



SOCIAL WELFARE AND WOMEN EMPOWERMENT DEPARTMENT

**POLICY NOTE
2025–2026**

DEMAND No.45

Tmt. P. GEETHA JEEVAN

**MINISTER FOR
SOCIAL WELFARE – WOMEN EMPOWERMENT**

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**Government of Tamil Nadu
2025**

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Demand No. 45
Social Welfare and Women Empowerment
Department

Policy Note 2025–2026

Chapter -1

Introduction

"ஒரு பெண் சுயமாக வாழ முடியுமென்றால், அவளே ஒரு வல்லரசாக மாறுவாள்."

- அறிஞர் அண்ணா

"If a woman can live independently, she will become a great power."

- Arignar Anna

"எங்கள் அரசு வெறும் நிர்வாகம் அல்ல; இது சமூக நீதிக்கான இயக்கம்"

- முத்தமிழ் அறிஞர் டாக்டர் கலைஞர்

"Our government is not merely an administration; it is a movement for social justice."

- Muthamizh Arignar Dr. Kalaigarnar

ஒரு மெழுகுவர்த்தியைக் கொளுத்தினால் அதனைக் கொண்டு ஆயிரம் விளக்குகளை ஏற்ற முடியும். அறிவொளி பெற்ற ஒரு பெண்ணாலும் அது முடியும்.

- முத்தமிழ் அறிஞர் டாக்டர் கலைஞர்.

*One candle can light a thousand others;
an enlightened woman can do the same.*

- **Muthamizh Arignar Dr. Kalaignar.**

This belief continues to guide the policies of the present government.

"மகளிர் உயர், மாநிலம் உயரும் என்பதே நம்முடைய ஆட்சியின் இலக்கணம். ஒவ்வொரு பெண்ணும் மதிப்பிட முடியாத ஆற்றல் உள்ளவர்கள்"

- மாண்புமிகு முதலமைச்சர் திரு. மு. க. ஸ்டாலின்.

"As women rise, the State will rise — this is the very foundation of our governance. Every woman holds immeasurable potential."

— **Thiru. M. K. Stalin, Hon'ble Chief Minister.**

To make women self-reliant and empowered in order to create an empowered society, by ensuring equitable growth and dignity for women, special focus is laid on schemes in Tamil Nadu.

Tamil Nadu's welfare model is deeply rooted in emphasizing education, self-respect, economic equality, empowerment, inclusiveness and social justice. The Department of Social Welfare and Women Empowerment reaches the beneficiaries via multiple institutions such as Directorate of Social Welfare, Integrated Child Development Services, Children Welfare and Special Services, Welfare boards for transgender, Widows and deserted women, Women Commission, Child Welfare Committees and Juvenile Justice board.

The Department of Social Welfare in Tamil Nadu is instrumental in implementing progressive schemes addressing the protection, welfare and empowerment of children, women, senior citizen including widows and transgender.

Social Welfare

"Women are the largest untapped reservoir of talent in the world."

The census, 2011 counts women population at 48.5% of the total population in India. In the changing dynamics of the society, women empowerment is much relevant and very important. The Government of Tamil Nadu has placed the welfare of women at the forefront of its agenda. It has been instrumental in implementing a plethora of impactful schemes in this direction with dedication and fervour.

Education and employment are important factors for Women empowerment. Increased

knowledge, self-confidence and awareness of gender equity are indicators of the empowerment process. These components get develop through education. The Pudhumai Penn and Tamizh Pudhalvan schemes provide financial assistance to female and male students respectively, who completed schooling from Government and Government-aided schools in tamil-medium and pursuing higher education.

Marriage assistance schemes offer much-needed relief to impoverished widows to secure their daughters' future, inter-caste marriage couples, orphan girls and widow remarriages. Service homes provide vital protection and refuge to widows, destitute women and their children, offering not only shelter and sustenance but also empowering life skills through technical training in areas such as tailoring and computer courses.

Financial independence leads to Women empowerment. Working women's hostels provide safe and affordable accommodation at nominal rent, enable women to pursue their careers in secure environment. Cooperative societies empower women by creating employment opportunities, fostering economic independence.

Beyond this, the Tamil Nadu Transgenders Welfare Board's initiatives provide essential life support to the transgender community, upholding their rights and dignity.

Furthermore, the free bus travel for women and transgender individuals in Tamil Nadu is a landmark social welfare initiative. It aims to improve their mobility, access to opportunities and overall quality of life. By removing the financial barrier of transportation costs, the scheme empowers women and transgender people to participate more in

education, employment, healthcare and social activities. These initiatives demonstrate the commitment of the Government to inclusivity and well-being for all.

The Chief Minister's Breakfast Scheme providing breakfast to school children has shown improvement in the enrolment and academic performance of children in primary schools and provides immense support to provide adequate nutrition for school aged children and to ensure they grow to their full potential. Noon meal scheme is being implemented by providing variety meals with nutritive value in all Government and Government Aided schools.

Visualising equality of women right from birth, schemes ensuring basic right of a child especially for girl child to be born is protected and assured with implementation of Chief Minister's Girl Child Protection Scheme.

An educated community is crucial for the growth of any society. Realising this the government has introduced the financial assistance scheme to promote the higher education of the children through the **Pudumai Penn** and Tamil Pudalvan Schemes.

To encourage and promote female participation in the work force, **THOZHI hostels** with enhanced security features are established in all districts to provide safe accommodation at reasonable rent. Vidiyal Payanam - free bus travel has empowered women to be independent and utilize the savings towards health and nutrition. Industrial cooperative societies run by social welfare department offer job opportunities for poor women folk to meet her livelihood expenses. Financial assistance is given to widows, deserted women, transgender for self-employment through **Widow and Destitute Women Welfare Board and Transgender**

Welfare Board in collaboration with different department welfare schemes.

To ensure social justice marriage assistance schemes such as Marriage assistance scheme for EVR Maniammiyar Ninaivu Marriage Assistance scheme for widow daughter's marriage, Annai Thereasa Ninaivu Orphan Girl Marriage assistance scheme , Dr.Dharmambal Ammaiyar Ninaivu widow's remarriage assistance scheme and Dr. Muthulaxmi Reddy Ninaivu Inter Caste marriage Assistance scheme are being implemented.

Considering the growing population of senior citizens, various welfare measures are introduced to safeguard the senior citizens through old age homes, old age pension, free bus pass in Chennai city, Mobile app, exclusive web portal alongwith District level Committees to alleviate the issues faced by the senior citizens.

The Department implements the social legislations such as The Prohibition of Child Marriage Act, 2006, Dowry prohibition Act 1961, Protection of women from Domestic Violence Act 2005, Maintenance and Welfare of Parents and Senior Citizens Act, 2007, The Transgenders (Protection of Rights) Act 2019, The Sexual Harassment of Women at Workplace (Prevention, Prohibition and Redressal) Act, 2013, The Tamil Nadu Hostels and Homes for Women and Children (Regulation) Act, 2014. Children Policy, Women policy, senior citizen policy have been released for enforcing various welfare schemes for children, women, senior citizen through multi departmental convergence activities.

The emergency helplines as Women Help Line (181), Senior citizen Help Line (14567) are operated by the department to attend the calls of the aggrieved and affected women and

children. Women in difficult situations are rescued by One stop centres which functions at each district headquarters hospital premises to provide immediate assistance, rescue, relief and rehabilitation with safe accommodation and food. The women, if needed long term stay, are referred to the nearby short stay homes for women and provided secured accommodation and trainings on various trades to create self-employment opportunities. Senior citizens rescued are accommodated in old age homes and provided proper medical facilities and other assistance needed.

Integrated Child Development Services

Tamil Nadu has a long history of providing organised child care services with emphasis on nutrition to children starting as early as 6 months to 6 years out of home under institutionalised care. ICDS is an unique programme aimed at improving the nutritional

status of children with focus on pregnant, nursing mothers and children upto the age of 5 years. Supplementary nutrition, preschool education, nutritious noon meal, awareness education on health and nutrition and training and capacity building initiatives for behavioural changes are the services provided under this programme.

Uttachathai Uruthi Sei (Ensure Nutrition) is a successfully implemented scheme by Tamil Nadu government, to improve nutritional status of the malnourished children. The beneficiaries are given RUTF special food, nutri kits, BIS standard Sathumaavu, fortified biscuits additional eggs to 1-2 years children as additional food supplements which enable the children to attain the required nutritional standards to their age.

Children Welfare and Special Services

The State has built a strong structure along with necessary implementation and monitoring system to fulfil the mandates enshrined under Juvenile Justice Act. Welfare of children who are in need of care, protection and rehabilitation are exclusively dealt by the department of children welfare. Programmes are implemented to ensure a healthy and safe environment for children, free from all forms of abuse. Child Care Institutions such as Reception Units and Children Homes are managed by the Government as well as by the Non-Governmental organizations. Further, in order to help the Child Help Line 1098 is also operated by this department. The Observation Homes, Special Homes and After Care Organizations are exclusively run by the Government under the Juvenile Justice (Care and Protection of Children) Act, 2015. The Department is also

successfully implementing the Integrated Child Protection Scheme by having adequate structures at the 144 District and State level for ensuring effective child protection. The Department is maintaining Vigilance/Protective Homes under the Immoral Traffic (Prevention) Act, 1956. The department implements the Protection of Children from Sexual Offences (POCSO) Act, 2012 and TN Child Victim compensation fund has been created for awarding interim compensation to the victim children.

The department provides best possible opportunities for children to develop their intellectual, physical and social health in a safe environment free from violence, exploitation, neglect, deprivation and discrimination. As the needs and wants of children are complex, the policies and programmes are designed to address the issues and concerns of the child as

an individual, rather a common general programme.

The Child Welfare Committees are constituted as the specialized authority to deal and decide upon the cases for care, protection, treatment, development and rehabilitation of “children in need of care and protection” and to provide their basic needs and protection of child rights. The abandoned /surrendered child are placed in adoption through State Adoption Resource Agency to promote alternative care for orphaned children. Juvenile Justice Boards have been constituted in districts as per the provisions of Juvenile Justice (Care and Protection of Children) Act, 2015, to deal with matters relating to children in conflict with law. Deaddiction centres for children addresses the problem of addiction to drugs and substances among children. TNSCPCR monitors the

implementation of child welfare acts and suggests modification to the Government.

To prevent institutionalization of children, sponsorship support is provided to family to enable a child to remain in a family environment and continue education. It is an effort towards preventing children from becoming vulnerable, running away, forced into child marriage, forced into child labour etc., Thus an efficient mechanism has been promoted to appropriately and effectively utilise the resources by integrating the resources available in different sectors of the government and non-governmental organisation with community participation.

CHAPTER -2

Social Welfare

2.1 Child Welfare

Child Welfare is a system of services that protects children and help families care for them. To ensure holistic development of every child in an enabling safe environment to reach full potential and achieve the sustainable development goals for children.

2.1.1. Chief Minister's Girl Child Protection Scheme

The Chief Minister's Girl Child Protection Scheme aimed at preventing female infanticide, prohibiting child marriage and promoting the education of girl children. Being introduced in 1992, the scheme has been revamped in 2021

to enable more financial benefit to the girl children.

Objectives of the Scheme:

- To eradicate female infanticide and foeticide
- To prevent child marriage
- To improve financial security
- To promote the education of girl children
- To discourage the preference for male children
- To promote the norm of small families
- To increase the Child Sex Ratio

Scheme Types	Eligibility Criteria
Scheme-I: An amount of Rs.50,000 is deposited in the name of the girl child as Fixed Deposit, to the family with only one girl child.	1. Annual family income should not exceed Rs.1, 20,000/- 2. Either of the parents should have undergone sterilization within 40 years of age.

The application should be submitted before a girl child completes 3 years of age in this scheme. Scheme-II: An amount of Rs.25,000 is deposited in the names of each of the two girl children as fixed deposits if only two girl children are in the family. The application should be submitted before the second girl child completes 3 years of age in this scheme.	3. Family should have only one/two female children and no male child. In future, no male child should be adopted. 4. The parents/ grand parents should be a domicile of Tamil Nadu for a period of more than 10 years at the time of submitting the application. 5. The scheme has been extended to girl children of Sri Lankan Tamil Refugees in the Refugee Camps. 6. On completion of 18 years of age, the amount deposited with accrued interest will be given to the girl child for her higher education.
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Beneficiaries of the Scheme

Beneficiaries	During the year 2024-25		Cumulative total till 2024-25	
	Number of Girl Children (up to March - 2025)	Amount (Rs. In Crores)	Number of Girl Children (upto March, 2025)	Amount (Rs. In Crores)
New Deposits	29,001	72.59	11,48,561	1960.54
Maturity disbursements	55,941	223.48	2,51,159	702.42

A sum of Rs.114.48 Crore has been provided in the Budget Estimate for the year 2025-2026.

2.1.2. Save Girl Child, Educate Girl Child (BBBP) Scheme

The Government of India launched the "Save Girl Child, Educate Girl Child (BBBP) scheme" with an aim to address the declining Child Sex Ratio and ensure the survival, protection, and education of girl children. The

scheme is being implemented by the Government of Tamil Nadu effectively.

Implementation of the Scheme

The Government of India, under Mission Shakti, in 2022-2023 in order to care more for girl children has expanded the scheme to all the districts with newly added scopes such as skill development, career counseling for better future and identifying talents in sports among girls.

In order to raise mass awareness among the public about the scheme, awareness activities are being carried out in all Panchayats, Blocks and Districts. Over the past three years, 1,883 awareness programs have been conducted at a cost of Rs.18.11 crore.

Financial Allocation to Districts

- A sum of Rs. 40 lakhs per district per annum is allocated to districts with sex ratio at birth is less than 918 ($SRB \leq 918$)

- A sum of Rs. 30 lakhs per district per annum is allocated to districts with sex ratio at birth from 918 to 952 (≥ 918 and ≤ 952)
- A sum of Rs. 20 lakhs per district per annum is allocated to districts with sex ratio at birth is higher than 952 ($SRB > 952$)

The following activities are being carried out under this scheme,

- Training
- IEC materials
- Outreach Activities
- Capacity Building
- Skill Development
- Higher Education & Career guidance
- Safety & Security
- Monitoring & Documentation

The State Task Force Committee under chairmanship of Chief Secretary meets annually,

the District Task Force Committee under chairmanship of District Collector meets once in a quarter to review the implementation of scheme activities and suggests innovative guidelines to achieve the objectives of the Scheme.

A sum of Rs.10.70 Crore has been provided in the Budget Estimate for the year 2025-2026.

2.1.3. The Prohibition of Child Marriage Act-2006

Government of India enacted the Prohibition of Child Marriage Act in 2006. This legislation includes provisions aimed at prohibiting child marriages, protecting and providing rehabilitation to victims, and ensuring severe punishments for those who abet, promote, or solemnize such marriages.

To eradicate child marriage in the state, the Tamil Nadu government formulated the Tamil Nadu Prohibition of Child Marriage Rules, 2009, which was notified on 30.12.2009.

2.1.4. Child Marriage Prohibition officers

To strictly enforce the Child Marriage Prohibition Act, 2006, the State Government has designated District Social Welfare Officers as Child Marriage Prohibition Officers under Section 17 of the Act. These officers are empowered to take immediate action upon receiving information about the solemnization of a child marriage through any means of communication, in order to prevent it. They can file petitions for annulling child marriages and ensure maintenance for the girls affected by child marriage until her marriage, and seek orders from the court for the shelter and maintenance of the children of child marriage.

Punishment under the Act

A male adult above 21 years of age, contracting a child marriage, any person whoever promotes, permits, performs, conducts, negligently fails to prevent, or directs or abets any child marriage are punishable with rigorous imprisonment which may extend for 2 years or with fine up to Rs.1.00 lakh or with both.

Steps taken for creating awareness to prevent Child Marriages

- Awareness posters highlighting the harmful effects of child marriages, along with toll free Helpline numbers, were printed and distributed to all field functionaries for display in public buildings, bus stands, schools, and colleges to raise awareness and eradicate child marriages.
- With the assistance of The State Resource Centre "**Illanthendral Pettagam**," a

package of 23 training modules in the regional language has been prepared along with 4 short films and training has been imparted to Stakeholders on issues such as gender-based violence and child marriage.

- Awareness programs are being conducted by field functionaries on Child Marriage Prohibition Act – 2006, Child Helpline-1098 and consequences of Child Marriage in places of higher incidence of child marriages.
- Upon receiving information about child marriages, field functionaries immediately rush to the place and prevent such marriages.
- The nationwide Women Helpline (Toll free number 181) has been operational in Tamil Nadu since December 2018, providing 24/7 immediate and emergency assistance in times of need or crisis.

- Village-Level Child Protection Committees have been established, led by the Village Panchayat President which includes school teachers, Village Health Nurses (VHN), Anganwadi workers, Self-Help Group (SHG) members, and Child Welfare Officers from local police stations, all working to ensure the safety of girl children.
- These Village-Level Child Protection Committees formed with various field officials and local community members, meet regularly to monitor and prevent crimes against children.
- Several welfare schemes are being implemented by the State Government with education of the girl child as centric point, and encourage higher education for girls to benefit girls on completion of 18 years to prevent child marriage.

- In Tamil Nadu, between January and December 2024, a total of 13,985 awareness programs on child marriage were conducted in schools, colleges, villages, and other departments.
- Awareness from boards on Child Marriage Prohibition Act, 2006 were setup in 12,567 high schools and higher secondary schools all over Tamil Nadu with a total cost of Rs.62.83 lakhs.

2002 child marriages have been prevented in the year 2024.

2.1.5 GOVERNMENT SERVICE HOMES

Service homes were started from the year 1948 to provide institutional care and protection to widows, destitute women, deserted women and their children who are economically and socially backward. Six Service Homes functioning one each at Chengalpattu (Tambaram), Salem, Cuddalore,

Thanjavur, Tirunelveli and Sivagangai districts provide safe accommodation, food, access to healthcare and medical facilities and also education, if they have discontinued their studies. They can raise upto three children in a supportive environment. While boys can stay until fifth standard, girls complete schooling and graduation. To foster economic independence, the homes offer life skills and vocational training including computer training, spoken english classes and counselling for higher education and career guidance. CCTV cameras have been installed in all homes to enhance the safety and security of girls and women residing in the campus.

Girl children who have completed 12th standard in the service homes are encouraged to take up higher studies for which the Government provides financial assistance of Rs.50,000 for pursuing professional courses and Rs.30,000 for Degree/ Diploma courses.

2.1.5.1 Self-defence training to the children in service homes

Empowering girls residing in government service homes with self-defence skills is crucial for their safety and well-being. This training fosters self-confidence, enhances their ability to navigate public spaces with assurance, and equips them with the tools to protect themselves.

Self-defence training programs including silambam, karate and various sports were introduced in these service homes since February 2025. Female trainers are engaged to train the girls in self-defence training and sports. With an allocated budget of Rs. 28.17 lakh, 579 service home inmates are being benefitted under this initiative.

A sum of Rs.34.56 Lakh has been provided in the Budget Estimate for the year 2025-2026 for this scheme.

2.1.6 AWARDS

The State Award for Girl Child Empowerment (January 24)

The State award is given by Tamil Nadu Government, since 2018, below the age of 18 years on the National Girl Child Day (January-24) to a Girl Child, to recognize and encourage the abilities of a Girl child and to appreciate the efforts in opposing the injustice faced by Girl children who has shown extraordinary performance to prevent child labour, child marriage and other social evils. A cash award of Rs.1.00 lakh as cheque with an Appreciation Certificate is given to the awardee. The award for the year 2024-2025 was conferred on Selvi G.Sowmiya of Cuddalore district.

The Best District Award (February 24)

Each year three district administrations who have excelled in the implementation to increase the Girl Child Sex Ratio are recognized with Gold, Silver and Bronze medals with a certificate on February-24 of Tamilnadu State Girl Child protection day by the Tamilnadu Government. For the year 2024-2025, Kanniyakumari, Kancheepuram and Coimbatore districts were awarded with best district award.

2.2 WOMEN WELFARE

2.2.1 Moovalur Ramamirtham Ammaiyar Higher Education Assurance- Pudhumai Penn Scheme

This flagship scheme was launched on September 5, 2022, to provide financial benefits to girl students pursuing higher education. This programme aims to bring about behavioural change, prevent child marriages, reduce early

marriages, improve the enrolment ratio in higher education and increase the retention of girl students in higher education. The scheme therefore, focuses on empowering girls from weaker section of the society, those who have studied from 6th to 12th in Government schools.

Following the 2024-2025 Budget Announcement, the Hon'ble Chief Minister extended the Pudhumai Penn Scheme to girl students who studied in Government aided schools in tamil medium on December 30, 2024, through which approximately 75,028 girl students have benefitted. As on March 2025, 4,06,436 girl beneficiaries have benefited from this scheme.

Objectives of the Scheme

- ❖ Promotes the education of girl students and instils motivation to pursue higher education, providing a stronger foundation for socio-economic progress and improving gender parity.

- ❖ Enables the creation of a skilled female workforce and encourages their participation.
- ❖ Provides financial assistance of Rs.1,000 per month per beneficiary, credited directly to her bank account, helping them pursue higher education without additional financial burden.
- ❖ Prevents dropouts beyond higher secondary education and increases the retention ratio in higher education.
- ❖ Encourages girl students to engage in public spaces and enhances career opportunities.
- ❖ Ensures the socio-economic empowerment of women.

Stream wise beneficiary details (March 2025)

S.No	Types of College	No. of beneficiaries
1	Agriculture	2,782
2	Arts & Science	2,63,636
3	Business Administration	13,971
4	Computer application	13,628
5	Education	1,068
6	Engineering & Technology	57,631
7	Fisheries Science	107
8	ITI	3,156
9	Law	1,852
10	Medicine	45,773
11	Music & Fine Arts	155
12	Vocational	1,766
Total		4,06,065

Since inception, 4,95,822 girls have benefited from this scheme till March 2025.

A sum of Rs. 420 crore has been allocated in the Budget Estimate for the year 2025-2026 for this Scheme.

2.2.2 Vidiyal Payanam- Free Bus Travel for Women and Transgenders

Adequate, affordable and well-designed infrastructure can serve as the first step for poor women to access expanded opportunities in education, employment and healthcare. As a gender specific planning to achieve gender equality, Vidiyal Payanam, the free bus travel scheme is implemented since 07.05.2021. Safe and reliable transport infrastructure can boost women's participation in economic and social spheres, contributing to household incomes and decision-making.

This scheme allows women to travel for free on ordinary fare city buses operated by the Tamil Nadu State Transport Corporation. It has also enabled women to pursue higher education and travel independently to workplaces, reducing their dependence on others for mobility. The resulting savings can be allocated

to other essential expenses such as food, clothing, health care and education. Since May 2021 to 31.03.2025, approximately 625.10 crore of free bus trips have been availed by women, including working professionals and students.

The Vidiyal Payanam scheme has been extended to transgender individuals since 03.06.2021. To avail this benefit, they need to carry their Transgender identity card for verification purposes. So far (upto 31.03.2025) 0.3534 crore free trips have been availed by the transgender persons.

2.2.3 Self-Employment for women - Pink Auto Scheme

Under the Nirbhaya "Safe City Scheme," an amount of Rs. 2.50 crore has been allocated for the Social Welfare and Women Empowerment department, to ensure the safety of women and to create self-employment opportunities for women, Government is

providing a subsidy of Rs. 1 lakh each to 250 female auto drivers, with a total expenditure of Rs. 2.50 crore to operate 250 Pink Autos in Chennai city.

The Honorable Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu inaugurated the scheme on International Women's Day, 08.03.2025 by distributing the Pink Autos to 100 women. Under this scheme, a subsidy of Rs. 1 lakh is given to 250 female auto drivers to purchase CNG/Hybrid autos. They are linked with the bank for remaining cost of the auto.

To ensure speedy action in case of emergencies, each Pink Auto is equipped with a GPS tracker that is linked to police emergency helpline numbers. This is to guarantee quick response by the police upon receiving any complaints. Information and IEC materials about various social welfare schemes and laws implemented by the government are kept in the

auto for the benefit of public. This project prioritizes on supporting women, particularly those who are destitute or widowed.

2.2.4 Tamil Pudhalvan Scheme

Investment in children is the investment for the future. Recognizing that the enrolment ratio of boy students from Government schools and Government aided schools in higher education is very low and to promote higher education among boys belonging to the economically weaker families, following the success of the Pudhumai Penn Scheme, the Hon'ble Chief Minister launched 'Tamil Pudhalvan' scheme on 09.08.2024.

All boy students who studied from Classes 6th to 12th in Government schools and Government aided schools in tamil medium will be paid Rs.1,000/- per month directly into their bank account till the uninterrupted completion of their undergraduate degree, diploma and ITI courses.

The Scheme benefits to any number of boy students in a family pursuing higher education in a recognized Institution, irrespective of income criteria. The students shall be eligible for this in addition to other scholarships. Students pursuing higher education in other States through educational institutions of excellence functioning under Central Government as IIT, NIT, IISER shall also avail benefit under this scheme.

So far 3.80 lakh boys have benefitted through this scheme as on Feb 2025.

A sum of Rs. 420 Crore has been provided in the Budget Estimate for the year 2025-2026 for this scheme.

2.2.5 Tamil Nadu Working Women Hostel Corporation Limited (“Thozhi”)

The Tamil Nadu Working Women Hostels Corporation Limited was started as a Special Purpose Vehicle under the Companies Act, 2013

with mandate to develop new hostels and upgrade existing working women hostels and operate them in a professional manner. All these hostels are branded and operated uniformly across the state under a new brand name “Thozhi” and logo promoted by Tamil Nadu Government.

The registration of applications, allocation of beds, admissions and discharge, monitoring and reporting are managed through dedicated online web portal- tnwwhcl.in. These hostels are functional with upgraded facilities and safety features as biometric entry, CCTV surveillance, 24X7 security, genset, wifi, RO water, online booking, geyser, housekeeping, laundry, parking, etc... at nominal rent to women.

Apart from monthly stay, these hostels are available for short stay as one day to one week stay for the convenience of women who come to

cities for attending competitive exams, interview, workshops, meetings etc.

17 "Thozhi" hostels are being operated through Tamil Nadu Working Women Hostel Corporation Limited (TNWWHCL) in 16 districts. Among these, the retrofitting work for 6 Hostels are being carried out at cost of Rs.1.01 crore. At present there are 1168 inmates accommodated in these 17 hostels. In addition, the working women hostels at Trichy, Coimbatore and Ayanambakkam which were handed over by Adidraavidar Welfare Department were retrofitted at a cost of Rs.1.65 crore and started functioning from 16.10.2024.

New building for working women hostels are being constructed at Tiruvannamalai, Krishnagiri (Hosur) and Chengalpet (St.Thomas Mount) at a total cost of Rs.35.87 Crores to benefit 442 Working Women.

To meet the growing demand among working women, new Thozhi Hostels will be constructed through TNWWHCL in important cities such as Chennai, Coimbatore & Madurai at a cost of Rs.57.83 crore benefitting 700 women.

Taking forward, this initiative has been extended to Tier II cities to enable women from smaller towns to take up employment. During the year 2025-26, new building for working women hostels will be constructed in cities as Nagapattinam, Cuddalore, Theni, Dharmapuri, Krishnagiri, Kanicheepuram, Sivagangai, Ranipet, Karur and Erode at a cost of Rs.71.81 crore benefitting 750 women.

Land have been identified in all districts to construct the Working Women Hostel to ensure atleast one working women hostel run by the Government in each district. New buildings will be constructed in phased manner after ensuring

the feasibility and demand among working women.

2.2.6 Marriage Assistance Schemes

Poverty lowers women status in society and thereby impedes her empowerment. Marriage assistance schemes are implemented to alleviate the financial problems of poor widows, orphaned girls, remarried widows and inter-caste married couples.

2.2.6.1 Dr. Muthulakshmi Reddy Ninaivu Inter-caste Marriage Assistance Scheme (1968)

With an aim to eradicate caste based discrimination and to promote equality in the society, Inter-caste marriage assistance scheme is being implemented since the year 1968. This scheme is implemented under two categories.

Scheme-I: Either of the spouse of the Inter-caste married couples should be from scheduled

caste or scheduled tribe while the other spouse may be from any other community.

Scheme –II: Either of the spouse should be from forward / other community and the other spouse may be from backward/most backward community.

The bride must have completed 18 years of age and there is no income limit for availing assistance under these schemes. Each beneficiary is provided with 8 gram (22 carat) gold coin along with cash assistance as follows:

Category	Total financial assistance (Rs) along with 8 gram gold coin	Financial assistance through ECS (Rs)	Financial Assistance as NSC Bond in post office (Rs)
12 th Standard completed	25,000	15,000	10,000
Degree/Diploma	50,000	30,000	20,000

2.2.6.2 Dr. Dharmambal Ammaiyar Ninaivu Widow Remarriage Assistance Scheme (1975)

To remove stigma and discrimination against widow women in the society and to ensure their rights, Dr.Dharmambal Ammaiyar Ninaivu widow remarriage assistance scheme was initiated in the year 1975.

There is no income ceiling and minimum educational qualification for availing benefit under this scheme. Each beneficiary is provided with 8 gram (22 carat) gold coin along with cash assistance as follows:

Category	Total financial assistance (Rs) along with 8 gram gold coin	Financial assistance through ECS (Rs)	Financial Assistance as NSC Bond in post office (Rs)
Non- Degree	25,000	15,000	10,000
Degree/Diploma	50,000	30,000	20,000

2.2.6.3 E.V.R. Maniammaiyyar Ninaivu Marriage Assistance Scheme for Daughters of Poor Widows (1982)

Poor widows face significant challenges due to social stigma, economic dependence and lack of awareness. To tackle this, widow daughter marriage assistance scheme is being implemented since the year 1982.

Under this scheme, financial assistance of Rs.25,000 for non-graduates and Rs.50,000 for degree / diploma holders is given along with 8 gram (22 carat) gold coin. The annual family income has been fixed as Rs.1.20 lakhs to apply under this scheme. Widows receiving widow pension under Social Security Schemes, shall submit widow pension certificate instead of income certificate to avail scheme benefits.

2.2.6.4 Annai Theresa Ninaivu Marriage Assistance Scheme for Orphan Girls (1985)

To provide social security to orphan girls and support them to meet their marriage expenses, the Government launched orphan girls marriage assistance scheme during the year 1985.

Under this scheme, financial assistance of Rs.25,000 for non-graduates and Rs.50,000 for degree / diploma holders is given along with 8 gram (22 carat) gold coin. There is no income ceiling and minimum educational qualification for availing benefit under this scheme.

Eligibility Criteria for Marriage Assistance Scheme

<i>Name of the Marriage assistance Scheme</i>	<i>Annual Income Limit</i>	<i>Minimum Age Limit</i>	<i>Educational Qualification</i>	<i>Time for submitting application</i>
Dr.Muthulakshmi Reddy intercaste marriage assistance scheme	No Income limit	Bride - 18 yrs, Bridegroom - 21 yrs.	Minimum a pass in Std 10 th , Std 5 th for scheduled Tribes	Within two years after the date of marriage
Dr.Dharmambal Ammaiyar – widow remarriage assistance scheme	No Income limit	Bride - 20 yrs, Bridegroom - 40 yrs. (Maximum)	Nil	Within 6 months after the date of remarriage
E.V.R. Maniammaiyar - poor widow daughter marriage assistance scheme	Rs.1.20 lakhs(except widow receiving widow pension under social security schemes)	Bride - 18 yrs, Bridegroom - 21 yrs.	Nil	40 days before the date of marriage
Annai Theresa - orphan girls marriage assistance scheme	No Income limit	Bride - 18 yrs, Bridegroom - 21 yrs.	Nil	40 days before the date of marriage

During the year 2024-25, totally 7963 have benefitted through the above four marriage assistance schemes to tune of Rs.98.16 crore.

A sum of Rs. 68.52 Crore has been provided in the Budget Estimate for the year 2025–2026 for the above schemes.

**2.2.7 Sathiyavani Muthu Ammaiya Ninaivu
Free Supply of Sewing Machines**

Every year under the Annai Sathiyavani Muthu Ammaiya free supply of sewing machine scheme, Motorised sewing machines are provided to the beneficiaries including women in the age of 20-40 years, widows, destitute, deserted women, socially affected women and those from economically weaker sections.

This initiative provides women with self-employment opportunities enabling them to earn and support their families. For the year 2024 – 2025, a total of 3766 beneficiaries will receive Motorised Sewing Machines at an estimated expenditure of Rs.2.08 Crore.

In the Budget Estimates for the financial year 2025-2026, Rs. 2.00 crore has been allocated for this scheme.

2.2.8 Women Industrial Co-operative Societies

Women living below poverty line and those with a tailoring certificate, age of 18 to 40 years, can enroll and become members of the Women Industrial Co-operative Societies. These societies provide them with employment opportunities by engaging them in stitching school uniforms. The wages they earn help them support their families and improve their livelihoods.

Currently, 99 Women Industrial Tailoring Co-operative Societies and one Transgender tailoring society operate under the supervision of the Commissioner of Social Welfare. Additionally 25 Weaning Food Industrial Co-operative Societies function under the administration of the Director cum Mission Director of ICDS.

Through these Co-operative Societies, four sets of uniforms are stitched and provided to children benefiting from the noon meal scheme in Government and Government aided schools.

Details of Co-operative Societies and members enrolled are as follows:

Sl. No	Type of Society	No. of Co-operative Societies	No. of enrolled members
1.	Women Tailoring Industrial Co-operative Societies.	99	84332
2.	Weaning food Manufacturing Women Industrial Co-operative Societies	25	996
3.	Third Gender Tailoring Industrial Co-operative Society	1	68
Total		125	85396

In the academic year 2024-2025, 33.71 lakh school children have been provided with 4 sets of uniforms. The Stitching charges to the tune of Rs.101.89 crore has been sanctioned.

2.2.9 Mission Shakti

"Mission Shakti" is a comprehensive umbrella scheme launched by the Government

of India to strengthen efforts focused on women's safety, security, and empowerment. Funded under the 15th Finance Commission grant, this initiative represents a unified approach to advance gender equality.

Mission Shakti is implemented with a vision to create a society which empowers women, enable them to participate in decision making, contribute to economic growth, gender equality, sustainable development, and a safe and secure environment for all women.

Sub-Schemes of Mission Shakti

Mission Shakti consists of two main sub-schemes: one dedicated to women's safety (Sambal) and the other focused on women's empowerment (Samarthya).

- **Safety Sub-Scheme (Sambal)** includes initiatives such as One Stop Centres (OSC),

Women Helpline-181 (WHL), Save Girl Child, Educate Girl Child (BBBP).

- **Empowerment Sub-Scheme (Samarthya)** covers programs like Short Stay Homes (Sakthi Sadan), Construction of Working Women Hostels, Gender Budgeting, and the Hub for Empowerment of Women (Sankalp).

Objectives of Mission Shakti

- To provide immediate and comprehensive continuum of care to women affected by violence.
- Rescue, protection and rehabilitation of affected women.
- Awareness on welfare schemes and legislation against social evils.
- Capacity building and training of functionaries on various schemes and legislations.

- To prevent gender biased sex selective elimination and thereby ensure survival, protection, education and development of girl children.
- To promote awareness and bring about a positive behavioral change in society towards women and children.

2.2.10 One Stop Centre-(OSC)

One Stop Centers are implemented throughout the state with 100% financial assistance from Government of India, to provide integrated support and assistance under single roof for the women who are affected by violence both in private and public spaces within family, community and in workplace.

In Tamil Nadu 49 One Stop Centres (OSC) are functioning which includes 38 OSCs in all districts and 11 additional OSCs to Chennai, Coimbatore, Dindigul, Madurai Tirunelveli,

Trichy, Tuticorin, Salem, Tirupur, and Tiruvallur corporations and Perumbakkam in Chengalpattu District. These centers provide vital services such as temporary shelter, medical assistance, psycho-social support, free legal aid, police assistance, and counseling to women experiencing gender-based harassment and domestic violence.

One Stop Centres (OSC) are integrated with the Women's Helpline Center (181) through the common software application of the Advanced Computer Development Center (C-DAC).

All calls to the Women's Helpline are directly routed to the One Stop Centres (OSC) for immediate action.

Rs.18.62 Crore has been allocated for the Financial year 2025-2026.

2.2.11 Women Helpline -181 (WHL)

The Women Helpline provides 24x7 telecom services through a single universal toll-free number 181, to women affected by violence seeking support and information in India. Women Helpline -181 has been operational, since 2018, in Tamil Nadu.

181 Women Helpline (WHL) facilitates crisis intervention by integrating WHL with the "Emergency Response Support System (ERSS)" for emergency assistance and with One Stop Centres (OSCs) and other helplines for both emergency and non-emergency responses.

To ensure women's safety and rights, the Women Helpline is integrated with the OSCs, providing quality services while also increasing accessibility to these services.

Rs. 89 lakh has been allocated for the Financial year 2025-2026

2.2.12 State and District Hub for Empowerment of Women (HEW)

Hub for Empowerment of women (HEW) aims to facilitate inter-sectoral convergence of schemes and programs meant for women at the Central, State and District levels. The support under the Hub would be guiding, linking and hand holding women for their development.

HEW will act as Project Management Unit (PMU) at state level under Mission Shakti. The District Hubs have been established in all the 38 districts and works in convergence with line departments to create awareness about various women centric schemes of Central and State Government.

Rs.13.18 Crore has been allocated for the year 2025-2026.

2.2.13 Short Stay Homes – Shakti Sadan

The Short Stay Homes for Women and Girls (Swadhar Greh) scheme is implemented by the Ministry of Women and Child Development, Government of India, through the Department of Social Welfare. The scheme provides temporary accommodation, food, clothing, counselling, training, medical, and legal assistance to women in distress.

The funding pattern for the scheme is 60:40, with the Central Government and State Government sharing the costs. Women above 55 years can stay in these homes up to 60 years, after which they may be transferred to Old Age Homes if necessary.

In Tamil Nadu, 36 Short Stay Homes (i.e. 33 + 3) for Women and Girls (Swadhar Greh) are operational, run by voluntary organizations with funding from the Central and State Governments.

As per G.O. (Ms.) No.50, Social Welfare and Women Empowerment (SW3-2) Department, dated 19.08.2024, the GOI Scheme Ujjawala now renamed as Shakti Sadan implemented through Non Governmental Organisation in the State transferred from the Director of Child Welfare and Special Services and brought under the Control of Commissionerate of Social Welfare.

A sum of Rs.35.88 Crore has been provided in the Budget Estimate for the year 2025-2026.

2.2.14 Tamil Nadu State Policy for Women-2024

Social Welfare and Women Empowerment Department reflects the focus of the Government to ensure equal rights to women in education, health, family life, economic, political rights and a holistic empowerment of women in

Tamil Nadu. Various indicators and gender related data depict the advantageous position of the state in comparison to the national average.

Through an exclusive women's policy, released on 21.02.2024, the state intends to further narrow down the gap existing in the society by addressing the challenges such as gender disparity, social stereotyping, domestic violence, abuse, discrimination etc.

2.2.15 Tamil Nadu State Policy for Senior Citizens-2023

Tamil Nadu State Policy is formulated to serve the senior citizens of the State in a holistic manner thus enabling them to lead a safe, healthy, active and dignified life to promote an age friendly society through public and private partnerships. Through this policy the state will ensure timely access to health, nutrition, shelter, safety, security, financial stability and

protection from abuse which would enhance the quality of life of every senior citizen.

2.2.16 Social Legislations for Women

Each individual in the society are entitled for equal rights and opportunities. Social legislations are inspired from the Constitution and aims to address societal problems through legislative means. It ensures social justice and protection of socially disadvantaged section, particularly Women.

The Department implements following social legislations to protect women from violence and harassment:-

1. Dowry Prohibition Act, 1961 and State Rules, 2004
2. Protection of Women from Domestic Violence Act, 2005 and Rules, 2006

3. Tamil Nadu Hostels and Homes for Women and Children (Regulation) Act, 2014 and State Rules, 2015
4. Sexual Harassment of Women at the Workplace (Prevention, Prohibition, and Redressal) Act, 2013

2.2.17 Dowry Prohibition Act, 1961

The Dowry Prohibition Act was passed in 1961 and amended in 1989. It aims to curb the practice of dowry in the name of marital relationship and enforces stringent punishment for the offenders

- ❖ Tamil Nadu State Dowry Prohibition Rules have been framed in 2004 and the District Social Welfare Officers are designated as the Dowry Prohibition Officers.
- ❖ The District Level Advisory Committee have been formed in all the districts to enquire the complaints.

- ❖ The genuineness of the case is verified by District Social Welfare Officers and enquiry report is filed with the Police/ Court for filing case under Dowry Prohibition Act, 1961.
- ❖ Offences under this Act are cognizable offences, non-bailable and non compoundable.

Details of cases filed under Dowry Prohibition Act, 1961

S. No	Details	Jan – 2023 to Dec – 2023	Jan – 2024 to Dec – 2024
1	No. of cases registered at DSWOs	1580	1469
2	No. of cases redressed amicably	999	806
3	No. of cases reported to Police	581	582
4	No. of cases under process	-	81

2.2.18 Protection of Women from Domestic Violence Act, 2005

The Protection of Women from Domestic Violence Act, 2005 aims to provide violence free family environment. It protects the women from violence committed in multiple forms as physical, verbal, emotional, economic, religious, reproductive, financial abuse or sexual abuse, by intimate partner and his relatives.

Important Features of the Act

- ❖ Cases can be filed under this Act, even if other legal proceedings are pending between the Parties.
- ❖ This Act enables women to get immediate civil remedies within 60 days.
- ❖ Multiple judgments can also be obtained in a single case.
- ❖ Both petitioner and respondent can prefer Appeal to the Court of Sessions within 30 days from the date on which the order is made.
- ❖ The offences under this Act shall be cognizable and non-bailable.

Protection Officers

Protection Officer has been appointed in each district to help the aggrieved women to make an application and file petition/DIR for obtaining following reliefs :-

- protection order
- an order for monetary relief
- custody order
- residence order
- compensation order or
- more than one such order and
- free legal services.

Service Providers

The NGOs are notified as Service Providers under the Act to help aggrieved women

- in filing the Domestic Incident Report (DIR),

- provide accommodation in the short stay homes along with the children,
- counsel them and help to get medical treatment, if required.
- impart vocational training to secure employment for sustainable income.

Cases reported under the Protection of Women from Domestic Violence Act, 2005

S.No	Details	Jan – 2023 to Dec – 2023	Jan – 2024 to Dec – 2024
1	No. of Cases Reported	6125	5883
2	No. of cases not eligible for filling DIR / not willing for legal proceedings	3191	2469
3	No. of cases DIR filed in the court	2934	3257
4	No of cases under process	-	157

2.2.19 Tamil Nadu Hostels and Homes for Women and Children (Regulation) Act, 2014

The Government of Tamil Nadu has enacted an exclusive Act for Regulation of Hostels and Homes for Women and Children to ensure safe and secured accommodation.

The registration of Private Working Women Hostels has been made online through web portal: [**https://tnswp.com**](https://tnswp.com) since 01.07.2022 and renewal of License for hostel has been enabled from 28.04.2023.

At present the Government have issued Orders for developing portal for self-declaration-based auto-generated Licence Issuance mechanism through TNeGA for simplifying and streamlining the process of registration and issue of licence for working women hostels. This service will be listed and provided through E-sevai Centres. This

initiative enhances the regulation of all private working women hostels through simplified process and thereby ensuring safety of women staying for education & employment purpose.

2.2.20 Sexual Harassment of Women at the Workplace (Prevention, Prohibition, and Redressal) Act, 2013

Sexual harassment of women at the workplace affects their mental well-being, self-respect, and career progression. This law has been in force since 2013. Under Section 5 of this Act, District Collectors are appointed as District Officers by the Tamil Nadu Government.

In all workplaces with more than ten employees, Internal Committees must be formed as per Section 4 of this Act. District Social Welfare Officer is the Nodal officer for the Act at the district level. Action is being taken by the District Collector to form Internal

Committees in all offices (both Government and Private) in the district. Any organization failing to form Internal Committees will be penalized with a fine of up to Rs. 50,000. The government or local bodies have the power to cancel the license or registration of such organizations.

Local Committees have been formed by the District Collector for the protection of working women, to investigate complaints from establishments with lesser than ten employees and complaints against employers as per Section 6 of the Act,. These committees have been formed in all the districts.

The State Government has launched a web portal related to Internal Committees on 14.08.2024. This enables to monitor the formation and functioning of internal committees in all workplaces. The web portal address is **<https://www.tnswd-poshicc.tn.gov.in/>**.

Details of members of Local Committees and

Internal Committees are uploaded on the portal. The Ministry of Women and Child Development has also launched a web portal for women's safety, **<https://www.shebox.wcd.gov.in/>**.

To further ensure the safety of women employees, the Tamil Nadu Government is diligently monitoring the formation of Internal Committees. Between 2013 and 2023, only 15,862 Internal Committees were formed, but **the number has now been increased to 43,783 Internal Committees.**

2.2.21 Textile Industry Coalition tripartite for Gender Equality and Women Safety in Textile Industries

In order to ensure Gender equality and Empowerment of Women, tripartite MoU was signed between the Department of Social Welfare and Women Empowerment, the Department of Handlooms, Handicrafts, Textiles, and Khadi, and the United Nations Women organizations (UN Women). This tripartite MoU

was signed in the presence of Honorable Social Welfare and Women Empowerment Minister on 14.08.2024.

This Coalition will unite certified brands, Manufacturers/Government Institutions, Trade Unions and Non-Governmental Organization and Research institutions within the textile sector, where women constitute a major portion of the workforce. This initiative will be implemented in Coimbatore, Tiruppur, Erode, Karur and Dindigul districts for three years.

Textile Industry coalition has devising procedures and protocols for immediate action on Zero Tolerance against violence and Sexual Harassment on women and creating awareness involving all relevant stakeholders.

2.2.22 Tamil Nadu State Commission for Women

The Government have constituted the State Commission for Women in the year 1993,

to inquire specific problems relating to women and to take action to provide speedy relief to the petitioners. Tamil Nadu State Commission for Women Act, 2008 has been enacted to make the Commission as a quasi-judicial body. Women Commission has to be reconstituted once in 3 years as per the Act.

The Commission is equipped with powers to safeguard rights of women and ensure their equality and equity, against any forms of harassment and issues faced in the family & community. The number of petitions received from aggrieved women in the year 2024 is 3324 on which action was taken by the Commission. The Women Prisons and newly formed One Stop Centres are visited by the Commission and recommendations are suggested to improve their functions as well as the facilities to inmates. Internship has been provided to 80 college students from various disciplines, to

make them aware about the steps being taken by the Government, to protect women from all sorts of violence.

Free Legal Aid Clinic has been setup in the premises of the commission to provide legal counselling to petitioners in need of it. The Commission has launched its exclusive website- tnwomencommission.tn.gov.in on 30.09.2024 to reach more women about its functions. The Women Commission has conducted awareness programmes to college students on packed foods and decoding nutritional information on their labels and health camp for 200 women inmates in Puzhal prison as part of National Nutrition Month - 2024 celebrations. To commemorate the 16 days campaign on Elimination of violence against Women, one capacity building programme for stake holders was also organised, to strengthen institutional network for women safety.

The present Tamil Nadu State Commission for Women was reconstituted, with Chairperson and seven other members to perform the functions of the Commission.

A sum of Rs. 58.53 has been provided to Tamil Nadu State Commission for Women for its administrative expenses in the Budget estimate for the year 2025-26.

2.2.23 Widows and Destitute Women Welfare Board

To address the issues faced by Widows, Destitute Women and Spinsters and to improve their livelihoods, ensuring safety and dignity in society; by providing education, healthcare, Self-employment opportunities and providing vocational training etc. the Widows and Destitute Women Welfare Board was formed.

To enable Widows, Destitute women and Spinsters, to register as a member in the

Widows and Destitute Women Welfare board, a Web Application was launched by the Hon'ble Deputy Chief Minister on 18.06.2024. As on date 57,569 Women have registered as members through this web application. Widows, Destitute Women and Spinsters can register themselves via smart phones, e-Seva centres and at District Social Welfare offices through **www.tnwidowwelfareboard.tn.gov.in** Web-Application.

50 Awareness seminars were conducted in all 39 districts of Tamil Nadu at a cost of Rs.50.00 Lakh, to disseminate awareness about various schemes implemented by the Government and laws pertaining to women safety and protection.

In continuation of the announcement made by the Hon'ble Minister to create Self-employment opportunity to 200 registered members at a cost of Rs.1.00 crore, the amount of Rs.50,000/- is given as Seed Money as

individual contribution against the bank loan sanctioned under the Self-employment schemes of Tamil Nadu Adidraavidar Housing and Development Corporation and District Industries Centre to encourage Widows, Destitute Women and Spinsters to become effective entrepreneur.

2.3 STATE AWARDS

2.3.1 Avvaiyar Award (March 8th)

The Avvaiyar Award is given to one eminent woman who has rendered excellent service in any of the field as social reform, women development, communal harmony, service for language, service in various disciplines in art, science, culture, press, administration, etc., on the International Women's Day which is being celebrated on March 8th every year. The recipient of the Avvaiyar Award is given cash award of Rs.1.50 lakh as cheque, a shawl, and a citation.

2.3.2 Best Social Worker Award and Best Institution Award (August 15th)

Best social worker and Best institution awards are given to encourage the best social services rendered by institutions and individuals for the welfare of women. On every Independence Day- 15th August, Best social worker award is given as Rs.50,000 cash award and a citation and Best Institution award is given as Rs.1,00,000 cash award.

2.3.3 Kalpana Chawla Award (August 15th)

The KalpanaChawla Award is given for the courage and daring enterprises of women, during Independence Day, 15th August every year. The award is conferred in the form of Gold coated Silver Medal along with a cash prize of Rs. 5,00,000/- and a certificate.

2.4 TRANSGENDERS WELFARE

Transgender people have a gender identity or gender expression that differs from their sex assigned at birth. Transgender people, face significant stigma and discrimination from families and society, often leading to harassment and limited opportunities. The Supreme Court judgement in National legal services authority Vs Union of India, 2014 recognised transgender, including transwomen, transmen and inter-sex persons, and gave constitutional rights.

Many transgender individuals are rejected by their families and neighbours, forcing them to discontinue their education and leave home, often without essential documents like birth certificates, educational records, community certificates, ration cards and voter IDs. Recognizing these challenges, the Government is committed to improve their quality of life and foster self-confidence through various initiatives.

2.4.1 Tamil Nadu Transgenders Welfare Board

Tamil Nadu has consistently led the way in implementing innovative welfare schemes for transgender individuals. As a pioneering step towards transgender welfare, the Tamil Nadu Government established the Transgenders Welfare Board in 2008, with the Hon'ble Minister for Social Welfare and Women Empowerment, as its chairperson. The board comprises 11 official members and 13 non-official members which implements various welfare programmes for the transgender persons as:-

- ❖ Transgender Identity card
- ❖ Monthly pension
- ❖ Free Bus travel
- ❖ Financial assistance for Higher Education

- ❖ Individual and business oriented skill development training
- ❖ Provision of cash assistance upto Rs. 50,000/- per person to promote self-employment.
- ❖ Transgender Award.

2.4.2 Transgender Identity Card

To provide recognition and gender identity, a mobile app “Thirunangaigal” was developed for transgenders since Feb 2021, to register themselves for easy access to online identity cards. Till 31.03.2025, around 9993 persons have been issued online transgender identity cards.

2.4.3 Monthly Pension Scheme for Transgender

The Government introduced a Pension scheme for destitute transgender who are above 40 years of age and unable to earn to meet out their daily living. From March 2023 onwards,

monthly pension amount has been enhanced from Rs.1000 to Rs.1500 under this scheme. Under this scheme, 1599 transgender persons are benefitted during the year 2024-2025.

2.4.4 Higher Education Scheme for Transgenders

Recognizing the crucial role of higher education in their socio-economic advancement and overall success, the state government has launched the Higher Education Assistance Scheme in the year 2024. This initiative addresses the low enrollment of transgender students in higher education by covering all educational expenses, including tuition and hostel fees, for all transgender persons who wish to pursue higher education. By providing financial assistance and removing barriers to education, this scheme empowers transgender individuals to achieve their full potential and contribute to society.

2.4.5 Self Employment Assistance to Transgender persons

Due to social exclusion, abuse, harassment, denial of educational opportunities, transgender persons are restricted from employment prospects. To support their livelihood opportunities, Self employment assistance upto a sum of Rs.50,000/- is being provided to 200 persons every year through Transgender Welfare Board.

2.4.6 The Transgender Persons (Protection of Rights) Act, 2019 and The Tamil Nadu State Transgender Persons (Protection of Rights) Rules, 2022

Transgender individuals face significant societal challenges, including discrimination, violence and economic marginalization, which hinder their access to education and employment. To combat these issues, the Central Government passed the Transgender Persons (Protection of Rights) Act in the year

2019, followed by the Tamil Nadu State Transgender Persons (Protection of Rights) Rules in December 2022. The Tamil Nadu Government had published a glossary in English and Tamil, for words and expressions regarding LGBTQIA + terms, for print media, in the Government Gazette in the year 2022, in a first-of-its-kind move in the country.

Salient Features of the Act

The Act aims to legally recognize transgender identities, protect their rights and prohibit discrimination across various sectors, including education, employment, healthcare, property rights, public office and access to public services. This Act allows Transgenders to be issued identity certificates without requiring any medical or physical examination, mandates sensitisation and training of teachers and staff and ensure separate hospital wards for transgender persons.

2.4.7 Transgender Award

To recognize transgender individuals who have made significant contributions to the well-being of the transgender community and built successful careers through their own efforts, a State level Best Transgender award is given since the year 2020. This award is given to a deserving transgender every year on 15th April, “Transgender Day” which includes a cheque of Rs. 1.00 lakh and a citation.

2.5 Senior Citizen Welfare

In India any person who has attained the age of 60 and above is legally termed as ‘Senior Citizen’. Senior citizens are treasure troves of knowledge and experience and thus form a valuable and integral part of the society. According to the report ‘Elderly in India 2021’ released by Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation, Government of India, the elderly population of Tamil Nadu is projected to

increase to 18.20% in 2031. The Government is committed to provide a protective and conducive ecosystem for its senior citizens and is constantly addressing the challenges towards creating an enabling environment through various schemes and initiatives. The State is fully committed to fulfil the mandatory obligations stipulated in the Maintenance and Welfare of Parents and Senior Citizens Act, 2007 towards all senior citizens.

2.5.1 Old Age Homes run by the NGOs with State Grants

In order to safeguard the life of destitute elders above 60 years of age who are abandoned by their families, the State Government is providing maintenance grant for the old age homes run by the Non-Governmental Organisations at the sharing pattern of 5:1 between the State and NGO. Food, shelter, clothing, health care, recreational facilities, expenses on final rites

etc are provided in these homes. In each home 40 inmates can be accommodated and Rs.1,200/- as feeding grants per month per person is sanctioned. In the financial year 2024-2025, 773 elders have been benefited from 23 Old Age Homes.

A sum of Rs.1.45 Crore has been provided in the Budget Estimate for the year 2025-2026.

2.5.2 Integrated Complexes for Senior Citizen and Destitute Children

Integrated Complex of Special Homes for Senior Citizens and Destitute Children are run with the financial support from the State Government in a sharing ratio 75:25 between State and NGO. In each Integrated Complex, 25 elders and 25 children are accommodated. Rs.1200/- per month per elder and Rs.900/- per month per child is given as feeding grants. In Tamil Nadu for the

financial year 2024-2025, 43 Integrated Complexes were provided grants in which 847 children and 1007 senior citizens were benefitted.

A sum of Rs.6.625 Crore has been provided in the Budget Estimate for the year 2025-2026.

2.5.3 Integrated Programme for Senior Citizens (IPSrC)

The Union Government with recommendation from State Government provides grants directly to NGOs for implementing 68 old age homes, 1 continuous care home, 2 physiotherapy clinics, 2 Mobile Medicare Units and 1 Regional Resource Training Centre grants released at the ratio of 90:10 (GoI: NGO).

2.5.4 Senior Citizen Helpline (14567)

The toll free senior citizen helpline number '14567' is being operated since

28.04.2021. It is functional from 8 a.m. to 8 p.m. on all days.

The following services are provided through elder helpline:

- ❖ Rescue services
- ❖ Information on Old Age Homes
- ❖ Information on senior citizen welfare schemes
- ❖ Psycho Social Counseling
- ❖ Legal guidance on the provision of the Maintenance and Welfare of Parents and Senior Citizens Act, 2007

From 17th May 2021 up to March 2025, the calls received under this helpline is 2,16,661.

2.5.5 The Maintenance and Welfare of Parents and Senior Citizens Act, 2007

The Act provides statutory protection for the maintenance and welfare of parents and

senior citizens. In order to implement the Act the State has framed rules in 2009.

As per the Act, the children and legal heirs have the bounded duty to take care of their parents. A senior citizen including parent who is unable to maintain himself from his own earning or property owned by him, shall be entitled to make an application to the Tribunal set up under this Act on issues related to the physical health, mental health and property for which they can get relief.

Salient features of the Act

- This Act includes senior citizens and biological, adoptive, step father, step mother as parents.
- Any senior citizen who is aggrieved or not being maintained by their children/legal heirs can file a petition before the Maintenance Tribunal constituted under

this Act at the revenue divisional level for receiving a maintenance allowance upto a maximum of Rs.10,000/- per month. A petition filed under this Act for maintenance allowance shall be disposed off within 90 days.

- If the person responsible for the care and protection of senior citizen abandons him, such person is liable for punishment with imprisonment for three months or fine up to Rs.5,000/- or with both.
- If any senior citizen who after the commencement of this act, i.e. 31.12.2009 has transferred by way of gift his property to his children or legal heirs, subject to the condition that the transferee shall look after them and such transferee fails to do so, then the parent or senior citizen shall give a petition to cancel the gift deed.

Grievance Redressal under the Act

Maintenance Tribunal

Revenue Divisional Officers (RDO) are appointed as Maintenance Tribunal by the Government under section 7 of the Act for the purpose of adjudicating, deciding and issuing orders for maintenance application under section 5 of the Act. There are 94 such Tribunals functioning in the State. The tribunals have been vested with the powers of a Civil Court.

Conciliation and Maintenance Officer

As per 18(1) of this act, District Social Welfare Officer (DSWO) is notified as the Conciliation and Maintenance Officer. If an aggrieved senior citizen and the opposite party agree to compromise, then the tribunal shall refer the case to DSWO or appoint such person acceptable to both parties by forwarding the

related documents to work out a settlement agreeable to both parties within 30 days.

Under Section 18(2) of the Act, Government has nominated the DSWO as Maintenance Officer who shall represent a parent, if the parent so desires, during the proceedings of the Tribunal or Appellate Tribunal, as the case may be.

Appellate Tribunal

The State Government has designated the District Collector as Appellate Tribunal who will hear the appeal petition against the orders passed by the Maintenance Tribunal. An appeal can be made within 60 days by the appellant against the orders of the Tribunal.

2.5.6 State and District Committee for the welfare of Senior Citizens

Government has constituted a High-Level Advisory Committee, viz., State Council for Senior Citizen, under the Chairmanship of Chief

Secretary at the State level and District Committee under the Chairmanship of District Collector of the respective district for the effective implementation of the Maintenance and welfare of Parents and Senior Citizens Act, 2007.

2.5.7 Establishment of Special stay facilities at Spiritual tourist places

For the welfare of the destitute elders, special stay facilities have been established in 6 old age homes in 7 spiritual tourist places at an estimated cost of Rs. 40.00 lakhs and the project is being implemented.

2.5.8 Providing training in Yoga, Breathing exercises and Meditation to elders in Old Age Home receiving state grant

Yoga, Breathing exercise and Meditation is being given to 2020 elders residing in 23 OAH and 44 IC which receive State grants.

2.5.9 Identification of unregistered homes and hostels by the Multi-Disciplinary Task Force

To ensure that Children's Homes, Old Age Homes, Women's Homes, and Working Women's Hostels operating in the districts comply with government regulations and to identify and register unregistered homes and hostels, a multi-departmental task force was established in each district from October 24, 2024. This task force has been instructed to conduct continuous inspections of all homes and hostels and submit reports accordingly.

Through the efforts of this task force, by February 2025, 32 new Old Age Homes and 14 Working Women's Hostels have been identified. Additionally, 45 unregistered Old Age Homes and 1,436 unregistered Working Women's Hostels have been identified, and steps are being taken by District Social Welfare Officers to register them through the online portal.

CHAPTER – 3

Puratchi Thalaivar M.G.R. Nutritious Meal Programme

“ஆற்றுவார் ஆற்றல் பசி ஆற்றல் அப்பசியை

மாற்றுவார் ஆற்றலின் பின்”

குறள் - 225

3.(a). Chief Minister's Breakfast Scheme

In the year 2022, a historical scheme **Chief Minister's Breakfast Scheme (CMBFS)** was launched by Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu, which yields a positive outcome viz increase in attendance, enhanced attention span, reduction in morbidity rates in primary school going children.

3.1.1. Objectives

- To ensure that children attend school without hunger,
- To enhance the nutritional status of the children

- To increase the attendance and learning skills of the children
- To decrease the burden of the working mothers

3.1.2. Milestones of Chief Minister's Breakfast Scheme

Dates	Milestones
07.05.2022	Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu announced provision of Breakfast to Government primary school children in the floor Assembly under Rule 110.
15.09.2022	Hon'ble Chief Minister had Launched CMBFS in Madurai on pilot basis.
01.03.2023	Expansion of CMBFS to Government primary school in corporation and municipality areas.
25.08.2023	Further expansion of CMBFS to all Government primary schools in Tamil Nadu.
15.07.2024	Further more expansion of CMBFS to all Government aided primary schools in rural areas.

As of February 2025, 17.53 lakh students of 34,987 schools are being benefitted under Chief Minister's Breakfast Scheme.

3.1.3 Implementing agencies

- Schools in Chennai are covered by Greater Chennai Corporation.
- Schools in other corporations except Chennai and all municipalities & town panchayats (adjacent to corporation/municipality) are covered by Directorate of Municipal Administration.
- Schools in all village panchayats & town panchayats (adjacent to village panchayat) are covered by Tamil Nadu Corporation for Development of Women.

3.1.4 Menu for Breakfast

Mondays & Thursdays	Uppuma variety	Rava / Semiya / Rice / Wheat rava
Tuesdays & Fridays	Kitchadi variety	Rava / Semiya / Wheat rava with vegetables
Wednesdays	Pongal variety	Rice / Rava
• Vegetable sambar will be provided on all days		

3.1.5 Method of Implementation

The Chief Minister's Breakfast Scheme is implemented in two modes.

- (i) Centralized kitchen in urban areas through Greater Chennai Corporation and Directorate of Municipal Administration.
- (ii) Respective school kitchen in rural areas by Self Help Groups through Tamil Nadu Corporation for Development of Women.

3.1.6 Monitoring Mechanism

a. CMBFS App

An exclusive mobile Application and web-based dashboard has been developed for real time monitoring of CMBFS. The following entries like cooking start time, cooking end time, loading and delivering time (Urban) and serving time are made in the App in all the centres by SHGs (Rural) and in charge person (Urban).

b. Monitoring Committees

- State level Steering Committee
- State level Monitoring Committee
- District level Monitoring Committee
- Greater Chennai Corporation Monitoring Committee
- Corporation Monitoring Committee
- Municipal level Monitoring Committee
- Block level Monitoring Committee
- School level Monitoring Committee.

Findings of the State Planning Commission on CMBFS

State Planning Commission has conducted the evaluation of the Chief Minister's Breakfast Scheme the findings of the study are as follows:-

Children	• Improved eating behavior • Fostered Positive Habits • Socialization with other children • Perceived improvement in child's health • Increased willingness to go to School • Improvement in studies • Improved engagement in class
Family	• Reduction in workload and increased availability of time • Money saved • Reduced guilt and fear • Sense of assurance regarding child's morning food
School	• Increase in School Strength • Reduced Absenteeism and late comers • Increased engagement in class and sports / play activities

The report also has found that

- the breakfast scheme led to a 63.2 percent decline in hospital admissions among primary class children in government schools and a 70.6 percent reduction in serious illnesses between December 2023 and December 2024.
- Students suffering from serious illnesses reduced by about 80.3 percent in urban schools and about 68.9 percent in rural schools.
- While the rate of hospitalization of boys and girls decreased by about 57.1 percent and 64.7 percent respectively, boys and girls suffering from serious illnesses reduced by 72.9 percent and 67.5 percent respectively.

3.1.7. Budget provision

A sum of Rs.600.25 Crore has been earmarked in the budget for the year 2025 - 26 for the implementation of Chief Minister's Breakfast Scheme to all Government Primary School Children and Government Aided Primary School Children in rural areas.

3.(b). Puratchi Thalaivar M.G.R. Nutritious Meal Programme

Tamil Nadu is a pioneer State that introduced the visionary Mid-Day Meal Scheme in the year 1920 in Madras Municipal Corporation. Subsequently, the scheme was extended to all the primary schools throughout the State by the former Chief Minister Thiru. K.Kamarajar during the year 1962. In the year 1982, the scheme was structured as Nutritious Meal Programme and covered all Government and Government aided primary and upper

primary schools by the then Chief Minister Dr.M.G.Ramachandran.

In order to ensure the provision of protein rich food and to address malnutrition among the school children, former Chief Minister Dr. Kalaingar M. Karunanidhi, introduced provision of egg along with noon meal in 1989. Variety of hot cooked nutritious meal is being provided to the children in primary school, middle school and High school up to 10th Std.

Government of India followed the Tamil Nadu mid-day meal scheme and implemented it to school children across the country in the year 1995 for students studying upto 8th Std.

3.2.1 Objectives of the scheme

- Motivate children to attend school regularly.
- Maximize enrollment and reduce dropout rate in schools.
- Universalization of the primary education.

- Improving the nutritional status of children.
- Enhancing the literacy rate of the children.
- By providing more employment opportunities to women under nutritious meal scheme and empower them economically.

3.2.2 Salient Features of the Scheme

- i. Primary school children in the age group of 5-9 years and upper primary school children in the age group 10-15 years are provided with hot cooked nutritious variety meal along with masala eggs for 220 school working days.
- ii. As per Food entitlement norms, 100 gm rice per child per day for primary school children (1st-5th std) and 150 gm rice per child per day for upper primary and high school (6th-10th std) students are being provided.

3.2.3 Evolution of Nutritious Meal Programme

Year	Growth of Nutritious Meal Programme
1920	Started in Municipal Corporation Chennai.
1962	Started Nutritious meal programme all over Tamil Nadu.
1982	Started Puratchi Thalaivar M.G.R Nutritious meal programme.
1984	Expanded the programme to 6 th std to 10 th std children.
1989	Introduced one egg fortnightly.
1998	Introduced one egg per week for 2-15 year children.
2004	One egg per week for 2-15 year children was reintroduced.
2006	Introduced two eggs per week for 2-15 year children.
2007	Initiated three eggs per week for 2-15 year children and launched one egg per week for 1-2 year children.
2010	Introduced five eggs per week for 5-15 year children.
2014	Introduced variety meal with masala eggs.

3.2.4. Details of Nutritious Meal Programme Beneficiaries

S. No	Standards	No.of Nutritious Meal Centres	No.of Beneficiaries
1	Primary (1 st Std to 5 th Std)	26,935	19,36,976
2	Upper primary(6 th Std to 8 th Std)	16,103	14,49,794
3	9 th and 10 th standard		6,95,177
Total		43,038	40,81,947

3.2.5 Types of Menu provided in Nutritious Meal Programme

a) Variety Menu

As of now, variety menu with 5 kinds of egg masala is being provided as a special nutritional intervention.

The Government has issued an order fixing the present nutritious meal menu with changes by providing "**Rice and Bengal Gram Gravy**" on 1st & 3rd week Tuesdays of every

month and **“Rice with Mixed Vegetable sambar”** on 2nd & 4th week Tuesdays of every month based on the preferences and the palatability of children. Further, changes have been made in the weekly menu of the midday meal scheme from 01.11.2024 based on the preferences and tastes of the school children.

Days		First and third week		Second and fourth week
Monday		Vegetable biriyani with pepper egg		Sambar sadham (Bisibelabath) with onion tomato masala egg.
Tuesday		Rice and black bengal gram gravy with tomato masala egg.		Rice with mixed vegetable sambar and pepper egg
Wednesday		Tomato rice with pepper egg		Tamarind rice with tomato masala egg

Days		First and third week		Second and fourth week
Thursday		Rice, sambar and boiled egg		Lemon rice, sundal and tomato egg
Friday		Curry leaf rice / keerai sadham with masala egg and chilly fried potato.		Rice, sambar and boiled egg with fried potato.

b) Additional Nutrition

Food provided		Quantity
	Black bengal gram / Green gram	20g (weekly once)
		

<i>Food provided</i>		<i>Quantity</i>
	Potato	20g (weekly once)
	Egg	"A" - agmark graded weighing 46g - 52g (five days in a week)
	Banana	100g (to the non-egg eaters)

c) Double Fortified Salt

Double fortified salt with iodine and iron are used for cooking.

d) Double fortified oil:

Double fortified oil with vitamin "A" and "D" is being used daily in the Nutritious Meal Programme.

3.2.6 Entitlement nutritional norms per child per day under Nutritious Meal Programme

S. No	Stages	GoI Norms		Provided by State Government	
		Calories (kcl)	Protein (gms)	Calories (kcl)	Protein (gms)
1.	Primary School	450.00	12.00	557.00	18.92
2.	Upper primary	700.00	20.00	735.00	22.77
3.	9 th & 10 th std	---	---	735.00	22.77

3.2.7 Pradhan Mantri POSHAN Shakti Nirman (PM POSHAN)

Government of India (GoI) started the National Programme of Nutritional Support to primary schools (NP - NSPE) on 15th August 1995, and implemented it from 1997-1998. Then, it was extended to upper primary schools from October 2007 onwards. Presently, the GoI is implementing National Programme for Mid-Day Meal Scheme as "Pradhan Mantri POSHAN Shakti Nirman (PM POSHAN)"

The Government of India assists the scheme in the sharing pattern between Government of India and Government of Tamil Nadu in the ratio of 60:40. Moreover, 100% funding by Government of India is given for the cost of food grains (rice), transportation of food grains and Management, Monitoring and Evaluation (MME).

3.2.8. Cooking cost

The cost of other food materials are released by Government of India and Tamil Nadu as follows:-

(Per child per day cost in Rs.)

Class	GoI norms (60:40)	Centre (60%)	State (40%)	Additional state contribution	Total
Primary (1 st to 5 th Std)	6.19	3.71	2.48	4.80	10.99
Upper primary (6 th to 8 th Std)	9.29	5.57	3.72	2.40	11.69
9 th & 10 th Std	100% State Government contribution				16.42

3.2.9 Supply chain management of food commodities

As per the requirement of Nutritious meal centre, TNCSC supplies rice, dhal, fortified

cooking oil, fortified salt, black bengal gram and green gram at its doorstep. The cost of fuel, vegetables & condiments advance is credited to bank account of the noon meal organizers in advance for primary children at a enhanced rate of Rs.1.51/- to Rs.1.79/- per day per child and for upper primary children from Rs.1.65/- to Rs.2.11/- per day per child along with Rs.0.06/- to Rs. 1.25/- for fuel per day per child from 23.11.2023 once in three months.

Eggs weighing between 46 to 52 gram is supplied by the successful tenderer twice a week to the Nutritious meal centers. To prevent pilferages prescribed colored seal for is marked on the eggs.

3.2.10 Infrastructural facilities of Nutritious meal centers

Kitchen cum stores are constructed for cooking the nutritious meal and to store the food commodities safely. As a part of modernization

of NMP centers, gas connection provisions are made along with sufficient kitchen devices.

Government issued orders for the construction of 2100 Kitchen cum Stores to Nutritious meal centres at a total cost of Rs.173.26 Crores in a phased manner. During the current year, orders have been issued for the construction of 1000 Kitchen cum Stores at a total cost of Rs.81.40 Crore, construction work is in progress.

3.2.11 Monitoring Mechanism of Nutritious Meal Centre

- A monitoring system with three levels (state/district/block) is in place.
- As per the prescribed menu and operative procedures, NMP functionaries at field level monitor the quality and quantity of food.
- Before serving the Nutritious meal, the taste and quality of the food is checked by the headmasters and teachers at school level.

- Tamil Nadu is the pioneer state in ISO certification of Nutritious meal centre. So far 100 Nutritious meal centres are certified under International Organization for Standardization (ISO).



- Tamil Nadu is the only state which has registered all the Nutritious meal centres under Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI) Act which is being renewed every year.
- The accounts of NMP centres are placed in grama sabha conducted in village panchayats for transparency and accountability.

3.2.12 Supply of hygiene kit, commodity weighing scale

- Hygiene kit to 3000 Nutritious meal centers with 2 aprons, 1 head cap, 1 nail cutter, 5 hand towels, 6 anti-septic soaps have been provided to the noon meal cook / cook

assistants for the year 2024 -2025 at a total cost of Rs.19.55 lakhs.

- Commodity weighing scales are being supplied to 1000 Nutritious meal centers at a total cost of Rs.39.30 lakhs.

3.2.13 Supply of storage bins to Nutritious meal centres

- 15,142 Nutritious meal centers are provided with Storage bins at a total cost of Rs.1.82 crore to store the raw materials.

3.2.14 Capacity Building and Training

- In order to improve the updated knowledge and skill of the frontline functionaries in delivering their services, training programmes were imparted at all levels.
- Food Safety Training and Certification [FoSTaC] training was imparted to noon meal organizers, cook and cook assistant by

empaneled training partners registered under FSSAI and were given certificates.

- Millet mission training was conducted to 240 noon meal organizers by Anna administrative staff college, Chennai to understand the importance of the millets and to know the value of the nutrients covered in millets.

3.2.15 Social Audit

- Social audit has been carried out in 954 noon meal centers across the state through Social Audit Society of Tamil Nadu of Rural Development and Panchayat Raj department at a total cost of Rs.1.09 crore during the year 2024 – 2025.

3.2.16 Setting up of School nutrition garden

- 28,870 school nutrition gardens have been set up through special initiatives of Government of India.

- Schools are being motivated to set up the school nutrition garden to improve social responsibility, social behaviour, contribute to green earth and knowledge in science which enhances the knowledge of students.

3.2.17 Budget provision

A sum of Rs. 3492.19 Crore has been allotted in the Budget estimate of the year 2025 -2026 for implementing the Nutritious meal programme.

3.2.18 Budget Estimate for 2025-2026

(Rs in crore)

BE 2025-26	GoI Share	State Share	Exclusive State Share	Total State Share (3)+(4)
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)
3492.19	472.14	335.69	2684.36	3020.05

3.3 Human Resource Development

Each Noon meal centre is sanctioned with 3 posts viz.one Noon Meal Organiser, one cook and one cook assistant.

3.3.1 Scale of Pay

Noon Meal Employees are classified as 'Part Time Permanent Employees' and they are being paid under the following Special Time Scale of pay:-

Sl. No.	Post	Scale of Pay	GoI share
1.	Noon Meal Organiser	Rs. 7,700 - 24,200	Rs. 600
2.	Cook	Rs. 4,100- 12,500	Rs. 600
3.	Cook Assistant	Rs. 3000 – 9,000	Rs. 600

3.3.2 Festival Advance

All Noon Meal Employees are sanctioned with festival advance of Rs.10,000 every year. The advance amount will be deducted from their salary in 10 equal instalments.

3.3.3 Pongal Bonus

Rs.1,000 is being given to all Noon Meal employees every year as Bonus at the time of Pongal Festival (i.e) during January.

3.3.4 Hill Allowance and Winter Allowance

Hill Allowance and winter allowance are provided to all the Noon Meal Employees working in hilly areas. 20% of Basic Pay is being given as hill allowance throughout the year. Winter allowance is being given at the rate of 5% of basic pay for 4 months in a year.

3.3.5 Casual Leave

All Noon Meal Employees are provided with 12 days of casual leave every year.

3.3.6 Maternity Leave to Noon Meal Employees

The paid absence on Maternity Leave to married women Noon Meal Employees for 180 days is provided with effect from May 2015.

3.3.7 Compassionate Ground Appointment

Powers have been delegated to the District Collectors for providing compassionate ground appointments to the eligible female family members of the deceased Noon Meal Employees. Orders of the Government are being obtained and communicated where relaxation of rules if any required.

3.3.8 New Health Insurance Scheme

Under the New Health Insurance Scheme up to Rs. 5.00 lakhs is admissible for specialty medical treatment in a block of 4 years.

3.3.9 Family Benefit Fund:

Family benefit fund of Rs.5.00 lakh is being given to the family of deceased noon meal employees.

3.3.10 Additional charge allowance to Noon Meal Organiser

The Noon Meal Organiser who are provided with additional charge of another Noon Meal Centre are provided with an additional charge allowance of Rs.20/- per day till 29.12.2024. The additional amount has been enhanced to Rs.33/- per day with effect from 30.12.2024.

3.3.11 Retirement Benefits:

Cook and Cook Assistant retirement age has been increased from 58 to 60 years.

The noon meal worker, cook and cook Assistant are eligible for lump sum grant at the time of retirement, Rs.1,00,000/- is being to noon meal organizer Rs.50,000/- is being to

cook and cook assistant with effect from 01.10.2017, Noon meal employees are paid monthly special pension Rs.2000/- with effect from 01.10.2017.

The Noon Meal Employees are permitted to go on voluntary retirement on health grounds.

3.3.12 Special General Provident Fund:

Noon Meal Employees have been brought under the Special General Provident Fund Scheme from 01.08.2015 and 12 percent of their basic salary is deducted as monthly contribution.

3.3.13 Special Provident Fund:

A sum of Rs.70 is being recovered from the salary to the Noon Meal Employees till their retirement. The same will be paid at the time of their retirement along with interest (as per GPF interest rate). In addition, Rs.10,000 is also being paid as contribution of the Government.

Chapter – 4

INTEGRATED CHILD DEVELOPMENT SERVICES

Introduction

The ICDS scheme is a community - based flagship programme, aimed at promoting holistic development of children under the age of six, mothers by providing nutrition, health services and Preschool Education, as well as pregnant women and lactating mothers.

Introduced in 1975, ICDS has been instrumental in addressing the multifaceted Health and nutritional challenges faced by vulnerable populations, particularly in rural and marginalized communities.

The scheme operates through a network of 54,449 Anganwadi centres, which serve as the focal point for delivering a range of services including Supplementary Nutrition,

Immunization, Health Check-ups, Referral Services and Early Childhood Care and Education (ECCE).

4.1 VISION of POSHAN 2.0

Poshan 2.0 seeks to address the challenging situation of malnutrition among children below 6 years, adolescent Girls (14 – 18 years), pregnant women and lactating mothers.

- Poshan 2.0 shall contribute to the SDG's specifically, SDG 2 on Zero Hunger and SDG 4 on Quality Education.
- Poshan 2.0 shall focus on the fundamental importance of Nutrition and Early Childhood Care and Education for the well-being, Growth and Development of children into healthy and productive adults.
- Poshan 2.0 shall focus on Maternal Nutrition and Infant & Young Child feeding norms.

4.2 Objectives of POSHAN 2.0

To prepare a comprehensive strategy to address the challenge of malnutrition, the Supplementary Nutrition Programme under Anganwadi Services, Scheme for Adolescent Girls and Poshan Abhiyaan have been aligned under Poshan 2.0 as an Integrated Nutrition Support Programme. The objectives of Poshan 2.0 are as follows:

- To contribute to the country's human resource development.
- To tackle the challenges of malnutrition.
- To promote nutrition awareness and foster healthy eating habits for sustainable health and wellbeing,
- To address nutritional deficiencies through targeted strategies.

4.3 Services provided under ICDS:

- 1) Supplementary nutrition
- 2) Pre-school non formal education
- 3) Nutrition and health education
- 4) Health check up
- 5) Immunisation
- 6) Referral services.

Out of these six services, three services namely immunization, health check-ups and referral services are delivered through the National Health Mission and Public Health Infrastructure under the Health and Family Welfare department.

The main beneficiaries of the scheme are children and women, specifically, Children under the age of 6 years, Antenatal and Postnatal Mothers, Girls and Women aged 14 to 49 years, who are the primary recipients of benefits

including Supplementary Nutrition, Growth Monitoring, Immunization, Health checkups, Referral Services, Nutrition and Health Education and Early Childhood Care and Education. The selection of beneficiaries is carried out through a comprehensive family survey in the area, ensuring that every eligible individual can access the services without exclusion.

4.4 Project Beneficiaries

Category of beneficiaries	Service offered	Number of beneficiaries (as on February 2025)
6 months to 2 years children	Supplementary Nutrition, Immunization, Health Checkups, Referral Services.	10,32,591
2 to 3 years children	Supplementary Nutrition, Immunization, Health Checkups, Referral Services, Preschool Non formal Education.	4,08,732
3 to 6 years children		6,84,426

Category of beneficiaries	Service offered	Number of beneficiaries (as on February 2025)
Antenatal Mothers	Supplementary Nutrition, Immunization, Health Checkups, Referral Services and Nutrition and Health Education.	2,90,809
Postnatal Mothers		2,73,321
Adolescent Girls in the age group of 14 – 18 years in two aspirational districts (Virudhunagar and Ramanathapuram)	Supplementary Nutrition, Life Skill Education.	44,537
Total Beneficiaries		27,34,416

4.5 Project Cost / Budget Estimate for the year 2025 – 2026

(Rs. in crore)

Gross total project cost	GoI Share	State Share	Exclusive State Share	Total State Share (3+4)
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)
3817.65	863.94	741.82	2211.89	2953.71

The expenditure incurred is shared by the Government of India and State Government in the fund-sharing pattern of 50:50 in respect of Supplementary Nutrition, 60:40 in respect of Anganwadi Services.

4.6 Supplementary Nutrition

As one of the key services provided to beneficiaries enrolled in Anganwadi centers functioning under the Integrated Child Development Services (ICDS), the Supplementary Nutrition Programme plays a

prime role. Children in the age group of 6 months to 6 years, Pregnant Women, Lactating Mothers, and Adolescent Girls in the age group of 14-18 years in the two aspirational districts of Ramanathapuram and Virudhunagar, who are enrolled in Anganwadi centres, are benefiting from the Supplementary Nutrition Programme. This program is being implemented primarily to bridge the gap between the Recommended Dietary Allowance (RDA) and the Average Daily Intake (ADI), ensuring that these beneficiaries receive adequate nutrition by providing Supplementary Nutrition.

As per Mission Saksham Anganwadi and Poshan 2.0 scheme guidelines, it is mandatory to provide Supplementary Nutrition to every Pregnant Women and Lactating Mother up to 6 months after child birth, and every child in the age group of 6 months to 6 years (including those suffering from malnutrition). Further, it is

also stipulated that beneficiaries should be provided with Supplementary Nutrition for 300 days in a year.

The major components of Supplementary Nutrition Programme :

1. ICDS Food Supplement (Sathu Mavu).
2. Hot cooked meal (with egg thrice a week).
3. Fortified Biscuits

Cost norms and nutritive values approved by Government of India are detailed below:-

Category	Nutritional norms per beneficiary per day		Financial norms per beneficiary per day (Rs.)
	Protein (gms)	Energy (kcal)	
Children 6 months to 6 years	12-15	500	8.00
Children 6 months to 6 years (Severely malnourished)	20-25	800	12.00
AN & PN Mothers	18-20	600	9.50
14-18 Years Adolescent Girls	18-20	600	9.50

4.6.1 Sathu Mavu

To improve the nutritional status of children in the age group of 6 months to 6 years, Pregnant Women, Lactating Mothers, and Adolescent Girls, and to address nutritional and health deficiencies, ICDS Food Supplement (Sathu Mavu) is provided to ICDS beneficiaries based on the recommendation of expert committee formed by the Government of Tamil Nadu. Sathu Mavu in two different compositions are provided to ICDS beneficiaries. One is for 6 months to 6 years children and the other one is for Adolescent Girls, Antenatal and Postnatal mothers. The ICDS Food Supplement (Sathu Mavu) provided to children adheres to **BIS Standards 11536:2022**. Cardamom and Vanilla flavor are added to Sathu Mavu being provided to children in the age group of 2 to 6 years.

Composition of ICDS Food Supplement (Sathu Mavu) for children in the age group of 6 months to 6 years

Sl. No	Ingredients	Percentage
1	Roasted Wheat flour	45.50
2	Malted Ragi Flour	5.00
3	Full Fat Soya Flour	16.50
4	Jaggery	24.00
5	Roasted Ground Nut Kernel flour	8.00
6	Vitamins and Minerals Premix	1.00
Total		100.00

Sathu Mavu contains micronutrients such as vitamin- A, B1, B2, B3, B4, B5, B6, B7, B12, C, D and minerals such as Iron, Inositol, Selenium and Zinc. 100 Grams of ICDS Food Supplement (Sathu Mavu) for children contains minimum 400 Kcal of Energy and 15 grams of Protein.

**Composition of ICDS Food Supplement
(Sathu Mavu) for Adolescent Girls and
AN/PN mothers**

Sl.No	Ingredients	Percentage
1	Roasted Wheat flour	45.50
2	Roasted Bengal Gram flour	10.00
3	Roasted urad dal	5.00
4	Roasted peanut flour	4.00
5	Fortified Refined Vegetable oil	5.00
6	Malted Ragi flour	5.00
7	Full fat soya bean flour	10.00
8	Jaggery	14.00
9	Vitamins and Minerals premix	1.50
Total		100.00

Sathu Mavu contains micronutrients such as vitamin A, B1, B2, B3, C, D, Folic acid, Iron and calcium 100 Grams of ICDS Food Supplement (Sathu mavu) for the beneficiaries

contains minimum 400 Kcal of Energy and 14 grams of Protein.

To meet out the additional nutritional requirement of Severely Malnourished Children in the age group of 6 months to 6 years, in addition to Sathu Mavu, Fortified Biscuits are being provided as Take Home Ration (THR) from June 2023 onwards.

Composition of Fortified Biscuit for Severely malnourished children

Sl.No	Ingredients	Percentage
1	Wheat flour	30.00
2	Maida	10.00
3	Peanut Grit	4.00
4	Ragi flour	7.00
5	Refined Vegetable Oil	24.74
6	Sugar	23.00
7	Vitamins and Minerals	1.00
8	Baking Powder	0.26
Total		100.00

Fortified Biscuit contains Vitamin A, B1, B2, Iron, Calcium, Niacin and Folic acid. 100 grams of fortified biscuits contains 500 kilocalories of energy and 6 grams of protein.

4.6.2 Procurement of Sathu Mavu

Children in the age group of 6 months to 2 years are provided ICDS Food supplement (Sathu Mavu) which is procured from BIS (11536:2022) License Holder in accordance with Tamil Nadu Transparency in Tenders Act 1998 & Rules, 2000 by floating open tender. Further, 65% of ICDS Food Supplement (Sathu Mavu) provided to the children in the age group of 2 to 6 years and AN/PN mothers is procured from 25 Women Co-operative Societies functioning under the Department of ICDS and the balance 35% is procured from private manufacturers who have been selected by floating open tender following the Tamil Nadu Transparency in Tender Act 1998 and Rules 2000.

4.6.3 Quality Testing

The Sathu Mavu Manufactured by the Weaning Food Manufacturing Women's Development Cooperative Societies and private Manufacturers are sent to Government approved Laboratories for quality testing and is supplied to the anganwadi centers only after obtaining a quality certificate.

Furthermore, to ensure the quality of Sathu Mavu provided to anganwadi centers is adhering to the specification, samples of Sathu Mavu supplied by each supplier are randomly collected from selected anganwadi centers and are sent to the State Food Analysis Laboratories by the District Project Officers for quality testing.

Per day ration of Supplementary Nutrition to ICDS beneficiaries

Beneficiary Type	Food provided
6 months - 1 year children	125gms/day of Sathu Mavu to all Children enrolled with anganwadi centres. In addition to Sathu Mavu, 60 grams of fortified biscuits per day to Severely Malnourished children.
1-2 years children	125gms/day of Sathu Mavu and three eggs per week to all Children enrolled with anganwadi centres. In addition to Sathu Mavu and eggs, 60 grams of fortified biscuits per day to Severely Malnourished Children.
2- 6 years children	50 gms/day of Sathu Mavu, Hot Cooked Nutritious Variety meal for 6 days a week along with eggs for 3 days a week (Monday, Wednesday and Thursday), Black Bengal gram /Green gram on Tuesday and Boiled Potato on Friday are being provided to children attending preschool in anganwadi centres. Further Rice and Dhal is given as dry Ration on Sunday. In addition to above, 30 grams of fortified biscuits per day is provided to Severely Malnourished children.
AN/PN mothers and Adolescent Girls in the age group of 14 – 18 years in two aspirational districts	150 gms /day of Sathu Mavu

4.6.4 Hot Cooked Nutritious Meal Provided in Anganwadi Centers:

In Tamil Nadu, children in the age group of 2-6 years enrolled in Anganwadi centres for preschool education are provided with hot cooked meals designed by Nutrition Experts based on the childrens' digestive capabilities and age. The details of the meal types provided in Anganwadi centres are as follows:

Days	Menu
Monday	Tomato Rice + Boiled Egg
Tuesday	Mixed Rice + Boiled Black Bengal gram / Green gram
Wednesday	Vegetable Pulav Rice + Boiled Egg
Thursday	Lemon Rice + Boiled Egg
Friday	Dhal Rice + Boiled Potato
Saturday	Mixed Rice
Sunday	Dry Ration as Take Home Ration (Rice and Dhal)

According to the National Food Security Act 2013, children aged 3-6 years should receive 500 calories of energy and 12-15 grams of protein daily. However, since a child cannot consume 500 calories in one sitting, the Act recommends providing morning and evening snacks, as well as a hot cooked meal. In Tamil Nadu, children aged 2-6 years attending preschool education in Anganwadi centers are provided morning and evening snacks, as well as a hot cooked nutritious meal, to ensure they receive necessary nutrients without any deficiencies. Through which, the children are getting adequate nutrition and energy for their growth and development.

4.6.5 Food Provided to Children Aged 2-6 Years

1. Kozhukattai using 25 grams of ICDS Food supplement (Sathumavu) as morning and evening snacks

2. Hot cooked Nutritious meal being provided at noon utilizing 80 grams of Rice per child per day and required Dhal, Vegetables, Greens and Condiments.
3. To increase protein intake, three boiled eggs are provided on Monday, Wednesday and Thursday in every week.
4. On Tuesdays, 20 grams of boiled black Bengal gram/green gram are provided.
5. On Fridays, an additional 20 grams of boiled potato is provided to increase carbohydrate energy.
6. For non-egg consumers, bananas are provided as an alternative food.

To provide additional vegetables and condiments for cooking, the feeding cost per beneficiary per day has been fixed at ₹2.39 from 23.01.2024. To improve the nutritional status and health of children aged 1-2 years, three

eggs are being provided every week on Mondays to take home and consume.

4.6.6 Use of Fortified Food Items in Anganwadi Centers

To address micronutrient deficiencies among children, pregnant women, Lactating mothers and adolescent girls fortified food items are provided through anganwadi centers.

1. Fortified rice with Iron, Folic Acid, and Vitamin B12, Double Fortified Salt with iron and iodine, Palmolein oil fortified with Vitamin A and D are used in hot cooked meal preparation.
2. ICDS Food supplement (Sathumavu) is fortified with vitamins and minerals in appropriate quantities.
3. Fortified biscuits with vitamins and minerals are also provided to children identified as severely malnourished.

4.7 Provision of Medicine Kit and Hygiene Kit

Medicine kits are provided to Anganwadi centers to treat minor health issues such as fever, diarrhea, skin infections and also to provide basic first aid for minor injuries. The kits contain items like paracetamol syrup, paracetamol tablets, ORS powder, povidone-iodine solution, bandages, iron and folic acid syrup, and multivitamin drops.

Hygiene kits are also provided to promote good hygiene practices among children, teach them basic hygiene habits like hand washing and maintain cleanliness and hygiene in Anganwadi centers. The kits contain items like Antiseptic liquid, Floor cleaner, Toilet cleaner, Nail cutter, soap and comb.

4.8 Scheme for Adolescent Girls (SAG)

Under the Poshan 2.0 scheme, the Scheme for Adolescent Girls has been revised to target

beneficiaries in aspirational districts across the country. In Tamil Nadu, Supplementary Nutrition are provided to adolescent girls in the age group of 14 to 18 years in the aspirational districts of Virudhunagar and Ramanathapuram. Additionally, the scheme provides Iron Folic Acid (IFA) supplements, health services, nutrition and health education, and skill training to adolescent girls. Notably, an Aadhaar number is mandatory for beneficiaries to avail the scheme's benefits.

4.8.1 Nutrition Component

Under Nutrition components, per day 150 gms of SathuMavu containing 600 calories, 18-20 grams of protein and micronutrients is being provided in the form of Take Home Ration (THR) to adolescent girls in the age group of 14 – 18 years in two aspirational districts viz., Virudhunagar and Ramanathapuram.

4.8.2 Non – Nutrition Component

Under Non nutrition component, the Health and Family Welfare Department, Department of Education, Youth Welfare and Sports Development department and Skill Development Corporation are involved in giving life skill education to adolescent Girls.

4.9. Supply of two sets uniforms to Pre-School Children attending Anganwadi Centre

To encourage parents to send their children to the Anganwadi centre daily, children between the ages of 2 to 6 years are provided with 2 sets of readymade uniforms @Rs.300/- per child. The scheme is being implemented exclusively out of State funds, and implemented in all anganwadi centres across the State.

A sum of Rs.32.00 crore has been provided in the Budget Estimate for the year 2025-2026.

4.10. Infrastructure Development at Anganwadi Centres

a) Construction of Anganwadi Centres

With the noble objective of ensuring that all Anganwadi centres operate in own buildings with all the facilities, and as per the guidelines of the GOI, since 2016, new buildings to Anganwadi centres are being constructed by the Department of Rural Development and Panchayat Raj in the fund sharing ratio (Central Government-60% State Government-40%) in coordination with the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme.

- ❖ During the last four years from 2021-22 to 2024-25, under Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme, the Central Government and the State Government have allocated Rs.289.65 crore for the construction of new buildings to 2200 Anganwadi centres in a 60:40 funding

sharing ratio, of which construction of new buildings have been completed to 1293 Anganwadi centres. The remaining construction works are under process.

- ❖ During the last four years from 2021-22 to 2024-25, under the Legislative Assembly Member's Constituency Development Fund, Namakku Name Scheme, Anaithu Grama Anna Marumalarchi Scheme – I and Scheme – II, District Collector's Discretionary Fund and Panchayat Union/Panchayat General Funds Scheme, 100% State Government funds to the tune of Rs.296.52 crore have been allocated for the construction of new buildings to 3324 Anganwadi centres, out of which construction of new buildings have been completed to 2397 Anganwadi centres.
- ❖ During the last four years from 2021-22 to 2024-25, construction of new buildings to

164 Anganwadi centres have been taken up under Corporate Social Responsibility Fund, out of which construction of 91 new buildings have been completed.

- ❖ Out of 5688 Anganwadi centres that were approved for the construction of new buildings in the last four years under various schemes, 3781 Anganwadi centres have been provided with new buildings.

b) Upgraded Anganwadis

Anganwadi centres are being upgraded to Saksham Anganwadi to provide early childhood and pre-school education through smart learning methods and to help children develop holistically in an innovative and unique way. Nutritional gardens are being established in these centres to improve the delivery of nutrition services to children under the age of 6 years.

In these Saksham Anganwadis, Anganwadi services are provided with better infrastructure like Nutri-Garden, Internet / Wi-fi connectivity, LED screens, water purifier/installation of RO machine and Early Childhood Care and Education with smart learning aids, audio-visual aids, child-friendly learning equipment and art work (educational painting, practices board for children, information board), etc., promoting the creative, emotional, social cognitive and intellectual development of children in these centres.

c) Annual Maintenance Grant to Anganwadi centre buildings

An amount of Rs.3000/- is provided annually to each Anganwadi Centre functioning in Government owned building for maintenance of the Anganwadi centres to carry out minor repair works / refurbishment works like installing new sinks, fans, lights, repairing broken windows / doors and replacing broken parts and

thereby improving the appearance of the Anganwadi Centres.

A sum of Rs.13.95 Crore has been provided in the Budget Estimate for the year 2025-2026.

4.11 National Creche Scheme (PALNA)

Government of India launched Mission Sakthi, an integrated women empowerment programme for the safety, security and empowerment of women for implementation during the 15th Finance Commission period 2021-22 to 2025-2026. Mission Sakthi has two sub-scheme namely Sambal and Samarthya. Under the sub scheme Samarthya the existing scheme of National Creche Scheme has been included.

Under National Creche Scheme, the creches run by Non-Governmental Organisations were provided financial assistance with fund

sharing pattern of 60:30:10 (Central: State: NGO).

In co-ordination with Mission Shakti and Poshan 2.0, the National Creche Scheme has been redesigned under the name "PALNA" to provide safety and care to children of working mothers in the community and to encourage working women to continue being employed without any interruption and as per the revised guidelines of the Government of India, the scheme has envisaged the upgradation of Anganwadi centres to Anganwadi cum Creches for children in the age group 6 months to 6 years of age.

4.12 PM-JANMAN (Prathan Mantri Janjati Adivasi Nyaya Maha Abhiyaan)

Under this scheme in PVTG households and habitats 10 New Anganwadi centres have been newly opened in Chengalpet (1), Dharmapuri (3), Kallakurichi (2), Salem (1),

Thiruvallur (2) and Thiruppathur (1) Districts. All these Anganwadi centers have been operational from 15th January 2024 onwards.

4.13 POSHAN Tracker

The Poshan Tracker Mobile Phone Application was launched by Government of India in January 2021, to ensure a comprehensive service delivery at Anganwadi Centres. It enables data entry and real-time monitoring of all services provided to beneficiaries. All 54,449 Anganwadi Centres in Tamil Nadu are registered in this application.

Indicator	NFHS -4		NFHS-5 (2019-21)		POSHAN Tracker (Feb 2025)	Progress
	All India	State	All India	State	State	
Stunting (%)	38.40	27.10	35.50	25.00	13.70 %	Improved
Wasting (%)	21.00	19.70	19.30	14.60	3.40%	Improved
Underweight (%)	35.80	23.80	32.10	22.00	6.40%	Improved

As a State initiative, all the information in the Poshan Tracker and the State action plan information are being uploaded and synchronized into the TNICDS application in coordination with the Tamil Nadu e Governance Agency (TNeGA).

This application focuses on specific elements related to the Integrated Child Development Services (ICDS) in Tamil Nadu. This application has enabled digital data transformation between line departments like Education Department, Health Department, etc. Through integration of data from EMIS portal PICME and TN ICDS.

After TNICDS, PICME the data of child beneficiaries are passed on to the EMIS portal of Education Department. Through this integration process, the Departments can access these portals and obtain the necessary data.

4.14 Uttachathai Uruthi Sei

4.14.1 “Uttachathai Uruthi Sei” (Ensure Nutrition) – Phase-I

To reduce malnutrition among children, the Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu made an announcement on the floor of the Legislative Assembly on 07.05.2022 that, “medical assistance will be provided to children less than 6 years of age in need of medical attention under a special nutrition program named **Uttachathai Uruthi Sei**” will be provided for children in need of nutrition”.

RBSK Team screened around 10 lakhs children (inclusive of 9.3 lakhs children identified by ICDS) and found that, 1,11,216 children in the age group of 6 months to 6 years as severely malnourished and 16,415 children as moderately malnourished. Around 43,200 children who needed medical intervention were

referred to District Early Intervention Centres for further examinations and follow up.

Around 92,015 severely malnourished children in the age group of 6 months to 6 years were provided with ready to use therapeutic food at a cost of Rs.18.68 crores for 56 days, and the spanning over eight weeks, and the mothers of 14,901 severely malnourished children were provided with Nutri kits (consisting of ghee, dates, health mix powders, iron syrup & deworming tablets) at a cost of Rs.8.68 crores.

The impact of the scheme was evaluated by Madras Medical College (MMC). The study indicated that there was a significant increase in both height and weight of children who consumed RUTF. About 74% of severely malnourished children have shown improvement in their nutritional status and have progressed to normal levels.

4.14.2 “Uttachathai Uruthi Sei”- Phase-II

Since, “Today’s Children grow into tomorrow’s Tamil Nadu”, considering it as the prime duty of the government to bring them up healthy to create a prosperous future, the second phase of the “ஊட்டச்சத்தை உறுதி செய்” scheme was launched in Ariyalur District on 15.11.2024 by Hon’ble Chief Minister at a cost of Rs.22.20 Crore. Through this scheme, Nutri-Kits have been provided to mothers of malnourished children in 0-6 months of age for improving the nutritional status of those children.

Under this Scheme, 2 number of Nutri kits to the mothers of 26215, Severely Malnourished Children in the age group of 0-6 months and one Nutri kit to the mothers of 50490 moderately malnourished children have been provided. .

76,705 beneficiaries have been provided with nutritional kits and are being continuously monitored by Anganwadi workers. As of January 2025, 57.9% of the children have improved from malnutrition to normal, while the remaining 42.1% are being monitored to improve their nutritional status.

4.14.3 Care of low birth weight children

Due to various reasons, most of the children born with low birth weight are diagnosed as malnourished children and have various health problems. It is ensured that the children make steady progress by providing only breast milk to the children from birth to 6 months and by creating awareness among the mothers. If the children born with low birth weight return to normal within 6 months, it helps them to grow healthy and prosperous. Focusing on this, Phase 2 of the Uttachathai Urithisei Program has been implemented to

identify the children born with low birth weight, focus on the malnourished children among them, continuously monitor them and improve their nutritional status.

4.15 People's Mass Movement (Jan Andolan)

Jan Andolan is a people's movement under National Nutrition Mission, is an integrated approach to create awareness among all households in the country. Various Social and Behaviour Change, Communication(SBCC) strategies are implemented in convergence with Government, People's representative of local bodies, NGOs, Public/ private sector units.

Jan Andolan activities includes,

- Samudhaya Valaigappu,
- POSHAN Maah and POSHAN Pakhwada
- State, District, and Block Level Awareness Programme

- To create awareness among adolescent girls on nutrition, health and personal hygiene
- Workshops are conducted for Anganwadi workers in all districts to advise lactating mothers on the importance of feeding nutritious food to young children

Nutrition Month (Poshan Ma) September 2024 was conducted as part of the Jan Andolan movement with 84,77,433 activities across Tamil Nadu. These activities were aimed at spreading nutrition and health messages. This shows a concerted effort to reach a significant section of the population. This demonstrates a strong commitment to promoting awareness and encouraging positive health practices among the people of Tamil Nadu.

4.16 Early Childhood Care and Education (ECCE)

Early childhood is a phase in a child's life (0-6 years) are formative years for holistic development. Learning begins at birth. Early childhood experiences provide the base for all subsequent learning. It is the foundation stage. Learning is at its peak during early childhood years. ECCE plays a significant role in the learning process of the child. Access to preschool education is a right for children and development of the nation, because children are the nation's future. Adequate healthcare, nutrition, security, safety, responsive care giving and opportunities for early child learning are essential for children to achieve their full human potential. Therefore, among the services of ICDS, Non-Formal Preschool Education of children is an integral component. To enforce this, Early Child Care and Education (ECCE) is

being conducted in all Children centres for four hours on all working days.

- **“Aadi Paadi Vilaiyadu Pappa” (APVP)** is a special curriculum being implemented in the State based on the National Early Childhood Care and Education Policy, 2013. Under this developmental age-appropriate annual Contextualized curriculum, pre-school activities are conducted in all the Children centres with 11 child-friendly, theme-based activities for 11 months with an emphasis on the holistic development of the children and the 12th month being reserved for revision of the syllabus.
- ECCE curriculum books for Anganwadi workers, activity books for 2-3, 3-4 & 4-5 years Children, Pre-school completion certificates, Children assessment cards and Pre-school kits are supplied to all the

Children centres at the cost of Rs.2.72 Crore for the year 2024-25.

- Training of Trainers (ToT) to District Level Master Trainers (DLMTs) is being conducted at State and District Level. During the training, "Do-It-Yourself" kit sessions are conducted to the trainees to make nontoxic Indigenous Toys by themselves and to create an eco friendly atmosphere.
- The Master Trainers will be training the Anganwadi Workers on ECCE at Sector Level in three stages in a cascade manner for the effective rollout of ECCE. The training includes sessions on Do-It-Yourself for kids also.

A sum of Rs.2.89 crore has been allocated for training to Anganwadi workers for the year 2024-2025.

4.16.1 Assessment of Pre School Children

- Children Attending Preschool education at Anganwadi Centres are assessed for the development of the child in various domains such as Physical development, Cognitive development, Language development, Social and Emotional development and Creativity.
- Assessment cards are provided to each centre for Assessing Preschool children in the age group of 2- 6 years and being distributed to anganwadi workers.
- The assessment is done once in a quarter and reported in TNICDS application. Based on the assessment, parents are being informed on the performance of the child and the Anganwadi worker also takes special care of the children who need help and support to bring further improvement in their performance.

4.17 Training

- Tamil Nadu ICDS has the unique feature of having a State Training Institute (STI) exclusively for ICDS, which imparts training to Block Level and District Level Officers of ICDS and line departments. From 2003 onwards, Government of India has authorized the State Training Institute to conduct Job Training Course (JTC) to Child Development Project Officers (CDPO) and Instructors of Anganwadi Worker Training Centres (Supervisors Grade-I) of the State.

4.18 Provision of Growth Monitoring Device

- Growth Monitoring Devices have been provided to all anganwadi centers to ensure to monitor of weight and height for all beneficiaries, including pregnant women, breastfeeding mothers, newborns and children under the age of 6.

- A total of 33,109 Infantometers (tools to measure the length of mothers and children), 11,441 Stadio meteres (tools to measure the height of children, adolescent girls and women), 9,893 Mother and Child Digital Weighing Scales (for measuring the weight of mothers and children), and 33,109 Infant Weighing Scales (for weighing children) have been provided. The cost of these new development monitoring tools is Rs.14.18 crore.
- These tools will ensure precious monitoring of the growth and health of beneficiaries, while also ensuring the collection of accurate and reliable data.

4.19 Aadhaar Enrolment in ICDS

- Government has notified the Director, ICDS as Registrar under UIDAI for Aadhaar enrollment towards enrollment of

adhaar for the children in the age group of 0-5+ years.

- Further all 434 Child Development Project Officers in Tamilnadu have been notified as Aadhaar enrolment agencies for the children in the age group of 0-5+ years. Aadhaar enrolment kits (child & Adult kits) have been distributed to all the 434 Child Development Project Offices to enable the enrolment activities of children and mother beneficiaries.
- 99.57% of child beneficiaries in Poshan Tracker have been enrolled with Aadhaar numbers.
- 5,22,686 Child beneficiaries have been enrolled till February 2025.

4.20 Welfare of Anganwadi Employees

4.20.1 Salary Details

The Anganwadi employees in Tamil Nadu are provided with Special time scale of pay as detailed below as per 7th Pay Commission recommendations.

Sl. NO	Designation	Scale of Pay (in Rs.)
1	Anganwadi Worker	7,700-24,200
2	Mini Anganwadi Worker	5,700-18,000
3	Anganwadi Helper	4,100-12,500

4.20.2 Other Allowances details with salary

Allowances like Dearness Allowance, House Rent Allowance, City Compensatory Allowance, Medical Allowance, Hill Allowance and Winter Allowance are provided to Anganwadi employees along with annual increment by Tamil Nadu State Government.

(Amount in Rupees)

Sl. No	Designation	Scale of Pay	Total Salary	Honorarium	GOI Share	State Share	Additional share	Total State Share
1.	Anganwadi worker	7,700-24,200	13,741	4,500	2,700	1,800	9,241	11,041
2	Mini Anganwadi worker	5,700-18,000	10,681	3,500	0	3,500	7,181	10,681
3	Anganwadi Helper	4,100-12,500	8,233	2,250	1,350	900	5,983	6,883

4.20.3 Summer holidays for Anganwadi Employees

- Summer holidays are being granted to Anganwadi centres from 2023.

4.20.4 Retirement benefits for Anganwadi Employees

- **Anganwadi Helper Retirement Age**
Increased from 58 to 60 years in 2021.
- **Lump sum Grant and Special Pension:**
The Anganwadi Worker and Anganwadi helper are eligible for lump sum grant at the time of retirement, Rs.1,00,000/- is being paid to Anganwadi worker and Rs.50,000/- is being paid to Anganwadi helper with effect

from 01.10.2017. Anganwadi employees are paid monthly special pension of Rs.2000/- with effect from 01.10.2017

- **Family Benefit Fund:** A sum of Rs. 5 lakhs is being provided to the family of Anganwadi employees when the employee is deceased while in service.
- **Special General Provident Fund Scheme:** The scheme is being implemented since 2015 by maintaining a General Provident Fund Account for Anganwadi employees.
- **Voluntary Retirement Scheme:** On medical grounds, the Anganwadi employees are permitted to go on Voluntary Retirement with all retirement benefits.

4.20.5 Appointment on Compassionate grounds

Women legal heir of Anganwadi employees who died while in service are appointed in Anganwadi centres on compassionate grounds based on their educational qualifications.

4.20.6 Promotion

- Mini Anganwadi workers who have completed 5 years of service are promoted as Main Anganwadi workers based on the seniority.
- Anganwadi helpers who have completed 10 years of service are promoted as Main Anganwadi Worker based on the seniority.
- Main Anganwadi Worker is further appointed as Supervisor Grade II and Rural Welfare Officer (W) based on the seniority .

4.20.7 Other Benefits for Anganwadi Employees

- Since 09th November 2021, 25% of Anganwadi Employee positions are reserved for widows and destitute widows.
- Anganwadi Employees are granted 180 days of maternity leave for up to 2 live births.
- Monthly conveyance allowance of Rs.2500/- is being granted to the differently abled Anganwadi employees

- Each year, all Anganwadi Employees are provided with two sets of uniform sarees along with waist coat.
- Anganwadi Employees are enrolled in Pradhan Mantri Jeevan Jyoti Bima Yojana and Pradhan Mantri Suraksha Bima Yojana insurance schemes to assist their families in case of unexpected accidents or loss of life due to accidents.

Conclusion

There is a wide gap in knowledge and ability between disadvantaged children and more advantaged children. Integrated Child Development Services Programme is one of the most ambitious and comprehensive child development schemes for enhancing health, nutrition, and learning opportunities for children under 6 years and their mothers by simultaneously providing all the requisite services at the grass root level.

The Integrated Child Development Services Programme has shown tremendous positive impact in not only promoting nutrition for children, and providing preschool non-formal education but also breaking the vicious cycle of malnutrition, morbidity, reduced learning capacity, and mortality. The department is working to achieve the Government of Tamil Nadu's aspiration to make Anganwadis the best platform for the promotion of healthy nutrition practices and preschool education to achieve a **“Malnutrition-free Tamil Nadu”**.

Chapter 5

Children Welfare and Special Services

Tamil Nadu stands as a pioneer state in implementing the rights of children as enshrined in the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child and the Indian Constitution. The State Government is committed to ensuring that children are safeguarded from all forms of discrimination and abuse while fulfilling the necessary factors for their protection and development. By enacting and implementing various laws, regulations, and schemes, and by establishing a strong child protection system, the Government of Tamil Nadu has created a safe environment for children.

Recognizing that children are the future assets of a nation, the Tamil Nadu government has undertaken various initiatives to enhance

their livelihood by prioritizing their physical, mental, and social well-being.

Under the Reformatory Schools Act of 1876, the government established reformatory schools in 1887. Subsequently, the first-ever Madras Children's Act was enacted in 1920, leading to the establishment of reformatory schools by the State Government. Currently, child welfare and rights-related services are provided through the Department of Children Welfare and Special Services (formerly the Department of Social Defence).

The institutions functioning under this department operate under the Juvenile Justice (Care and Protection of Children) Act, 2015, and cater to the needs of two categories of children—those in need of care and protection and those considered to be in conflict with the law. These institutions provide various services such as care, protection, shelter, education,

medical aid, vocational training, and sports activities for the overall well-being of children.

Children, who are orphaned, neglected, or whose parents are unable to provide care and protection is placed under institutional care. Additionally, the department implements various schemes to identify and place children who cannot be properly cared for by their parents into foster care. Recognizing the importance of children growing up in a family environment, the government continues to prioritize non-institutional care services such as adoption and foster care.

Under the Protection of Children from Sexual Offences (POCSO) Act, 2012, the government provides compensation and rehabilitation services for children affected by sexual crimes.

To address the changing circumstances of children in society and safeguard their rights,

the government implements various policies and schemes. The Department of Child Welfare and Special Services is responsible for ensuring the holistic development and welfare of children by implementing the following laws and schemes/services:

Legislations:

1. Juvenile Justice (Care and Protection of Children) Act, 2015
2. Protection of Children from Sexual Offences (POCSO) Act, 2012
3. Commissions for Protection of Child Rights Act, 2005
4. Tamil Nadu Prevention of Begging Act, 1945

Schemes / Services:

1. Child Protection Services Scheme (Mission Vatsalya)
2. Child Helpline Services (1098)

3. Financial Assistance through Juvenile Justice Fund
4. Formal and Non-Formal Education
5. Vocational Training and Skill Development Programs
6. Educational Tour Program for Children
7. Psychological Support Services for Children
8. Drug Prevention Centres for Children
9. National Action Plan for Drug Demand Reduction (NAPDDR)
10. Basic Training Programs
11. Behavioural Change Training Programs
12. Pathai Scheme
13. Protection of Children from Sexual Offences Victim Compensation Fund.
14. Financial assistance and various welfare schemes for children who have lost their parents due to COVID-19 under the Chief Minister's Public Relief Fund (CMPRF)

5.1 Juvenile Justice (Care and Protection of Children) Act, 2015

The Juvenile Justice (Care and Protection of Children) Act, 2015, provides legal procedures for handling children in conflict with the law and those in need of care and protection. The act ensures a child-friendly approach in rehabilitation measures by emphasizing proper care, protection, development, treatment, and social reintegration of children in vulnerable situations.

Under this act, the Tamil Nadu government has formulated and implemented the Juvenile Justice (Care and Protection of Children) Rules, 2017. The latest amendment to these rules was made in 2024.

5.1.1 Children in Need of Care and Protection

As per Section 2(14) of the Juvenile Justice (Care and Protection of Children) Act,

2015, “children in need of care and protection” include homeless and destitute children without any means of livelihood, mentally ill or differently-abled children who have no caregivers, children whose parents or guardians are unfit or incapable of caring for them, street children, children engaged in labour in violation of labour laws and the Juvenile Justice Act, child beggars, children at risk of child marriage before the legal age, orphaned, abandoned, missing, or abused children and children whose parents cannot be traced after due investigation

5.1.1.1 Child Welfare Committees

A Child Welfare Committee (CWC) is a statutory body consisting of a Chairperson and four members, including at least one female member. These committees have been empowered under the Juvenile Justice (Care and Protection of Children) Act, 2015, to address cases related to children in need of care and

protection. They ensure a child-friendly approach in all their activities and prioritize the best interests of the child. The CWC holds the authority equivalent to that of a Metropolitan Magistrate or a First-Class Judicial Magistrate.

Currently, the Government of Tamil Nadu has established 40 Child Welfare Committees across 38 districts. Considering the high number of cases, three CWCs have been set up in Chennai district. Efforts are 3 CWCs have been constituted in the newly districts viz created in Ranipet, Tirupattur, Mayiladuthurai, and Tenkasi districts.

During the year 2024-2025, a total of **17,099 cases** were resolved through these committees.

A sum of Rs.8.26 Crore has been provided in the Budget Estimate for the year 2025- 2026.

5.1.1.2 Appointment of Child Welfare Committees and Juvenile Justice Boards

As per Rule 2A of the Tamil Nadu Juvenile Justice (Care and Protection of Children) Rules, 2017 and the amended Rules, 2024, a 6-member Selection Committee headed by a Retired Judge of the High Court has been constituted to select the Chairperson and Members of the Child Welfare Committee and the Social Worker Members of the Juvenile Justice Boards and the appointments are being made.

5.1.1.3 Children Homes

Children identified as “in need of care and protection” by the Child Welfare Committees, after proper inquiry, are placed in short-term or long-term care institutions for their shelter, treatment, education, training, rehabilitation, and reintegration. These child care institutions, known as Children's Homes, are run by either

the Government or voluntary organizations and are registered under Section 41 of the Juvenile Justice (Care and Protection of Children) Act, 2015.

Currently, 765 Children's Homes are registered and monitored by the Department of Child Welfare and Special Services across Tamil Nadu.

Government-Run Children's Homes	Homes Run by Hindu Religious & Charitable Endowments Department	Homes Run by NGOs with Government Support	Self-Funded Homes Run by NGOs
36	10	139	580

Among the homes operated by NGOs with Government support, six homes cater to children with special needs. Under the Child Protection Services (Mission Vatsalya), a monthly maintenance grant of Rs.3,000/- per child is provided to these institutions, along with

financial assistance for rent, water, electricity, transportation, and other expenses. Children in these homes receive food, clothing, shelter, medical assistance, education, and vocational training to ensure their overall development.

Additional Grant for Special Need Children

Six homes are being run by Non-Governmental Organizations with Government Grant-in-Aid funding for children with special needs. A monthly maintenance grant of Rs.4,000/- is being provided to children with special needs, and an additional grant of Rs. 400/- per month is being provided to 10 children per institution for each child for nutritional needs. Further, a monthly grant of Rs. 10,000/- is being provided to 10 children per institution for the purchase of special equipment, psychological testing equipment, speech and

language training materials, teaching aids and wheelchairs required by these children.

A sum of Rs.43.46 Crore has been provided in the Budget Estimate for the year 2025- 2026.

5.1.1.4 Open Shelters for Children in need of care and protection in Urban and Semi-Urban Children

Open shelters have been established to provide temporary accommodation for children in need of care and protection found in urban and semi-urban areas. These children include beggars, street children, rag pickers, small vendors, street performers, abandoned children, trafficked children, runaway children, migrant children, and those facing other forms of distress. These shelters ensure the rehabilitation and protection of homeless and street children.

Currently, in Tamil Nadu, there are 15 open shelters run by voluntary organizations, of which 11 shelters operate with Government financial assistance. Under the Child Protection Services scheme, children residing in these funded shelters receive a monthly maintenance grant of ₹2,500 per child, along with financial assistance for rent, water, electricity, transportation, and other expenses. These shelters have been approved to accommodate 335 children, and 117 children are currently housed in them.

Open Shelters Operated by NGOs with Government Assistance	Open Shelters Operated by NGOs with Own Funds
11	4

A sum of Rs.2.01 Crore has been provided in the Budget Estimate for the year 2025- 2026.

5.1.1.5 Child Adoption

Adoption is the process of identifying a suitable family to raise and care for orphaned, abandoned, and surrendered children in a family environment. Once a child is adopted, they become the legal child of the adoptive parents, permanently separated from their biological parents, and entitled to all rights, privileges, and responsibilities within the adoptive family.

The ultimate goal of adoption is to find families for children, not children for families. Institutional care should only be considered as a last resort when no suitable family-based care option is available.

Adoption procedures are managed by the Central Adoption Resource Authority (CARA), an autonomous body under the Ministry of Women and Child Development, Government of India. Adoption processes are standardized and

implemented uniformly across the country through an online system.

The State Adoption Resource Agency (SARA) acts as a bridge between adoptive parents, Special Adoption Agencies (SAAs), and CARA to facilitate the adoption process. To make adoption procedures easier to understand, SARA has published an Adoption Handbook. Additionally, awareness campaigns are conducted through district collector offices, District Child Protection Units (DCPUs), Special Adoption Agencies, social groups, and public billboards to educate people on adoption and prevent illegal adoptions. SARA is also responsible for resolving grievances of registered prospective adoptive parents and monitoring Special Adoption Agencies in coordination with CARA.

A sum of Rs.0.30 Crore has been provided in the Budget Estimate for the year 2025- 2026.

5.1.1.6 Special Adoption Agencies

A total of 26 Special Adoption Agencies (SAAs) facilitate both domestic and inter-country adoptions. These agencies are located Chennai (5 nos.), Madurai (2 Nos.), Salem (2 nos.) and one each in 17 other districts including Chengalpattu, Coimbatore, Cuddalore, Dharmapuri, Dindigul, Erode, Kanyakumari, Namakkal, Thoothukudi, Tiruchirappalli, Tirunelveli, Tirupattur, Tiruvannamalai, Vellore, Sivaganga, Perambalur and Tiruppur. Among these, 19 agencies functions with Government Grant in Aid under the Child Protection Services scheme, while seven agencies are run by NGOs with self financing.

Between 1993 and January 2025, the number of children adopted is as follows:

Sl. No	Type of Adoption	Male Children	Female Children	Total
1,	Domestic Adoption	2,151	5,035	7,186
2.	Inter-country Adoption	164	473	637
Total		2,315	5,508	7,823

From 01.04.2024 to 31.03.2025, 375 children have been adopted domestically and 37 children have been adopted internationally.

5.1.1.7 Cradle Baby Scheme

To completely eradicate female infanticide in Tamil Nadu and save the child from the clutches of infant mortality, the Government first launched the "Cradle Baby Scheme" in the State in 1992 in Salem district. Currently, this scheme is operational in Salem, Madurai, Theni, Dindigul, Dharmapuri, Cuddalore, Ariyalur,

Perambalur, Villupuram and Tiruvannamalai districts.

The children received under the Cradle Baby Scheme are produced before the Child Welfare Committee by the staff and children are admitted to Special Adoption Agencies and the children are rehabilitated.

Under this distinct scheme, 6,278 children (males – 1494, females – 4783, Transgender-1) have been rescued from 1992 to 2024 (March). In 2024 - 2025, 195 children (75 males, 119 females, 1 transgender) were rescued.

5.1.1.8 Financial Assistance through the Juvenile Justice Fund

The Tamil Nadu Juvenile Justice Fund was created with a corpus of Rs. 25 lakh under Section 105 of the Juvenile Justice (Care and Protection of Children) Act, 2015 to support child welfare and rehabilitation activities. This fund is utilized for Education, medical care, training,

and sports for children, Capital investments for self-employment and livelihood generation and Emergency needs and schemes not covered under existing Government programs.

5.1.1.9 Assistance for Children of Incarcerated Parents

The Government of Tamil Nadu ensures the rehabilitation, protection, and care of children whose parents are incarcerated. These children receive financial aid, education, and foster care support from the government. Some children are accommodated in child care institutions run by the Government and NGOs with proper care and protection. The number of children who have benefited from financial assistance so far are 22 children in 2021-2022, 20 children in 2022-2023, 41 children in 2023-2024 and 48 children in 2024-2025. Additionally, three children have benefited from foster care support.

5.1.1.10 Sponsorship

To enable children to continue their education while staying with their families instead of institutional care, the Sponsorship scheme provides a monthly grant of Rs.4,000/- per child until they turn 18 years old. In 2024-2025, a total of 7,474 children in Tamil Nadu benefited from this scheme, which is funded by both State and Union Government.

A sum of Rs.25.97 Crore has been provided in the Budget Estimate for the year 2025- 2026.

5.1.2 Children in Conflict with the Law

Children in conflict with the law are those below 18 years of age who have been alleged or found guilty of committing an offence.

5.1.2.1 Juvenile Justice Boards

Juvenile Justice Boards (JJBs) are responsible for enquiring and disposing the cases related to

children in conflict with the law. Each board consists of a Metropolitan Magistrate or First-Class Judicial Magistrate and Two social worker members including one female member. The Juvenile Justice Boards follows a child-friendly approach, ensuring the best interests of the child without adhering to conventional court procedures. As per the Juvenile Justice (Care and Protection of Children) Act, 2015 these committees are legally competent authority. Currently, Juvenile Justice Boards are established in 34 districts (including newly created Tenkasi District) out of 38 districts of Tamil Nadu, with efforts underway to establish them in 4 newly created districts (Ranipet, Tirupathur, Kallakurichi and Chengalpattu). In 2024-2025, 4,111 cases were disposed by these boards.

A sum of Rs.5.51 Crore has been provided in the Budget Estimate for the year 2025- 2026.

5.1.2.2 Observation Homes

Observation Homes provide temporary institutional care and protection for children during the period of trial before the Juvenile Justice Boards. Presently 8 Observation Homes are run by Government in the State of Tamil Nadu. These homes provide basic needs (food, clothing, bedding, and shelter), Non-formal education, Vocational training, Medical facilities and counselling. In all these Homes, CCTV cameras are installed as a security measure to enhance safety. Children who are released on bail from the Homes are monitored by Probation Officers as a follow-up measure to ensure their rehabilitation. As on 31.03.2025, 189 children are placed in the homes.

A sum of Rs.10.00 Crore has been provided in the Budget Estimate for the year 2025- 2026.

5.1.2.3 Special Homes

Special homes have been established under Section 48 of the Juvenile Justice (Care and Protection of Children) Act, 2015 to provide long-term rehabilitation to children who are brought before the Juvenile Justice Boards and are found guilty by the Board after due investigation. These children are kept in these homes for a period of not exceeding 3 years and are provided with long-term rehabilitation programs. In the Special Homes, services like education, vocational training, counselling and facilities for co-curricular activities are provided to the children. Two Government Special Homes are functioning, one for girls in Chennai and one for boys in Chengalpattu. Children with potential skills and interest in self-employment are provided financial assistance under the Juvenile Justice Fund to purchase tools and equipment to start self-employment to achieve self-

sufficiency. As on 31.03.2025, 28 children are placed in the homes.

A sum of Rs.5.00 Crore has been provided in the Budget Estimate for the year 2025- 2026.

5.1.2.4 Place of Safety

A Place of Safety is an institution established under Section 49 of the Juvenile Justice (Care and Protection of Children) Act, 2015 to accommodate a child between the ages of 16 and 18 who is alleged to have committed a heinous offence or who has been convicted after due process of law. It is also a Home for the accommodation of persons who have committed a crime before the age of 18 and have also crossed the age of 18. They are kept in a safe place for rehabilitation and reformation as per the orders of the Juvenile Justice Board or the Children's Court, up to a maximum of 21 years of age. Government Place of Safety for Children

are functioning in Vellore and Chengalpattu for Boys. During their stay in this home, they are provided with reformatory services including education, counselling and behavioral modification. Presently, the Government has issued an order recognizing a part of the Government Observation Home, Madurai as a Place of Safety exclusively for girls. As on 31.03.2025, 60 children are being housed in the Place of Safety.

A sum of Rs.0.90 Crore has been provided in the Budget Estimate for the year 2025- 2026.

5.1.3 Registration of Child Care Institutions under the Juvenile Justice (Care and Protection of Children) Act, 2015

All child care institutions functioning for children in need of care and protection and children in conflict with the law must be mandatorily registered under Section 41 of the

Juvenile Justice (Care and Protection of Children) Act, 2015. Legal penalties are prescribed for institutions functioning without registration.

As per the Tamil Nadu Juvenile Justice (Care and Protection of Children) Rules, only institutions meeting the minimum prescribed standards—such as building stability, accommodation facilities, building licence, fire safety measures and sanitation facilities—are eligible for registration. As of 31.03.2025, a total of 812 child care institutions have been registered, including 805 institutions for children in need of care and protection (Children's Homes – 765, Open Shelters – 15, Special Adoption Agencies – 25) and 13 institutions for children in conflict with the law (Observation Homes – 08, Special Homes – 02 and Place of Safety – 03).

A total of 25,439 children are currently housed in these registered institutions. The

entire registration process for child care institutions is conducted online through the Child Protection Information Management and Monitoring System (CPIMMS) of the department.

5.1.4 Inspection and Monitoring of Child Care Institutions

To ensure compliance with prescribed standards and safeguard the welfare of children, Juvenile Justice Boards (JJBs) and Child Welfare Committees (CWCs) are empowered to conduct inspections. Additionally, the Government has established District-Level Inspection Committees, which include District Child Protection Units, State-Level Inspection Committee chaired by the Director of Children Welfare and Special Services / Secretary of the State Child Protection Society. The District-Level Inspection Committee is headed by the District Collector and consists of 4 members

namely District Child Protection Officer (Member Secretary), Representatives from the Child Welfare Committee / Juvenile Justice Board, Medical Officer, Mental Health Expert and Representative from a voluntary organization.

5.1.5 Aftercare Homes

Aftercare Homes provide transitional support to children who leave child care institutions upon turning 18 years old but lack family or external support for reintegration into society. Presently, three Aftercare Homes are maintained by Government two for boys in Aathur (Chengalpattu district) and Madurai district and one for girls in Vellore district. Additionally, for the Aftercare Services provided by Non-Governmental Organizations Rs.4,000/- per child per month is provided under the Child Protection Services Scheme. A special aftercare facility for differently-abled individuals above 18 years old functions in Mayiladuthurai under a

Non-Governmental Organization, wherein 73 beneficiaries are accommodated at present.

A sum of Rs.2.41 Crore has been provided in the Budget Estimate for the year 2025- 2026.

5.1.6 Child Protection Services Scheme (Mission Vatsalaya)

The Child Protection Services Scheme is a Centrally Sponsored Scheme implemented with the support of State Government. This scheme establishes a comprehensive framework for implementing the Juvenile Justice (Care and Protection of Children) Act, 2015, with a focus on ensuring child safety and securing the best interest of the children, providing appropriate services for children in distress, ensuring individual attention to each child and monitoring and evaluation at regular intervals. The Department of Children Welfare and Special Services has developed performance and management indicators to oversee the

implementation of child protection services at the district level. The Government has established State and District Level structures under Child Protection Services Scheme. This scheme is effectively implemented with the participation of Government and Non-Government Organizations. The scheme includes providing quality services to children in child protection institutions, intervention programs for children in vulnerable situations, improving child protection, family-based care as an alternative to institutional care, finding suitable families for children, a website for the Child Information System, and a system for tracing missing children.

5.1.6.1 Structures under the Child Protection Services Scheme

To effectively implement the Juvenile Justice Act, the Government has established the following structures

1. State Child Protection Society
2. District Child Protection Units (DCPUs)
3. State Adoption Resource Agency (SARA)

Appropriate training is being provided to child welfare stakeholders at various levels in collaboration with various departments including Health, Education, Justice, Police, Labour and Skill Development Corporation to meet the various needs identified in the Individual Care Plan of the children under this scheme.

A sum of Rs.114.49 Crore has been provided in the Budget Estimate for the year 2025- 2026.

5.1.6.2 Monitoring of Child Protection Services

To prevent child rights violations in rural and urban areas, new Child Welfare and Protection Committees have been established,

comprising representatives from various Government departments and Non-Governmental Organizations.

A. Rural Child Welfare and Protection Committees:

1. Village-Level Child Welfare and Protection Committee
2. Block-Level Child Welfare and Protection Committee
3. District-Level Child Welfare and Protection Committee

B. Urban Child Welfare and Protection Committees:

1. Town Panchayat-Level Child Welfare and Protection Committee
2. Municipality-Level Child Welfare and Protection Committee
3. Metropolitan Corporation Zone-Level Child Welfare and Protection Committee

These committees monitor and prevent child protection violations, including Child marriage, Child labor and migration for labor, Child

trafficking, illegal adoptions, and Sexual offenses against children, Female infanticide and foeticide and increasing the Girl child sex ratio.

The Tamil Nadu State Child Protection Society in collaboration with UNICEF has published a handbook to help Village Level Child Protection Committees to function better, reduce and combat child rights violations, and conduct regular meetings at the village level. It also includes simple forms to document the discussion points of the meeting and the procedures to be followed against child rights violations. Capacity building training has been provided to the child protection groups formed in rural and urban areas to handle child protection issues better.

i. Currently, 17,448 child protection committees have been formed and regular meetings are being held once in a quarter.

ii. During this current year, 14753 cases against children have been handled by the District Child Protection Unit.

iii. 312 child protection stakeholders have been trained through 6 trainings at the state level.

iv. 3,34,187 child protection functionaries and stakeholders have been trained through 1198 trainings at the district level.

v. 20,22,795 beneficiaries have benefited from 11619 awareness programs.

5.2 Protection of Children from Sexual Offences (POCSO) Act, 2012

The Protection of Children from Sexual Offences Act, 2012 was enacted to effectively deal with sexual abuse and sexual exploitation of children and to protect the welfare of the child at every stage and to provide punishment ranging from minimum to severe punishment. This Act protects children from sexual abuse, sexual

harassment and pornography. It also provides for punishment and fines according to the seriousness of sexual offences.

The Act also provides for compensation to be provided to children who are victims of sexual offences as part of the measures to meet their immediate and long-term rehabilitation needs.

The “Tamil Nadu Child Victim Compensation Fund” has been created to provide compensation for the rehabilitation and future welfare of children who are victims of sexual offences. **As on 31.03.2025, Rs.80.87 crores have been provided as compensation to 5,407 children.**

A sum of Rs.25.00 Crore has been provided in the Budget Estimate for the year 2025- 2026.

5.3 Commissions for Protection of Child Rights Act, 2005

The Tamil Nadu Commission for Protection of Child Rights has been constituted under Section 17(1) of the Commissions for Protection of Child Rights Act, 2005 to monitor the implementation of various laws relating to children. The Commission consists of a Chairperson and six members.

The purpose of the Commission is to supervise the implementation of various laws relating to the protection and welfare of children currently in force and to make recommendations to the Government on the steps to be taken in this regard.

Functions of the Commission:

- i. Monitoring / supervising the implementation of laws relating to children.
- ii. Obtaining relevant documents from the police and other departments in cases of violation of child rights.

- iii. Making recommendations to the relevant Government department or Officer to take necessary and immediate action after preliminary investigations in cases of violation of child rights.
- iv. Providing awareness about child rights to activists and the public.
- v. To voluntarily investigate and take necessary action against complaints and violations of child rights received from various sources such as the general public, media, NGOs, etc.
- vi. To provide training on child rights to government and non-government organizations.

The details of 4,952 cases related to child rights handled by this Commission since 18.01.2013 are given below:-

Name of the Act	Number of Cases
Juvenile Justice (Care & Protection of Children) Act, 2015	1856
Prohibition of Child Marriage Act, 2006	463
Right to Education Act, 2009	928
POCSO Act, 2012	1525
Child Labour (Prohibition and Regulation) Act, 1986	180
Total	4952

A sum of Rs.0.69 Crore has been provided in the Budget Estimate for the year 2025- 2026.

5.4 The Immoral Traffic (Prevention) Act, 1956

The Immoral Traffic (Prevention) Act, 1956 had been enacted to combat trafficking and sexual exploitation of women for commercial sexual purposes. The Act provides for institutional care facilities for short – and long – term rehabilitation of victims by providing education, training and skill development.

5.4.1 Vigilance /Protective Homes

Vigilance / Protective homes provide residential care facilities for women in moral danger. Women victims are being admitted in these homes as per the orders issued by the courts under the provisions of Immoral Traffic (Prevention) Act, 1956. In these homes, services like residential care, medical treatment,

counselling and vocational training are provided to inmates as part of their rehabilitation. A financial assistance of Rs.10,000/- is provided to the victims under "Victim Relief Fund".

The State Government is maintaining five Government is maintaining five Government Vigilance/ Protective Homes each in Chennai, Madurai, Salem, Coimbatore and Trichy for the rehabilitation of women victims of trafficking under Immoral Traffic (Prevention) Act, 1956. Free legal assistance has been extended to women victims admitted in these institutions.

A sum of Rs.5.38 Crore has been provided in the Budget Estimate for the year 2025- 2026.

5.4.2 Ujjawala Scheme

Trafficking of women and children for commercial sexual exploitation is a crime against human rights. To ensure safety and proper

rehabilitation of victims, Ujjawala Scheme is being implemented with Centre and State assistance. It is a comprehensive scheme for Prevention of Trafficking, Rehabilitation Rescue, and Reintegration of victims of trafficking for commercial sexual exploitation. There are 3 Non-Governmental Organizations implementing this scheme in the State of Tamil Nadu.

A sum of Rs.1.15 Crore has been provided in the Budget Estimate for the year 2025- 2026.

5.5 Financial assistance and various welfare schemes for children who have lost their parents due to COVID-19 under the Chief Minister's Public Relief Fund (CMPRF)

1. The Government of Tamil Nadu firmly believes that the progress of a country depends on the development and well-being of the children in a country. The Government has always been implementing a system to protect

children in extraordinary situations like natural calamities and pandemics. **Thus, a total of Rs.20.10 crore has been deposited in the name of 402 children who have lost both their parents due to the Covid-19 pandemic and are left without support.** The Government has provided Rs.3000/- per month as maintenance grant to 368 children to grow up in a family environment until they complete 18 years of age and amount of Rs.3.62 Crore has been provided for the same. Further, as immediate relief to children who have lost one of their parents due to the Covid-19 pandemic **an amount of Rs.3.00 lakh has been provided to 15,364 children. A total of Rs. 460.92 crore has been provided from the Chief Minister's Public Relief Fund.** These children are given priority in all Government welfare schemes and the Government has taken steps to ensure that their education continues without

hindrance and that the education expenses are borne by the Government.

2. Children who have lost both parents are given priority in joining Government and Government-funded homes and hostels.

3. The Government has borne all expenses, including tuition fees and hostel fees, up to graduation for children who have lost their parents.

4. These children and single parents with children who have lost their husbands or wives due to the disease are given priority in all Government Welfare Schemes.

District-Level Committees are formed under the chairmanship of the District Collector and the progress achieved by each child in terms of financial assistance, education, care, protection, development, etc. is continuously monitored.

This scheme has also been extended to Sri Lankan Tamils living in Tamil Nadu.

5.6 Special Initiatives taken by the Government for Children

(a) Tamil Nadu State Policy for Children

To ensure the care, protection, growth and development of children in a happy environment, the Government of Tamil Nadu has released the Tamil Nadu State Policy for Children-2021. In this, the Government has formulated key objectives in line with international standards in consultation with the relevant departments according to each factor.

(b) Rehabilitation Policy for Children in Street Situations

The Government has formulated the 'Rehabilitation Policy for Children in Street Situations, 2022' keeping in view the welfare of street children due to various reasons. The main objective of this policy is to identify street children in need of care and take steps to rescue them in collaboration with various departments and to recommend an appropriate action plan

for effective rehabilitation according to their current situation. The policy provides a framework for providing information about street children, monitoring and tracking them and for effective coordination among stakeholders in other States.

(c) Integrated Training Centre for Social Empowerment

The Government of Tamil Nadu has set up an “Integrated Training Centre for Social Empowerment” in Chengalpattu district at a cost of Rs.27.00 crores to provide training on child and women’s welfare, protection, rights and development to the employees of various offices of the departments functioning under the Department of Social Welfare and Women Empowerment. So far, training has been provided to 1,241 Child Protection functionaries through the Integrated Training Centre for Community Development.

(d) Career Guidance Centre

Children who are admitted to Child Care institutions by Child Welfare Committees and require institutional care belong to disadvantaged family backgrounds. Such children are unable to get adequate guidance from their families due to their poor social and economic family situation, their parents being educationally backward, and unhealthy living conditions. Realizing this, the Tamil Nadu Government has set up Career Guidance Centres in 6 districts namely Chennai, Coimbatore, Madurai, Salem, Thanjavur and Thoothukudi to provide necessary assistance for employment and economic progress to such children.

(e) Conducting a State Level Annual Sports and Cultural Meet

As a major initiative to identify, bring out and encourage the various talents inherent in children, the Tamil Nadu Government organizes

State-Level Sports Competitions and Cultural Programmes for children in 36 Government Children Homes and Non-Governmental Organizations Homes receiving grant-in-aid and functioning under the Department of Children Welfare and Special Services every year.

A sum of Rs.0.25 Crore has been provided in the Budget Estimate for the year 2025- 2026.

A budget of Rs.0.03 crore has been allocated in the Budget Estimates for the year 2025-2026 for the purchase of sports equipment to enable children staying in child care homes to continue playing sports.

5.7 Other Schemes

5.7.1 Formal and Non-Formal Education

Schools recognized by the Department of School Education are located within the premises of the home to provide formal education to

children placed in long-term care in Government Children Homes. Children who are residing in the Children Homes which do not have schools within the premises are sent to nearby Government or Government Aided Schools for formal education. Children in temporary care homes such as Observation Homes and Reception Units are provided with non-formal education and skill development training.

The skills and career aspirations of 642 children placed in Government Child Care institutions were identified through individual assessments. Based on the assessments identified, individual career profiles were prepared that included possible career options for each child.

5.7.2 Vocational Training and Skill Development Programmes

Short-term vocational training in sewing, typing, dress making, refrigerator repair, fast

food preparation, plumbing, water purifier repair, basic computer training and bakery products preparation is provided to improve the skills of children in the institutions. Moreover, the girls who have studied in Government Children Homes are admitted to the Auxiliary Nurse and Mid Wife (ANM) training conducted by the Department of Public Health and Preventive Medicine every year.

5.7.3 Basic Training Module

The Department of Children Welfare and Special Services has developed a "Basic Training Module" to enhance the skills of children staying in Government Child Care Institutions and engage them in positive activities. Children are trained in sports, physical health and hygiene, life skills, sex education, the evils of drugs, social values and the ability to find alternative solutions to conflicts, basic computer skills, drama, music, dance, photography, etc.

This module has been introduced in Observation Homes, Special Homes and Place of Safety. Individuals and Non-Governmental Organizations with experience working with children have been identified and the basic training module has been implemented through them.

A sum of Rs.0.64 Crore has been provided in the Budget Estimate for the year 2025- 2026.

5.7.4 Children Educational Tour Scheme

The Government of Tamil Nadu implements an Educational Tour Scheme every year for children staying in 36 Government Children Homes under the Department of Children Welfare and Special Services with a noble objective of providing them with educational experience.

A sum of Rs.0.10 Crore has been provided in the Budget Estimate for the year 2025- 2026.

5.7.5 Psycho-Social Support for Children

The factors that lead children to engage in various criminal activities are very complex. Some of the factors worth mentioning are the psychological impact of adolescence, friendship with inappropriate peers, and hatred towards society. On the other hand, children admitted to Children Homes suffer from lack of individual attention from their parents and inability to get help. These factors expose them to emotional and psychological problems.

In order to overcome the psychological problems faced by them and to get a positive attitude, counselling services are provided through professional counselors to children in conflict with law as well as child in need of care and protection in Government Child Care Institutions. Based on the inputs provided by professional counselors, individual care plans are prepared and implemented for these children.

A sum of Rs.0.60 Crore has been provided in the Budget Estimate for the year 2025- 2026.

5.7.6 Therapeutic Scheme for Children

Children in Government run child care institutions are provided with basic training at a cost of Rs. 1.00 crore for the purpose of providing psychologically beneficial training through experts/service providers on need basis.

5.7.7 "Pathai" Project

The "Pathai" project is being implemented by a non-governmental organization at a cost of Rs. 40.00 lakh, to provide rehabilitative services such de-addiction, counselling, skill development to children in conflict with law admitted to the Government Observation Home in Chennai, who are considered to have committed petty offences and have committed first-time offences, and to

help them avoid re-involvement in illegal activities.

5.8 Child Helpline Services (1098)

A national 24-hour toll-free telephone service called "Ten Nine Eight" is being operated to rescue and assist children in distress. Any person who sees children in distress or these children can call 1098 anonymously to provide relevant information and to immediately rescue these children from distress or for guidance. This service has been operational under the Government of Tamil Nadu since August 01, 2023. Currently, toll free child helpline service is being provided in all districts of Tamil Nadu. In addition, Child Help Desk are functioning at 14 major railway stations and 1 bus station to rescue children in distress at railway and bus stations. Assistance has been provided under this service for 50,394 phone calls received from 01.04.2024 to 31.03.2025.

A sum of Rs.7.18 Crore has been provided in the Budget Estimate for the year 2025- 2026.

5.9 Child Protection Information Management and Monitoring System

To collect complete and reliable data on the protection and development of children under the Juvenile Justice System, to share data among stakeholders, to monitor and strengthen the services provided to children, and to know the current status of various schemes implemented for children, a web portal called Child Information System has been developed at a cost of Rs. 65.00 lakhs. The website for Child Protection Information Management and Monitoring System has been operational since 10.09.2022 (**<https://dsdcpimms.tn.gov.in>**). This electronic system has been designed to easily track the progress of children at every stage. The data is recorded and maintained

electronically for easy retrieval and management.

5.10 Individual Care Plan

For every child under the Juvenile Justice System, an Individual Care Plan should be prepared to enable the Juvenile Justice Board and the Child Welfare Committee to take appropriate decisions. This is applicable to all children residing in child care institutions and children in alternative care. These are used to assess the progress made by the child at each stage, to design intervention strategies in the institutions and to effectively plan for key activities such as rehabilitation and reintegration of the children into the society. Periodic training is being provided to the staff of the child care institutions operating in the State on the preparation of quality Individual Care Plans. The department has prepared a concept video and a

manual in collaboration with UNICEF to provide training on the preparation of Individual Care Plans with expertise.

5.11 De-addiction Centres for Children

These Centres addresses the problems of addiction to drugs and intoxicants among children, especially children in conflict with the law. Presently, 13 Deaddiction Centers for children are being implemented in 11 districts namely Chengalpattu (two centres), Madurai, Namakkal, Chennai (two centers), Tirunelveli, Trichy, Coimbatore, Vellore, Cuddalore, Salem, Thanjavur through NGOs with State Government funds. In these centers, juveniles addicted to various drugs are admitted through Juvenile Justice Boards and Child Welfare Committees and steps are being taken to rehabilitate them by providing free treatment and counseling. So

far, 842 children have benefited under this scheme.

A sum of Rs.0.88 Crore has been provided in the Budget Estimate for the year 2025- 2026.

5.12 De-addiction Centres

There are 25 Integrated Rehabilitation Centres (IRCAS) functioning in the State to provide inpatient and outpatient treatment to addicts of alcohol and substances. These centres spread over in 23 districts and run by Non-Governmental Organizations with financial assistance from Government of India. 23 centres have 15 bedded facility and the rest 2 centres are equipped with 30 beds.

The Union Government has formulated a National Action Plan for Drug Demand Reduction (NAPDDR) with a multi-pronged approach of drug prevention and rehabilitation to reduce the

adverse effects of drug addiction on drug addicts and their families. The National Action Plan, drug demand reduction action plan includes drug prevention education, awareness creation, capacity building, and a significant intervention program. The Union Government has approved a fund of Rs. 3.92 crore in the financial year 2024-2025 to implement this plan in Tamil Nadu. Under this plan, District De-addiction Centers have been established in 7 districts of Chennai, Coimbatore, Theni, Tirunelveli, Tiruvannamalai, Mayiladuthurai and Dindigul through Non-Governmental Organizations.

5.12.1 Drug Free India Campaign (NMBA)

Awareness programs on the ills of alcohol and drugs have been conducted especially for school/college students, truck/heavy vehicle drivers, construction workers, self-help groups, etc. The Union Government is providing financial assistance through the above scheme to conduct

awareness programs in 38 districts under the Government of India's campaign for a Drug-Free India (Nasha Mukta Bharat Abhiyan).

5.13 Probation System

The Probation System functions as an effective tool for early rehabilitation and social integration with the participation of children at every stage under the Juvenile Justice System. Probation Officers have been appointed to assist Child Welfare Committees and Juvenile Justice Boards in preparing social investigation reports.

These reports provide a detailed account of the individual and family background of the children brought before the Child Welfare Committees and Juvenile Justice Boards and enable these bodies to make an appropriate decision. In specific cases, Probation Officers undertake follow-up activities on children in conflict with the law and children moving from

Children Homes to families. The Department of Children Welfare and Special Services has one Probation Officer in each of the 32 districts. Due to the high number of cases in Chennai, 3 additional Probation Officers have been appointed. Periodic review meetings are being held in the Department of Children Welfare and Special Services to ensure that proper rehabilitation measures are provided to the children at the earliest.

5.14 Coordination with other departments for child protection

Child welfare and protection can be ensured by establishing better coordination between various departments. The Children Welfare and Special Services Department coordinates and provides all services for children from various departments. Social Welfare, Education, Labour Welfare, Samagra Shiksha Abhiyan, Railway Police, Revenue Department, Integrated Child Development Services, Rural

Development Department, Municipal Administration, Medical and Health, Police, Judiciary, Differently Abled Welfare Department, Tamil Nadu Skill Development Corporation and Children Welfare and Special Services Department effectively coordinate with them to ensure the safety and care of all children.

Child marriage, child trafficking, child begging, physical and mental abuse and child labour are identified and appropriate measures are taken to rescue and rehabilitate them. Awareness campaigns are continuously conducted at the district level through District Child Protection Units to uphold the rights of children.

5.15 Self Defence and Sports Training

For the girl students staying in 33 Government Homes (Government Service Homes and Government Children Homes), it is very important to safe guard themselves even in

difficult situations due to the lack of a family support system. The self defence training provide to girl children who learn it a sense of self-confidence and gives them additional courage to act in the public sphere.

Qualified trainers have been appointed in 33 homes at a monthly rate of Rs.25,000/- to provide Self Defence and Sports Training to the girl students staying in 6 Government Service Homes and 27 Government Children Homes for girls, and martial arts training is being provided at a cost of Rs. 1.00 Crore.

5.16 Multi-Disciplinary Task Force to identify unregistered homes and De-addiction Centers

To ensure that Children Homes and De-addiction Centers functioning in the districts are operating in accordance with Government regulations, and to identify and register unregistered Homes and De-addiction Centers, a multi-disciplinary task force has been formed in

each district from 24.10.2022. This team has been instructed to continuously inspect all Homes and De-addiction Centre and submit reports.

5.17 Increasing of Scale of Diet in Government Child Care Institutions from the current financial year

In order to meet the nutritional needs of children residing in Children Homes, Observation Homes, Special Homes, Government Place of Safety and Government After Care institutions functioning under the Department of Children Welfare and Special Services, the scale of diet has been increased from the financial year 2024-2025 at an additional cost of Rs.2.30 crore.

5.18 Action taken on the Recommendations of the One-Man Committee

A One-Man Committee constituted under the Chairmanship of Hon'ble Justice (Retd) Madras High Court, Thiru.K.Chandru, to suggest

measures for the effective management of the homes functioning under the Juvenile Justice (Care and Protection of Children) Act, 2015, has made recommendations for improving the infrastructure and facilities of various homes functioning under this department.

Based on this, the nomenclature of the Department "Directorate of Social Defence" has been changed to "Directorate of Children Welfare and Special Services".

Steps are being taken to construct a model Observation Home namely 'Poonchulai' in Coimbatore with all the infrastructure facilities and a child-friendly environment at a cost of Rs.10.00 crores and to construct a residence at a cost of Rs.75.00 lakhs.

Further, steps are being taken to construct an additional dormitory building at the Government Observation Home, Madurai at a cost of Rs. 1.00 crore. To undertake Special

Maintenance work at 6 Government Observation Homes (Chennai, Cuddalore, Madurai, Tirunelveli, Salem and Thanjavur) at a cost of Rs. 2.00 crore.

To construct a visitor/parent waiting room and a guardian room at an estimated cost of Rs. 30.00 lakh each at a cost of Rs. 1.20 crore at 3 Government Observation Homes and 1 Place of Safety.

Steps are being taken to construct additional buildings at the Government Special Home, Chengalpattu at a cost of Rs.5.41 crore and to construct a residence at the Government Special Home, Chengalpattu at a cost of Rs.78.00 lakh.

As per the recommendations of the One-Man Committee, ex-servicemen (TEXCO Staff) have been appointed in place of ex-inmates of this department working in the Government

Special Home, Government Observation Homes and Government Place of Safety.

Further, steps are being taken to create posts like psychologist, counsellor and nurse in the above-mentioned homes for the welfare of the children in the homes by revamping the existing posts.

As per the recommendations of a One-Man Committee, an amendment has been issued to the Tamil Nadu Juvenile Justice (Care and Protection of Children) Rules, 2017.

Further, a basic training module is being provided in 2 Government Observation Homes, 2 Government Place of Safety and 1 Government Special Home, Chengalpattu in the first phase at a cost of Rs. 64,50,000/-.

To improve the skills of the children in the Government Observation Homes and

Government Special Homes, skill development training such as tailoring, AC Mechanic, Fast Food Preparation, Basic Computer Training, Plumbing, Preparation of Bakery products is being provided. Through this, necessary means are being provided for employment opportunities and economic progress of such children.

CHAPTER -6

SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS

The Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) aim to achieve sustainable development across economic, social, and environmental dimensions in a balanced and integrated manner. To monitor progress towards these goals, 17 aspirational goals with 169 targets have been established.

NITI Aayog has been tasked with coordinating with states for SDG localization, including developing indicator frameworks at the state, district, and panchayat levels, as well as implementing review mechanisms and capacity-building initiatives. An attached office of NITI Aayog has been mandated to actively monitor and evaluate scheme implementation through an Output Outcome Monitoring Framework to enhance effectiveness and ensure proper outreach. Eight thematic working groups have

been established to review and monitor progress towards the set targets. These groups regularly convene meetings with relevant stakeholders to brainstorm and implement suitable measures for achieving targets at the panchayat, district, and state levels. Oversight of SDG implementation in Tamil Nadu is entrusted to a High Power Committee chaired by the Chief Secretary to the Government.

The Integrated Child Development Services (ICDS) operates Anganwadi Centers (AWCs) to fulfil the nutritional needs of children aged 6 months to 6 years, adolescent girls aged 14-18 years in two aspirational districts (Ramanathapuram and Virudhunagar) and pregnant and lactating mothers, thereby addressing Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) 2 and 4. Various efforts are being undertaken through policy implementation and

schematic interventions by ICDS to achieve SDG targets by 2030.

Goal 2

Goal 2 aims to end hunger, achieve food security, improve nutrition, and promote sustainable growth. The main objective department of ICDS is to tackle all forms of malnutrition, including stunting, wasting, and underweight in children under 6 years, and to meet the nutritional requirements of adolescent girls in the age group of 14-18 years two aspirational districts, as well as pregnant and lactating mothers by providing supplementary nutrition to these beneficiaries.

- The Supplementary Nutrition Programme (SNP) covers approximately 26.80 lakh beneficiaries, with an annual expenditure of about 800 Crore.

- Adolescent girls in the age group of 14-18 years in the aspirational districts of Ramanathapuram and Virudhunagar, numbering 44,177, are provided supplementary nutrition under Scheme for Adolescent Girls.
- The distribution of BIS-standard Sathu Mavu, hot cooked meals with eggs to children, and the provision of fortified biscuits to severely malnourished children have improved the nutritional status of these children.
- The use of fortified foods such as rice, palm oil, and salt in cooking has reduced the prevalence of micronutrient deficiency among ICDS child beneficiaries.

National Family Health Survey					
Indicator	NFHS4 (2016)		NFHS-5 (2019-21)		Poshan Tracker (Feb 2025)
	All India	Tamil Nadu	All India	Tamil Nadu	Tamil Nadu
Stunting (%)	38.4	27.1	35.5	25	13.7
Wasting (%)	21	19.7	19.3	14.6	3.4
Underweight (%)	35.7	23.8	32.1	22	6.4

- Nutrikits were provided to mothers of severely malnourished children through the Uttasatthai Uruthi Sei Scheme Phase-II.
- Tracking low birth weight children using the PICME application, monitoring children's growth, and entering data in the Poshan Tracker application for real-time monitoring (which helps to provide adequate nutrition) have contributed to improved nutritional status.

Goal 4

Goal 4 focuses on providing quality education to children. ICDS aims to offer early childhood care and education (ECCE) to support the physical, language, cognitive, and socio-emotional development of children attending Anganwadi Centers. This effort primarily focuses on preparing children for school readiness. The state has invested heavily in improving the quality of early childhood education to ensure that high-quality preschool learning helps children become school-ready, with better chances for academic success, faster adjustment to school, and fewer behavioural problems.

- Approximately 10.86 lakh children aged 2-6 years are enrolled in Anganwadi centers for preschool education.
- The "Aadi Paadi Vilaiyadu Pappa" (APVP) age-appropriate curriculum, developed by the state government, is implemented daily in all Anganwadi centers for 4 hours.

- Special initiatives include age-wise activity books, preschool kits, uniforms for children, assessment cards, and school-leaving certificates.
- Anganwadi workers have been trained in Early Childhood Care and Education (ECCE).

The Integrated Child Development Services (ICDS) is achieving the objectives of SDG Goals 2 and 4 by following various strategies.

Goal 5

Goal 5 Achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls

Targets for Goal 5

5.1: End all forms of discrimination against all women and girls everywhere.

5.2: Eliminate all forms of violence against all women and girls in the public and private spheres, including trafficking

and sexual and other types of exploitation.

5.3: Eliminate all harmful practices, such as child, early and forced marriage and female genital mutilation.

5.4: Recognize and value unpaid care and domestic work through the provision of public services, infrastructure and social protection policies and the promotion of shared responsibility within the household and the family as nationally appropriate.

5.5: Ensure women's full and effective participation and equal opportunities for leadership at all levels of decision-making in political, economic and public life.

5.6: Ensure universal access to sexual and reproductive health and reproductive

rights as agreed in accordance with the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development and the Beijing Platform for Action and the outcome documents of their review conference.

- a) Undertake reforms to give women equal rights to economic resources, as well as access to ownership and control over land and other forms of property, financial services, inheritance and natural resources, in accordance with national laws.**
- b) Enhance the use of enabling technology, in particular information and communications technology, to promote the empowerment of women.**
- c) Adopt and strengthen sound policies and enforceable legislation**

for the promotion of gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls at all levels.

The Directorate of Social Welfare and Women Empowerment serves as the Nodal Department for Goal 5 on Gender Equality. The state government implements various schemes to achieve this goal, focusing on ensuring the rights and well-being of women and girls. Gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls should commence from birth and continue throughout their entire life cycle. Societies must strive to guarantee their survival, protection, and empowerment. Goal 5 of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) aims to eliminate all forms of discrimination against women and girls and ensure their equal access to health and education, equal opportunities for employment, and equal rights to economic resources.

The following schemes are designed to address the nine targets and fourteen indicators outlined under Goal 5 of the SDGs.

Children Welfare Schemes:

- I. The Chief Minister's Girl Child Protection Scheme
- II. Cradle Baby Scheme
- III. The Chief Minister's Breakfast scheme
- IV. Nutritious Meal Programme
- V. Beti Bachao Beti Padhao Scheme
- VI. Child Help Line (1098).
- VII. The Prohibition of Child Marriage Act, 2006
- VIII. Juvenile Justice Act, 2015
- IX. Prevention of Children from Sexual Offence Act, 2012
- X. State level awards for best services towards Children

- XI. Regular and periodical Health checkups for children and Adolescents
- XII. Integrated Child Development Schemes Services

Women Welfare Schemes:

- I. Pudhumai Penn Scheme (PPS)
- II. All Women Police Stations (AWPS)
- III. Women Help Line (181), Cyber Crime Help Line (1930)
- IV. Mobile Applications Such as Kavalan App, Kaval Udhavi App by Police Department
- V. 49 One Stop Centers
- VI. Seven Service Homes
- VII. 33 SwadharGreh
- VIII. Free travel facilities
- IX. The Working Women Hostels
- X. Women Tailoring Industrial Cooperative Societies

- XI. The State has reserved 50% seats for women in local bodies and 33% reservation for women in employment.
- XII. State level awards for best services towards Women
- XIII. Nutritious Health kit, continuous health checkups during pregnancy, Maternity Benefit scheme to pregnant women
- XIV. Equal rights to daughters on parental properties
- XV. To facilitate higher education among girl children who studied in Government/Government aided Tamil medium School Rs.1000 per month is provided through Pudumai Penn Scheme
- XVI. Effective implementation of Social Legislations
 - 1. Dowry Prohibition Act 1961
 - 2. Protection of Women from Domestic Violence Act 2005

3. Tamil Nadu Hostels and Homes for Women and Children Act 2014
4. The Sexual Harassment of Women at Workplace Act, 2013
- XVII. Tamil Nadu State Commission for Women
- XVIII. Widow and Destitute Women Welfare Board
- XIX. State Policy for Women
- XX. Social Security Pension Schemes
- XXI. Gender Budget Cells

Senior Citizen Welfare Schemes and Policies

- I. Old age Pension
- II. Old age homes / Integrated Complexes
- III. Old Age Policy
- IV. Mobile Medicare units
- V. Maintenance and Welfare of Parents and Senior Citizen Act, 2007
- VI. State Policy for Senior Citizens
- VII. Social Security Pension Schemes

Transgender Welfare Activities:

- I. Transgender Pension Rs.1500/- (*per month*)
- II. Free travel facility
- III. Rs.50,000/- as grant for economic activities
- IV. Mobile App for registration
- V. Identity card, Health card, Ration card
- VI. House site patta
- VII. Transgender Tailoring Society
- VIII. Transgender (Right / Protection) Act, 2019
- IX. Transgender Education Dream Project
- X. Best Transgender Award

The department's welfare programs are dedicated to advancing Goal 5 of the Sustainable Development Goals, with a particular focus on promoting gender equality and empowering women and girls. In formulating future schemes,

paramount importance will be placed on aligning with Goal 5 targets, thereby contributing significantly to the realization of a more equitable and inclusive society.

CHAPTER -7

7.1 Social Security Schemes

The Government of Tamil Nadu is the pioneering State in implementing Social Security Schemes. In order to protect the livelihood of the vulnerable persons viz., Old aged persons, differently abled persons, widows, agricultural labourers, farmers, destitute / deserted wives and unmarried poor & incapacitated women of age above 50 years, the monthly pension are being provided to all the eligible beneficiaries under these Schemes. From 1st January, 2023, an amount of Rs.1,500/- is being paid to all the differently abled beneficiaries.

The monthly pension for the other (excluding differently abled pension) schemes have also been increased to Rs.1,200/- from August-2023. For the year 2024-2025 Rs. 5421.11 crore has been allocated for these pension schemes. As on February 2025, there

are 34,40,647 beneficiaries are getting pension under the following schemes:-

Sl. No.	Name of the Scheme	Beneficiaries as on February 2025
1.	Indira Gandhi National Old Age Pension Scheme	13,70,679
2.	Indira Gandhi National Disability Pension Scheme	71,080
3.	Indira Gandhi National Widow Pension Scheme	5,37,911
4.	Differently Abled Pension Scheme	4,66,789
5.	Destitute Widow Pension Scheme	6,14,836
6.	Chief Minister's Uzhavar Pathukappu Thittam	2,35,372
7.	Destitute / Deserted Wives Pension Scheme	1,15,408
8.	Pension to unmarried, poor incapacitated women of age 50 years and above	24,492
9.	Sri Lankan Refugees Pension Schemes (OAP, DAP, DWP, DDWP)	4,080
	Total	34,40,647

Table

Funding Pattern–Union and State share

S. No	Name of the Scheme	Union Government Contribution (Rs.)	State Government Contribution (Rs.)
1.	Indira Gandhi National Old Age Pension Scheme (IGNOAPS)	200/-	1000/-
		500/-	700/-
2.	Indira Gandhi National Disability Pension Scheme (IGNDPS)	300/-	1200/-
3.	Indira Gandhi National Widow Pension Scheme (IGNWPS)	300/-	900/-
4.	Differently Abled Pension Scheme (DAPS)	-	1500/-
5.	Destitute Widow Pension Scheme (DWPS)	-	1200/-
6.	Chief Minister's Uzhavar Padhukappu Thittam (CMUPT)	-	1200/-

S. No	Name of the Scheme	Union Government Contribution (Rs.)	State Government Contribution (Rs.)
7	Destitute / Deserted Wives Pension Scheme (DDWPS)	-	1200/-
8	Pension to Unmarried Women, poor incapacitated women of age 50 years and above (UWP)	-	1200/
9	Sri Lankan Refugees Pension Schemes (OAP, DWP, DDWP)	-	1200/
10	Sri Lankan Refugees Pension Scheme (DAPS)	-	1500/-

7.2 Eligibility Criteria

The eligibility criteria to avail assistance for the three pension schemes under National Social Assistance Programme (NSAP) in Tamil Nadu are as detailed below: -

Table

S. No	Scheme	Eligibility Criteria
1	Indira Gandhi National Old Age Pension Scheme (IGN-OAPS)	• Destitute, • belonging to Below poverty line • Age: 60 years and above
2	Indira Gandhi National Widow Pension Scheme (IGN-WPS)	• Destitute Widow, • belonging to Below poverty line • Age: 40 years and above.
3	Indira Gandhi National Disability Pension Scheme (IGN-DPS)	• belonging to Below poverty line • Age: 18 years and above. • Disability level: 80% and above,

The eligibility criteria for Social Security Pension Schemes fully funded by the Government of Tamil Nadu are as detailed below:

Table

S. No	Scheme	Eligibility Criteria
1	Differently Abled Pension Scheme (DAS)	Unemployed. If private / self-employed, the annual income of the beneficiary should not exceed Rs.3 Lakh. Age: 18 years and above. Disability level: 40% and above
2	Destitute Widow Pension Schemes (DWPS)	Destitute Widow. Age:18 years and above, Fixed assets: Not exceeding Rs.1,00,000/- (Provided further that the value of the fixed assets or property of the applicant or beneficiary may not be taken into account if a free house has been assigned to the beneficiary under any of the schemes of the Government)
3	Chief Minister's Uzhavar Padhukaapu Thittam (CMUPT)	Destitute. Age: 60 years and above. Landless agricultural labourers Fixed assets: Not exceeding Rs.1,00,000/- (Provided further that the value of the fixed assets or property of the applicant or beneficiary may not be taken into account if a free house has been assigned to the beneficiary under any of the schemes of the Government)

S. No	Scheme	Eligibility Criteria
4	Destitute / Deserted Wives Pension Scheme (DDWPS)	Destitute. Age: 30years and above. Must be legally divorced or deserted for not less than 5years (or) obtained legal separation certificate from a competent Court of Law. Fixed assets: Not exceeding Rs.1,00,000/- (Provided further that the value of the fixed assets or property of the applicant or beneficiary may not be taken into account if a free house has been assigned to the beneficiary under any of the schemes of the Government)
5	Pension to Poor Unmarried Women of age 50 years and above (UWP)	Destitute and Unmarried women. Age: 50years and above. Fixed assets: Not exceeding Rs.1,00,000/- "Provided further that the value of the fixed assets or property of the applicant or beneficiary may not be taken into account if a free house has been assigned to the beneficiary under any of the schemes of the Government."
6.	Sri Lankan Refugees Pension Scheme (OAP, DAP, DWP and DDWP)	Benefits are being provided based on the eligibility criteria under the schemes of OAP, DAP, DWP and DDWP.

7.3 Online web application for applying Social Security Scheme Pensions

Revenue Department has implemented a simple one - page format that can be submitted online by those who seek pension under any Social Security Scheme. The applications are forwarded to the concerned revenue authorities by the system for verification. After verification, the eligible cases are forwarded to the Tahsildar (SSS), for scrutiny and sanction of pension. Pension is sanctioned by Tahsildar (SSS) for the eligible petitioner.

7.4 Disposal of petitions – Time line

Applications received under Social Security Pension Schemes are verified by detailed enquiry and disposed within 30 days as per rules prescribed by the Government.

7.5 Disbursement of Pension through Direct Benefit Transfer (DBT)

The Pension payments under Social Security Schemes are Centralized and being

disbursed to the beneficiaries throughout the State from this Commissionerate from the month of September-2024 through Banks and e-Money Orders by processing bills prepared by Commissionerate of Treasuries and Accounts after due validations through Global Beneficiary Master (GBM).

7.6 Other benefits to the pensioners

One saree per female pensioner/one dhoti per male pensioner is distributed twice a year i.e. on Pongal and Deepavali festivals under Social Security Pension Scheme.

The beneficiaries are also permitted to draw fine variety rice free of cost as per the following norms: -

- (i) 4 Kg of fine variety rice per month for those who do not take meals at the Anganwadi centers.
- (ii) 2 Kg of the fine variety rice per month for those who take meals at the Anganwadi centers.

5 Kg of rice are distributed to all the beneficiaries of Social Security Schemes as per Food Security Act, 2013.

CHAPTER -8

Social Reforms Department

8.1 Creation of the Department - An Introduction

The Social Reforms Department was created in 1999 with an intention to ensure Communal Harmony and enhance Social Amity, based on the decision taken in the meeting of all party leaders convened under the Chairmanship of the Hon'ble Chief Minister Muthamizh Arignar Dr. Kalaighnar. This department was merged with Adi Dravidar and Tribal Welfare Department in the year 2002. Reiterating the vital role of the department, the then Hon'ble Chief Minister, Muthamizh Arignar Dr. Kalaighnar revived this department in 2006.

8.2 Social Justice Monitoring Committee

The Hon'ble Chief Minister had announced during the occasion of the centenary day of the Social Justice that **"Social Justice Monitoring Committee"** will be constituted. For implementing the announcement made by the Hon'ble Chief Minister, **"Social Justice Monitoring Committee"** was constituted in the year 2021 comprising the following Chairman and members:

- 1) Prof. Suba. Veerapandian - Chairman
- 2) Dr.K.Dhanavel, I.A.S., (Retired) – Member
- 3) Prof.Dr.Swaminathan Devadoss - Member
- 4) Poet. Thiru.Manushyaputhiran - Member
- 5) Thiru.A.Jaison - Member
- 6) Prof.R.Rajendren - Member
- 7) Thiru.K.Karunanidhi – Member
- 8) Dr.Shanthi Ravindranath – Member

8.3 Objectives of Social Justice Monitoring Committee

The Social Justice Monitoring Committee will monitor as to whether the yardsticks of social justice have been fully followed in Education, Employment, Posts, Promotions and Appointments. If the reservation is not properly implemented, the committee gives its recommendations to the Government for taking appropriate action.

8.4 Meetings of the Committee

So far, 14 Meetings have been conducted by the Social Justice Monitoring Committee.

Activities performed by the Committee for the past three years

Inspections

(a) Visit to Universities

The Social Justice Monitoring Committee have conducted the following inspections of Universities:

S.No.	Year	University
1.	2022	(i) Periyar University, (ii) Bharathiyar University, (iii) Tamil Nadu Agricultural University, (iv) Dr. MGR Medical University
2.	2023	(i) University of Madras (ii) Tamil Nadu Physical Education and Sports University (iii) Tamil Nadu Dr. Ambedkar Law University (iv) Anna University (v) Tamil Nadu Veterinary Science University
3.	2024	(i) Bharathidasan University (ii) Tamil University, Thanjavur

Action is being taken by the respective Departments to implement the Recommendations / findings of the Committee.

(b) Visit to Public Sector Undertakings, Board and Local Bodies

The Social Justice Monitoring Committee has also conducted inspections in Tamil Nadu Water Supply & Drainage Board, Teachers Recruitment Board and Greater Chennai Corporation.

**Tmt. P. Geetha Jeevan,
Minister for Social Welfare –
Women Empowerment**

ANNEXURE -I

IMPORTANT DAYS

Sl.No	IMPORTANT DAYS		Date
1.	National Girl Child Day	-	January 24 th
2.	State Girl Child Protection Day	-	February 24 th
3.	International Women's Day	-	March 8 th
4.	Thirunangaiyar Day	-	April 15 th
5.	Anti Child Labour Day	-	June 12 th
6.	Elders Abuse Awareness Day	-	June 15 th
7.	International Day of Older Persons	-	October 1 st
8.	International Girl Child Day	-	October 11 th
9.	Children's Day	-	November 14 th
10.	International day for Elimination of Violence against women	-	November 25 th
11.	Dowry Prohibition Day	-	November 26 th
12.	Human Rights Day	-	December 10 th

ANNEXURE – II

BUDGET ESTIMATE – 2025-2026

DEMAND No.45

**SOCIAL WELFARE AND WOMEN
EMPOWERMENT DEPARTMENT**

**TOTAL BUDGET ESTIMATE FOR
2025-2026 Rs.8560.94 Crore**

Head of Account		(Rs. In lakh)
Revenue Section		Allocation
2059	Public Works	280.38
2225	Directorate of Social Welfare	0.01
2235	Department of Social Defence	43450.17
2235	Directorate of Social Welfare	97953.80
2235	Directorate of Integrated Child Development Services Scheme	14636.90
2236	Secretariat	40.28
2236	Directorate of Social Welfare	323080.37
2236	Directorate of Integrated Child Development Services Scheme	367107.36

Head of Account		(Rs. In lakh)
2251	Secretariat	1056.08
2551	Directorate of Social Welfare	
Revenue Section Total		847605.35
Capital Section		
4235	Directorate of Social Welfare	1000.02
4235	Department of Social Defence	1835.02
4236	Directorate of Social Welfare	5564.02
4236	Directorate Integrated Child Development Services Scheme	0.07
Capital Section Total		8399.13
Loan Section		
7610	Loans to Government Servants etc.,	90.00
Loan Section Total		90.00
Grand Total		856094.48

Gross Total : 856094.48 (Rs. in lakh)

Revenue Section	:	Rs.847605.35
Capital Section	:	Rs. 8399.13
Loan Section	:	Rs. 90.00
Total	:	Rs.856094.48 (or) Rs.8560.94 (in Crore)

A sum of **Rs. 5151.80** Crore has also been provided in the Budget Estimate for the year 2025-2026 under the Demand No.**41** Revenue Department for the implementation of **Social Security Pension Schemes.**

ANNEXURE -III

SERVICES

Women Helpline

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(<https://www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=61551393133467>)

(<https://x.com/SocialWelfareTn>)

(<https://youtube.com/@tamilmagalirkural-deptofsw3132?si=5JMqJGSHofucwbSV>)

(<https://www.linkedin.com/company/department-of-social-welfare-and-women-empowerment/>)

(<https://www.instagram.com/socialwelfareTn/>)

Child Helpline

1098

Student and Exam Helpline

14417

Senior Citizen Helpline

14567

Cyber Crime Helpline

1930

Kavalan Udhavi App

**(For Children, Women and Senior Citizens
Emergency)**



The Hon'ble Chief Minister Thiru.M.K.Stalin at Thiruvallur inaugurated the expansion of "Chief Minister's Breakfast Scheme" to all Government aided Primary Schools in rural areas .



The Hon'ble Deputy Chief Minister enjoying his breakfast with school children served under "Chief Minister's Breakfast Scheme"



The Hon'ble Chief Minister inaugurated "Pudhumai Penn" expansion Scheme at Kamaraj College, Thoothukudi, benefitting the girls who studied in Tamil Medium in Government aided schools.



The Hon'ble Chief Minister inaugurated the "Tamil Pudhalvan" Scheme at Government Arts College, Coimbatore.



The Hon'ble Chief Minister chaired the "Women's Day Celebration – 2025" at Chennai.



The Hon'ble Chief Minister inaugurated "Pink Auto Scheme" for Women during Women's day celebration at Chennai.



The Hon'ble Minister for Social Welfare and Women Empowerment inaugurated the first meeting of Textile Industry Coalition tripartite for Gender equality and Zero tolerance towards violence against women at Tiruppur.



The Hon'ble Chief Minister distributed the "Best Transgender Award" for the year 2024 at Chennai.



The Hon'ble Minister for Social Welfare and Women Empowerment, Chaired the third Meeting of Widows and Destitute Women Welfare Board at Chennai



First of its kind in India "Thozhi Hostels" – Safe accommodation for working women run by Tamil Nadu Working Women Hostel Corporation Limited.



The Hon'ble Minister for Social Welfare and Women Empowerment distributed Gold coins and cash assistance to beneficiaries under Marriage Assistance Schemes at Thoothukudi.



Honourable Chief Minister presenting a Nutri-kit to a malnourished child's mother at the inauguration ceremony of the second phase of Uttachathai uruthi sei in Ariyalur district.



The Honourable Chief Minister enjoyed distributing sweets to the children at the Children Centre.



The Honorable Chief Minister's affectionate moments with the child of the Children Centre



The Honourable Deputy Chief Minister interacted with children in Children Centre of Tiruvarur District.



Honourable Minister of Social Welfare and Women Empowerment happily performed bangle ceremony to pregnant women in "Samuthaaya Valaikaapu" Programme held in Thoothukudi district.



The Honorable Minister of Social Welfare and Women Empowerment wishing pregnant women at "Samuthaaya valaikaapu" Programme in Kanniyakumari district.



Children eating in a group enjoying the Hot Cooked Meal with egg to improve eating habits



Motivating self feeding habits in Children's Centre by introduction of nutritious food



Anganwadi Workers in colorful uniforms



Anganwadi Helpers in colorful uniforms



At the Children Centre, Nilgiris children wear sweaters, Hats and socks, happily playing and learning



Learning through playing is introduced in Children's Centres



Use of carefully curated learning kit aids in improving motor skills and overall development of children.



The Hon'ble Chief Minister interacting with children of the Annai Sathya Government Children Home for Girls, Virudhunagar.



The Hon'ble Deputy Chief Minister distributed prizes to children from the Thattaparai Zone during the State Level Sports and Cultural Meet held at Chennai.



The Hon'ble Chief Minister along with the newly constituted Selection Committee for the selection of Child Welfare Committees (CWC's) and Juvenile Justice Boards (JJB's) across Tamil Nadu.



The Hon'ble Deputy Chief Minister launched the POCSO Portal developed by the Department of Children Welfare and Special Services.



The Hon'ble Minister for Social Welfare and Women Empowerment celebrated the International Children's Day along with Children from Semancheri.



The Hon'ble Minister for Social Welfare and Women Empowerment inaugurated the PAATHAI project at the Government Observation Home, Chennai.



A High level Review Meeting was held regarding the implementation of the POCSO Act under the Chairmanship of the Hon'ble Deputy Chief Minister.



Place of Safety for Children in conflict with law has been established at Aathur, Chengalpattu district at a cost of Rs.15.95 crore.



The Integrated Training Centre for Social Empowerment (ITCSE) has been established at Aathur, Chengalpattu district at a cost of Rs.27 crore.

