. Budgetary provisions and appropriate support for data management for each department / organization by Government of Tamil Nadu, would be necessary.
14. Conclusion

14.1 While policies provide official mandate, facilitation of optimum accessibility and usability of data by the implementers pre-suppose a trajectory of proper organization of data, with access services and analysis tools that provide the researchers and stakeholders with added value. For data to be reused, it needs to be adequately described and linked to services that disseminate the data to other researchers and stakeholders. The current methods of storing data are as diverse as the disciplines that generate it. It is necessary to develop institutional repositories, data centers on domain and national levels that all methods of storing and sharing have to exist within the specific infrastructure to enable all users to access and use it.

14.2 Tamil Nadu Data Sharing and Access Policy aims at the promotion of a technology-based culture of data management as well as data sharing and access. It opens up, proactively, information on available data, which could be shared with civil society for developmental purposes, their price details if any, and methods for gaining access to registered and restricted use. The policy has limited its scope to data owned by the agencies, departments and entities under the Government of Tamil Nadu and forms a statement of the Government of Tamil Nadu of its commitment to transparency and efficiency in governance. The Government will continue the process of evolving the policy further, keeping in tune with technological advancements and the State’s requirements.

15. References

Tamil Nadu Data Sharing and Accessibility Policy (TNDSAP) is formulated in line with the National Data Sharing and Accessibility Policy (NDSAP) available at the link https://data.gov.in/sites/default/files/NDSAP.pdf