ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE, INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY & DIGITAL SERVICES DEPARTMENT

POLICY NOTE
2026 – 2027

DEMAND No. 31

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MINISTER FOR ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE, INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY & DIGITAL SERVICES

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2026

பிறப்பொக்கும் எல்லா

உயிர்க்கும்

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INDEX

CHAPTER	CONTENTS	PAGE NO.
I	INTRODUCTION	1-7
II	DIRECTORATE OF e-GOVERNANCE	8-41
III	TAMIL NADU e-GOVERNANCE AGENCY (TNeGA)	42-81
IV	TAMIL NADU ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE MISSION (TNAIM)	82-116
V	ELECTRONICS CORPORATION OF TAMIL NADU LIMITED (ELCOT)	117-154

- The department's demand number. Note the name: Artificial Intelligence, Information Technology and Digital Services Department - **AI** was added to the title.

CHAPTER	CONTENTS	PAGE NO.
VI	TAMIL VIRTUAL ACADEMY (TVA)	155-185
VII	TAMIL NADU ARASU CABLE TV CORPORATION LIMITED (TACTV)	186-196
VIII	TAMIL NADU FIBRENET CORPORATION LIMITED (TANFINET)	197-207
IX	ICT ACADEMY OF TAMIL NADU (ICTACT)	208-233
X	TAMIL NADU TECHNOLOGY FOUNDATION (iTNT FOUNDATION)	234-256

- Described as India's FIRST deep-tech innovation hub - a likely one-mark fact.

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CHAPTER - I

INTRODUCTION

அறம்பொருள் இன்பம் உயிரச்சம் நான்கின்

திறந்தெரிந்து தேறப் படும்.

(குறள் 501)

By examining a person's conduct with regard to the four aspects—**virtue (Aram), wealth (Porul), pleasure (Inbam), and fear for life (Uyir Acham)**—one can discern and judge their true character.

Digital technologies are transforming economies, governance and societies across the world. Artificial Intelligence (AI), Digital Public Infrastructure (DPI), Cloud Computing, Data Analytics, Cybersecurity and other Frontier technologies are redefining the way Governments deliver public services,

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businesses operate and citizens interact with institutions. These technologies are not only improving efficiency and transparency but are also creating new opportunities for innovation, employment and inclusive economic growth.

Tamil Nadu continues to be one of India's leading Information Technology (IT) destinations with a strong ecosystem of IT and ITeS industries, Global Capability Centers (GCCs), electronics manufacturing, startups and skilled human resources.

The State has consistently attracted major technology investments and has expanded IT infrastructure beyond Chennai into Tier-II and Tier-III cities, thereby promoting balanced regional development and creating quality employment opportunities. IT exports from the State is worth more than Rs.2.5 lakh crore annually and providing employment to over 20 lakh persons, both

- IT exports from Tamil Nadu, employing over **20 lakh** persons directly and indirectly.

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directly and indirectly. These strengths position Tamil Nadu to emerge as a national leader in Artificial Intelligence, digital innovation and next-generation technologies.

The widespread adoption of digital technologies has also transformed the expectations of citizens. People expect Government services to be simple, transparent, secure and available anytime, anywhere through digital platforms. They seek faster service delivery, seamless interaction across Government Departments and secure handling of personal information. Businesses also expect efficient regulatory systems, reliable digital infrastructure, skilled manpower and a policy environment that supports innovation and investment.

The Government of Tamil Nadu under the leadership of the Hon'ble Chief Minister is committed for achieving inclusive growth,

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social justice and technology-driven development. The Government's Vision Document envisages a prosperous, equitable and future-ready Tamil Nadu with a strong focus on quality education, employment generation, women's empowerment, world-class infrastructure, transparent governance and improved quality of life. Technology has been recognised as a key enabler for achieving these objectives by improving governance, promoting innovation, creating employment opportunities and delivering efficient public services.

In line with this vision and to address the aspirations of the people of the State, the Artificial Intelligence, Information Technology and Digital Services Department is leading Tamil Nadu's digital transformation by formulating progressive policies such as AVGC-XR Policy, DeepTech Startup Policy, promoting

The two policies the note names as the department's current policy thrust.

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IT investments, strengthening digital infrastructure, fostering innovation and enabling the adoption of technology across Government. The Department is committed to building a secure, inclusive and future-ready digital ecosystem that enhances governance, supports economic development and improves the quality of life of every citizen.

The Department functions through dedicated organizations, each contributing to a distinct aspect of the State's digital ecosystem. The Directorate of e-Governance provides policy direction and institutional coordination for digital e-governance initiatives. The Tamil Nadu e-Governance Agency (TNeGA) develops and manages Digital Public Infrastructure, citizen-centric digital platforms and integrated e-Governance solutions that simplify and improve Government service delivery.

The Electronics Corporation of Tamil Nadu Limited (ELCOT) has been instrumental in developing world-class IT infrastructure, establishing IT Parks across the State, promoting investments in IT, data centers, and supporting the growth of frontier technologies such as Artificial Intelligence, Quantum Computing and AVGC-XR. The Tamil Nadu Artificial Intelligence Mission (TNAIM) aims to create a responsible AI ecosystem by promoting research, innovation, capacity building and AI-enabled governance solutions that improve public service delivery.

The Tamil Nadu Artificial Intelligence Mission was set up for an initial period of two years, with TNeGA and the iTNT Foundation as implementing agencies.

The Tamil Nadu FibreNet Corporation Limited (TANFINET) is expanding the 'BharatNet' high-speed broadband connectivity across the State to strengthen digital inclusion and improve access to Government services. The Tamil Nadu Arasu Cable TV Corporation (TACTV) provides affordable cable television

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services. The Tamil Virtual Academy (TVA) promotes Tamil language, literature and culture through digital learning programmes for the Tamil diaspora across the world. The iTNT Foundation, India's first deep-tech innovation hub, nurtures innovation and deep-tech entrepreneurship by connecting startups, industry and academia, while the ICT Academy of Tamil Nadu (ICTACT) develops industry-ready talent through skilling, faculty development and capacity-building initiatives.

These initiatives together contribute towards achieving transparent governance, sustainable economic growth and the realisation of the Government's vision of achieving 1.5 trillion-dollar economy by 2036 as per the blueprint laid out in of Vetri Thamizhagam Vision Document.

- The target in the Vetri Thamizhagam Vision Document that this department's work is aligned to.

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CHAPTER - II

DIRECTORATE OF e-GOVERNANCE(DeG)

2.1 Introduction

Directorate of e-Governance (DeG) under the Artificial Intelligence, Information Technology and Digital Services Department, is the standards-setting, regulatory, compliance and policy-formulation arm of the Government of Tamil Nadu for digital governance. DeG shapes the frameworks, reference standards and cyber-security practices that Government Departments follow while building and operating e-Governance systems and drives capacity building across the administration — positioning Tamil Nadu as a national leader in digital transformation.

- The eight bodies under the department. Learn which does what.
- What the Directorate of e-Governance is: it sets standards; TNeGA builds the systems.

In addition to its policy and standards mandate, DeG is the state nodal agency for Aadhaar in Tamil Nadu and is the designated

- DeG holds this role for Tamil Nadu.

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authority for several flagship digital transformation projects of the Government — including the e-Sevai citizen service delivery programme, the e-Office / Digital Office Tamil Nadu platform, the Chief Minister's Dashboard, the Tamil Nadu Geographical Information System and the State Family Database — for which technical implementation support is provided by Tamil Nadu e-Governance Agency (TNeGA) and other implementing agencies.

- The e-Office and eMail programme, using software developed by the National Informatics Centre (**NIC**).
- Harmonises departmental databases and offers Governance-as-a-Service on a plug-and-play basis.

2.2 Organization Structure

The Directorate of e-Governance (DeG) was constituted vide G.O.Ms.No.4, Information Technology (e.Gov.I) Department, dated 12.07.2006. Subsequently, vide G.O.Ms.No.10, Information Technology and Digital Services (B1) Department, dated 10.03.2023, the Government issued orders for the restructuring of the sanctioned posts in the Directorate.

- The order constituting the Directorate of e-Governance.

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Accordingly, a total of 77 posts (16 Non-Technical and 61 Technical) have been sanctioned and the salary expenditure for these posts is met from funds provided by the Government. A comprehensive restructuring of DeG is presently underway to enable its independent and standalone functioning.

DeG functions as the Government's central authority for digital governance policy, issuing reference standards and governance frameworks, prescribing cyber-security and data-security requirements for e-Governance projects, formulating the State's digital transformation strategy, and building the capacity of Departments to adopt and sustain digital systems. Every Department implementing e-Governance software, hardware or applications is required to comply with the standards and policies issued by DeG.

- DeG sanctioned strength after the **2023** restructuring - 16 non-technical and 61 technical.

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2. 3 Projects & Initiatives Undertaken by DeG

The Directorate of e-Governance (DeG) is responsible for formulating policies, standards, and governance frameworks for the State's e-Governance initiatives. It provides strategic direction for key digital transformation projects, including

1) Tamil Nadu Digital Transformation Strategy

2) Policy, Standards, Compliance and Cybersecurity

3) Tamil Nadu Computer Emergency Response Team (TN-CERT)

4) Digital Office Tamil Nadu (e-Office & eMail)

5) The Tamil Nadu Geographical Information System (TNGIS)

- Tamil Nadu Computer Emergency Response Team, earlier the Cyber Security Architecture for Tamil Nadu (**CSA-TN**) under **G.O.(D) No.24** dated **01.11.2018**.

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6) Tamil Nadu Decision Support System (DeTN)

- The unified data integration framework; the Chief Minister's Dashboard is built as part of it.

7) e-Sevai Project (Policy & governance)

8) Telecom Right of Way

9) Aadhaar – State Nodal Agency

2.3.1 Tamil Nadu Digital Transformation Strategy (DiTN)

DiTN is the comprehensive framework guiding departments toward SMART Governance, namely Swift, Monitorable, Accessible, Responsive and Transparent, helping them assess digital maturity, formulate IT strategies and achieve their Key Performance Indicators (KPIs) through structured digital transformation. The Government approved the Tamil Nadu Digital Transformation Strategy (DiTN) vide G.O. (Ms.) No. 11, Information Technology & Digital Services (C2) Department, dated 29.03.2023.

- DiTN's frame: Swift, Monitorable, Accessible, Responsive and Transparent.
- Approved the Tamil Nadu Digital Transformation Strategy (DiTN).

2.3.1.1 IT Assessment Portal

The IT Assessment Portal was developed as part of the e-Governance initiative to assess the e-Governance maturity of Government Departments by capturing information on their IT infrastructure and digital initiatives. The portal evaluates departments across key areas such as Project Information, Organization IT Profile, and Electronic Service Delivery (ESD), with the objective of strengthening core government systems, enhancing service delivery, promoting citizen engagement, and enabling better governance.

Based on the data submitted by Departments, TNeGA conducts an analysis and provides recommendations focusing on key parameters, including PMU/IT Cadre availability, Security Audit and SSL validity, application hosting, AMC status of IT assets, external integrations (SMS, WhatsApp, e-Sign), and ESD

services, to improve the overall e-Governance maturity of the Departments.

2.3.2 Policy, Standards, compliances and Cybersecurity

DeG prescribes the Reference Standards for Data and Cyber Security — a compilation of mandatory and recommended standards for e-Governance projects with which every Department must comply in respect of all e-Governance software, hardware and applications that it implements. These standards form the baseline compliance framework underpinning the security and interoperability of Government digital systems.

The mandatory baseline every department must meet for e-Governance software, hardware and applications.

2.3.2.1 Reference Standards

The Government of Tamil Nadu has approved "Reference Standards for Data and Cyber Security" to provide a common framework for the design, development, procurement and

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implementation of e-Governance systems across Government Departments. The standards cover Business Architecture, Application Architecture, Interoperability, Data Standards and Cyber Security, promoting secure and standardized digital services.

For Artificial Intelligence systems, these Reference Standards incorporate the six-dimensional TAM-DEF (Transparency & Audit [T], Accountability & Legal Issues [A], Misuse Protection [M], Digital Divide & Data Deficit [D], Ethics [E], Fairness & Equity [F]) evaluation framework and the DEEP-MAX (Diversity [D], Equity & Fairness [E], Ethics [E], Privacy & Data Protection [P], Misuse-Protection [M], Audit & Transparency [A], Cross Geography & Society [X]) roll-out Scorecard under the Tamil Nadu Safe and Ethical AI Policy, and subsequent G.Os applied as pre-deployment and pre-roll-out alignment requirements for every Government

- The six-dimensional **AI** evaluation framework: Transparency & Audit, Accountability & Legal Issues, Misuse Protection, Digital Divide & Data Deficit, Ethics, Fairness & Equity.
- The **AI** roll-out scorecard: Diversity, Equity & Fairness, Ethics, Privacy & Data Protection, Misuse-Protection, Audit & Transparency, Cross Geography & Society.

AI system under G.O. (Ms.) No. 47, HRM (A) Department, dated 05.08.2026; TN-CERT, functioning under the Directorate, conducts the cyber-security review and red-teaming of every AI system prior to hosting on State infrastructure, as the third gate of the Department's AI concurrence process.

- Requires prior concurrence of the **AI**, IT & Digital Services Department for every **AI** proposal, procurement and deployment across Government.

The Reference Standards enable uniform technology adoption across Departments and support interoperability, seamless data exchange, improved data management and stronger cyber security. They also provide a consistent foundation for developing scalable and citizen-centric e-Governance services.

2.3.2.2 Safe and Ethical AI

The Government of Tamil Nadu has formulated the Safe and Ethical Artificial Intelligence (AI) Policy 2020, to promote the responsible adoption of AI for improving

- Tamil Nadu's **AI** policy, built on **TAM-DEF** and the **DEEP-MAX** scorecard.

governance, citizen engagement and public service delivery. The policy provides a framework for evaluating AI systems based on the TAM-DEF framework (Transparency and Audit, Accountability, Misuse protection, Digital inclusion, Ethics, Fairness and equity), with emphasis on privacy, data protection and human values. Through the DEEP-MAX Scorecard, the policy seeks to ensure that AI solutions deployed in the public domain are safe, inclusive, transparent and aligned with the larger objective of harnessing AI for public good while ensuring that no citizen is left behind.

2.3.2.3 Tamil Nadu Data Policy, 2022

The Government introduced the Tamil Nadu Data Policy in 2022 with focus areas including improved governance, transparency and accessibility, service delivery, data privacy and security, interoperability and common data standards, transparency and accountability,

- Being revised to align with the Digital Personal Data Protection (**DPDP**) Act, **2023**.

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ethical and lawful use of data, and data quality and sustainability. The Tamil Nadu Data Policy is being revised to align with the Digital Personal Data Protection (DPDP) Act, 2023, further strengthening data governance, privacy, security and responsible data sharing across Government departments.

2.3.2.4 Cybersecurity Policy

The Government of Tamil Nadu approved the Cyber Security Policy 2.0 vide G.O. Ms. No. 21, IT & DS (E2) Department, dated 23.08.2024, recognizing cyber security as a critical component of digital governance. The policy promotes standardized security practices, including secure application development, access control, vulnerability management, data protection, monitoring, and incident response. It emphasizes security-by-design, periodic assessments, timely remediation, and continuous monitoring to protect Government

- Approved by G.O. Ms. No. 21 dated **23.08.2024**; emphasises security-by-design.

digital assets. Adoption of common cyber security standards will strengthen resilience against evolving threats and enable secure, trusted, and citizen-centric digital services.

2.3.2.5 Email Policy

The Tamil Nadu e-Mail Policy.

The Tamil Nadu e-Mail Policy, issued vide G.O.(Ms).No.22, Information Technology and Digital Services (A2) Department, dated 09.09.2024, provides the structured framework for management, usage and security of official email services across Government.

2.3.3 Tamil Nadu Computer Emergency Response Team (TN-CERT)

Tamil Nadu Computer Emergency Response Team (TN-CERT) under DeG is responsible for the management and operationalisation of TN-CERT, including the continuous enhancement of cybersecurity infrastructure, security tools, and incident

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response capabilities to address emerging cyber threats.

Earlier known as the 'Cyber Security Architecture for Tamil Nadu (CSA-TN)' which was constituted under G.O.(D) No.24, Information Technology Department, dated 01.11.2018, TN-CERT was initially hosted by ELCOT to strengthen the State's cybersecurity framework. Pursuant to G.O.(Ms).No.21, Information Technology and Digital Services (E2) Department, dated 23.08.2024, the function was transferred to the Directorate of e-Governance (DeG).

TN-CERT team identified over 1500 vulnerabilities, handled more than 475 cybersecurity incidents, conducted over 130 awareness and capacity-building programmes, and trained more than 3,200 Government officials from Sep 2020 to July 2026.

- **TN-CERT** record Sep **2020** to July **2026**: 1,500+ vulnerabilities identified, 475+ incidents handled, 130+ programmes, 3,200+ officials trained.

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2.3.4 Digital Office Tamil Nadu (DoTN)

The Government of Tamil Nadu has undertaken a mission to transform Government offices into a more digitally empowered infrastructure so as to further improve transparency and efficiency. Digital Office Tamil Nadu project, encompassing e-Office and eMail is the key component of this initiative. DeG utilises the e-Office and eMail services developed by National Informatics Centre (NIC) for this project.

2.3.4.1 Tamil Nadu Government e-Office

The e-Office suite enables end-to-end electronic file processing and workflow automation, transforming paper-based administration into a secure, transparent and accountable digital governance framework through electronic file management, digital correspondence, digital signatures and inter-

departmental collaboration. DeG has implemented e-Office across Government Departments in a phased manner:

Phase	Departments / Offices	Users
Phase I (completed March 2022)	Secretariat Departments	4,151
Phase II (completed June 2022)	District Collectorates and Subordinate offices	25,948
Phase III	301 HoD offices	1,19,436

- e-Office rollout: Phase I Secretariat 4,151 users (March **2022**), Phase II District Collectorates 25,948 (June **2022**), Phase III 301 HoD offices 1,19,436 users.

As on date, 65,95,723 e-files have been created across all configured offices. During the financial year 2025-26, Rs.4,23,94,978/- have been sanctioned for hardware procurement for HODs vide G.O.(Ms.) No. 36, IT & DS Department, dated 23.12.2025.

- Created across all configured offices - the headline e-Office number.
- Sanctioned for HoD hardware in **2025-26** vide G.O.(Ms.) No. 36 dated **23.12.2025**.

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eOffice training was imparted to users from Secretariat Departments, District Collectorates and HoD offices. The hardware roll-out to end users has kept pace with implementation:

a) 1,779 Desktops and 60 Scanners were issued to 40 Secretariat Departments.

b) 6,031 Desktops and 369 Scanners were issued to 59 HoDs (Head Offices).

c) 2,613 Scanners were issued to 77 HoDs (Head Offices).

The e-Office platform has driven measurable modernisation of Government processes, including:

a) Reduced dependency on physical files and greater paperless operation

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b) Streamlined workflow management and faster file disposal

c) Greater transparency and visibility in file processing

d) Real-time tracking of file status, improving monitoring

e) Improved accountability through system-based workflows

f) Secure management and preservation of digital records

2.3.4.2 Tamil Nadu Government e-Mail Service

The Government of Tamil Nadu's official e-Mail service, launched in 2008, provides secure and standardised electronic communication for Government Departments and offices, maintained by the National Informatics Centre (NIC), Chennai, with DeG as

- The Government e-Mail service, maintained by **NIC** Chennai. Designed for 40,000 user**s,** it now supports about 2,25,000.

the implementing agency. Originally designed for 40,000 users, the service now supports approximately 2,25,000 users across Government Departments, reflecting growing adoption alongside e-Office.

2.3.5 Tamil Nadu Geographical Information System (TNGIS)

TNGIS is being implemented by DeG, as the State's Common GIS platform to strengthen spatial data-driven governance. The platform hosts over **400 spatial data layers**, of which more than **200 layers** are regularly shared with Departments for planning, implementation, monitoring and operational decision-making. The State's geo-referenced cadastral boundary database has also been integrated with the Tamil Nilam land records database and the Registration Department's rural guideline value database, enabling a unified, location-based

- **TNGIS** hosts over 400 layers, of which more than 200 are regularly shared with departments.
- The land records database, integrated with **TNGIS** along with the Registration Department's rural guideline values.

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view of land boundaries, ownership and valuation.



TNGIS has developed and supported several web and mobile GIS applications enabling asset mapping, geotagged data collection, geo-fenced field verification, thematic mapping and spatial dashboards. Key datasets, services and departmental applications published on the TNGIS platform include:

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a. TNGIS GI Viewer — integrated Patta details, FMB sketches, guideline values, Encumbrance Certificates, crop information and location-based facility details.

b. Viewer for Registration Dept - Viewer to link Roads and Parcel nos' and thereby Visualising and correcting the guideline values.

c. GIS Viewer for various departments with specific layers of interest. For e.g., Viewer for Villupuram/Trichy Districts Government land, Guideline Values, Waterbodies, Roads.

d. Tamil Nilam Mobile App (launched January 2025) and Tamil Nilam ULPIN for DOSS — grid-based land identifiers.

- Launched January **2025**, with **ULPIN** grid-based land identifiers.

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e. NOC integration workflow with SWP of DTCP.

f. NHM viewer for health-facility planning, and an integrated road network layer covering NH, SH, MDR, ODR, rural, Panchayat union and urban roads.

g. LandStack — an integrated digital land management platform - a POC carried out for GOI.

h. Excel Visualizer for non-GIS users to build thematic maps GIS from excel data.

2.3.6 Tamil Nadu Decision Support System (DeTN)

The Directorate of e-Governance (DeG) has designed and implemented the Tamil Nadu Decision Support System (DeTN). The platform is envisaged as a unified data integration

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framework to support evidence-based policymaking by integrating and analysing data from various Government Departments.

It facilitates project monitoring, service delivery improvement, and informed decision-making through data analytics and machine learning. The Chief Minister's Dashboard, developed as part of DeTN, serves as the primary interface for providing real-time information and actionable insights to support governance and policy decisions.

It has the following functional components:

a) Data Purity and Analytics

b) State Family Database

c) SimpleGov (Jointly implemented by Human Resource Management Department and the Directorate of eGovernance)

- The four functional components of DeTN.
- Service simplification under the Human Resource Management Department, run by a **PMU** at DeG.

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d) Tamil Nadu Chief Minister's Dashboard

Of the above, SimpleGov and Tamil Nadu Chief Minister's Dashboard are being undertaken by a dedicated PMU (Project Management Unit)

2.3.6.1 Data Purity and Analytics

Directorate of e-Governance (DeG) is the nodal agency for the **Data Purity Analytics** project, which helps Departments identify eligible beneficiaries, weed out ineligible ones, remove deceased persons from beneficiary lists, and build a beneficiary database that supports Government decision-making.

The initiative supports welfare schemes such as the Magalir Urimai Thogai, Pudhumai Pen Scheme, Tamil Pudhalvan Scheme, Anbukarangal Scheme and Thayumanavar Scheme, and assists in validating new ration card applications, card-type conversion requests,

- Welfare schemes supported by the Data Purity project, which weeds out ineligible and deceased beneficiaries.

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Social Security Scheme (SSS) pension applications, Vetri Thiran Payirchi Thittam entry-level approvals, Chief Minister's Comprehensive Health Insurance Scheme enrolments and Urban Habitat Scheme tenement applications.

2.3.6.2 State Family Database (SFDB)

SFDB is envisioned as a data-driven decision-support infrastructure that harmonises and synchronises departmental databases to enable transparent, seamless service delivery — providing a data foundation for dashboards and MIS reports, supporting data-driven policymaking, enabling Aadhaar authentication for departmental applications, and offering a Governance-as-a-Service platform on which new services can be integrated in a plug-and-play manner.



The SFDB Core Database has been created through integration of Public Distribution System (PDS) data and other departmental databases, with self-de-duplication completed to eliminate duplicate records. 336 departmental scheme datasets (static datasets) have been integrated with the platform, and cross de-duplication with departmental databases is being carried out periodically as data dumps are received. The platform comprises two major components — the Back Office Department Portal and the

- Integrated into the **SFDB** core database, built on **PDS** data with de-duplication.

citizen-facing Makkal Portal to be released in a phased manner, with real-time API-based integration of departmental datasets planned as the next phase of enhancement.

- The citizen-facing half of **SFDB**; the other is the Back Office Department Portal.

2.3.6.3 SIMPLEGOV

SimpleGov is a service simplification and reengineering project undertaken under the ambit of Human Resource Management Department by a dedicated PMU working at the Directorate of e-Governance.

A Screening Committee and an Empowered Committee have been constituted to review and re-engineer existing licences, certificates, schemes, approvals and clearances rendered by the Government, with the objective of reducing compliance burden and digitising approval and renewal processes for citizens and businesses. Priority has been accorded to services with maximum public interface, with

proposals prepared by the PMU led by the Advisor, SimpleGov, reviewed by the Screening Committee, approved by the Empowered Committee, and implemented through Government Orders issued by the concerned Departments.

Batch	Services Simplified
Batch I	10 services simplified and launched
Batch II	65 services simplified and launched
Batch III	90 services identified for simplification and the work is underway

- SimpleGov progress: 10 launched, 65 launched, 90 more identified in Batch III.

2.3.6.4 Tamil Nadu Chief Minister's Dashboard

The CM Dashboard institutionalises data-driven governance by enabling the Hon'ble Chief Minister, Secretaries, Heads of

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Departments and Collectors to monitor departmental performance and scheme implementation through interactive, authenticated dashboards. It aggregates data through real-time API integrations, Excel uploads, field-level capital-works forms and national database scraping.

Dashboard Coverage	Figure
Departments covered	38
Directorates covered	220
Dashboards	590+
Officers accessing dashboards	1,650+
Officials updating data regularly	3,300+

- **CM** Dashboard coverage: 38 departments, 220 directorates, 590+ dashboards, 1,650+ officers accessing, 3,300+ officials updating.

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The platform's principal thematic dashboards include:

a) Capital Works Dashboard — 9 major departments (MAWS, Highways, PWD, WRD, etc.), tracking announced projects through ground-level data entry.

b) Iconic and Major Infrastructure Projects Dashboard — 290+ Iconic Projects and 222 Major Infrastructure Projects, tracked package-wise for physical and financial progress.

- Tracked package-wise alongside 222 Major Infrastructure Projects on the **CM** Dashboard.

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c) Roads and Bridges Dashboard — comprehensive monitoring across Highways, MAWS and Rural Development Departments.

d) Public Sector Undertakings Dashboard — 72 PSUs, monitored on Finance Department parameters.

- Monitored on Finance Department parameters through the Public Sector Undertakings Dashboard.

Smart review reports, red-flag notes and briefing documents are generated periodically for senior leadership, with continuous monitoring supported through 100+ WhatsApp groups to ensure data continuity and accuracy.

- Used to keep **CM** Dashboard data flowing - an unusually concrete governance detail.

2.3.7 State Nodal Agency for Aadhaar

The Directorate of e-Governance (DeG) is the State Nodal Agency for Aadhaar in Tamil Nadu. In its capacity as the State Nodal Agency, DeG coordinates the implementation of the Aadhaar program across the State and facilitates compliance with the provisions of the

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Aadhaar (Targeted Delivery of Financial and Other Subsidies, Benefits and Services) Act, 2016.

The Directorate provides guidance to Government Departments for notification under Section 7 of the Aadhaar Act for Aadhaar-based authentication in the delivery of subsidies, benefits, and services. It also guides department for notification under Section 4.4.(b)(ii) of the Aadhaar Act, 2016 and Aadhaar Authentication for Good Governance (Social Welfare, Innovation, Knowledge) Rules, 2020, wherever Aadhaar authentication is proposed to promote good governance, improve transparency, and ensure efficient delivery of Government services, in accordance with the guidelines issued by the Government of India.

- DeG guides departments on notification under Section 7 for Aadhaar-based authentication in delivering subsidies and benefits.
- The route for Aadhaar authentication outside subsidy delivery.

Functions related to Aadhaar based services, authentication services, enrolment

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services, etc., are handled by TNeGA, ELCOT and TACTV.

2.4 Conclusion

In alignment with the “Vetri Tamizhagam Vision Document”, DeG will continue to focus on strengthening the State's digital governance framework through the implementation of the revised Tamil Nadu Data Policy, expansion of the Chief Minister's Dashboard, further development of the State Family Database, rollout of additional SimpleGov services, expansion of e-Office and TNGIS, and enhancement of data governance, cyber security, and Aadhaar-related initiatives.

These measures will further strengthen the Government of Tamil Nadu's objective of delivering secure, interoperable, efficient, and citizen-centric digital governance across the State.

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2.5 Compliance with the AI mandate of the Department

All AI-related proposals, procurements, deployments and transaction instruments (memoranda of understanding, joint ventures, special-purpose vehicles, investments and DBFOT or other concessions) of the Directorate of e-Governance are routed for the prior concurrence of the AI, IT & Digital Services Department under G.O. (Ms.) No. 47, HRM (A) Department, dated 05.08.2026 read with the Tamil Nadu Government Business Rules, and every AI system is evaluated under the six-dimensional TAM-DEF (Transparency & Audit [T], Accountability & Legal Issues [A], Misuse Protection [M], Digital Divide & Data Deficit [D], Ethics [E], Fairness & Equity [F]) Framework with its roll-out guided by the DEEP-MAX (Diversity [D], Equity & Fairness [E], Ethics [E], Privacy & Data Protection [P], Misuse-Protection [M], Audit & Transparency [A], Cross Geography

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& Society [X]) Scorecard, as mandated for all Departments, in coordination with the Tamil Nadu Artificial Intelligence Mission (TNAIM).

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CHAPTER - III

TAMIL NADU e-GOVERNANCE AGENCY (TNeGA)

3.1 Introduction

Tamil Nadu e-Governance Agency (TNeGA) is the Government of Tamil Nadu's principal technology implementation arm, entrusted with building Digital Public Infrastructure (DPI), modernizing Government processes and expanding the reach of digital services to citizens, businesses and Government Departments alike. TNeGA translates the State's e-Governance vision into working systems — spanning citizen service delivery, digital identity, direct benefit transfer, agricultural digitisation, blockchain-backed document security, and cyber-security assurance — that together underpin the Government's mission of

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technology-driven, efficient and transparent governance.

Operating at the intersection of policy and implementation, TNeGA provides technology consulting, in-house software development, project management and digital-solution support to Government Departments and Agencies, while also functioning as the nodal agency for Aadhaar authentication, direct benefit transfer and the State's e-Sevai citizen service network. As Tamil Nadu deepens its digital transformation, TNeGA continues to drive the vision of inclusive, accessible and future-ready e-Governance, positioning the State among the national leaders in digital service delivery.

3.2 Organizational Structure

3.2.1 State Level – TNeGA

Tamil Nadu e-Governance Agency (TNeGA) is a society registered under the Tamil Nadu

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Societies Registration Act. As per G.O.Ms.No.10, dated 10.03.2023, G.O.Ms.No.10 dated 19.10.2024 and G.O.Ms.No.23 dated 26.08.2025 of Information Technology and Digital Services Department, a total of 202 posts (13 Non-Technical and 189 Technical) have been sanctioned under the TNeGA. TNeGA functions as the State Nodal Agency for e-Governance, with 38 independent District e-Governance Societies (DeGS) implementing its district-level initiatives across Tamil Nadu.

- Each DeGS is headed by the District Collector, and by the Commissioner of Greater Chennai Corporation in Chennai.

3.2.2 District-Level Governance Structure – DeGS

The district delivery architecture of TNeGA traces its origin to the e-District Project (2012), which introduced citizen-centric digital service delivery, and the e-Sevai Project (2015), which expanded this delivery model on a transparent and citizen-friendly basis across the State.

- The two projects the district delivery architecture grew out of.

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Each DeGS is headed by the District Collector and in Chennai, by the Commissioner, Greater Chennai Corporation, and is supported at the field level by two e-District Managers (eDMs) per district — 76 eDMs across the State — who serve as the key liaison between the DeGS, TNeGA and other stakeholders, monitoring service delivery, coordinating with line departments, supporting e-Sevai Centres and ensuring the implementation of e-Governance initiatives and flagship programmes on the ground.

76 eDMs across the State, linking DeGS, TNeGA and line departments.

During 2025-26, DeGS were engaged in the implementation of several State initiatives, including:

1. e-Office Implementation
2. Electronic Promotion Management System (ePMS)

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3. University Management Information System (UMIS)

4. Pudhumai Penn Scheme (PPS)

5. Tamil Pudhalvan Scheme (TPS)

6. Laptop Scheme

3.3 Digital Governance Projects

TNeGA anchors a portfolio of State-wide digital infrastructure projects that combine citizen-facing service delivery with backend digital public infrastructure. Digital services are delivered through various agencies of Government of Tamil Nadu with e-sevai being the largest platform for digital services delivery.

S. No	Portal	No. of Digital Services
1	E Sevai Portal – TNeGA	275

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S. No	Portal	No. of Digital Services
2	Single Window portal for G2B Services – Guidance Tamil Nadu	225
3	Portals administered by various departments	633
	Total	1133

- Digital services by channel: e-Sevai 275, Single Window for G2B (Guidance Tamil Nadu) 225, departmental portals 633.

The major digital governance projects undertaken by TNeGA are detailed below.

3.3.1 e-Sevai Portal & e-Sevai Centres

The primary channel for Government-to-Citizen (G2C) service delivery, offering 275 services through 25,277 active e-Sevai Centres statewide (as on 04.06.2026). During 2025–26, 391 new e-Sevai IDs were issued to Primary Agricultural Cooperative Credit Societies (PACCS) and 13 new e-Sevai IDs (EFA)were

- Delivering 275 services as on **04.06.2026**.

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issued to the Federation of Differently Abled Persons to expand the outreach of citizen services.

3.3.1.1 Service Centre Agencies (SCAs)

The e-Sevai Centres across Tamil Nadu are operated by the following Service Centre Agencies (SCAs). The SCA-wise distribution of e-Sevai Centres, as on 04.06.2026, is given below.

S.No	Service Centre Agencies (SCAs)	No of eSevai centers
1	eSevai For All (EFA)	16509
2	Primary Agricultural Cooperative Credit Society (PACCS)	4245
3	Tamil Nadu Arasu Cable TV Corporation Franchise (TAF)	1471
4	Village Level Entrepreneurs (CSC-SPV VLE)	1540

- The largest Service Centre Agency, ahead of **PACCS** 4,245, **VLE** 1,540 and **TAF** 1,471.

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S.No	Service Centre Agencies (SCAs)	No of eSevai centers
5	Village Poverty Reduction Committee (VPRC)	781
6	Tamil Nadu Arasu Cable TV Corporation (TACTV)	577
7	Member of the Legislative Assembly Offices (MLA)	63
8	Fisheries Department (FSH)	43
9	Co-Operative Housing Societies (CHS)	12
10	Vazhndhu Kaattuvom Project (VKP)	28
11	Tribal Welfare Board (TWB)	5
12	Miscellaneous - Cantonment Board (MIS)	3
Grand Total		**25,277**

The Third-Party Audit (TPA) of e-Sevai for All (EFA) centres was undertaken in 2023 to

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ensure compliance with Government guidelines and improve service delivery efficiency. The audit covered 26,311 EFA centers, of which 24,801 centres had been audited.

- Covered by the **2023** Third-Party Audit, of which 24,801 were audited.

The audit focused on verifying the display of prescribed rate charts, installation of webcams and signage boards, and compliance with the helpdesk email system at e-Sevai centres.

3.3.1.2 New e-sevai services & e-sevai transactions

New services rolled out during the financial year 2025-26 include bus passes for differently-abled persons, Freedom Fighters, Tamil Arignargal and Tamil Award Winners. In FY 2025-26, 1,40,52,771 transactions were processed through the portal as detailed below.

- e-Sevai transactions in **FY 2025-26**; 94,24,039 of them - 67% - through **EFA** centres.

Month (FY 2025-26)	No. Of e-sevai Transaction
April	11,12,010
May	16,48,655
June	14,44,868
July	14,97,035
August	13,77,562
September	13,33,902
October	11,38,069
November	10,16,457
December	8,70,061
January	8,01,071
February	10,22,297
March	7,90,784
Total	1,40,52,771

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During FY 2025–26, a total of 1,40,52,771 transactions were processed through the e-Sevai platform, of which 94,24,039 transactions (67%) were carried out through e-Sevai for All (EFA) centres.

3.3.1.3 e-Sevai Grievance Redressal

To enhance citizen support services, TNeGA established the e-Sevai Call Centre in April 2023 with a capacity of 10-seats and a dedicated toll-free helpline (1800-425-6000). As part of its continuous service improvement initiatives, the Call Centre was shifted to the Mudhalvarin Mugavari Call Centre premises at Kotturpuram in May 2024. Simultaneously, the seating capacity was increased from 10 to 20 to efficiently manage the growing volume of citizen queries.

- The e-Sevai toll-free helpline. The call centre cut abandonment from 37% in May **2024** to 1.12% by December **2024**.

These operational enhancements significantly improved service delivery, reducing

the call abandonment rate from 37% in May 2024 to just 1.12% by December 2024. Between April 2023 and April 2026, the Call Centre successfully handled 6,18,217 citizen calls, with approximately 95% of the queries being resolved directly by the call centre executives, ensuring timely and effective grievance redressal.

- Handled April **2023** to April **2026**, with about 95% resolved directly by call centre executives.

3.3.2 Namma Arasu - WhatsApp Governance Platform

"Namma Arasu" WhatsApp Governance Platform enables citizens to access Government services through a mobile-first, conversational WhatsApp interface (+91 7845 252525), without visiting Government offices or navigating multiple portals.

- The WhatsApp governance platform on +91 7845 252525, covering 80 services across 22 departments.

Phases I and II cover 80 services across 22 Departments, including Local Body, HR&CE, and TNEB bill-payment services. As on 01.08.2026, the platform has served 25,61,798

- Served by Namma Arasu as on **01.08.2026**, with 8,30,897 services delivered end to end.

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users and delivered 8,30,897 services end-to-end, using WhatsApp Flows, AI-based conversational assistance and secure payment integration.

3.3.3 SMS & WhatsApp Gateway

TNeGA is providing the SMS and WhatsApp Gateway to all Government departments at a low cost and effective manner in order to create awareness and up to date information on all schemes of the Government. Currently, SMS service is provided to 109 Departments / Boards / PSUs / Agencies and WhatsApp Gateway Services provided to 27 Departments / Boards / PSUs / Agencies. Till date, 660.41 crore SMS and 30.18 crore WhatsApp messages were sent to beneficiaries.

- Sent through the TNeGA gateway, alongside **30.18 crore** WhatsApp messages. **SMS** serves 109 departments, WhatsApp 27.

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3.3.4 Aadhaar-enabled Digital Identity and Authentication Services

TNeGA is the State Registrar under UIDAI for Aadhaar enrolment through **Permanent Enrolment Centres (PECs)** are established and operated through its Enrolment Agencies as follows:

Sl.No	Enrolment Agencies	PECs	Counters
1	TACTV	318	370
2	ELCOT	376	433
	Total	**694**	**803**

- Permanent Aadhaar Enrolment Centres with 803 counters - **ELCOT** 376 and **TACTV** 318.

New Aadhaar enrolment and mandatory biometric updates are provided free of cost, while other update services attract UIDAI-notified charges. During FY 2025-26, 8,53,503 new Aadhaar numbers were generated and

- Generated in **FY 2025-26**, with 17,54,569 mandatory biometric updates.

17,54,569 mandatory biometric updates were completed (June 2025 – January 2026).

As an authorised AUA (Authentication User Agency) / KUA (e-KYC User Agency), TNeGA currently onboards following eight Government Departments as Sub-AUA/KUA:

1. Civil Supplies and Consumer Protection Department
2. Department of Treasuries and Accounts, Govt. of Tamil Nadu
3. Sports Development Authority of Tamil Nadu (SDAT)
4. Tamil Nadu Civil Supplies Corporation (TNCSC)
5. Tamil Nadu Generation and Distribution Corporation Limited (TANGEDCO)
6. Tamil Nadu Rural Transformation Project

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7. Tamil Nadu Skill Development Corporation
8. Transplant Authority of Tamil Nadu

Currently, 21 Department Applications are being authenticated by TNeGA and the onboarding of other Department Applications is in progress. TNeGA has also developed the **TN Generic Face Auth e-KYC Mobile App**, used in collaboration with the School Education Department and Anna University to complete students' e-KYC.

Overall Transaction Summary

Parameter (2025-26)	Figure
Total transactions	47,94,86,153
Authentication transactions	45,87,75,371
e-KYC transactions	2,07,10,782

- Total Aadhaar-related transactions in **2025-26** - about **48 crore**. Of these, **PDS** alone accounted for 42,51,32,847.

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Parameter (2025-26)	Figure
PDS transactions	42,51,32,847
TNEB transactions	15,61,180
Face-auth e-KYC completed	7,89,040
Average transactions per month	3,79,36,314
Peak transactions per day (Pongal 2026)	66,60,586 (315 transactions per second)

- Peak transactions in a single day at Pongal **2026** - 315 transactions per second.

A notable illustration of the scale and robustness of the system was the Pongal Gift Hamper Distribution (8–13 January 2026) of the Civil Supplies and Consumer Protection Department, during which 2,53,13,094 family card holders were verified through Aadhaar biometrics (predominantly fingerprint authentication), monitored on a 24×7 basis

- Verified by Aadhaar biometrics during the Pongal Gift Hamper distribution, 8-13 January **2026**.

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without disruption throughout the distribution period, with a peak load of upto 315 transactions per second.

3.3.5 Tamil Nadu Single Sign-On (TNSSO)

- One credential for multiple G2C and G2G applications, developed in-house.

An in-house developed unified authentication platform enabling citizens and Government officials to access multiple G2C and G2G applications through a single set of credentials, removing the need for separate usernames and URLs across departmental systems.

Priority citizen-facing and department-facing applications have been identified for integration under the Pilot Phase, with further roll-out planned in the coming year.

3.3.6 e-Sign Service Platform

The e-Sign service is a key component of the Government's paperless governance

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initiative, enabling citizens and Government Departments to digitally sign documents securely and instantly from anywhere using computers or mobile devices. The service is compliant with the guidelines of the Controller of Certifying Authorities (CCA) and the Unique Identification Authority of India (UIDAI). It supports Aadhaar-based authentication through OTP and biometric (fingerprint) modes.

At present, the TNeGA e-Sign service is being utilised by 26 Government Departments. Since its launch in 2020, more than 4.35 crore e-Signatures have been executed. A further three Departments are in the process of onboarding the service, and the cumulative number of e-Signatures is expected to exceed 6 crore during 2026–27.

- Executed since **2020** across 26 departments; expected to exceed 6 crore during **2026-27**.

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3.3.7 Blockchain Backbone — NambikkaiInaiyam

The Government of Tamil Nadu has notified the Tamil Nadu Blockchain Policy to promote the adoption of blockchain technology for secure, transparent, and efficient delivery of e-Governance services. In line with the policy, TNeGA has built "Nambikkai Inaiyam (NI)", a Blockchain-as-a-Service infrastructure that secures Government documents and data — e-Sevai certificates, academic certificates and mark sheets, licences and land-transaction records — against tampering. Citizens access these secured records through the e-Pettagam wallet application. Documents registered with the Registration Department are also automatically fetched and secured on the platform.

- The State's Blockchain-as-a-Service backbone under the Tamil Nadu Blockchain Policy; citizens access records through the e-Pettagam wallet.

Since the launch of Phase I in 2023, the platform has secured 27 categories of e-Sevai

- Secured on the blockchain, plus **9 lakh**+ e-Sevai certificates, **3 lakh** education certificates and **2 crore**+ registered documents.

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certificates (including Community, Nativity, Income, Legal Heir, Birth, Death and Marriage certificates), Tamil Nadu State Board certificates and mark sheets, and registered documents from the Registration Department. As on date, more than 9 lakh e-Sevai certificates, 3 lakh education certificates and more than 2 crore registered documents have been secured on the platform.

3.3.8 API Gateway as a Service

The API Gateway serves as a central platform for managing, securing, and controlling APIs, enabling efficient and secure communication between applications and services. Key benefits include:

A. Interdepartmental Integration: Enables secure data and service exchange across government departments.

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B. Standardization: Ensures consistent API protocols and formats for compatibility across departmental systems.

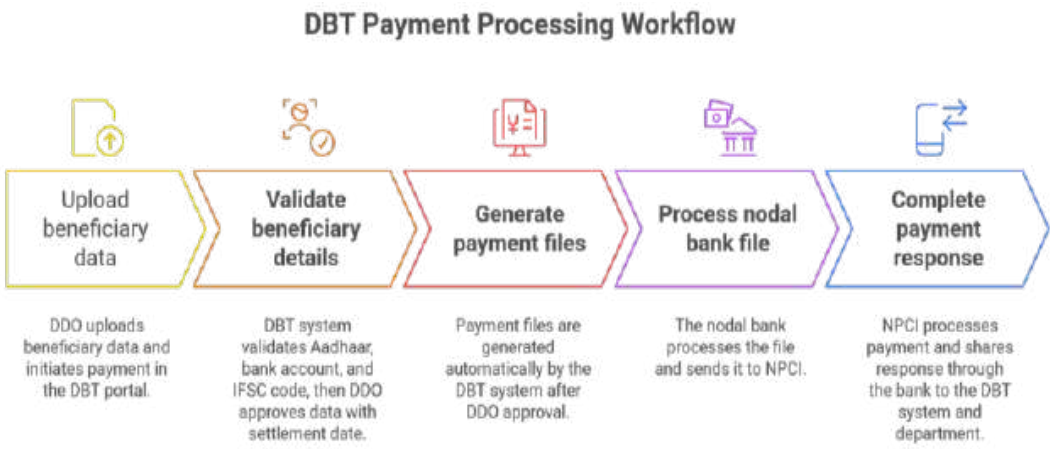
C. Enhanced Security: Implements strong authentication and authorization to protect sensitive government data and support regulatory compliance.

3.3.9 Direct Benefit Transfer (DBT)

The DBT Platform is TNeGA's centralised system for the seamless disbursement of welfare benefits under State and Central schemes. Every disbursement is preceded by Aadhaar validation, beneficiary-name verification and bank-account validation, after which funds are transferred directly to beneficiaries through the Aadhaar Payment Bridge (APB) and the Automated

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Clearing House (ACH), eliminating intermediaries and reducing leakage.



Since September 2023, a total of 62 schemes have been onboarded onto the platform, comprising 54 schemes under the Single Nodal Agency (SNA) framework and 8 schemes under the Public Financial Management System (PFMS). These include flagship schemes such as the Magalir Urimai Thogai, Pudhumai Penn Thittam, Tamil Pudhalvan Thittam, and a range of social-welfare, educational scholarship and Cleanliness Workers Welfare Board assistance schemes. As on date, ₹43,318 crore

- Onboarded to the **DBT** platform since September **2023** - 54 under the Single Nodal Agency framework and 8 under **PFMS**.

has been transferred to 1.92 crore beneficiaries. During the financial year 2026-27, five additional Departments are expected to onboard their welfare schemes onto the DBT Platform, further widening its coverage.

- Transferred through the **DBT** platform to **1.92 crore** beneficiaries.

Artificial-Intelligence-based validation of welfare disbursals on the platform is classified HIGH-RISK under the Department's AI regime: no such validation goes live until it has cleared all five gates, including the data-protection lawful basis under the DPDP Act, 2023 and Rules, 2025, and every affected citizen retains the right to review of the decision by a designated human officer.

- **AI**-based validation of welfare disbursals is classified high-risk: it clears five gates, and every affected citizen keeps a right to human review.

3.3.10 IT Security Audit Framework

TNeGA facilitates mandatory IT Security Audits through Indian Computer Emergency Response Team(CERT-In) empanelled agencies, in line with CERT-In and the Standardization

- Mandatory IT security audits before hosting on the Tamil Nadu State Data Centre, following **CERT**-In and **STQC** guidelines.

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Testing and Quality Certification (STQC) guidelines — for all State Government websites, web and mobile applications, APIs and cloud-based applications prior to hosting on the Tamil Nadu State Data Centre (TNSDC) or any approved environment. Audits are mandated before initial deployment, on expiry of the annual audit certificate, upon significant modification of an application, and prior to migration to a new hosting environment or cloud platform.

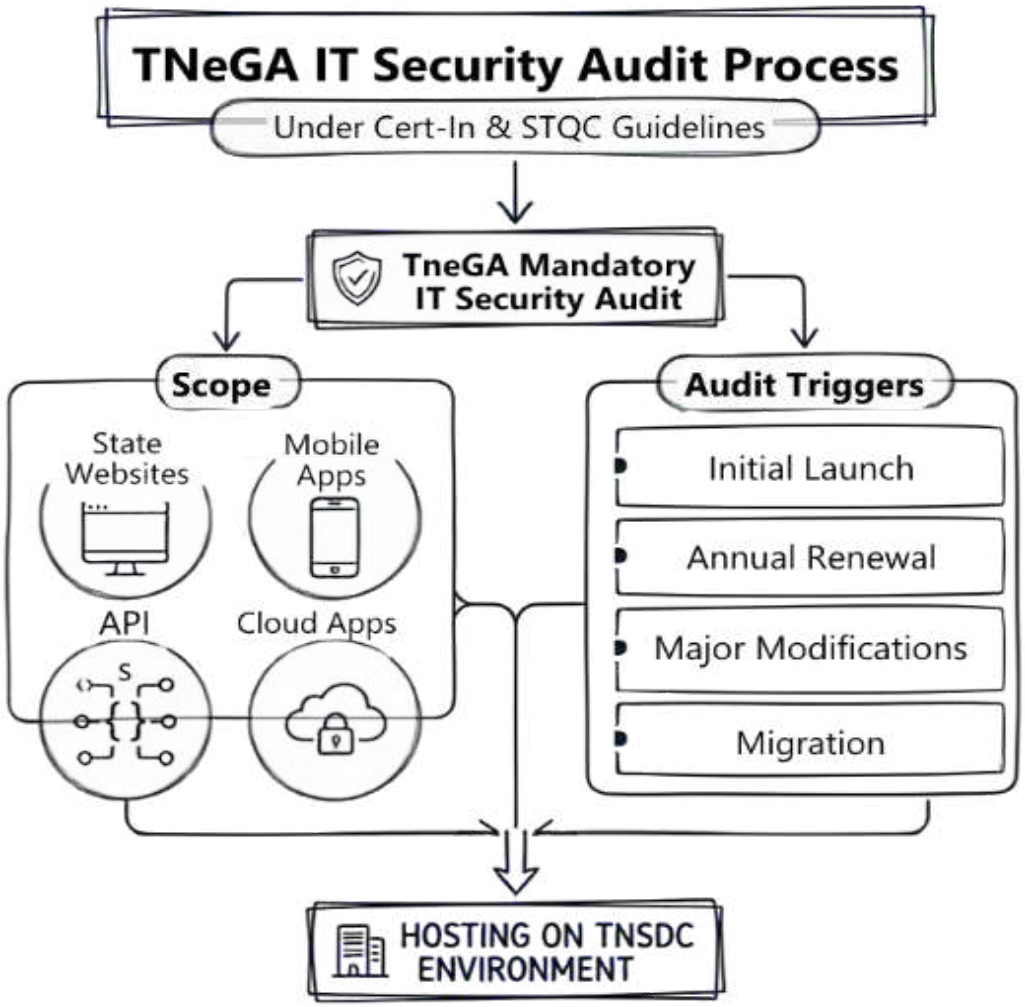
The audit framework extends to Artificial Intelligence systems: every high-risk Government AI system in service undergoes an annual AI-readiness and impact audit (until a new policy on AI risk audit mechanisms/risk management framework considering the evolving nature of rapidity of threat proliferation in/of AI systems is drafted by a competent authority as applicable)— accuracy and drift

- Every high-risk Government **AI** system faces accuracy and drift testing, bias re-testing and **DPDP** Act compliance checks.

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testing, bias re-testing and compliance under the Digital Personal Data Protection Act, 2023 — with findings entered in the algorithmic-audit log maintained under the Department's AI regime.

- With the **DPDP** Rules **2025** and MeitY/IndiaAI Responsible **AI** guidelines, these govern Government-linked datasets.



3.3.11 Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) Monitoring

The implementation of the SDGs is overseen by a High-Power Committee chaired by the Chief Secretary to Government, with overall coordination by the Planning, Development and Special Initiatives Department in consultation with the State Planning Commission. TNeGA supports the State's SDG monitoring framework by capturing and consolidating SDG indicator data from Government Departments and Boards.

Oversees **SDG** implementation, coordinated by the Planning, Development and Special Initiatives Department.

In addition, TNeGA has its own target for achievements in SDG. The SDG indicators related to TNeGA and the achievements are as follows:

SDG Indicators pertaining to TNeGA	2025-26 Performance (as on March 2026)
Government services delivered	275

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SDG Indicators pertaining to TNeGA	2025-26 Performance (as on March 2026)
online to citizens	
Departments/Agencies integrated for mobile governance	7
e-Transactions on e-Taal	43.56 crore
Operational Common Service Centres	25,277
Population covered under Aadhaar	98.14%

- A TNeGA **SDG** indicator for **2025-26**, alongside 98.14% Aadhaar population coverage and 25,277 operational Common Service Centres.

3.4 Department Project Assignments

TNeGA provides technical consulting, evaluation and implementation support to a wide range of Government Departments for the design, development and computerisation of their digital service-delivery channels.

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TNeGA develops, operates, and maintains a wide range of digital platforms to support the delivery of Government services and improve administrative efficiency. The major assignments are as mentioned below:

a. **Technical evaluation committee support:** STAR 3.0 Project (Inspector General of Registration)

b. **Technical evaluation committee support:** ERP 2.0 implementation, Greater Chennai Police Department

c. **O&M and next-phase support:** End-to-End Computerisation of the Public Distribution System (PDS) and PDS 2.0

d. **Technical support:** Naan Mudhalvan Skill Portal, Tamil Nadu Skill Development Corporation

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e. **Committee support:** Expert Committee, Commissionerate of Treasuries and Accounts; Screening Committee, Social Welfare Department

f. **End-to-end computerisation:** Tamil Nadu Water Supply and Sewerage Board (TWAD), Chennai Metro Water Supply and Sewerage Board (CMWSSB), Sericulture Department

g. **Portal development:** e-Gazette Web Portal, Department of Stationery and Printing

h. **Portal development:** DIPR 2.0 Web Portal, Department of Information and Public Relations

i. **ERP implementation:** Tamil Nadu Magnesite Limited (TANMAG) —

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finance, procurement, inventory, mining, sales and HR functions.

Some of the key projects undertaken by TNeGA for various departments are listed below:

3.4.1 University Management Information System (UMIS) and Welfare-Scheme Integration

UMIS is the centralised repository of Higher Education student information for the State, established to standardise data governance across participating institutions. It validates student records through integration with EMIS, Aadhaar, NPCI, e-Sevai and other Government databases, and is further integrated with the Tamil Nadu State Scholarship Portal (TNSSP), Vetri Thiran Payirchi platform and the CM Dashboard. The Directorate of Technical Education (DoTE) has been designated Nodal Agency for UMIS vide G.O.(Ms.) No. 61, Higher Education Department, dated 04.03.2024.

- Designated the Directorate of Technical Education as nodal agency for the University Management Information System.

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UMIS Coverage (as on 21.07.2026)	Figure
Active students	24,27,192
Beneficiary Departments	33
Beneficiary Universities	84
Institutions covered	5,693

UMIS serves as the authenticated master database for several welfare schemes, enabling verified beneficiary identification and timely benefit delivery. The following beneficiaries have been covered through schemes utilizing UMIS data:

Scheme	Beneficiaries
Tamil Pudhalvan Scheme	6,02,681
Pudhumai Penn Scheme	6,92,672

- **UMIS** coverage as on **21.07.2026**, across 84 universities and 5,693 institutions.
- Beneficiaries verified through **UMIS**, with Tamil Pudhalvan 6,02,681 and the Laptop scheme 9,78,870.

Scheme	Beneficiaries
Laptop Distribution Scheme for College Students	9,78,870

3.4.2 Tamil Nadu State Scholarship Portal (TNSSP)

TNSSP provides a unified digital platform for the end-to-end administration of scholarship schemes. The platform facilitates student registration, online application submission, institutional and departmental verification, sanction and Direct Benefit Transfer (DBT) of scholarship assistance to the students of SC, SCC, ST, BC, MBC, DNC and other notified categories.

The portal leverages authenticated student data from the University Management Information System (UMIS) platform to prevent duplication and ineligible claims, and currently

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covers 27 scholarship schemes across 7 Departments.

- Covered by the Tamil Nadu State Scholarship Portal, which draws on **UMIS** to prevent duplicate and ineligible claims.

3.4.3 Agri Stack — Digital Infrastructure for Agriculture

The Agri Stack project was implemented by the Department of Agriculture during 2023–24 with technical support from the Tamil Nadu e-Governance Agency (TNeGA). TNeGA developed and maintains the Digital Crop Survey (DCS) platform, which integrates the Farmer Registry, Geo-Referenced Village Map Registry, and Crop Registry to create a single digital platform for farmer, land and crop information. The platform enables efficient implementation of farmer-centric schemes and supports Direct Benefit Transfer (DBT) across more than 25 Government Departments.

- Farmer Registry, Geo-Referenced Village Map Registry and Crop Registry on one platform, with 18 APIs serving 25+ departments.

TNeGA has developed 18 APIs enabling integration with various departmental applications. Agri Stack APIs are currently

integrated with the Reserve Bank Innovation Hub (RBIH) for instant agricultural loan processing.

The Digital Crop Survey (DCS) spans 38 districts, 302 taluks and 17,164 villages, covering 50.76 lakh survey numbers, 4.73 crore land sub-divisions and 111.77 lakh hectares. Out of 4.15 crore identified sub-divisions, 3.45 crore (83.16%) were surveyed during 2025-26 for Kharif and Rabi season, and 36.50 lakh of 42.52 lakh registered farmers (85.45%) stand integrated into the Farmer Registry. During 2026-27, the survey covers 37 districts, with 23,31,303 of 3,94,29,936 targeted sub-divisions (5.9%) surveyed as of July 2026. Advanced features such as Face Authentication, Centroid Detection and Image Quality Detection are being incorporated into the DCS Mobile Application in line with Government of India guidelines, and a

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Proof-of-Concept for AI-based Crop Identification has been developed for future integration.

3.4.4 Mobile application and Dashboard for Perunthalaivar Kamarajar Breakfast Scheme

TNeGA developed a mobile application and dashboard to monitor the implementation of the Perunthalaivar Kamarajar Breakfast Scheme. The solution provides real-time visibility into breakfast preparation, delivery, serving, and student beneficiaries at the school, district, and State levels.

The application includes a centralized kitchen monitoring module for urban schools with integrated Fleet Tracking for timely meal delivery, and a decentralized offline module for rural, remote, and hilly areas. A real-time dashboard enables monitoring by stakeholders at all administrative levels, while daily SMS

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alerts are sent to decision-makers to facilitate timely intervention.

The application is currently used by 37,447 schools on all working days for recording cooking and food serving activities, enabling continuous monitoring at both the district and State levels. In recognition of its innovative features and effective implementation, TNeGA received the Chief Minister's Best Practices Award – 2023.

To further improve efficiency, TNeGA has developed an Automated Billing and Indent Management Module that automate indent generation, billing, inventory management, delivery confirmation, SLA monitoring, delay reporting, and payment processing, thereby minimizing manual intervention and enhancing operational transparency.

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3.5 Conclusion

During 2025–26, the Tamil Nadu e-Governance Agency (TNeGA) continued to strengthen the State's digital governance ecosystem through the expansion of citizen-centric services, digital identity, welfare delivery, and departmental e-Governance initiatives. The Agency processed nearly 48 crore Aadhaar-based transactions, facilitated the disbursement of ₹43,318 crore through Direct Benefit Transfer (DBT) to 1.92 crore beneficiaries, and further enhanced digital service delivery through the e-Sevai network, Namma Arasu WhatsApp, and other digital platforms.

TNeGA shall continue to focus on strengthening digital public infrastructure by expanding integrated digital service delivery, enhancing cyber-security, promoting wider adoption of digital platforms, and leveraging emerging technologies to improve governance

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and public service delivery. The Agency shall continue to support the Government of Tamil Nadu in achieving its objective of delivering secure, transparent, efficient and citizen-centric digital governance across the State.

3.6 Compliance with the AI mandate of the Department

All AI-related proposals, procurements, deployments and transaction instruments (memoranda of understanding, joint ventures, special-purpose vehicles, investments and DBFOT or other concessions) of the Tamil Nadu e-Governance Agency are routed for the prior concurrence of the AI, IT & Digital Services Department under G.O. (Ms.) No. 47 dated 05.08.2026 read with the Tamil Nadu Government Business Rules, and every AI system is evaluated under the six-dimensional TAM-DEF Framework with its roll-out guided by

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the DEEP-MAX Scorecard, as mandated for all Departments, in coordination with the Tamil Nadu Artificial Intelligence Mission (TNAIM). TNeGA further functions, jointly with the iTNT Foundation, as an implementing agency of TNAIM, and, as a registered society established by the State Government eligible under Rule 4(1)(b) of the CSR Rules, shall obtain Form CSR-1 registration for the receipt of CSR contributions towards the Mission's programmes.

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CHAPTER - IV

TAMIL NADU AI MISSION (TNAIM)

4.1 Introduction

The Tamil Nadu Artificial Intelligence Mission (TNAIM) was established at the Tamil Nadu e-Governance Agency (TNeGA) in 2024 for a period of two years to promote research and innovation in Artificial Intelligence, facilitate its adoption in governance and priority sectors, undertake capacity-building initiatives and ensure the ethical and responsible use of AI technologies. The Government, in the Budget Speech 2026-27 has announced the following:

- Announced that **TNAIM** would be strengthened to cover **AI**, Quantum Technology and **AVGC-XR**, with focus on health, agriculture, education and citizen services.

> "The Tamil Nadu Artificial Intelligence Mission (TN AI Mission) will be strengthened to encompass emerging technologies such as Artificial Intelligence, Quantum Technology, Animation, Visual Effects, Gaming and Comics, and Extended

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Reality (AVGC-XR), with a specialised focus on AI applications in health, agriculture, education, citizen services, urban administration, social welfare administration, and other needy departments."

Accordingly, the Tamil Nadu AI Mission will now function with the enhanced mandate of all emerging technologies such as Artificial Intelligence, Quantum Mission, AVGC-XR, deep tech and other emerging technologies.

TNeGA and the iTNT Foundation continue to function as the implementing agencies for TNAIM and coordinate the implementation of its programmes and initiatives in collaboration with Government Departments and other ecosystem partners. The iTNT Foundation, ICT Academy and Electronics Corporation of Tamil Nadu Limited (ELCOT) continue to serve as stakeholder and supporting organisations,

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contributing to innovation and startup engagement, capacity building and skilling, technology infrastructure, solution development and implementation support.

4.2 Roles and Responsibilities:

Government, in the Vetri Tamizhagam Vision document, has announced the following:

AI Economy Mission

It is estimated that Artificial Intelligence Technology will contribute an additional USD 1.7 trillion to India's economy by 2035. To ensure that Tamils also benefit from this growth an AI Industry Development Programme will be implemented.
AI Centers of Excellence will be created in 5 categories: Healthcare, Agriculture, Manufacturing, Tamil Language, and Climate.

The Vetri Tamizhagam Vision Document's estimate of **AI**'s additional contribution to India's economy - the number behind the **AI** Economy Mission.

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Accordingly, TN AI mission shall be a project management and execution agency and shall not function as a software development entity. It will undertake the following key functions.

a) Undertake projects such as innovation hubs, labs, test beds, studios, high-performance computing infrastructure, and communication networks, including a quantum communication corridor.

b) Study challenges and opportunities in emerging technology adoption and prepare strategies, research outputs and policy recommendations for the State.

c) To have special focus on skilling and upskilling of talent pool through education, training, certification, fellowships, scholarships, vocational

- **ELCOT** has signed an MoU with **IIT**-Madras and the C-**DOT** Samgnya Technologies Foundation for a feasibility study.

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programmes and hands-on placements in Tamil Nadu.

d) To provide technical advisory and support to TNeGA for AI-enabled digital services and software development.

e) Undertake applied research, utilise datasets and data-exchange platforms in accordance with applicable law, and facilitate the generation, protection, licensing and non-profit commercialisation of intellectual property for public benefit.

f) Promote entrepreneurship through incubation, acceleration, mentorship, investor linkages, venture support and domestic and international market access for startups and MSMEs.

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g) Develop structured partnerships with Governments, academia, industry, OEMs, hyperscalers and international organisations through MoUs, joint programmes, consortia and co-investment.

4.3 Organisational Structure

The Tamil Nadu Artificial Intelligence Mission (TNAIM) functions with the Tamil Nadu e-Governance Agency (TNeGA) and iTNT Foundation as the implementing agencies. As per G.O. (Ms.) No. 25, IT & DS (C1) Department, dated 09.10.2024, a total of 11 technical posts have been sanctioned for the implementation of the Mission which may be added in future based on the requirements.

- Sanctioned 11 technical posts for **TNAIM** and set its mandate for sovereign, ethical, trusted **AI**.

For the receipt of Corporate Social Responsibility contributions towards the Mission's programmes: the Tamil Nadu

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e-Governance Agency, being a registered society established by the State Government, is an eligible implementing entity under Rule 4(1)(b) of the Companies (Corporate Social Responsibility Policy) Rules, 2014, and shall obtain registration in Form CSR-1, together with registrations under Sections 12A and 80G of the Income-Tax Act, 1961. Pending the Mission's incorporation as a Section 8 company, CSR contributions for the Mission's programmes shall be received and applied through TNeGA and the ICT Academy of Tamil Nadu, strictly as grants under Schedule VII of the Companies Act, 2013.

The present institutions of the AI mandate: The Department will institutionalise its mandate through two purpose-built entities, deliberately separated by function and by law. The Tamil Nadu Artificial Intelligence Mission (TNAIM), presently functioning with TNeGA and the iTNT Foundation as its implementing

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agencies under G.O. (Ms.) No. 25, IT & DS (C1) Department, dated 09.10.2024, will be renewed and incorporated as a Section 8 not-for-profit company under the Companies Act, 2013 — the Mission hand of the mandate. Also, TNAIM shall consider additional organisations or entities along with the present ones to distribute the effective management and implementation of its mandate accordingly. The Mission will hold the technical and public-purpose functions — evaluation for the Department's AI-governance gates, the four registers, the Tamil Large Language Model and Tamil-first datasets, Centres of Excellence, skilling programmes and research partnerships — funded through Government grants, CSR contributions received in accordance with Section 135 of the Companies Act through eligible implementing entities, and Central-scheme co-funding; it shall book no commercial revenue, distribute no surplus, and concurrence and

TNAIM is to be incorporated as the public-purpose 'Mission hand'; Tamil Nadu **AI** Vision (**TNAIV**) is the proposed commercial arm.

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policy remain with the Department under the Business Rules. Tamil Nadu AI Vision (TNAIV), a Government company proposed to be incorporated under the Companies Act, 2013, will be the commercial hand of the mandate: it will hold and operate the revenue-bearing assets of the AI economy — concessions and leases, State compute services offered on commercial terms, and equity participation in project companies — with land remaining with the State's land-holding agencies on long-term lease, every concession appraised under the State PPP framework and awarded through open competition, and no take-or-pay or assured-revenue commitment extended by the State. TNAIV shall receive no CSR funds; it will meet its costs and taxes as a taxable company, and its distributable surplus will reach the Government as dividend credited to the Consolidated Fund of the State. The boundary between the two is a standing rule: a

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public-purpose rupee books in the Mission; a commercial rupee books in TNAIV; neither entity ever holds the other's function, funds or shares — and the Department alone governs both.

- The standing rule separating the two **AI** entities - neither ever holds the other's function, funds or shares.

4.4 Projects, Inititaves and Key functions

The TNAIM has envisioned building and deploying a "Sovereign, indigenous, ethical, safe, trusted, responsible AI" as found in G.O. (Ms) No. 25, IT & DS (C1) Department, dated 09.10.2024 and in the G.O.(Ms.) No.47, dated 05.08.2026.

Given the rapid advances and fast pervasion of technology, engineering, and science, TNAIM is intended to be an overarching agency, holistically and seamlessly integrating contemporary, state-of-the-art, and futuristic aspects of domains such as semiconductors, quantum technologies under the ambit of trusted systems for governance and society,

including cybersecurity, data engineering, infrastructure, Compute, data centres, etc.

The TN AI Mission will be functioning with the following verticals.

4.4.1 AI in Governance

TN AI Mission has been working with the Tamil Nadu eGovernance Agency, Directorate of eGovernance and Tamil Virtual Academy for undertaking various initiatives under the AI for Governance Pillar. As a part of it, in 2025–26, TNAIM focused on identifying high-impact AI/ML use cases across Government Departments, facilitating the development of Proofs of Concept and promoting the adoption of AI-based solutions for improving governance and public-service delivery. Government has also established a 'Centre of Excellence in Emerging Technologies in Governance' in TNeGA in 2021.

- Established in TNeGA in **2021**.

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4.4.1.1 AI Standards

TN AI Mission, along with the Directorate of eGovernance, has developed an Ethical, Safe and Responsible AI Framework. Ethical data governance and responsible AI practices are considered essential prerequisites for building public trust in the initiatives undertaken by TNAIM. The framework will be founded on the following principles:

a) Data sovereignty and privacy

Government-linked datasets shall be handled in accordance with the Digital Personal Data Protection Act, 2023, the Digital Personal Data Protection Rules, 2025, and the applicable Responsible AI guidelines issued by MeitY and IndiaAI. Principles such as purpose limitation, informed consent and data minimisation shall be incorporated at the design stage. Citizen data used for model

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development and training shall be appropriately anonymised or pseudonymised.

b) Responsible, explainable and fair AI

A risk-based classification framework shall be adopted, with mandatory AI Impact Assessments before the deployment of high-risk AI systems. AI systems used in citizen-facing decision-making shall provide an appropriate degree of explainability. Periodic bias audits shall be conducted, with particular attention to the inclusion of Tamil language variants and regional dialects. These measures shall be aligned with NITI Aayog's Responsible AI principles, the Responsible AI guidelines of MeitY and IndiaAI, and the IndiaAI Safe and Trusted AI Initiative.

- Required before deploying high-risk **AI**, with periodic bias audits covering Tamil language variants and regional dialects.

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c) Human oversight, security and transparency

Human-in-the-loop mechanisms shall be mandated for high-stakes decisions. AI systems shall incorporate cybersecurity-by-design principles, appropriate access controls and secure data-management practices. The framework shall also facilitate proactive migration towards post-quantum cryptographic standards, wherever applicable. Independent periodic audits shall be undertaken, and the use of AI in citizen-facing services shall be transparently disclosed.

- Mandated for high-stakes decisions, alongside cybersecurity-by-design and planned migration to post-quantum cryptography.

4.4.1.2 AI Ready Data Platform

Directorate of eGovernance is developing a secure, interoperable and high-quality Government data platform to facilitate the controlled sharing and utilisation of data across Government Departments.

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TN AI Mission is providing necessary technical support for the implementation of the project.

The platform will support evidence-based policymaking, advanced analytics and the development, testing and deployment of AI-enabled governance solutions. It will incorporate appropriate standards for data quality, privacy, security, interoperability, access control and responsible use.

4.4.1.3 Identification of AI Use cases in Government Departments

TNAIM, through TNeGA, conducted interactive workshops involving 52 Government institutions and 36 startups in 2025. Through these consultations, 55 citizen-centric AI use cases were identified across 27 key sectors.

These use cases form the foundation for developing a structured pipeline of AI-enabled

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solutions aimed at improving governance, public-service delivery and administrative efficiency.

4.4.1.4 Digital Platforms and AI Solutions under Development

TNAIM is providing technical advisory to TNeGA for developing a portfolio of citizen-facing and Government-facing AI applications. These initiatives are at various stages of development.

a) AI-Powered higher-education and Career Guidance System

An AI-powered higher-education and career guidance system is under development for students studying in Classes IX to XII. The system is intended to provide personalised recommendations based on students' interests, aptitude, academic profiles and available higher-education and career pathways. The platform is envisaged to assist students in making informed decisions

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regarding subject selection, higher education, skill-development programmes and future career opportunities.

b) AI-Enabled Modernisation of the e-Sevai Platform

TNAIM is working with TNeGA for the modernisation of the e-Sevai platform as an AI-first, unified and multilingual gateway through which citizens can access Government services, schemes and benefits.

The proposed platform will facilitate access through web and mobile applications, messenger-based channels such as SMS and Messengers such as WhatsApp, Tamil and English voice-and-text conversational interfaces, assisted-service centres and call centres. It is intended to simplify service discovery, application submission, status tracking and citizen interaction with Government Departments.

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c) AI-Enabled Grievance Redressal - Pilot

A pilot for an AI-enabled grievance redressal in three channels (via chatbot, WhatsApp-based interface, voicebot) along with Optical Character Recognition facility for office automation is under development for citizen centric services.

The proposed solution is intended to support grievance registration, extraction and processing of information from submitted documents, classification and routing of grievances to the appropriate authorities, status tracking and timely resolution of public grievances. It will also facilitate more accessible interactions through Tamil voice and text interfaces.

4.4.2 AI for Businesses & Startups

TN AI Mission directly and through ELCOT has been undertaking various initiatives to

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support business, especially MSMEs. iTNT is providing incubation support for deep tech Startups. AI upskilling programs are being undertaken through the ICT Academy.

4.4.2.1 AI Policy Roundtable, Coimbatore

An AI Policy Roundtable for Startups was organised at Coimbatore in October 2025 to deliberate on policy requirements, governance frameworks and implementation modalities for the responsible adoption of Artificial Intelligence across Government Departments.

As a follow-up to the Roundtable, TNeGA continues to engage with technology companies and startups to facilitate the development of secure, scalable and locally relevant AI solutions, including solutions built using sovereign Large Language Models.

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4.4.2.2 AI Grand Challenge for Early Identification of Non-Performing MSMEs

In September 2025, TNAIM conducted a Grand Challenge in collaboration with StartupTN and the Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises Department. The initiative aimed to develop AI-enabled solutions for the early identification of non-performing MSMEs, thereby enabling timely intervention, targeted assistance and evidence-based policy support for MSMEs in Tamil Nadu.

4.4.2.3 Centres of Excellence (CoEs)

As announced in the Budget 2026-27, the Tamil Nadu AI mission will promote emerging technologies including Artificial Intelligence, AVGC-XR, quantum technologies, and other emerging fields. This mission will be establishing dedicated Centres of Excellence (CoEs) focused on innovation, research, skill development,

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technology adoption, and industry collaboration and jointly undertaken through TNeGA, ELCOT, TIDCO, and IIT Madras. The Tamil Nadu Artificial Intelligence Centre of Excellence is proposed to be established by ELCOT. Funding support for this initiative will also be explored.The proposed Centres of Excellence will serve as institutional anchors for the development and deployment of AI and emerging technologies in the State.

4.5 AVGC-XR and Quantum Technologies

The AVGC-XR and Quantum Technology Verticals are presently undertaken by ELCOT and TIDCO and are expected to be transitioned to the TN AI Mission in due course of time**.**

4.6 Ethical, Safe and Responsible AI Framework in Government Departments

The evaluation and roll-out regime for Artificial Intelligence across all Departments of the Government of Tamil Nadu — the TAM-DEF

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Framework and the DEEP-MAX Scorecard in operation

4.6.1 Purpose and legal basis

Artificial Intelligence now enters the working of every Department of this Government — in citizen facing e-services, welfare administration, analytics and internal productivity. This Note states, for all Departments, the single regime under which any AI system is evaluated before it is approved and guided after it goes live, so that the ordinary citizen of Tamil Nadu encounters only Artificial Intelligence that has been tested for fairness, protected against misuse, and placed under human accountability.

The regime rests on three instruments read together. First, the Tamil Nadu Safe and Ethical Artificial Intelligence Policy, 2020 (G.O. 24 of 2020) — the first State policy of its kind in

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India — which recommends the Six-Dimensional TAM-DEF Framework for the evaluation of AI-based systems and the DEEP-MAX Scorecard to guide the roll-out of AI solutions, and provides guidelines for Government Departments and agencies to procure AI-based solutions in adherence to its norms. Secondly, G.O. (Ms.) No. 47, Human Resources Management (A) Department, dated 05.08.2026, by which "Artificial Intelligence" stands allocated as a subject of business to this Department in the First Schedule of the Tamil Nadu Government Business Rules, 1978 — in consequence of which, and under the consultation requirements of the Transaction of Business Rules, every Department's AI matter is dealt with in consultation with, and with the concurrence of, this Department. Thirdly, the procedure is set out below. What the 2020 Policy recommended, the 2026 architecture makes obligatory: the content of the test comes from

the Policy; its binding force comes from the allocation of business and the approval of the Government.

4.6.2 Transactions requiring the Department's concurrence

The concurrence requirement extends, in particular, to every transaction instrument concerning Artificial Intelligence entered into by any Department, agency or undertaking of the State Government: memoranda of understanding (executed jointly with the Industries Department / Guidance Tamil Nadu under the dual-signature protocol, this Department ensuring technical vetting and data-protection conditions); joint ventures and the creation of special-purpose vehicles; investment proposals and equity participation; and Design-Build-Finance-Operate-Transfer (DBFOT) and other concession agreements — each appraised under the Tamil Nadu

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Infrastructure Development Board framework, awarded only through open competition, and extended no take-or-pay or assured-revenue commitment by the State. AI, IT and DS department will be the nodal agency for any MoUs and interventions in the field of AI as per G.O.(Ms). No.47, HRM (A) Department, dated 05.08.2026.

4.6.3 The two instruments — evaluation, then roll-out

The 2020 Policy provides two instruments which operate in sequence and are not substitutes. The TAM-DEF Framework evaluates whether an AI system is fit to be deployed. The DEEP-MAX Scorecard guides how the approved deployment proceeds. Every Department uses both, each for its own function.

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4.6.3.1 The TAM-DEF Framework — six dimensions of evaluation

Dimension	What it evaluates
T — Transparency and Audit	The system's purpose, data, logic and outcomes are open to inspection, with an auditable trail of decisions and changes.
A — Accountability and Legal Issues	Responsibility for outputs is assigned to identifiable officers and entities; deployment conforms to the applicable legal framework.
M — Misuse Protection	The system is protected against malicious use, manipulation, adversarial attack and use beyond its sanctioned purpose.
D — Digital Divide and Data Deficit	Benefits reach citizens across the digital divide; decisions are not distorted by gaps or unrepresentativeness in the underlying data.
E — Ethics	Design and deployment conform to the ethical norms of public administration and the dignity of the citizen.

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Dimension	What it evaluates
F — Fairness and Equity	Outcomes are free of bias and discriminatory effect, and equitable across social groups, regions and languages.

The evaluation is aligned to democratic values, and is extended, for the generative era, to the risks of synthetic content — accuracy and provenance, the labelling of synthetically generated information in accordance with the Information Technology (Intermediary Guidelines and Digital Media Ethics Code) Amendment Rules, 2026, and mandatory human review of every citizen-affecting output.

4.6.3.2 The DEEP-MAX Scorecard — guided roll-out

Upon approval, the deployment proceeds under the DEEP-MAX Scorecard as provided in the 2020 Policy: the deploying Department, with the Tamil Nadu AI Mission, scores the solution's

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readiness and phases its roll-out against the Scorecard's parameters, and the scores and milestones are entered in the algorithmic-audit log. The Scorecard is thereafter refreshed at the annual AI-readiness and impact audit of every high-risk system in service.

4.6.4 Applicability — every Department, by tier

This regime applies to every Department of the Secretariat, every Head of Department, and every public-sector undertaking, statutory board, society and mission under the control of the State Government, for every AI system procured, developed, commissioned or deployed, including systems operated by third parties on their behalf. The depth of the exercise follows the risk of the system:

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Tier	Systems	What is required
HIGH-RISK	Systems affecting a citizen decision — eligibility, entitlement, benefit, licence, enforcement or penalty; processing personal data at scale; validating welfare disbursals; or operating in policing, justice, health or education outcomes.	Full TAM-DEF evaluation before concurrence; DEEP-MAX Scorecard at go-live; annual AI-readiness and impact audit; entry in the public registers; a designated human-review route for affected citizens.
MEDIUM-RISK	Internal decision-support, analytics and dashboards informing but not making decisions; document and workflow AI without citizen entitlement effect.	TAM-DEF evaluation; DEEP-MAX Scorecard at go-live; register entry; time-bound concurrence with deemed clearance.

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Tier	Systems	What is required
MINIMAL-RISK	Productivity, drafting, translation and search tools with no citizen-facing decision effect.	Registration in the use-case registry on filing; no scorecard exercise.

4.6.5 Institutions — who mandates, who evaluates

The nodal authority for this regime is the Artificial Intelligence, Information Technology and Digital Services Department: concurrence is granted or declined only by the Department, under the Business Rules. The Tamil Nadu Artificial Intelligence Mission till Section 8 company formation will function with the Tamil Nadu e-Governance Agency and the iTNT Foundation as its implementing agencies, performs the technical work — the TAM-DEF evaluation, verification of the DEEP-MAX Scorecard, and maintenance of the registers —

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which informs the Department's decision; the Mission exercises no power of approval. TN-CERT conducts the cyber review of every system before hosting on State infrastructure. The deploying Department remains at all times the owner of its system and accountable for its outcomes.

4.6.6 Department procedure

i. **Step 1 — Submit.** Before administrative sanction, tender or signature, the proposal is submitted through e-Office to the AI, IT & DS Department with its self-classification of risk tier.

ii. **Step 2 — Evaluation.** The Mission completes the TAM-DEF evaluation (with TN-CERT's cyber review and data-protection certification under the Digital Personal Data Protection

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Act, 2023 and Rules, 2025) and places its certificate before the Department.

iii. **Step 3 — Time bound Concurrence.** The Proposal will be sent to AI, IT & DS Department's Empowered committee.

iv. **Step 4 — Procure with integrity.** Procurement with proper procedures with TAM-DEF conformance written into the technical-evaluation criteria of the tender itself.

v. **Step 5 — Roll out under the Scorecard.** Deployment proceeds under the DEEP-MAX Scorecard; scores and milestones enter the algorithmic-audit log.

vi. **Step 6 — Account annually.** Every high-risk system in service

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undergoes the periodical AI-readiness and impact audit; material adverse findings suspend the system pending correction.

4.6.7 AI Advisory Council: An honorary Tamil Nadu AI Advisory Council will be created.

4.7 The citizen’s safeguards

Any person affected by an AI-assisted decision of the Government is entitled, on request and free of charge, to be informed that AI was used, to a written reason in Tamil or English, and to review of the decision by a designated human officer. The use-case registry, the model inventory, the algorithmic-audit log and the deployment registry are published with appropriate security redactions. No AI system of this Government decides a citizen’s entitlement without a human answerable for it.

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4.8 Conclusion — Direction for 2026-27

During the year 2026–27, the Tamil Nadu Artificial Intelligence Mission (TNAIM) will consolidate the State's initiatives in Artificial Intelligence, AVGC-XR, quantum technologies and other emerging fields. Through dedicated Centres of Excellence, the Mission will promote innovation, research, skill development, technology adoption and industry collaboration.

Jointly undertaken by TNeGA, ELCOT, iTNT Foundation and ICT Academy, TNAIM will strengthen institutional capabilities, deepen ecosystem partnerships and accelerate the transition of priority AI solutions from pilot stages to production-scale deployment.

Through this consolidation, TN AI mission is intended to give Tamil Nadu a single, accountable institutional voice for emerging technologies, matching the State's proven execution capability in e-Governance with a

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comparable, purpose-built vehicle for Artificial Intelligence, Quantum Technology and the AVGC-XR creative economy, in service of citizens, Government Departments and industries.

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CHAPTER - V

ELECTRONICS CORPORATION OF TAMIL NADU LIMITED (ELCOT)

5.1 Introduction

Electronics Corporation of Tamil Nadu Limited, incorporated on 21 March 1977, is entering its 50th year as a driving force behind Tamil Nadu's digital transformation and diversified IT sector growth across the State.

Established with a focus on electronics, electromedical and space technologies related businesses and manufacturing, ELCOT has progressively transformed from an organization focused on electronic manufacturing into a key technology arm of the Government. Its mandate expanded to IT procurement and e-Governance in 1999, followed by the development of IT Parks, IT Towers and State Data Centre infrastructure after 2005. Today, it plays a

- **ELCOT**, entering its 50th year. Its mandate expanded to IT procurement and e-Governance in **1999**, and to IT Parks and Data Centres after **2005**.

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strategic role in IT infrastructure development, IT policy implementation and Government technology procurement in supporting Tamil Nadu's digital transformation.

A key pillar of ELCOT's mission is promoting balanced regional growth through the decentralization of the IT industry. As a strategic anchor investor, ELCOT has developed world-class IT parks and towers across Tier-II and Tier-III cities, ensuring that the benefits of the digital economy extend across the State.

ELCOT also serves as a key procurement arm of the Government of Tamil Nadu for IT hardware and services. This unique dual role—as both a catalyst for frontier technologies and a trusted provider of critical digital governance services—reinforces ELCOT's pivotal place in Tamil Nadu's development journey.

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Building on this legacy, ELCOT is accelerating its strategic focus on frontier technologies such as Artificial Intelligence (AI), Quantum Computing, and AVGC-XR (Animation, Visual Effects, Gaming, Comics, and Extended Reality). Strengthening this vision, ELCOT is establishing specialized Centres of Excellence (CoEs) in AI and AVGC-XR to drive innovation, advanced research, skill development, and global investments in emerging technology sectors. These functions will be handed over to the dedicated mission for emerging technologies, once it is fully established.

ELCOT has also played a transformative role in strengthening Tamil Nadu's technology ecosystem through landmark joint ventures and strategic initiatives. Investments in TIDEL Park Limited, TIDEL Park Coimbatore Limited, etc., have enabled the creation of globally competitive infrastructure for leading technology

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companies. Initiatives such as FinBlue, in collaboration with Software Technology Parks of India, are nurturing the Fintech startup ecosystem through incubation support and innovation-driven infrastructure.

5.2 Strategic Pillars

ELCOT operates with a strategic focus on the following core pillars to drive Tamil Nadu's digital and industrial evolution:

a) Market Operations

i. IT Parks, Towers and Projects

ii. Policy, facilitation and Frontier Technologies

b) Government Services

i. ELCOT Angadi – Procurement, IT and HR Services

ii. Data Centre services and other projects

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5.3 Market Operations

ELCOT's growth strategy is built around key objectives such as creating new IT parks with world-class IT infrastructure across Tamil Nadu, promoting IT investments and developing skills. ELCOT has established 8 Special Economic Zones (SEZs) in Chennai and Tier-II cities viz., Coimbatore, Madurai, Tiruchirappalli, Salem, Tirunelveli and Hosur with a total extent of 1288.15 acres (1145.97 acres of SEZ and 142.18 acres of non-SEZ). As reported by the allottees, 1,28,694 persons are directly employed in these 8 IT Parks of ELCOT. Apart from the direct employment, the IT parks provide indirect employment and also act as anchor players by developing the region in IT space.

- **ELCOT** SEZs in Chennai and the Tier-II cities of Coimbatore, Madurai, Tiruchirappalli, Salem, Tirunelveli and Hosur - **1,288.15 acres** in all.

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A) ELCOSEZ - Sholinganallur, Chennai

Chennai IT Park has a total land area of 377.08 acres, of which 284.64 acres is designated as the allottable area. Currently, 225.05 acres of land has been allocated to Eight Organizations. An IT Tower with a total built-up area of 213,905 sq. ft., has been developed , of which 2,488 sq. ft. has been allotted. Companies such as M/s. Wipro Ltd., M/s. HCL Technologies Pvt. Ltd., M/s. Tech Mahindra Pvt. Ltd., M/s. Ford Motors Pvt. Ltd., M/s. Cognizant Technology Solutions Pvt. Ltd., are operational and have generated employment opportunities for approximately 78,322 employees.

- The largest **ELCOSEZ**, at Sholinganallur. Madurai follows at **274.08 acres**, then Tirunelveli 199.90 and Hosur 174.47.

B) ELCOSEZ - Coimbatore

Coimbatore IT Park has a total land area of 61.59 acres at Vilankurichi, of which 44.97 acres is designated as the allottable area. Currently, 23.70 acres of land has been

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allocated to 3 organizations. An IT Tower with a total built-up area of 2,17,698 sq. ft., of which 2,17,698 sq. ft. has been allotted. Companies such as M/s. Wipro Ltd., M/s. TIDEL Park Coimbatore Ltd., M/s. Capgemini Technology Services India Ltd. are presently operational with 32,300 employees.

C) ELCOSEZ - Salem

Salem IT Park has a total land area of 53.33 acres at Jagiramapalayam, of which 39.28 acres is designated as the allottable area. Currently, 38.28 acres of land has been allocated to 7 organizations. An IT Tower with a total built-up area of 62,174 sq. ft., and the entire built-up space of 62,174 sq. ft. has been allotted. Companies like M/s. Vee Technologies Pvt. Ltd., M/s. Sundarsons Exports, M/s. Zealous Services, are presently operational with 2441 employees.

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D) ELCOSEZ - Hosur

Hosur IT Park has a total land area of 174.47 acres at Vishwanathapuram, of which 120.11 acres is designated as the allottable area. Currently, 59.02 acres of land has been allocated to 11 organizations. An IT Tower with a total built-up area of 62,100 sq. ft., and the entire built-up space of 62,100 sq. ft. has been allotted. Companies such as M/s. Chandu Soft Technologies Pvt. Ltd., M/s. US Technology International Pvt. Ltd., M/s. Screen Artz, M/s. Diggibyte Technologies Pvt. Ltd., are presently operational with 576 employees.

E) ELCOSEZ - Tirunelveli

Tirunelveli IT Park has a total land area of 199.90 acres at Gangaikondan, of which 153.83 acres is designated as the allottable area. Currently, 62.74 acres of land has been allocated to 6 organizations. An IT Tower with a

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total built-up area of 57,107 sq. ft., of which 9,548 sq. ft. has been allotted. Companies like M/s. Syntel International Pvt. Ltd., M/s. Ciyes Systems Pvt. Ltd., are presently operational with 1,029 employees.

F) ELCOSEZ - Trichy

Trichy IT Park has a total land area of 147.70 acres at Navalpattu, of which 104.86 acres is designated as the allottable area. Currently, 81.39 acres of land has been allocated to 3 organizations. An IT Tower with a total built-up area of 190,476 sq. ft., of which 93,090 sq. ft. has been allotted. Companies like M/s. Esskay Design and Structure, M/s. VR Della IT Services Pvt. Ltd., SPI Technologies India Pvt. Ltd., are presently operational with 1531 persons.

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G) ELCOSEZ - Madurai (I & II)

Madurai IT Park has a total land area of 274.08 acres at Illandhaikulam and Vadapalanji, of which 221.55 acres is designated as the allottable area. Currently, 130.24 acres of land has been allocated to 18 organizations. An IT Tower with a total built-up area of 130,791 sq. ft., of which 1,21,756 sq. ft. has been allotted. Companies like M/s. HCL Technologies Ltd., M/s. Honeywell Technologies Ltd., and M/s. Infinx are presently operational. These companies have generated employment opportunities for approximately 11,495 persons.

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S. No	ELCOSEZ	IT Park			IT Tower		Total Employment
		Total Area (Acres)	Allottable Area (Acres)	Allotted (Acres)	Total Space (Sq.ft)	Total Allotted (Sq.ft)	
1	Chennai-Sholinganallur	377.08	284.64	225.05	2,13,905	2,488	78,322
2	Coimbatore	61.59	44.97	23.70	2,17,698	2,17,698	32,300
3	Madurai I & II	274.08	221.55	130.24	1,30,791	1,21,756	11,495

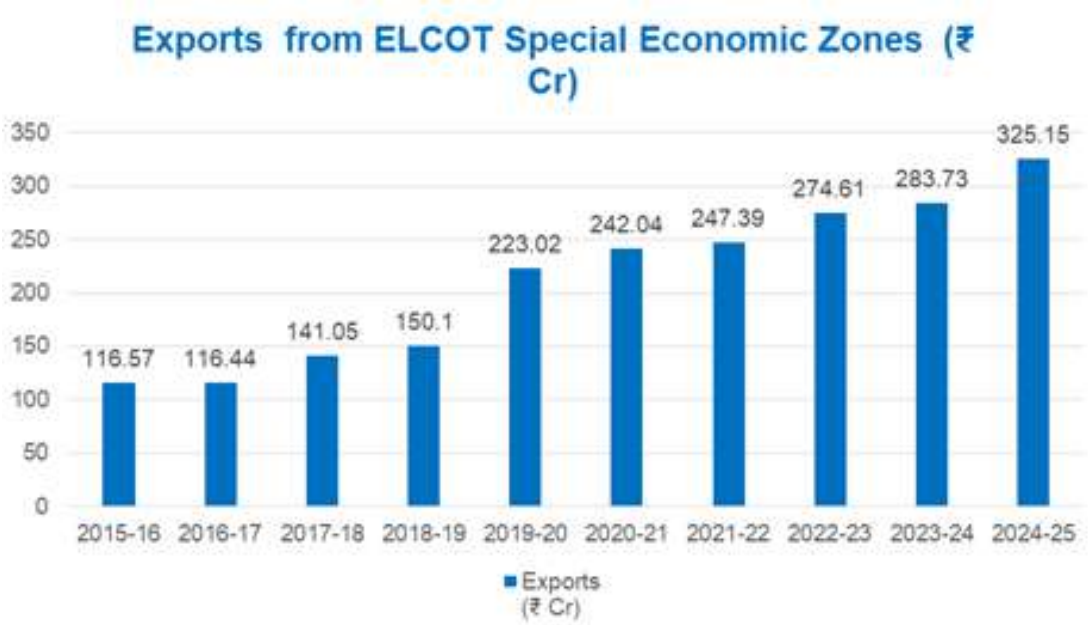
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	7	6	5	4
Total	Hosur	Salem	Tirunelveli	Trichy
1,288.15	174.47	53.33	199.90	147.70
969.24	120.11	39.28	153.83	104.86
620.42	59.02	38.28	62.74	81.39
9,34,251	62,100	62,174	57,107	1,90,476
5,68,854	62,100	62,174	9,548	93,090
1,27,694	576	2,441	1,029	1,531

128

IT exports from ELCOSEZ



5.3.1 Joint Ventures

ELCOT has promoted and invested in Joint Ventures/Associates to promote IT sector and is playing a vital role in driving the growth of IT Sector. TIDEL Park Coimbatore Limited (33%), TIDEL Park Limited (5.91%), Elnet Technologies Limited (26%), are some of the joint ventures of ELCOT.

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5.3.2 Other Initiatives

5.3.2.1 ELCOT - STPI FinBlue

- The FinTech Centre of Excellence, set up at **Rs.11.50 crore** shared equally by the Union and State Governments.

Centre of Excellence in FinTech has been set up by the Software Technology Park of India (STPI) and ELCOT at a cost of Rs.11.50 crore, with Rs.5.75 crore each from Government of India and Government of Tamil Nadu with STPI as the implementing agency. 65 Fintech startups have been onboarded to date, against the target of 53. Of this, Rs.2.32 crore has been given as seed fund support to 51 startups. 24 startups have raised external funding. The current valuation of the startups is at Rs.1,545 crore. 27 patents have been filed and 187 services/products have been created, generating 1080 direct employment and 1700 indirect employment, as reported by STPI.

- Current valuation of the 51 startups seeded with **Rs.2.32 crore** through FinBlue, which also produced 27 patents and 1,080 direct jobs.

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5.3.2.2 IIIT, Tiruchirappalli

As per the directions of the Government, in the year 2017, ELCOT has invested a total of Rs.10 crore in the Indian Institute of Information Technology (IIIT), Trichy, as a Not-for-Profit Public Private Partnership (PPP). This strategic contribution supported the establishment of the institute at Srirangam in the Tiruchirappalli District.

- **ELCOT**'s **2017** investment in the Indian Institute of Information Technology, Tiruchirappalli, as a not-for-profit **PPP**.

5.4 Policy, Promotion & Facilitation

5.4.1 Policy Framework

ELCOT oversees a comprehensive policy ecosystem designed to attract investment and foster sector-specific growth. ELCOT is also establishing a system of structured facilitation and promotion mechanisms to support IT and ITeS industries in the State.

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5.4.1.1 Animation, Visual Effects, Gaming & Comics (AVGC) and Extended Reality (XR) Policy

- Targets **2 lakh** jobs and 20% of India's $6 billion **AVGC-XR** market by **2030**.

Launched on 13 March 2026, this policy positions Tamil Nadu as a creative technology powerhouse. It targets the creation of 2 lakh jobs and aims to capture 20% of India's $6 billion AVGC-XR market by 2030.

5.4.1.2 Tamil Nadu Data Centre Policy 2021

- Being revamped into a Data Centre & **AI**-Compute Policy that weighs the energy and environmental footprint of **AI** data centres.

To reinforce Tamil Nadu's standing as the premier global destination for data infrastructure, ELCOT, along with Guidance Tamil Nadu is currently revamping the "Data Centre Policy 2021" to align with contemporary industry dynamics and the specialized requirements of modern digital ecosystems. This policy focuses on Green Energy incentives for sustainability and the development of Edge Computing to support low-latency infrastructure.

The successor Data Centre & AI-Compute

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Policy will also consider the concerns about the energy and environmental footprint of AI data centres and growing AI compute needs, keeping the relevant SDG as its target alignment.

5.4.1.3 Tamil Nadu Information and Communication Technology Policy 2018

To make Tamil Nadu an innovation-led knowledge economy by creating an enabling ecosystem for investments in Information Technology (IT) and Information Technology Enabled Services (ITeS) sector, ELCOT, along with Guidance Tamil Nadu will undertake revamping and upgrading of the "Tamil Nadu Information and Communication Technology Policy 2018" in line with the current needs of the industry.

5.4.1.4 Quantum Communication Corridor

ELCOT has signed an MoU with IIT- Madras C-DOT Samgnya Technologies

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Foundation, to undertake feasibility study for establishment of a quantum communication corridor in Tamil Nadu.

The initiative aims to advance quantum technologies in Tamil Nadu through collaborative efforts. It sets out the parties' mutual intent to bridge academic research and industrial applications through joint work in quantum communication, quantum key distribution (QKD), quantum networks, and post-quantum security.

5.4.2 Centres of Excellence

5.4.2.1 TN Artificial Intelligence Centre of Excellence (TN AI CoE)

ELCOT is establishing flagship AI CoEs in Chennai and Coimbatore. These centres are designed to move beyond pilot projects to deliver systemic, scalable AI outcomes across governance, industry, and academia. By

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leveraging Chennai's tech ecosystem and Coimbatore's industrial strength, the CoEs serve as the State-level operational arm for the national AI framework, focusing on responsible and application-driven Artificial Intelligence.

5.4.2.2 Viyan AVGC-XR Centre of Excellence (AVGC-XR CoE)

- Being established in Chennai with an outlay of **Rs.50 crore**; **Rs.17.21 crore** approved initially, **Rs.9.95 crore** of it under **TANII 2025-26**.

The 'Viyan AVGC-XR Hub' is being established in Chennai with a total estimated outlay of Rs.50 crore to accelerate the creative economy. Initial administrative approval of Rs.17.21 crore has been accorded for the Chennai centre, supported by Rs.9.95 crore under the TANII 2025–2026 initiative. Over the next three years, the hub will expand through regional satellite centres in Coimbatore, Trichy, Madurai, Salem, and Tirunelveli regions, providing cutting-edge infrastructure and incubation for startups and researchers in the VFX and gaming sectors.

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5.4.2.3 Investment Facilitation Desk

ELCOT has established an investment facilitation desk to support and facilitate investments in the AVGC-XR sector. Coordination for IT&ITeS and Data Centre sectors is being carried out along with Guidance Tamil Nadu as the nodal agency for investment promotion and facilitation.

5.4.2.4 Tamil Nadu's Services Exports

Tamil Nadu's services exports in **FY 2024-25** - about **USD** 27 billion.

Tamil Nadu's services exports reached Rs.2,49,161 crore (USD 27 billion) in FY 2024-25. Driven by an 8.6% CAGR, state exports nearly doubled from USD 26.15 billion to USD 52.07 billion over the past four years.

Financial Year	STPI (Rs. in Crore)	SEZ (Rs. in Crore)	Total (Rs. in Crore)
2015-16	33,905	68,110	1,02,015

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Financial Year	STPI (Rs. in Crore)	SEZ (Rs. in Crore)	Total (Rs. in Crore)
2016-17	34,563	66,976	1,01,539
2017-18	36,849	70,655	1,07,504
2018-19	40,457	82,895	1,23,352
2019-20	46,704	88,153	1,34,857
2020-21	48,353	93,205	1,41,558
2021-22	57,867	1,06,516	1,64,383
2022-23	73,969	1,36,783	2,10,752
2023-24	80,677	1,45,468	2,26,145
2024-25	86,438	1,62,723	2,49,161

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5.4.3 Investment Promotion Events

5.4.3.1 UMAGINE TN 2026

- Secured **Rs.9,900 crore** in investments, projected to create over 9,200 jobs, supporting 83 startups and 12 product launches.

The 4th edition of UMAGINE TN (January 2026) launched India's first Deep Tech Startup Policy, setting a roadmap for AI, Quantum Computing, Digital Healthcare, and AVGC-XR. The summit secured Rs.9,900 crore in investments, projected to create over 9,200 jobs, while supporting 83 startups and 12 product launches. Through the UMAGINE DX program, the event engaged 18,000 students

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from Tier-II and Tier-III regions to build an inclusive talent pipeline. By finalizing strategic MoUs with global leaders, UMAGINE TN 2026 reinforced the state's position as a globally competitive innovation hub.

5.4.3.2 India Game Developer Conference (IGDC 2025)

- The 17th India Game Developer Conference, held in Chennai 5-7 November **2025** - its first edition in Tamil Nadu. 4,200 attendees from 500+ companies.

ELCOT hosted the 17th India Game Developer Conference (IGDC 2025) in Chennai from 5–7 November 2025 - the event's first edition in Tamil Nadu. Supported by a Rs.6 crore allocation, the summit united 4,200 attendees from over 500 global companies, including developers, investors, and students, positioning the state as a premier international hub for the gaming and creative technology ecosystem. The 18th edition of the India Game Developer Conference (IGDC) is proposed to be held in Chennai from 28–31 October 2026.

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5.4.3.3 CII Connect 2025

CII Connect 2025, the state's flagship ICT conference, promoted decentralized digital growth through regional editions in Coimbatore and Madurai. With the Government support of Rs.20 lakh, the events focused on AI, digital engineering and deep tech to drive regional investment. As a key partner, ELCOT facilitated critical B2B and B2G networking and startup showcases, reinforcing Tamil Nadu's status as a global IT leader while successfully positioning Tier-II cities as premier investment destinations.

5.5 Government Services

5.5.1 ELCOT Angadi – Procurement, IT and HR Services

The Government of Tamil Nadu has designated Electronics Corporation of Tamil Nadu Limited (ELCOT) as the Optional Procurement Agency for IT hardware products

- **TANFINET** was so designated on **13.10.2023** by relaxing Clause 3 under Section 3 of the Tamil Nadu Transparency in Tenders **Act, 1998**.

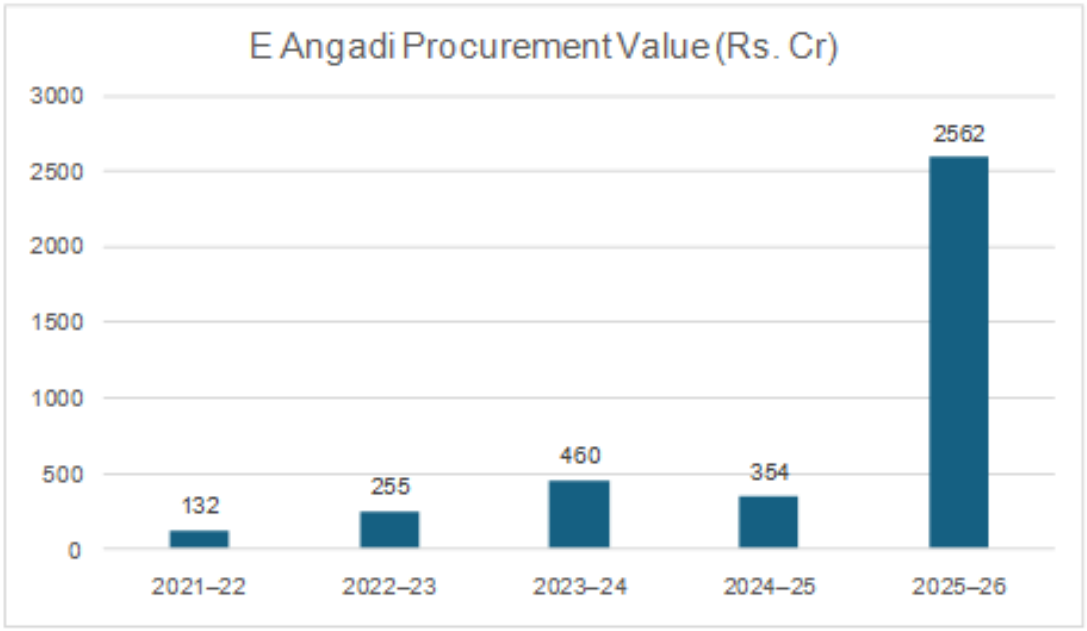
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and various services for Government Departments, Corporations, and Autonomous Bodies. ELCOT operates an E-Angadi e-commerce portal for the use of Government departments and institutions.

Procurement Performance (Last Five Years)

Year	Value (Rs. in crore)
2021–22	132.00
2022–23	255.00
2023–24	460.00
2024–25	353.94
2025–26	2,562.49
Total	3,763.43

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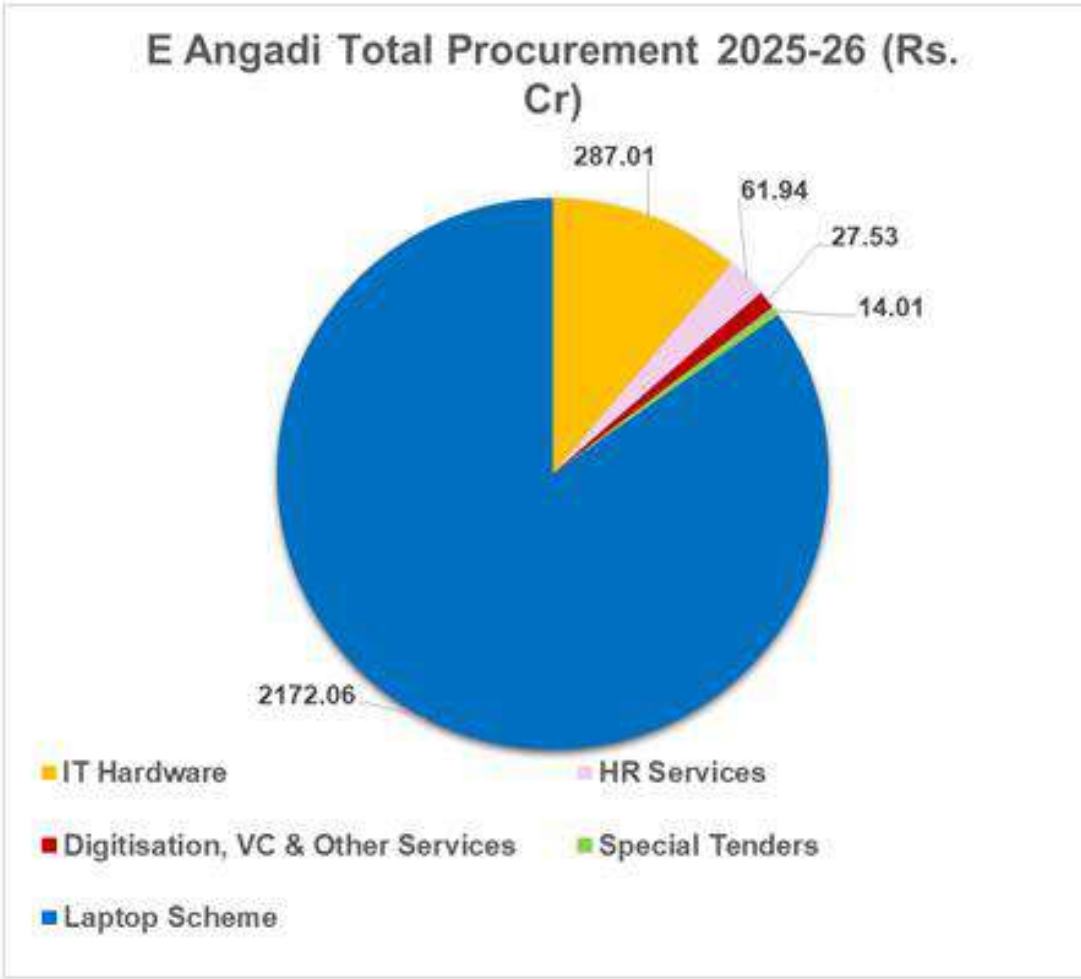


ELCOT Procurement facilitation – 2025-26

Component	Total Procurement Value (Rs. in crore)
IT Hardware	287.01
HR Services	61.94
Digitisation, VC & Other Services	27.53

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Special Tenders	14.01
Laptop Scheme	2172.00
Total	**2562.49**



5.5.1.1 College Students Laptop Scheme

Electronics Corporation of Tamil Nadu Limited (ELCOT) has been entrusted with the responsibility of procuring laptops for the College Students' laptop Scheme of the Higher Education Department. Government has sanctioned a total sum of Rs.2172.06 crore for the project.

- Sanctioned for the laptop scheme; unit cost **Rs.21,650.64** including bag, logistics, one-year warranty and **GST**.

Based on an international competitive bidding, orders were placed for procurement of laptops with M/s. Acer India Pvt. Ltd., M/s. HP India Sales Pvt. Ltd., and M/s. Dell International Services India Pvt. Ltd. The unit cost was Rs.21,650.64/- inclusive of a laptop bag, logistics, one-year warranty and service support and GST. The laptops are configured with an AMD Ryzen 3 / Intel i3 processor, 8 GB RAM, 256 GB SSD, Microsoft Windows 11, and a subscription to Microsoft Office 365 along with AI-enabled features.

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The beneficiary list was finalised by the Higher Education Department and as per the final beneficiary list provided by the Higher Education Department, a total of 9,78,870 laptops were distributed to college students during the period from 5th January 2026 to 13th March 2026.

- Distributed to college students between 5 January and 13 March **2026**.

5.5.2 SECNET

ELCOT established the Secretariat Network in 2004. The Government paid a capital cost of Rs 8.61 crore to ELCOT in 2025 for the Secretariat services. ELCOT presently operates and maintains the SECNET through a dedicated team deployed through the maintenance agency.

- The Secretariat Network; the Government paid **ELCOT Rs.8.61 crore** in capital cost in **2025**.

5.5.3 Telecom Facilitation

The Telecom division facilitates the grant of Right-of-Way permissions for establishing

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new telecom Infrastructure (Underground and Overground) in a time-bound manner.

The Government of Tamil Nadu has formulated and released the TN Telecom Infrastructure Policy, 2022. As per the direction of the Government, ELCOT implemented an online single window portal (https://row.tn.gov.in) to grant permissions to the Telecom Service Provider/Infrastructure Provider (TSP/IP).

As on 11.08.2026, 15,454 permissions have been granted for establishment of New Telecom Infrastructure. The State of Tamil Nadu also handles the regularization of existing Telecom Infrastructure and so far, 33,449 have been regularized. This function is under transition to the Directorate of eGovernance.

- 15,454 permissions granted for new telecom infrastructure as on **11.08.2026**.

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5.5.4 Aadhaar Enrollment Services

ELCOT, as one of the enrolment agencies, undertakes Aadhaar enrolment and updations through 376 Aadhaar Centres. Since October 2016, 1.67 crore transactions completed as of 31 July 2026.

ELCOT is also a Registrar, for conducting 'Aadhaar Through Schools' camps across Tamil Nadu. From November 2025 to 11 August 2026, 5.11 lakh transactions have been undertaken in this project.

5.5.5 Tamil Nadu State Data Centre

Government of Tamil Nadu implemented Tamil Nadu State Data Centre – I (TNSDC-I), the first ISO-certified Data Centre in the country in 2011, with a capacity of about 48 racks. TNSDC–II, the second phase of TNSDC was established and has been operational since 2020. TNSDC-II can accommodate 126 racks.

- The Tamil Nadu State Data Centre was the FIRST **ISO**-certified data centre in the country, with about 48 racks. **TNSDC-II** has been operational since **2020**.

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The present total capacity of the Data Center (TNSDC and TNDRC) is 2.7 MW.

- The Tamil Nadu Disaster Recovery Centre at **ELCOSEZ** Tiruchirappalli, operational since **2018**.

5.5.5.1 Tamil Nadu Disaster Recovery Centre (TNDRC)

TNDRC was established at ELCOSEZ, Tiruchirappalli and has been operational from the year 2018. This provides business continuity for various critical e-Governance applications hosted in TNSDC in the event of any breakdown or disaster.

5.5.5.2 Thamizh Megam-TN Cloud Computing Services

As host of the State's cloud, ELCOT DC/DR applies the registration rule of the AI regime: no Artificial Intelligence system shall be hosted on the Tamil Nadu State Data Centre/Disaster Recovery or the State Cloud unless it stands entered in the Department's use-case registry and cleared as per Department's AI mandate.

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The State Cloud Infrastructure, trademarked as 'Thamizh Megam', enables optimal sharing of system resources with minimal management. It is operational since 2016. At Thamizh Megam, Infrastructure-as-a-Service (IaaS) and Platform-as-a-Service (PaaS) are being offered.

5.5.5.3 Applications hosted

More than 494 applications/services are hosted in Thamizh Megam. Major applications such as e-Office, Integrated Financial and Human Resource Management System (IFHRMS), Registration, e-Sevai, Tamil Nilam, Court Case Monitoring System, Crime and Criminal Tracking Network and Systems (CCTNS) of the Police Department and TN Elections portal are currently hosted in TNSDC-I and TNSDC-II.

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5.5.5.4 Comprehensive Tech Upgrade

Government has issued in-principle administrative sanction for comprehensive technical upgrade and brownfield re-development of TNSDC and TNDRC, including Tamizh Megham at an estimated value of Rs.349.80 crore under a five year OPEX model on 28.01.2026. ELCOT has initiated the tender process and the tender is under evaluation. The upgradation will be completed in 6 - 10 months of the issue financial sanction by the Government and the work order.

- In-principle sanction on **28.01.2026** for a comprehensive upgrade of **TNSDC** and **TNDRC** including Tamizh Megham, on a five-year **OPEX** model.

5.5.6 Tamil Nadu–Computer Emergency Response Team (TN-CERT)

Cyber Security Architecture for Tamil Nadu (CSA-TN) is a major initiative of Government of Tamil Nadu for security of e-Governance, Public Data and digital infrastructure. It was implemented by ELCOT in collaboration with C-DAC. As of date, 900+

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vulnerabilities were identified, 200+ incidents were handled, 130+ trainings were conducted and 3200+ officials are trained through this initiative.

As per directions of Government, the Cyber Security Architecture for Tamil Nadu (CSA-TN) already established under ELCOT and now renamed as 'Tamil Nadu–Computer Emergency Response Team' (TN-CERT), is transferred to the Directorate of e-Governance and function under the Directorate of e-Governance with effect from 01 August 2026.

- **TN-CERT**, formerly **CSA-TN** under **ELCOT**, was transferred to the Directorate of e-Governance.

5.5.7 Tamil Nadu Startup Data Server Services Scheme

'Tamil Nadu Startup Data Server Services Scheme' provides financial assistance to startups registered with Startup incubator (ELCOT-STPI FinBlue, iTNT and Startup TN), for upto Rs.5 lakh per year for availing Data Centre services.

- The Tamil Nadu Startup Data Server Services Scheme cap; **Rs.1.81 crore** has been disbursed to 75 startups.

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As on date, benefits amounting to Rs.1,80,78,140/- were disbursed to 75 Startups.

5.6 ELCOT – Empowering Possibilities

ELCOT continues to play a pivotal role in driving Tamil Nadu's IT and digital transformation agenda. Through its strategic initiatives in IT promotion, investment facilitation and policy interventions in emerging sectors like AI, AVGC-XR, Data Centres, etc., ELCOT has been strengthening Tamil Nadu's position as a global technology hub and has been actively expanding opportunities for the State's IT ecosystem.

As it marks five decades of service, ELCOT remains committed to the vision of a "Digital Tamil Nadu," where technology drives inclusive growth, social empowerment, and sustainable economic progress and to ensure that Tamil Nadu stays at the forefront of

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technological advancements and to propel the State towards a future of inclusive and sustainable digital growth.

5.7 Compliance with the AI mandate of the Department

All AI-related proposals, procurements, deployments and transaction instruments (memoranda of understanding, joint ventures, special-purpose vehicles, investments and DBFOT or other concessions) of ELCOT are routed for the prior concurrence of the Artificial Intelligence, Information Technology & Digital Services Department under G.O. (Ms.) No. 47, HRM (A) Department, dated 05.08.2026 read with the Tamil Nadu Government Business Rules and every AI system is evaluated under the six-dimensional TAM-DEF Framework with its roll-out guided by the DEEP-MAX Scorecard, as mandated for all Departments, in coordination with the Tamil Nadu Artificial Intelligence Mission

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(TNAIM). ELCOT further serves as a stakeholder and supporting organisation of TNAIM for technology infrastructure and solution development, and will hold the infrastructure relationship with Tamil Nadu AI Vision (TNAIV), the Government company proposed for the commercial assets of the AI economy, upon its incorporation.

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CHAPTER - VI

TAMIL VIRTUAL ACADEMY

6.1 Introduction

Tamil Virtual Academy (TVA) was set up in 2001. It was formed under the Tamil Nadu Societies Registration Act, 1975 (Section 27), as "Tamil Virtual University". It was renamed "Tamil Virtual Academy" on 16.07.2010.

- Formed under Section 27 of the Tamil Nadu Societies Registration **Act 1975** as 'Tamil Virtual University'; renamed on **16.07.2010**.
- TNeGA is a registered society, with 202 sanctioned posts - 13 non-technical and 189 technical.

This organization serves as a premier institution for providing Tamil language learning through online. Its key missions include connecting people of Tamil descent with the classical Tamil heritage; preserving rare books, documents, manuscripts, and palm-leaf records through digitization; and advancing computational Tamil to ensure the language flourishes in the age of artificial intelligence.

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6.1.1 Objectives

- Offering certificate courses across five levels and undertaking cultural propagation activities.
- Managing the Tamil Digital Library and the Cultural Digital Repository.
- The Tamil Digital Library and the Cultural Digital Repository additionally serve as the State-owned corpus foundation for the Tamil Large Language Model developed under the Tamil Nadu Artificial Intelligence Mission; access to these State-curated Tamil corpora is licensed on fair terms through the Department's data-gateway framework as per Tamil Nadu data sharing policy.

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- Developing software and tools for the advancement of Tamil Computing.

6.2. Academic Programmes

TVA offers Certificate Courses, Diploma in Tamil Teaching for Volunteers, and Marabuvazhi Pannisai Training. It has also offered Diploma, Higher Diploma, and Bachelor's Degree programmes in Tamilology. Over 1,25,000 students have benefited so far.

6.2.1 Certificate Course — Five Levels

S. No.	Level	School Equivalence
1	Akaram	Classes 1 & 2
2	Ikaram	Classes 3, 4 & 5
3	Ukaram	Classes 6, 7 & 8
4	Lakaram	Classes 9 & 10

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S. No.	Level	School Equivalence
5	Cikaram	Classes 11 & 12

The courses reach Tamil diaspora children through 207 contact centres in 43 countries. Complete details are uploaded on the TVA website (www.tamilvu.org).

6.2.2 Tamil Parappurai Thittam

The Government of Tamil Nadu through this scheme expands Tamil teaching and learning activities to Tamil diaspora across globe.

6.2.2.1 Multimodal Learning Resources

Recognizing that language learning is a multisensory experience, the Tamil Virtual Academy has developed the following supplementary tools:

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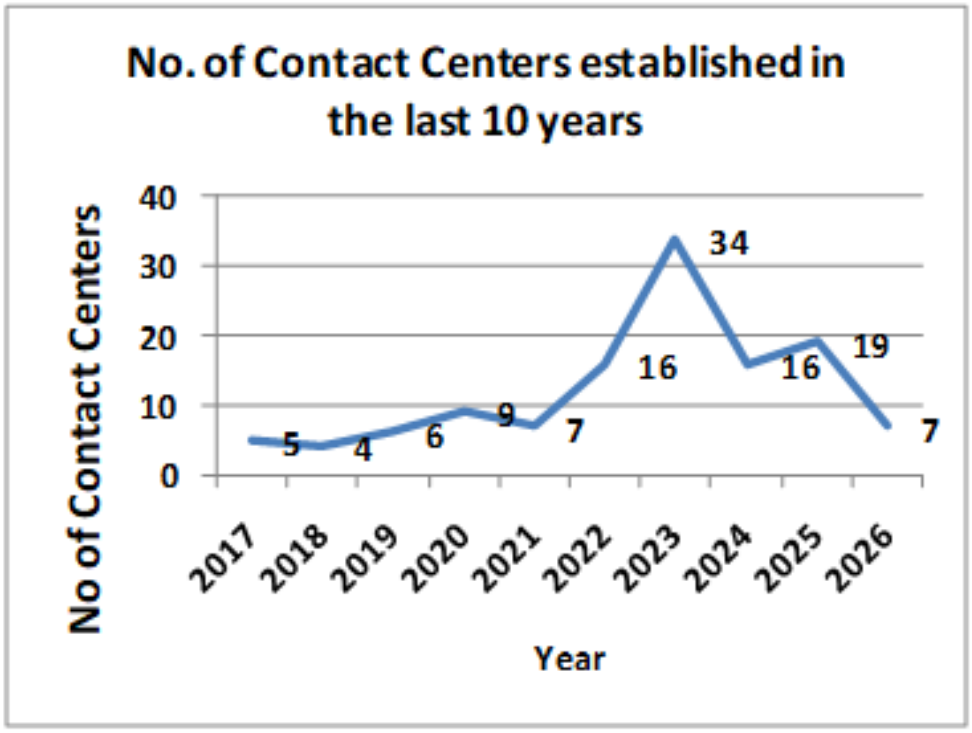
- Audiobooks and Read-Along Books
- Animation Videos and Video Lessons
- Flash Cards for vocabulary enrichment
- Akaram (Sem 1) textbook in 24 languages (13 Foreign & 11 Indian languages)
- Akaram (Sem 2) textbook in English and Hindi languages
- 'தமிழைப் பிழையின்றி எழுதுவோம்' - a publication for the benefit of teachers and students

6.2.2.2 Contact Centre Expansion, Student Enrolment

New contact centers have been established in regions with significant Tamil-speaking communities abroad, enhancing opportunities for learning the Tamil language. The following

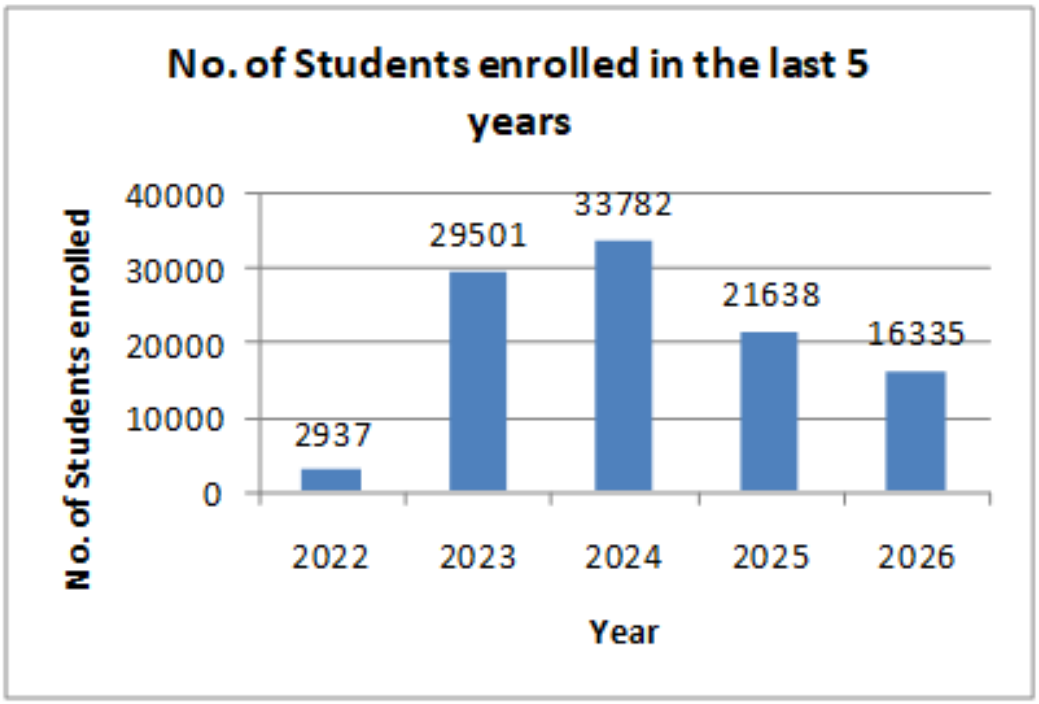
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charts illustrate the contact centers and the annual student enrollment across all educational programs.



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Student Enrolment



6.2.2.3 Cultural Propagation Activities

TVA also promotes Tamil culture, not just language.

- **Thevaram & Thiruvasagam Videos:** Selected hymns of Thevaram & Thiruvasagam were filmed at the temples associated with these hymns and sung by renowned

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Odhuvars in the traditional Pannisai style. 64 videos have been uploaded in YouTube.

- **Sangam Literature Infinity Calendar:** The 'Infinity Sangam Literature Desk Calendar' has been released featuring 366 selected poems from Sangam literature—which proclaim the antiquity and way of life of the Tamil people, along with Tamil and English .

6.2.2.4 Diploma in Tamil Teaching for Volunteers

A one-year teacher training diploma is being offered in collaboration with the Tamil Nadu Teachers Education University for volunteer teachers who teach Tamil to students living abroad. More than 400 volunteers have enrolled in and are learning.

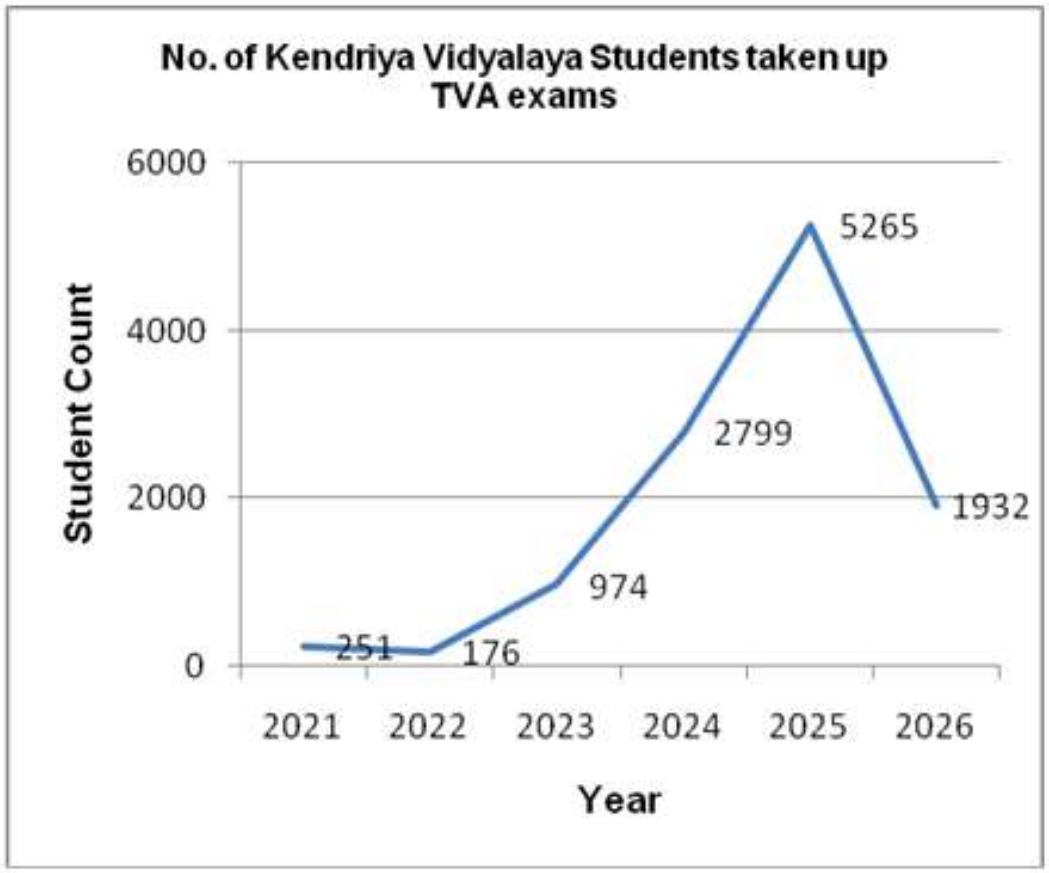
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6.2.2.5 Online Classes

TVA conducts online Tamil language classes for students residing abroad and in other Indian states. Upon successful completion of the examinations, participants are awarded certificates. The programme has witnessed significant growth over the years.

- Classes started in 4 Kendriya Vidyalaya schools, now have been extended to 50 KV schools in the Chennai region.
- Marabuvazhi Pannisai Payirchi is being provided online for Thirumurai enthusiasts living abroad.

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6.2.2.6 Spoken Tamil Course

This programme teaches spoken Tamil to Central Government staff and migrants from other States in Tamil Nadu, offering Classes for officers of:

- Southern Railway

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- Employees' Provident Fund Organisation (EPFO)
- Airports Authority of India (AAI)
- National Academy of Customs, Indirect taxes and Narcotics (NACIN)
- Directorate of Census Operations
- Central Academy for State Forest Service (CASFOS)
- Principal Accountant General's Office
- State Bank of India, Indian Overseas Bank, Union Bank of India

The Tamil Nadu Government provides an opportunity for government employees from other states working in Tamil Nadu to learn the Tamil language and work effectively in the local environment.

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6.2.2.7 Learning Management System — PAYIL

The Payil App delivers Tamil Virtual Academy's all academic activity which includes course material, supplementary tools, student registration, and exams.

6.2.2.8 Teachers Deployment to Other Countries

Qualified teachers are being sent abroad to teach Tamil directly to overseas Tamils, under the Tamil Manam Scheme, through the Department of Welfare of Non-Resident Tamils and Rehabilitation. As an initial step, Tamil teachers have been sent to Malawi, Uganda, Seychelles and Fiji. Steps are also being taken to send teachers to Indonesia and Tanzania.

6.2.2.9 The Tamil Nadu Tamil Learning Act, 2006

Makes the Tamil language examination compulsory for Class 10 students taking Tamil as an optional language in **CBSE** and other boards in Tamil Nadu.

Under this Act, the Tamil language examination has been made compulsory for

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Class 10 students studying Tamil as an optional language in private schools affiliated with the Central Board of Secondary Education (CBSE) and other boards in Tamil Nadu. For the past two academic years, the Tamil Virtual Academy, in collaboration with the Directorate of Private Schools under the School Education Department, has been conducting Tamil language examinations for these students.

S. No.	Academic Year	No. of Schools	Students Who Appeared for Examination
1	2024–25	818	12,469
2	2025–26	847	12,889

6.3 Theeraa Kaadhal Thirukkural

- Under the 'Theeraa Kaadhal Thirukkural' project, implemented

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with financial support from the Tamil Development and Information Department, various initiatives are being undertaken to bring the greatness of the Thirukkural to the younger generation.

- A **Kuraloviyam Competition** was conducted for school and college students, and the selected paintings were exhibited in Chennai and Madurai.

- A Thirukkural infinity table calendar featuring 365 outstanding paintings has been published with English translations and simple Tamil explanations. In addition, Thirukkural dance dramas titled 'Kural Inithu,' 'Valluvam Vaazhkaiyaanaal,' 'Valluvam Kaattum Vaazhkai Neri,' and

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'Valluvam Oru Vaazhviyal Neri' were staged in major cities.

6.4 Tamil Digital Library

Tamil Digital Library (www.tamildigitallibrary.in), maintained by the Tamil Virtual Academy, serves as a primary repository for scholars, students, and Tamil enthusiasts across various fields.

Rare books published since the 18th century across diverse fields including literature, history, religion, medicine, and science, along with periodicals, palm-leaf manuscripts, handwritten manuscripts, photographs, audio-video records, maps, archaeological sites, inscriptions, places of worship, sculptures, coins, copper plates, historical monuments, and paintings have been documented in this digital library. In addition, special web pages related to

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eminent personalities and historically significant events are also included.

In this project, more than 1 lakh books, periodicals and documents have been digitized and published. Furthermore, over 8 lakh pages of palm-leaf manuscripts and 9,434 handwritten manuscript pages of various scholars and personalities have been published.

- Digitised, along with more than **1 lakh** books and periodicals and 9,434 handwritten manuscript pages.

As efforts to continuously digitize and upload rare documents proceed actively, this digital library website has been visited by more than 17.51 crore visitors so far.

- To the Tamil digital library so far.

6.4.1 Inclusive Digital Library

To benefit everyone, including persons with visual impairments, 13.43 lakh pages in the digital library have been converted into text format using Optical Character Recognition (OCR) technology under the Inclusive Digital Library scheme.

- Converted to text by **OCR** under the Inclusive Digital Library scheme for readers with visual impairment.

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All these pages are properly proof read/corrected and uploaded in the website in Doc and ePub formats along with alt text descriptions for images.

6.4.2 Digitization of Rare Audio-Video and Photographs

Multi-media historical records including audio-video tapes, gramophone records, and rare photographs are being digitized.

So far, 1,014 hours of audio-video recordings and 27,169 rare photographs have been digitized and are continuously uploaded with appropriate metadata.

6.4.3 Digitization of Palm-Leaf Manuscripts

More than 8 lakh pages of palm-leaf manuscripts digitized from key institutions such as the Dr. U. V. Swaminatha Iyer Library in Chennai, Directorate of Indian Medicine and Homeopathy, and the International Institute of

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Tamil Studies have been uploaded to the Tamil Digital Library for public use.

6.4.4 Doctoral Dissertation Abstracts

Initiatives are underway to consolidate and publish abstracts, research synopsis and glossary lists of doctoral research conducted across universities in Tamil Nadu. So far, 4,929 doctoral research compendiums have been received through various universities. This activity will be of great help for future terminology creation works.

6.4.5 Special Web Pages

Special web pages have been created in the Tamil Digital Library by integrating books, news clippings, manuscripts, photographs, videos, and documents relating to prominent personalities and historical events.

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- **V. O. Chidambaranar:** On the occasion of the 150th birth anniversary of 'Kappalottiya Thamizhan' V. O. Chidambaranar, a dedicated web page has been created compiling books written, translated, and commented, along with his historically significant letters.

- **Muthamizh Arignar Kalaignar:** Following the nationalization of Muthamizh Arignar Kalaignar's works, a special page containing his works, journals, legislative assembly speeches, and rare photographs has been created.

- **G. D. Naidu:** Books, publications, newspaper clippings, and photographs from the collection of scientist G. D. Naidu have been

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documented and published on a dedicated page.

- **Tamil Financial Administration:** A page titled 'Tamil Financial Administration' has been created to explain the history of the financial administration of the Government of Tamil Nadu from the Sangam period to the current era of social justice. It includes budgets, research reports, and documents from 1921 to the present.

- **Uyirnighar Tamil:** To reflect the historical struggles for the linguistic pride and language rights of Tamils, scholars' books, historical newspaper clippings, and government orders have been compiled under the title 'Uyirnighar Tamil'.

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- **Tamil Names:** To encourage naming children with Tamil names, a list of Tamil names with simple meanings has been created on a dedicated page.

- **Nationalised Works:** Special pages are being created continuously featuring the works of Tamil writers and scholars nationalised by the Government of Tamil Nadu, along with detailed historical introductions and photographs.

6.4.6 Digital Cultural Atlas

Under the Tamil Digital Cultural Atlas project, comprehensive field research was initially conducted at 500 sites across 5 districts within the Madurai region.

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The collected information and visual recordings are generated in Tamil and English with systematic metadata and are continuously uploaded as photographs and videos on the website: https://tamilculturalatlas.in

6.5 TAMIL COMPUTING WING (EMPOWERING LANGUAGE TECHNOLOGY)

Tamil Virtual Academy has been a pioneer in developing and releasing a diverse range of Tamil computing software and tools, serving students, researchers, and language technology enthusiasts.

All resources are freely accessible at https://www.tamilvu.org/ — fostering global access.

6.5.1 Unicode Consortium Integration

The Tamil Virtual Academy, as an institutional member of the Unicode Consortium,

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represents the Government of Tamil Nadu to ensure the standardized digital inclusion of all Tamil characters, ancient fractions, symbols, and Vattezhuttukal in the Unicode Registry. This preserves Tamil's rich linguistic heritage for global accessibility in modern computing.

6.5.2 Tamil Software Tools

The Tamil Virtual Academy has developed a suite of advanced Tamil software tools aimed at supporting and promoting the use of the Tamil language in the digital realm. These software tools are specifically designed to meet the needs of a wide range of users, including students, researchers, and language technology experts.

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Core Software Tools & Digital Solutions

(i) Tamil Unicode Fonts

- Tamil Virtual Academy developed 15 unique Tamil Unicode fonts.
- TAU: Marutham, Bharathi, Kabilar, Kambar, Valluvar, Kaveri, Ezhil, Kurinji, Mullai, Paalai, Urai, Achu, Malar, Neythal, Nilavu.
- Government of Tamil Nadu officially ordered 'TAU-Marutham' as the standard Unicode font for all Government departments.

(ii) Keezhadi Keyboard Interface

Tamil Virtual Academy developed keyboard with 3 distinct layouts to simplify Tamil typing.

1. Tamil99 Keyboard: Standardized Tamil typing layout.

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2. Old Typewriter Keyboard: Traditional layout.

3. Phonetic Keyboard: Phonetic sound-based layout.

(iii) Thamizhi Unicode Converter

Converts legacy encodings (ASCII, TAB, TAM, Vanavil) to Unicode across DOC, DOCX, RTF, XLS, XLSX, PPT, and PPTX formats, facilitating seamless migration.

(iv) Tamilinaiyam – Pizhaithiruthi (Spell Checker)

Advanced spell-checker designed to detect typographical errors when typing in Tamil, minimizing mistakes in digital content creation.

(v) Grammar Tool for Tamil

- Supports two Tamil grammatical models:

  (a) Traditional Grammar

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(b) Modern Grammar

- This tool helps learners understand Tamil grammar easily and analyse modern Tamil verbs.

(vi) Index – Concordance Framework

- Compiled for 100 key ancient Tamil literary works:
- Index: Identify the frequency of specific word usage and its occurrences within a literary text.
- Concordance: Provide insight into the context in which a particular word is used within the text.

(vii) Visual Thesaurus for Tamil

- Provides interactive graphical representation of synonyms, illustrating nuanced semantic shades

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of meaning in modern Tamil. Unlike traditional Tamil e-dictionaries, it helps users understand the finer distinctions between words.

6.5.3 Software Tools for Artificial Intelligence (AI Era)

As part of the technological revolution in the AI era, TVA has engineered specialized Tamil software tools for Machine Learning, Natural Language Processing (NLP) recently.

- **Syntactic Parser:** Analyzes sentence structures by breaking them into smaller components (phrases and clauses). Essential for Machine Learning applications and sentence relationship analysis.
- **Parts of Speech (POS) for Tamil:** Categorizes each word in a Tamil sentence into its exact grammatical

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classification, enabling granular syntactic breakdown.

- **Semantic Role Labeling (SRL) Tool:** Focuses on semantic interpretation, identifying contextual functional roles beyond simple grammatical tags.
- **Tamil Speech Dialects to Text:** A primitive AI transcriber converting diverse regional Tamil spoken dialects into standardized written text.
- **Hyphenation for Tamil Typesetting:** Assists in syllable splitting and proper spacing for digital publishing, maintaining high readability. It splits long words at the appropriate points for easier reading.

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- **Palm-Leaf Character Recognition:** It helps identify the characters found in ancient Tamil palm-leaf manuscripts and plays an important role in preserving Tamil's rich literary heritage by digitising ancient Tamil literary resources and making them available to researchers.

6.5.4 Major Initiatives

(i) KaniTamil e-Magazine

A quarterly e-Magazine highlighting the Tamil Virtual Academy activities across Tamil Learning, Digital Library projects, and recent breakthroughs in Tamil Language Technology.

(ii) Series of Lectures on KaniTamil

Through the monthly series of lectures on Tamil computing, topics related to Tamil language technology, Tamil Digital Library, and Tamil heritage are introduced to students.

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(iii) LangTech Skill Training

Language technology training is being provided to benefit students studying Tamil literature and linguistics. At first phase, students from Tamil University, Thanjavur, and the International Institute of Tamil Studies, Chennai, have benefited from this training.

6.6 Compliance with the AI mandate of the Department

All AI-related proposals, procurements, deployments and transaction instruments (memoranda of understanding, joint ventures, special-purpose vehicles, investments and DBFOT or other concessions) of the Tamil Virtual Academy are routed for the prior concurrence of the Artificial Intelligence, Information Technology & Digital Services Department under, G.O. (Ms.) No. 47, HRM (A) Department, dated 05.08.2026 read with the Tamil Nadu Government Business Rules, and every AI

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system is evaluated under the six-dimensional TAM-DEF Framework with its roll-out guided by the DEEP-MAX Scorecard, as mandated for all Departments, in coordination (and in consonance with the pre-roll-out alignment requirements) with the Tamil Nadu Artificial Intelligence Mission (TNAIM).

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CHAPTER - VII

TAMIL NADU ARASU CABLE TV CORPORATION LIMITED (TACTV)

7.1 Introduction

"Tamil Nadu Arasu Cable TV Corporation Limited" (TACTV) is a pioneering public sector undertaking, established by the Government of Tamil Nadu with the primary objective of providing affordable, reliable, and high-quality cable television services to the people of the State through a robust network of Local Cable Operators (LCOs). Originally incorporated on 4 October 2007 under the Companies Act, 1956 as "Arasu Cable TV Corporation Limited", the Corporation was subsequently restructured and revitalized in 2011 as "Tamil Nadu Arasu Cable TV Corporation Limited" to strengthen its role as a welfare-oriented service provider.

TACTV began as Arasu Cable **TV** Corporation Limited and was restructured in **2011** into its present form.

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Since its inception, TACTV has emerged as a unique model of public sector intervention in the cable television industry by balancing commercial viability with social responsibility. The Corporation not only ensures affordable access to information, education, entertainment and current affairs for millions of households but also safeguards the livelihoods of approximately 17,930 Local Cable Operators and nearly 12,000 workers associated with the cable industry.

The TACTV Corporation presently has a digital subscriber base of around 16.34 lakh households across Tamil Nadu and continues to offer one of the most economical digital cable television packages at a monthly subscription cost of Rs.140 plus GST. Through its customer-centric approach, transparent revenue-sharing mechanism, and commitment to technological modernization, TACTV has established itself as an important instrument for promoting digital

- **TACTV**'s digital subscriber base, at **Rs.140** plus **GST** a month - among the cheapest digital cable packages.

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inclusion and equitable access to communication services throughout the State.

In addition to its core cable television operations, TACTV has diversified its activities to include citizen service delivery through "Arasu e-Sevai Centres" and Aadhaar enrolment services, thereby contributing significantly to the Government's vision of inclusive digital governance. Further, in 2024 "Cable TV Workers Welfare Board" was reconstituted and rechristened as the "Tamil Nadu Cable TV Operators and Workers Welfare Board" by including Cable TV Operators as members of the Board.

- The Cable **TV** Workers Welfare Board was reconstituted in **2024** to include operators as members.

7.2 Vision

To provide high-quality digital cable TV and e-Sevai services to the public at an affordable cost by adopting the latest and emerging technologies.

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7.3 Mission

- To provide high-quality Digital Cable TV service to the public at an affordable cost through the Local Cable Operators.
- To provide an enabling environment to support the livelihoods of Local Cable Operators through cable TV services.
- To provide model e-Sevai front offices for the benefit of the general public.

7.4 Digitalization of Cable Television Services

"Digital transformation" has been one of the most significant milestones in the evolution of TACTV. In pursuit of technological excellence and improved service delivery, the Corporation obtained the "Digital Addressable System" (DAS)

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License from the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting, Government of India, on 17.04.2017. TACTV became the first State Government-owned cable television service provider in India to secure a DAS license, marking a significant achievement in the public broadcasting sector.

- **TACTV** secured the Digital Addressable System (**DAS**) licence from the Union Ministry of Information and Broadcasting on **17.04.2017**.

To ensure superior transmission quality and an enhanced viewing experience, the Corporation upgraded its Digital Head-End infrastructure from MPEG-2 technology to MPEG-4 technology, substantially increasing channel carrying capacity and improving picture and audio quality.

At present, TACTV provides 242 channels comprising 153 Free-to-Air channels and 89 Pay channels at an affordable monthly subscription rate of Rs.140 plus GST. This pricing policy has enabled lakhs of households, particularly those belonging to economically weaker sections, to

- 153 Free-to-Air and 89 Pay channels.

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access quality television services at a reasonable cost besides ensuring a price stabilization mechanism.

The TACTV follows a balanced revenue-sharing model under which subscription revenue is shared equally between TACTV and Local Cable Operators, thereby ensuring the financial sustainability of both stakeholders. This model has played a crucial role in protecting the interests of small-scale cable operators and safeguarding entrepreneurship opportunities within the sector.

To widen its subscriber base, TACTV has initiated the procurement of 50 lakh High Definition Set-Top Boxes (HD STBs) on a rental basis. During the first phase, 7.76 lakh HD STBs have been procured and distributed to subscribers. The Corporation is also taking concerted efforts to increase its subscriber base

- Being procured on a rental basis; 7.76 lakh distributed in the first phase, with a target of **20 lakh** subscriber households.

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to 20 lakh households through service improvements and outreach initiatives.

Recognising the growing demand for broadband connectivity, TACTV is exploring opportunities to provide internet services through Local Cable Operators in association with Tamil Nadu FibreNet Corporation Limited (TANFINET). This initiative is expected to create additional revenue streams for operators while strengthening digital connectivity across semi-urban and rural areas.

7.5 Arasu e-Sevai Centres

Arasu e-Sevai Centres are functioning as a means of “digital governance and electronic service delivery”. Established in 2014, these centres serve as single-window facilitation centres that provide citizens with convenient access to a wide range of Government services.

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As of 25.06.2026, 537 Arasu e-Sevai Centres are functioning across Tamil Nadu and provide 281 services covering revenue administration, social welfare schemes, certificates, licenses, utility services and various other Government transactions.

During the year 2025-26, approximately 17.77 lakh transactions have been successfully completed through these centres, reflecting their growing acceptance and relevance among the public. In addition, 1,544 special camps have been conducted in coordination with District Administrations to extend services to citizens in remote and underserved areas benefiting 36,759 citizens.

- Established from **2014**, providing 281 services; about **17.77 lakh** transactions in **2025-26**.

7.6 Permanent Enrolment Centres (PECs) for Aadhaar

The Tamil Nadu e-Governance Agency (TNeGA), appointed by the Government of Tamil Nadu as the Registrar for Aadhaar

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enrolment in the State, authorised Tamil Nadu Arasu Cable TV Corporation Limited (TACTV) to function as an Aadhaar Enrolment Agency with effect from 01.10.2016.

To facilitate Aadhaar enrolment and updating services across the State, TACTV has established 335 Permanent Enrolment Centres (PECs). During the year 2025–26, these centres carried out approximately 1.93 lakh new Aadhaar enrolments and 19.71 lakh mandatory biometric and demographic updates, thereby contributing significantly to the delivery of Aadhaar-related services to the public. In addition, 8,606 Aadhaar special camps have been conducted in coordination with the District Administrations to extend services to citizens in remote and underserved areas which have benefitted 1,93,476 citizens.

- **TACTV** has been an Aadhaar Enrolment Agency since **01.10.2016**; **1.93 lakh** new enrolments and **19.71 lakh** updates in **2025-26**.

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7.7 Tamil Nadu Cable TV Operators and Workers Welfare Board

In 2024, the "Cable TV Workers Welfare Board" was reconstituted and rechristened as the "Tamil Nadu Cable TV Operators and Workers Welfare Board". This initiative was undertaken to enable both Local Cable Operators and Cable TV workers in the cable television industry to become members of the Welfare Board, thereby extending the benefits of welfare schemes to all stakeholders in the sector.

The Online Member Registration Portal was launched on 07.03.2024 to facilitate enrolment. As of 25.06.2026, 3,826 applications have been received, of which 2,791 applications have been approved. Further, a sum of Rs. 5,82,500 has been disbursed to 129 beneficiaries as a measure of assistance towards Education, Marriage, Natural Death, Funeral and Accidental Death.

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7.8 Compliance with the AI mandate of the Department

All AI-related proposals, procurements, deployments and transaction instruments (memoranda of understanding, joint ventures, special-purpose vehicles, investments and DBFOT or other concessions) of TACTV are routed for the prior concurrence of the Artificial Intelligence, Information Technology & Digital Services Department under G.O. (Ms.) No. 47, HRM (A) Department, dated 05.08.2026 read with the Tamil Nadu Government Business Rules, and every AI system is evaluated under the six-dimensional TAM-DEF Framework with its roll-out guided by the DEEP-MAX Scorecard, as mandated for all Departments, in coordination with the Tamil Nadu Artificial Intelligence Mission (TNAIM).

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CHAPTER - VIII

Tamil Nadu FibreNet Corporation Limited (TANFINET)

8.1 Introduction

BharatNet is a project of the Government of India that envisages connecting all Village Panchayats of the country with high-speed broadband connectivity using Optical Fibre Cable (OFC). The Government of India has approved the project at an estimated cost of Rs.1,815.31 crore for Tamil Nadu. For Implementing the BharatNet Phase-II project in Tamil Nadu, the Government of Tamil Nadu has formed TANFINET as a Special Purpose Vehicle (SPV). Under this project, all 12,525 Gram Panchayats in the State will be laid Optical Fibre Cables to provide with a minimum scalable bandwidth of 1 Gbps, enabling the extension of high-speed broadband connectivity to rural areas.

- The cost approved by the Government of India for BharatNet in Tamil Nadu, implemented by **TANFINET**.

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TANFINET Corporation is also implementing the Last Mile Connectivity (LMC) Project under the Special Assistance Scheme to States for Capital Investment, with an outlay of Rs.184 crore. This Project aims to connect Government Institutions/ Offices and Households using the BharatNet infrastructure.

- Outlay of the Last Mile Connectivity Project under the Special Assistance Scheme to States for Capital Investment.

The Government of Tamil Nadu designated TANFINET Corporation as an Optional Procurement Agency (OPA) on 13.10.2023 for providing connectivity services to Government Institutions/ Offices and its agencies by relaxing Clause 3 under Section 3 of the Tamil Nadu Transparency in Tenders Act, 1998.

8.2 BharatNet Phase II Project

The project has been divided into four packages (A, B, C and D) geographically and the field implementation of the BharatNet Phase-II Project is progressing across the districts. As of

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13.08.2026, 97% of the project scope has been achieved by connecting 12,152 Gram Panchayats in the State to the nearest block Headquarters through 55,593 km of Optical Fibre Cable.

- Connected as on **13.08.2026** - 97% of the 12,525 target - through **55,593 km** of optical fibre cable.

Package Name	No. of Blocks	No. of GPs	OFC Route Length (in km)	GPs lit-up (Nos.)
A	75	3095	13,009	2992
B	94	3001	13,341	2931
C	110	3326	15,244	3317
D	109	3103	13,999	2912
Total	**388**	**12525**	**55,593**	**12,152 (97%)**

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8.3 Last Mile Connectivity

The State Government has accorded approval for the implementation of Last Mile Connectivity Project at an outlay of Rs.184 Crore under the 'Special Assistance Scheme to States for Capital Investment'. The project aims to connect Government Institutions/Offices and Households using the BharatNet infrastructure.

For implementation of the project, TANFINET has floated tender and, based on the outcome, a Letter of Acceptance has been issued to the successful bidder to supply, install and integrate around 9,686 Optical Line Terminal (OLT) units across the state to provide Last Mile Connectivity through fibre-based infrastructure, with upgraded Broadband Ecosystem.

Of the 9686 OLTs dispatched, 9630 OLTs have been installed across 37 districts. Of these, 8382 OLTs have been integrated as of

- Across 37 districts, of 9,686 dispatched; 8,382 integrated as on **13.08.2026**.

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13.08.2026. Of these, acceptance testing for 8,250 OLTs has been completed. Further, all District Headquarters (DHQs) are proposed to be connected to the nearest BharatNet Point of Presence (PoP) at Block Headquarters. In respect of DHQ (UG) connections, 30 District Headquarters (DHQs) (32 links) out of 37 districts have been completed; connectivity for the remaining 07 DHQs (11 link) is currently in progress on a war footing basis.

To facilitate connectivity services, TANFINET has obtained an ISP Class 'B' licence from the Department of Telecommunications (DoT) on 17.04.2023.

- Obtained by **TANFINET** from the Department of Telecommunications on **17.04.2023**.

8.4 Unified Digital Infrastructure (UDI)

In order to provide seamless connectivity to urban areas and to set up a backbone infrastructure for BharatNet, the Government has proposed to implement "TamilNet" project.

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The "Unified Digital Infrastructure" project envisages implementation of "TamilNet" and integration the BharatNet with TamilNet, to create a unified network ecosystem, thereby enabling urban citizens to reap the benefits of the digital revolution with assured quality at an affordable cost. UDI will also serve as the backhaul optical fibre infrastructure of BharatNet.

As an alternate to UDI, it is proposed to utilise infrastructure of other service providers for backhaul bandwidth and provide services to Government offices and households.

8.5 Connectivity Services

Based on the orders of the Government of Tamil Nadu, TANFINET was designated as an Optional Procurement Agency (OPA) for providing connectivity services to Government Departments. Under the migration process,

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TANFINET has adopted MPLS and VPN based connectivity solution that provides flexibility for higher bandwidth, ease of maintenance of circuits, reducing the number of network hops and lesser network downtime. As BharatNet is currently under implementation, TANFINET initiated the TNSWAN migration process through ISPs onboarded through the TANFINET tender process. TANFINET has completed the migration of 2,100 Government links provided with Point-to-Point, Leased Line (P2P-LL) and MPLS VPN connectivity services based on the requirement of various Government offices. Once Broadband Network Gateway (BNG) becomes functional, all the links will be migrated to TANFINET services. At present, internet connectivity has been provided to 1,394 Government-funded department links and 709 business links.

8.6 Franchisee Partner Registration

- TANFINET invited applications from

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Franchisee Partners to collaborate in providing high-quality internet services. A Franchisee Onboarding notification was published on 04.12.2024, for 960 Gram Panchayats (GPs) then under Operation & Maintenance (O&M).

- Based on the decision taken in the Policy-Level Meeting chaired by the Chief Secretary to Government on 08.09.2025, TANFINET was directed to onboard District-Level Franchisee Partners in 37 districts to deliver quality internet services across the State. Further, it was instructed to form district-level committees under the respective District Collector with the Tahsildar-TACTV, BDO-TANFINET and eDM-TNeGA as members, to

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recommend franchisees after verification and monitor FTTH rollout to Government Offices and households.

- TANFINET has published the re-notification and application enrolment portal details for the selection of District-Level Franchisee Partners for providing Last-Mile Connectivity Services on a Revenue-Sharing basis, and the same has been published in TANFINET portal on 12.08.2026.

8.7 Sustainable Development Goals

As part of the Sustainable Development Goals, the Government has prescribed a specific indicator for TANFINET Corporation to measure its performance in terms of the "Percentage of

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Gram Panchayats with High-speed Fibre-Optic Connection". As of 13.08.2026, out of the proposed 12,525 Gram panchayats under BharatNet Project, 12,152 Gram Panchayats have been successfully commissioned, thereby achieving 97% against the above performance indicator.

8.8 Benefits

On completion of BharatNet and the Last Mile Connectivity projects, and onboarding of District-Level Franchise Partners (DLFPs), TANFINET will be able to provide high-speed connectivity services at an affordable cost to the Government Departments, private institutions and households in the State of Tamil Nadu.

8.9 Compliance with the AI mandate of the Department

All AI-related proposals, procurements, deployments and transaction instruments

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(memoranda of understanding, joint ventures, special-purpose vehicles, investments and DBFOT or other concessions) of TANFINET are routed for the prior concurrence of the Artificial Intelligence, Information Technology & Digital Services Department under G.O. (Ms.) No. 47, HRM (A) Department, dated 05.08.2026 read with the Tamil Nadu Government Business Rules, and every AI system is evaluated under the six-dimensional TAM-DEF Framework with its roll-out guided by the DEEP-MAX Scorecard, as mandated for all Departments, in coordination with the Tamil Nadu Artificial Intelligence Mission (TNAIM).

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CHAPTER - IX

ICT ACADEMY OF TAMIL NADU (ICTACT)

9.1 INTRODUCTION

The Information and Communication Technology Academy of Tamil Nadu (ICTACT) is a pioneering initiative established by the Government of Tamil Nadu in 2009. The primary objective of ICT Academy is to train higher education faculty members and students across various technology domains, thereby enhancing their skills, employability and industry readiness.

- A Government of Tamil Nadu initiative for industry-ready talent.

ICT Academy plays a vital role in Tamil Nadu's vision of becoming a global hub for technology, Global Capability Centers (GCCs), Artificial Intelligence (AI), deep-tech innovation, and future workforce development. ICT Academy collaborates with leading industries, higher education institutions, government departments, startups, and international technology partners

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to bridge the gap between academia and industry.

9.2 ACTIVITIES

The activities and achievements of ICT Academy during the year 2025-26 are as follows:

9.2.1 Faculty Development

ICT Academy conducted 342 Faculty Development Programmes (FDPs), in which 10,133 faculty members across higher educational institutions got trained. These FDPs provided training on Artificial Intelligence, Data Science, Cloud Computing, Electronic System Design and Manufacturing (ESDM), Cybersecurity, Industry 4.0, Generative AI, Design Thinking, and employability-oriented teaching methodologies.

- Conducted in **2025-26**, training 10,133 faculty members across higher educational institutions.

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9.2.2 Skill Development

ICT Academy successfully trained and certified 51,809 graduating students across the state, strengthening their employability skills. This initiative underscores ICT Academy's commitment to empowering students for a competitive workforce. Of these, 3,167 students were trained through student certification programmes, while 48,642 students benefited from CSR-driven initiatives. These initiatives focused on technologies such as Artificial Intelligence, cloud technologies, automation, data analytics, cybersecurity, communication skills, and professional readiness.

From 2026-27, Corporate Social Responsibility contributions towards the Tamil Nadu Artificial Intelligence Mission's skilling programmes are additionally received and applied through the Academy as grants under Schedule VII of the Companies Act, 2013,

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pending the Mission's incorporation as a Section 8 company.

9.2.3 Entrepreneurship Development

ICT Academy promoted entrepreneurship and innovation through startup awareness programmes, innovation challenges, and entrepreneurial capacity-building initiatives in partnership with industries and innovation ecosystems. 2,544 students were nurtured through entrepreneurship development initiatives. Further, ICT Academy conducted 182 awareness sessions on innovation culture, startup thinking, and self-employment opportunities.

9.2.4 Youth Empowerment

- Organized "Learnathon 2025" activity for graduating students to inculcate the habit of self-learning and to make students learn foundations of trending

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technologies. A total of 2,63,127 students registered for the initiative and earned 2,86,540 online certifications.

- ICT Academy organized Skill-A-Thon 2025, an initiative designed to encourage students to embrace continuous learning. The event received an overwhelming response with 2,72,819 student registrations, out of which 1,03,916 students earned industry-recognized certification, which will be useful for their career prospects.
- ICT Academy, in partnership with Snowflake, organized Snowflake Academia Programme. This program equips students with in-demand cloud data skills through hands-on learning on a leading data platform. A total of 11,676 students

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registered for this program and 237 students earned certification.

- ICT Academy, in partnership with UiPath, conducted Academic Cohort Program in which 14,466 students registered for this program. 4,067 students completed the self-learning component, and 744 students earned global certification after assessment.
- ICT Academy in association with Celonis conducted a "Celonis Self-Learning Program". A total of 51,056 students registered for the programme, of whom 16,690 completed the self-learning component and earned global certification.
- As part of its commitment to promote design thinking and creativity, ICT Academy, in association with Autodesk, conducted 24-hour 'India Design Week'

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Challenge. This initiative encouraged students to explore innovative design solutions, challenging them to think beyond conventional methods and develop practical, industry-relevant ideas. A total of 133 teams participated in the challenge, with the top three teams being honoured at the Grand Finale of India Design Week Challenge.

- ICT Academy organized "Youth Talk 2025" as part of the Youth Leadership Summit 2025 for students in Tamil Nadu. This initiative is envisioned to develop and exhibit the public speaking skills of the student community. Youth Talk was conducted in seven regions, namely Chennai, Coimbatore, Salem, Tiruchirappalli, Kanyakumari, Madurai, and

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Puducherry. On this occasion, 21,284 students participated in the contest.

9.2.5 Research and Publications

ICT Academy publishes six peer-reviewed international research journals on a quarterly basis. During the year 2025-26, 2,969 articles were received. Following a detailed peer-review process, 259 research papers were published, of which 212 were from India and 47 were from overseas. A total of 627 research scholars, academicians, and professionals from 377 institutions worldwide benefited from the journals. ICT Academy gained huge reach by which 23 domestic scholars and 25 foreign scholars published their research work in its Journal. 436 editors and reviewers were involved in the proofreading process, of whom 296 were from India and 140 were from overseas.

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ICT Academy collaborate with its membership Institutions for research conferences. Totally, 48 conferences were collaborated across the nation.

ICT Academy Journals are indexed in several international databases and libraries, including UGC-CARE (Group I) list.

- ICTACT Journal on Communication Technology (IJCT)*
- ICTACT Journal on Image and Video Processing (IJIVP)*
- ICTACT Journal on Soft Computing (IJSC)*
- ICTACT Journal on Micro Electronics (IJME)*
- ICTACT Journal on Management Studies (IJMS)

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- ICTACT Journal on Data Science & Machine Learning (IJDSML)

*Journals listed in UGC-CARE (Group I)

ictConnect – EduTech Magazine

ICT Academy publishes ictConnect, an EduTech e-magazine dedicated to enriching the lives of a diverse readership. It explores industry developments and provides insights into ICT technological advancements, career guidance, skill development, case studies, skill-gap analysis, teaching and learning methodologies, and ICT industry trends from experts worldwide. During the year 2025-26, 216 articles authored by experts, corporate professionals, and industry heads were published. A total of 103 authors contributed for this magazine.

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9.2.6 Industry-Institute Interaction

ICT Academy organized multiple industry-academia engagement programmes including conferences and conclaves across India. These initiatives facilitated interaction among educators, policymakers, industry experts, startups, and students, thereby strengthening Tamil Nadu's innovation and talent ecosystem.

The first international edition of the BRIDGE Conference was held in Malaysia. Further, the first international edition of MongoDB Academic Leaders Connect was organized in Colombo, Sri Lanka.

A total of 6,973 educators, policymakers, and industry experts participated in the following events:

1. BRIDGE – Chennai, Coimbatore, New Delhi, Madurai, Bengaluru,

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Hyderabad, Vijayawada, Guwahati, and Malaysia.

2. Educators Conclave

3. MongoDB Academic Leaders Connect

4. Infocomm India Summit 2025

5. Xposure-Evangelizing Tomorrow's Technology

6. Thought Leaders Talk Series

7. Global Education Summit – ELETS

8. MongoDB Academic Summit

9. MongoDB Campus Summit

10. Qlik Academic Leaders Connect

11. Oracle Academy – Industry Skills Symposium

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9.2.7 Government Collaboration Initiatives

ICT Academy partnered with various Government Departments and Agencies including the Office of the Director General of Audit Department, Tamil Nadu State Planning Commission, Tamil Nadu Skill Development Corporation, and the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY) to implement large-scale skilling and digital empowerment initiatives for faculty members, students, government staff, and unemployed youth.

New Government Projects Implemented (2025-2026)

Sl. No	Name of the Project	Organization / Department	Number of Beneficiaries Trained
1	ICT Academy conducted an exclusive training on MS Office 365 for	Director General of Audit, Government of Tamil Nadu	318

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	newly recruited officers.		
2	ICT Academy, in association with the Tamil Nadu Innovation Initiative (TANII), introduced a Hackathon initiative. This programme empowered faculty members and students from higher education institutions across Tamil Nadu.	Tamil Nadu State Planning Commission	Faculty Members – 500 Students – 10,683
3	ICT Academy and TNSDC trained	Tamil Nadu Skill Development	10,380

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	unemployed youth under TNSDC Vetri Nichayam scheme.	Corporation	
4	ICT Academy and the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY) trained faculty members in emerging technologies	MeitY	2,186

9.2.8 Launch of ESDM CoE

ICT Academy, in collaboration with the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY), launched the Centre of Excellence in ESDM at Thiagarajar College of Engineering, Madurai.

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9.2.9 Launch of HP CoE

ICT Academy, in partnership with HP, set up Centre of Excellence in three colleges. The Centres of Excellence are designed to provide hands-on training in advanced computing, digital tools, and industry-relevant technologies.

The following three educational institutions have established HP Centres of Excellence:

- Sri Meenakshi Government Arts College for Women, Madurai
- Thiagarajar College, Madurai
- E.V.R. Nagamayar Corporation Girls High School, Madurai.

9.2.10 Strategic Industry Partnerships (2025-2026)

ICT Academy entered into strategic partnerships and signed Memoranda of Understanding (MoUs) with leading global technology organizations including Autodesk,

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Celonis, Automation Anywhere, Qlik, Salesforce, Cisco Networking Academy, Juniper Networks (HPE), MathWorks, MongoDB, Oracle, ServiceNow, Snowflake, Crystal Delta, The AI School, Nemetschek, Schneider Electric, AVIXA, KCGlobEd, NetKampuss and Maven Silicon and other emerging technology companies to strengthen industry-aligned curriculum, certification and workforce development initiatives. These corporate partners will help faculty members and students build industry-relevant skills.

9.2.11 Placement and Employability Impact

ICT Academy facilitated placement activities through recruitment drives, employability programmes, and industry-connect initiatives. During 2025-26, 207 companies participated in placement activities, resulting in

- Participated in **ICT** Academy placement activities during **2025-26**.

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11,264 student placements through 379 recruitment drives.

9.2.12 CSR and Social Impact Initiatives

ICT Academy has implemented CSR projects for leading organizations such as Atos Prayas Foundation, Cyient Foundation, Cognizant Foundation, HP, IBM, ITC Infotech, Chennai Petroleum Corporation Private Limited, Infosys Foundation, Rockwell Automation, Redington Foundation, and SAP Labs. These initiatives focused on empowering students, women, rural youth, and faculty members through digital skilling, AI readiness, entrepreneurship, STEM education, and employability enhancement.

Sl. No.	Project Details	Organization/ Department	No. of Beneficiaries
1	Trained students and higher education institutions	ATOS Prayas Foundation	1,814

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	across India in IT, KPO, BFSI, Retail, E-commerce and Logistics skill-related courses and facilitate employment opportunities.		
2	Trained students in Entrepreneurship Development	Cyient Foundation	2,455
3	Trained students in advanced IT Skills	Cognizant Foundation	1,644
4	Trained students in Retail and BFSI Skills.	CPCL	357
5	Trained students in BFSI, Retail and IT Skills.	HP	1,984
6	Trained students in STEM Education.	ITC Infotech	1,512
7	Trained Faculty Members in Generative AI	ITC Infotech	67

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8	Trained students in Advanced IT Skills	IBM	19,150
9	Trained students in Emerging Technologies to enhance their employability skills.	Infosys Foundation	17,746
10	Trained students in advanced IT Skills	Rockwell Automation	619
11	Trained in Advanced IT Skills	Redington Foundation	1,083
12	Trained women students in IT Skills	SAP Labs	211

Total beneficiaries impacted through CSR initiatives: 48,642.

9.2.13 Proposed projects in Tamil Nadu for 2026-2027

ICT Academy aims to position Tamil Nadu as a leading knowledge and digital talent hub by

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focusing on AI readiness, GCC workforce development, semiconductor ecosystem support, deep-tech innovation, entrepreneurship, cybersecurity, and future skills. The institution proposes to expand industry-integrated learning, establish AI Centres of Excellence, strengthen innovation ecosystems in Tier II and Tier III regions, and develop a globally competitive workforce aligned with the needs of industry and government.

- Healthcare, Agriculture, Manufacturing, Tamil Language and Climate.

ICT Academy continues to serve as a key strategic partner in advancing Tamil Nadu's digital transformation, innovation-led growth, and inclusive skilling agenda by connecting government, industry, academia, and youth.

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Sl. No	Name of the Project	Organization / Department	No. of Beneficiaries
1	Training students of engineering, arts and science colleges in AI Related Skills.	ATOS	1,980
2	Training youth aged 18–35 from underprivileged backgrounds in IT & BFSI Skills.	SBI Foundation	3,105
3	Training students of arts and science colleges on STEM skills	ITC Infotech	1,500
4	Training students in professional Skills.	TCS	11,000

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5	Training students of higher education in IT and non-IT skills.	Infosys Foundation	16,000
6	To train students from engineering, arts, ITI and diploma programmes across India over a period of four years in IT, BFSI and Retail skills.	Infosys Foundation	70,700
7	Training higher education students in IT, ITeS, and BFSI skills.	Capgemini	2,500
8	To train students in AI and Cybersecurity skills across India.	Redington Foundation	1,000

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9	To train students in advanced IT skills across India through the SkillsBuild platform.	IBM India Pvt. Ltd	20,000
10	To train students and faculty members in advanced IT Skills through the SkillsBuild platform	IBM India Pvt. Ltd	37,000
11	To train students and educators and provide them access to specialized tracks in cloud computing and Generative AI.	Google	1,200
12	To empower aspiring students in higher education	Cyient Foundation	4,000

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	institutions through entrepreneurship development.		
13	To train students in Artificial Intelligence, data skills, and Robotic Process Automation (RPA).	Salcomp	770
14	To train Higher Education students on advanced IT Skills	Cognizant Foundation India	3150

9.3 Compliance with the AI mandate of the Department

All AI-related proposals, procurements, deployments and transaction instruments (memoranda of understanding, joint ventures, special-purpose vehicles, investments and DBFOT or other concessions) of the ICT

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Academy are routed for the prior concurrence of the Artificial Intelligence, Information Technology & Digital Services Department under G.O. (Ms.) No. 47, HRM (A) Department, dated 05.08.2026 read with the Tamil Nadu Government Business Rules, and every AI system is evaluated under the six-dimensional TAM-DEF Framework with its roll-out guided by the DEEP-MAX Scorecard, as mandated for all Departments, in coordination with the Tamil Nadu Artificial Intelligence Mission (TNAIM).

The ICT Academy further serves as an eligible implementing entity for Corporate Social Responsibility contributions towards the Mission's skilling programmes including other science and engineering domains received strictly as grants under Schedule VII of the Companies Act, 2013, pending TNAIM's incorporation as a Section 8 company.

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CHAPTER - X

TAMIL NADU TECHNOLOGY (iTNT) FOUNDATION

10.1 Introduction

Tamil Nadu stands at the forefront of India's technology economy. While the Artificial Intelligence, Information Technology and Digital Services Department leads the State's adoption of Artificial Intelligence and emerging technologies, builds digital infrastructure and delivers e-governance and citizen centric digital services, iTNT Foundation serves as the innovation and startup arm by helping new technology ideas grow into companies, build products, and create jobs, in the march towards a USD 1.5 trillion economy.

iTNT Foundation is India's first innovation hub focused on Deep Tech and Emerging Tech, established by the Government of Tamil Nadu

The iTNT Foundation, established by the Government of Tamil Nadu with Union Government and industry support.

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with support from the Government of India and leading industries.

10.2 Tamil Nadu Deep Tech Startup Policy and Objectives of the Organisation

The Government launched the Tamil Nadu Deep Tech Startup Policy. Tamil Nadu is the first State in India to introduce a state-level policy framework dedicated to science-led, IP-intensive ventures. iTNT Foundation is the custodian and implementing agency.

- Tamil Nadu is the first to introduce a state-level policy framework dedicated to science-led, **IP**-intensive ventures - the Tamil Nadu Deep Tech Startup Policy.

The Policy's vision is to position Tamil Nadu as India's premier deep tech hub, fuelling innovation, industrial growth, and MSME empowerment. iTNT Foundation pursues the following objectives:

- To strengthen the deep tech research ecosystem by expanding R&D infrastructure, fostering industry and academia collaboration, and

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accelerating lab-to-market transitions.

- To enhance intellectual property generation, protection, and technology transfer to speed up commercialisation.
- To facilitate access to patient capital through dedicated funds, co-investment models, and venture networks.
- To develop a skilled deep tech workforce by aligning academic talent with industry needs.
- To drive adoption of indigenous deep tech products through public and private procurement and access to global markets.
- To align state initiatives with national missions and target high-impact sectors.

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- To provide lifecycle support for deep tech startups, from early-stage risk mitigation to sustained mentorship as ventures scale.

10.3 Key Highlights of the Organisation

- The Foundation has onboarded more than 6,800 researchers through more than 210 College MoUs under the JIGSAW network.
- The Foundation has signed 80 Ecosystem MoUs, facilitated 20 International MoUs, and conducted 458 events and community engagements with leading institutions such as T-Hub, Centre for Development of Advanced Computing (C-DAC), Kerala Startup Mission, etc.
- Portfolio startups have launched 30 products, showcased 266 prototypes,

and created 57 Intellectual Properties.

- The Hub has facilitated Rs.26.69 crore in external investment for 9 startups, supported by 85 active investors and 740 pitching sessions.
- The Hub has enabled Rs.4.00 crore in Government procurement orders through "Government as an Early Adopter Programme" (S2G) and three portfolio startups have expanded to Dubai and Australia.

- External investment facilitated for 9 startups, supported by 85 active investors and 740 pitching sessions.
- Enabled **Rs.4.00 crore** in Government procurement orders; three portfolio startups expanded to Dubai and Australia.

10.4 Sectors in focus

The Foundation aims to drive innovation and support startups, primarily in AI/ML and allied areas such as IoT, semiconductors, quantum technologies, and cybersecurity.

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10.4.1 Sector Focused Initiatives

10.4.1.1 Artificial Intelligence

iTNT Foundation currently supports 79 AI startups through various programs spanning sectors like NLP and Conversational AI, Computer Vision, Healthcare AI, Mobility AI, Fintech AI, and Generative AI applications, underscoring the depth of Tamil Nadu's emerging AI ecosystem.

10.4.1.1.1 AI Lab and Technical Infrastructure

The AI Lab in iTNT Foundation is equipped with high-performance NVIDIA H100 GPUs and CPU servers for AI product development and model training.

Through several partnerships, the startups were facilitated with USD150,000 (for 15 startups) worth Amazon Web Services (AWS)

credits, USD 90,000 (for 16 startups) worth Microsoft Azure credits.

Further, through the Tamil Nadu Startup Data Server Services Scheme (TNSDSSS), startups were reimbursed Rs.25.99 lakh, with support from ELCOT.

"iTNT Foundation has conducted the GenAI and DeepTech for Tamil Nadu" Public Sector Innovation Challenge in partnership with AWS, of which three finalists were selected and awarded USD 10,000 in credits with dedicated mentorship from AWS. Previously, iTNT Foundation organised the "Unlock the Future" & "Geospatial Technologies" (with TNeGA) Innovation Challenges.

iTNT Foundation has further organised a "GenAI Startup–Investor Mixer" in collaboration with AWS to enhance funding access and market visibility for AI ventures and has delivered

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hands-on AI workshops with Microsoft including sessions on Generative AI and Azure AI Foundry for Startups.

iTNT Foundation has also facilitated structured public sector engagement through "AI Solution-Driven Interactive Workshops" in collaboration with the Tamil Nadu e-Governance Agency (TNeGA). These workshops enable AI startups to pitch and demonstrate their solutions for real-time government use cases, creating direct pathways for pilot deployments and procurement opportunities across State departments.

10.4.1.2 Quantum Technologies & TN Quantum Nexus

iTNT Foundation has taken significant strides in positioning Tamil Nadu as a Quantum Technology hub. A Quantum Communication Lab is being established, in research collaboration with IIT-Madras and IITM C-DOT Samgnya

- Being established in research collaboration with **IIT**-Madras and the **IITM** C-**DOT** Samgnya Technologies Foundation.

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Technologies Foundation. The Foundation currently supports 5 quantum technology startups in partnership with IIT-Madras, IITM C-DOT Samgnya Technologies Foundation, and Society for Electronic Transactions and Security (SETS), and has worked to build the broader quantum ecosystem through 3 Master Classes engaging 138 participants with 9 quantum experts, along with an Innovation Challenge. Cloud-based quantum computing access is being enabled through IBM Quantum and XeedQ GmbH.

10.5 Initiatives and Programs of iTNT Foundation

iTNT Foundation undertakes various programmes and initiatives through five intervention pillars: (1) Research and Development Support, (2) Funding and Investment Acceleration, (3) Infrastructure and Ecosystem Development, (4) Innovation

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Workforce and Knowledge Alliances, and (5) Deep Tech Adoption and Market Expansion.

10.5.1 Key Initiatives

10.5.1.1 Tamil Nadu Deep Tech Hardware Product Design Scheme

The Scheme supports hardware startups from proof-of-concept to market-ready design through Design Scheme Vouchers. It funds up to 75 percent of cost, capped at Rs.7.5 lakh from proof-of-concept (PoC) to minimum viable product (MVP) design and Rs.15 lakh from minimum viable product (MVP) design to production-ready design. It aims to support up to 20 hardware startups.

- **TNTTFC** funding share - capped at **Rs.7.5 lakh** from proof-of-concept to **MVP**, and **Rs.15 lakh** from **MVP** to production-ready design.

10.5.1.1.1 Fab Lab and Design Studio

The Fab Lab and Design Studio supports rapid prototyping and small-batch production for wear and tear testing. A dedicated space of about 2,300 sq.ft. at iTNT Foundation, Chennai,

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houses high-power workstations, two 3D printers, Electronics Test and Measurement tools, and a 4-bit Quantum computer remote-access terminal.

10.5.1.2 JIGSAW™ Unified Digital Platform

JIGSAW™ (Joint Innovation Gateway for Synergistic Startup Academic – Industry – Investor Work) is the Hub's flagship platform for transforming Tamil Nadu's Research and Development ecosystem into a Research, Development and Innovation ecosystem. It aligns academic talent with industry demand and co-creates solutions with partners. JIGSAW™ has onboarded several colleges and researchers across Tamil Nadu and specifically more than 2,800 women researchers. To convert this talent into founders, the Hub executes women-focused sessions, master classes, etc., along with

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considerations of various incubation and pre-incubation programs.

10.5.1.3 Tamil Nadu Technology Transfer Facilitation Centre (TNTTFC)

Tamil Nadu leads in India with more than 5,000 filed TN patents and more than 400 granted patents. The TNTTFC enables technology transfer, licensing, IP protection, and research commercialisation with a focus on converting this “Research2Revenue”. So far, TNTTFC has facilitated 6 technology transfers, onboarded 9 partners, supported the filing of 12 IPs, conducted 29 IP Clinic sessions with 321 consultations, enabled Rs.3.00 lakhs grant under the EDII-TN Innovation Voucher Programme and currently facilitating 30 startup applications as an EDII-TN Knowledge Partner. National Research Development Corporation's (NRDC’s) National Establishment for Technology Readiness Assessment (NETRA) programme has facilitated

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the evaluation and certification of the Technology Readiness Level (TRL) of 13 technologies, of which 3 have obtained certification.

10.5.1.4 iTNT Regional Hubs

The Hub is expanding to Tier-2 and Tier-3 cities following a Hub and Spoke model. Three regional hubs are operational in Tiruchirappalli (covering 11 districts), Madurai (covering 5 districts), and Coimbatore (covering 6 districts). Together, they have conducted 66 programs with more than 5,000 participants and engaged 442 startups.

10.5.1.5 Industry Innovation Challenges

To promote adoption of innovations in industry and to solve industry problems, iTNT Foundation executed innovation challenges with reputed organisations like Rolls Royce, Amazon

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Web Services, Bosch, and KAS Group in the areas of Geospatial AI, semiconductors, cybersecurity, etc.

10.5.1.6 Innovation and Startup Bridge

To enhance export potential of startups, this initiative aims at connecting Tamil Nadu Startups to established Innovation economies through soft-landing pods. The TN-UAE Innovation & Startup Bridge has been launched with Sharjah Research Technology & Innovation Park, Rochester Institute of Technology-Dubai. The iTNT Foundation has signed 20 International MoUs to date. Three companies from iTNT portfolio have expanded internationally to Australia and Dubai.

10.5.1.7 Government as Early Adopter Programme - S2G

Every S2G (Startup to Government) pilot with a Government department passes the

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procurement-integrity gate of the AI regime — open competition, published evaluation criteria, never nomination — and pilot-to-procurement conversions are entered in the Department's deployment registry following any pre-roll-out/adoption alignment requirements.

As part of Tamil Nadu Deep Tech Startup Policy, i.e., "Government as an Early Adopter Programme" (S2G), iTNT Foundation has facilitated the connection of deep tech and emerging tech startups with Government departments, urban local bodies, and public sector organisations, converting advanced tech solutions into pilot orders and field deployments. Under this track, iTNT Foundation has enabled approximately Rs.4.00 crore in procurement orders across 6 startups, demonstrating the Hub's role in enabling Government adoption and market access for deep tech startups.

10.5.1.8 FOUNDATION Fund

- Invests up to **Rs.40 lakh** per venture in iTNT-supported startups; **Rs.68 lakh** placed across 8 so far.

The FOUNDATION Fund invests in Tamil Nadu-based startups supported by the iTNT Foundation, with funding of up to Rs.40 lakh per venture. The Fund prioritises AI, quantum technologies, semiconductors, advanced manufacturing, clean energy, and HealthTech. iTNT Foundation acts as Fund Manager for selection, due diligence, and monitoring. To date, the Fund has invested Rs.68 lakh across 8 portfolio startups.

10.5.2 Key Programs

10.5.2.1 Pre-Incubation Program (BEACON)

A 4-day bootcamp for entrepreneurs and researchers at the idea validation stage to define, refine and validate business concepts through workshops and expert mentorship. To date, over 135 teams graduated and 60 teams

have been incubated by iTNT Foundation with around 30 teams led by researchers.

10.5.2.2 Incubation Program (PATHFINDER)

The program supports startups over 12-18 months in product development, market validation, customer discovery, etc., with a focus on AI, IoT, AVGC, Quantum Technologies, Semiconductors, and other sectors. So far, with over 11 cohorts, 158 startups and innovators have been supported.

10.5.2.3 Acceleration Program (iAccelerate)

A 12-week program for startups to optimise their technology and operations, grow their customer base, prepare for investment, and plan expansion to other regions. Specialised cohorts like Investment Readiness, Hardware Accelerator for Prototype and Product are being

executed, based on startup demand and needs. Startups have raised more than Rs.26 crore through these focused initiatives. So far, with over five cohorts, 96 startups have been supported.

10.5.2.4 Venture Studio

As a first-of-a-kind initiative, iTNT Venture Studio Platform serves as a co-founder for deep-tech ventures, providing structured and tailored support across venture creation, product development, market validation, industry engagement, and investment readiness. The initiative aims to accelerate technology commercialization and the creation of scalable, innovation-driven enterprises in Tamil Nadu. Currently, in the Venture Studio 6 startups across the Energy & Sustainability (3), Semiconductor (2), and Space (1) sectors, which

- Acts as co-founder for deep-tech ventures; 6 startups across Energy & Sustainability, Semiconductor and Space have secured **Rs.40 lakh** in grants.

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have collectively secured Rs.40 lakh in grant funding.

10.6 Innovation Promotion Activities

10.6.1 Innovate in TN (IN²TN) IP Conclave 2025

Drew 1,130 participants, 16 technology showcases and 24 strategic partnerships.

Aimed at retaining Tamil Nadu's position as the leading State in IP, the Innovate in TN (IN²TN) IP Conclave 2025 witnessed 1,130 participants, 16 Technology Showcases with 24 Strategic Partnerships.

10.6.2 UmagineTN 2026

The "iTNT Pavilion" at UmagineTN 2026 saw 38 startups graduate from various programs and launched 12 products. A total of 64 stalls showcased deployable solutions spanning AI/ML, IoT, AR/VR, Robotics, Cybersecurity, Space Technologies, Quantum Technologies, Geospatial Analytics, Climate Tech, Smart Cities, Transportation, Healthcare, and Life Sciences.

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The Bosch Innovation Challenge concluded with 10 startups pitching at the finale.

The Government aims to help deep tech startups, researchers, and innovators move their ideas from the laboratory to the market by providing early-stage support, with a special focus on under-represented communities.

The Government will strengthen the infrastructure that turns research into products, giving startups and researchers access to prototyping, pilot manufacturing, advanced laboratories, and technology transfer in frontier areas.

The Government will also deepen industry linkages and extend the Hub's reach across the State, connecting enterprises with startups to solve real operational challenges and bringing incubation, mentorship, and funding within reach of more regions.

10.7 Proposed Initiatives

10.7.1 iTNT Regional Hubs – Tier-II and Tier-III Expansion

New iTNT Regional Hubs will be established in Salem, Hosur and Tirunelveli, extending incubation, mentorship, innovation programmes and funding access to entrepreneurs across Tier-II and Tier-III regions and creating a broader statewide deep-tech network.

10.7.2 TANSEED Deep Technology Fund

A specialised TANSEED funding pathway will provide deep-tech startups with seed capital alongside engineering and commercialisation support, recognising their longer research cycles, higher technical complexity and specialised infrastructure requirements.

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10.7.3 Tamil Nadu Innovation Exchange (TNiX)

TNiX will establish a structured challenge-to-solution platform connecting MSMEs and industries with Tamil Nadu startups, enabling enterprises to post real operational challenges and startups to develop deployable technology solutions, strengthening industry–startup collaboration and innovation-led productivity.

10.8 Compliance with the AI mandate of the Department

All AI-related proposals, procurements, deployments and transaction instruments (memoranda of understanding, joint ventures, special-purpose vehicles, investments and DBFOT or other concessions) of the iTNT Foundation are routed for the prior concurrence of the Artificial Intelligence, Information Technology & Digital Services Department under G.O. (Ms.) No. 47, HRM (A) Department, dated

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05.08.2026 read with the Tamil Nadu Government Business Rules, and every AI system is evaluated under the six-dimensional TAM-DEF Framework with its roll-out guided by the DEEP-MAX Scorecard, as mandated for all Departments, in coordination with the Tamil Nadu Artificial Intelligence Mission (TNAIM). The iTNT Foundation further functions, jointly with TNeGA and such other entities as may be designated, as an implementing agency of TNAIM, coordinating the Mission's innovation and startup-facing programmes.

Dr. KUMAR. R

Minister for Artificial Intelligence, Information Technology and Digital Services



Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu, Thiru. C. Joseph Vijay, chaired a review meeting on 24.06.2026 at the Secretariat to assess the schemes and ongoing activities of the Artificial Intelligence, Information Technology and Digital Services Department.

1





Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu Thiru. C. Joseph Vijay, inaugurated the renovated Perambur Legislative Assembly Member's office and the e-Sevai Center on 13.07.2026.



[Tamil Digital Library website (www.tamildigitallibrary.in)]

3



Hon'ble Minister for Artificial Intelligence, Information Technology, and Digital Services Dr. Kumar. R, reviewed the activities and future plans of the Tamil Nadu e-Governance Agency (TNeGA) at the Secretariat on 25.05.2026.

4



A meeting regarding the Demand for Grants for the Department of Artificial Intelligence, Information Technology and Digital Services was held under the chairmanship of Hon'ble Minister Dr. Kumar. R., Additional Chief Secretary to Government, Dr. Atul Anand IAS and Chief Executive Officer, TNeGA (FAC) Dr.K.P Karthikeyan IAS attended this meeting.



Hon'ble Minister for Artificial Intelligence, Information Technology and Digital Services, Dr. Kumar. R launched the iTNT Journey Book at the Vettri Tamizhagam DeepTech Innovation Conclave, in the presence of Additional Chief Secretary to Government, Dr. Atul Anand, IAS., Director, IIT Madras Prof. V. Kamakoti and CEO, iTNT Hub Tmt. Vanitha Venugopal.

6



Vettri Tamizhagam Innovation Roundtable chaired by the Hon'ble Minister for Artificial Intelligence, Information Technology and Digital Services, Dr. Kumar. R, was organised to shape Tamil Nadu's AI priorities and strengthen its DeepTech ecosystem.

7



iTNT Hub Signs MoU with Ansys to provide DeepTech Startups of Tamil Nadu Free Access to Simulation Tools worth ₹1 Crore in the presence of Hon'ble Minister for Artificial Intelligence, Information Technology and Digital Services, Dr. Kumar. R.

8



Technology Readiness (TRL) Certification for DeepTech Startups through National Research Development Corporation awarded by the Hon'ble Minister for Artificial Intelligence, Information Technology and Digital Services, Dr. Kumar. R.



BharatNet Phase II Project:

The project has been divided into four packages (A, B, C & D) geographically and the on-field implementation of the BharatNet Phase-II project is progressing across the districts. As on 13.08.2026, 97% of the project scope has been achieved by connecting 12,152 Gram Panchayats of the State to the nearest block through 55,593 kms. of Optical Fibre Cables.



In the presence of Hon'ble Minister for Artificial Intelligence, Information Technology and Digital Services, Dr. Kumar.R, Memoranda of Understanding (MoUs) were signed in Chennai on 20.08.2026 with the ICT Academy, multinational technology companies, and corporate (CSR) organizations, with the objective of enhancing Artificial Intelligence talent resources in Tamil Nadu.

Printed by Govt. Central Press, Chennai - 600 001.