PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT

POLICY NOTE
2026-2027

DEMAND No. 36

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DEMAND No.36

Planning and Development is Demand No.36. The note opens on Thirukkural 675 - plan the resources, means, time, method and place before acting.

PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT

POLICY NOTE

INTRODUCTION

"பொருள்கருவி காலம் வினைஇடனொடு ஐந்தும்
இருள்தீர எண்ணிச் செயல்."

(திருக்குறள் 675)

(பொருள்: ஒரு செயலை மேற்கொள்வதற்கு முன், அதற்குத் தேவையான வளங்கள், கருவிகள், காலம், செயல்முறை மற்றும் இடம் ஆகிய ஐந்தையும் தெளிவாக ஆராய்ந்து திட்டமிட்டு செயல்பட வேண்டும்.)

"Before undertaking an action, carefully consider the resources, means, time, nature of the action and the place, and then proceed with clarity."

(Thirukkural 675)

Planning is central to translating the vision and priorities of the Government into tangible and measurable development outcomes. It provides the framework for identifying priorities, optimising resources, promoting convergence across sectors, anticipating implementation challenges and continuously assessing whether public interventions deliver the intended benefits to the people.

The **Planning and Development Department** plays a pivotal role in this process by providing strategic direction and facilitating coordinated action across Government. The Department focuses on long-term strategic planning and medium-term operational priorities, while fostering greater policy coherence among various Departments and ensuring that development initiatives are aligned with the overall socio-economic priorities of the State.

The Department works in close coordination with all Government Departments and draws upon the institutional expertise of the **State Planning Commission (SPC), Directorate of Economics and Statistics (DoES) and Department of**

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Evaluation and Applied Research (DEAR) for policy formulation, research, statistical analysis, monitoring and evaluation. Together, these institutions provide a strong evidence base for informed decision-making and enable the Government to assess developmental outcomes to undertake appropriate policy interventions.

The Department also functions as the **Nodal Department of the Government of Tamil Nadu for interaction and coordination with NITI Aayog and the Government of India** on matters relating to development planning and other key initiatives. It facilitates the preparation and follow-up of State-specific issues requiring the attention of the Union Government and coordinates matters taken up through platforms such as **PRAGATI and e-Samiksha**.

The department is the State's nodal point for **NITI** Aayog and the Union Government on development planning, working through platforms such as **PRAGATI** and e-Samiksha.

The **Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)** constitute an important component of the State's development framework. The Department coordinates with all Departments for monitoring progress towards the achievement of the SDGs by 2030 and promotes greater integration of measurable outcomes and outputs into the

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planning, implementation and monitoring of Government policies and programmes.

Recognising that infrastructure is a critical enabler of economic growth and social development, the Department monitors the progress of **Major Infrastructure Projects costing more than Rs.100 crore** and facilitates coordinated action for addressing issues that may impede their timely implementation.

- The monitoring threshold: any infrastructure project above **Rs.100** crore is tracked by this department.

Innovation and evidence-based governance are integral to the Department's approach. Through the **Tamil Nadu Innovation Initiatives (TANII)**, innovative projects aimed at improving governance, public service delivery and developmental outcomes are identified and supported. The Department also promotes evidence-based policymaking through systematic studies, surveys, data analytics and evaluation of Government programmes.

- **TANII**, formed in the State Planning Commission in September **2014**, funds innovation projects across Government departments.

Balanced and inclusive regional development remains another important area of focus. Through programmes relating to **Focus Blocks, Aspirational Districts, Aspirational Blocks, District Development Planning and Special**

- Four instruments of regional balance: Focus Blocks, Aspirational Districts, Aspirational Blocks and District Development Planning.

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Area Development, the Department seeks to address regional disparities, strengthen local-level planning and improve public infrastructure and livelihood opportunities in areas requiring focused developmental intervention.

The Department further facilitates the formulation of long-term strategies and sectoral policies encompassing social, economic and environmental dimensions. Statistical systems, socio-economic surveys and evaluation studies undertaken through the Departments and institutions under its administrative control enable the Government to assess emerging trends, evaluate programme effectiveness and undertake timely course correction.

Through **strategic planning, inter-departmental coordination, innovation, data-driven governance, monitoring and evaluation**, the Planning and Development Department endeavours to strengthen the State's development architecture and support the Government in achieving **inclusive, balanced, sustainable and outcome-oriented development for the people of Tamil Nadu**.

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1.0 MAIN ACTIVITIES

The main activities of the Planning and Development Department are as follows:

i. Coordination with Government of India and NITI Aayog

Functions as the Nodal Department of the State Government for facilitating interaction and coordination with the **Government of India and NITI Aayog** on matters relating to development planning, policies, programmes and other key initiatives.

ii. State-specific issues with the Union Government

Coordinates the preparation of **Memorandum and other submissions to the Union Government** relating to key issues concerning the State and facilitates follow-up action, including correspondence by the concerned State Departments with the respective Ministries of the Government of India.

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iii. Monitoring of Major Infrastructure Projects

Reviews and monitors the progress of **Major Infrastructure Projects costing more than Rs.100 crore** and facilitates coordination among the concerned Departments and agencies for addressing implementation issues and expediting project completion.

iv. Sustainable Development Goals

Coordinates with all Government Departments for monitoring and accelerating the State's progress towards the achievement of the **Sustainable Development Goals by 2030**.

v. SDG-linked monitoring and evaluation

Facilitates the measurement, integration, monitoring and evaluation of programmes and major development initiatives linked to the **Sustainable Development Goals and SDG indicators**.

vi. Twenty Point Programme

Coordinates the collection and compilation of performance relating to monitorable items and

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schemes implemented by various Departments and organisations under the **Twenty Point Programme**.

vii. Administrative support to institutions

Provides administrative support to the **State Planning Commission, Directorate of Economics and Statistics, Department of Evaluation and Applied Research and Special Area Development Programme**.

viii. Formulation of sectoral policies

Facilitates the preparation of policy frameworks and policy drafts in key sectors through the **State Planning Commission**, including policies relating to well-being, welfare, employment, water, waste management, industrialisation and other emerging developmental priorities.

ix. Strategic and operational planning

Facilitates the preparation of **long-term strategic plans and medium-term operational plans** for the development of the State through the State Planning Commission.

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x. Tamil Nadu Innovation Initiatives

Identifies, evaluates and recommends innovative projects to Government through the State Planning Commission under the **Tamil Nadu Innovation Initiatives (TANII)** and facilitates the formulation of guidelines for their implementation and monitoring.

xi. Land use and environmental studies

Facilitates studies on land and water use and on the implications of changing environmental factors, including pollution and climate-related challenges, through the **Tamil Nadu State Land Use Research Board of the State Planning Commission**.

- The Commission also runs studies through the Tamil Nadu State Land Use Research Board (**TNSLURB**).

xii. Field studies and evaluation of Flagship Schemes

Undertakes field studies, surveys and evaluations of important **Flagship Schemes of the State Government** through the Department of Evaluation and Applied Research and the State Planning Commission to assess implementation, effectiveness and developmental outcomes strengthening evidence based policy making.

xiii. Focus Blocks Development Programme

Implements the **Focus Blocks Development Programme** through the State Planning Commission by identifying areas requiring additional developmental support and facilitating convergence of existing sectoral programmes for improving public utilities, service delivery and livelihoods.

xiv. District Development Planning

Oversees and facilitates the preparation of **District Development Plans** through the District Planning Cells, which support the functioning of the District Planning Committees and strengthen decentralised planning.

xv. Aspirational Districts and Aspirational Blocks

Undertakes State-level coordination and monitoring of the **Aspirational Districts Programme and Aspirational Blocks Programme** through the State Planning Commission.

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xvi. Special Area Development Programme

Implements the **Special Area Development Programme in the Western and Eastern Ghats**, covering the identified 20 districts and focusing on sustainable and balanced development in ecologically and geographically sensitive areas and supporting developmental interventions suited to the specific needs of these areas.

xvii. Evidence-Based Policy Making

Promotes **Evidence-Based Policy Making** across Government by encouraging greater use of reliable data, research, surveys, impact assessments and evaluation findings in policy formulation and programme implementation.

xviii. Official statistics and socio-economic data

Facilitates the collection, compilation, analysis and dissemination of statistical information from public and private data sources through the **Directorate of Economics and Statistics**, including State Income Estimates, Economic Census, Agriculture Census,

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socio-economic surveys, special surveys, elderly panel surveys and periodic reports on the State's economy.

A panel survey of the elderly has completed its baseline and two waves; three randomised evaluations are running on elderly mental health, machine-learning diagnosis of silent heart attacks and nurturing maths talent in Government schools.

xix. Surveys and Data Analytics

Undertakes major household, socio-economic and thematic surveys through the **Data Analytics Unit of the Directorate of Economics and Statistics**, including the Tamil Nadu Household Panel Survey on Socio-Economic Development, surveys relating to the socio-economic status of the elderly population and other surveys entrusted to the Department.

xx. Evaluation of Government programmes

Undertakes evaluation of schemes and programmes sponsored by the **Union Government, State Government and External Agencies** through the Department of Evaluation and Applied Research, with a view to assessing their effectiveness, outcomes and impact and providing inputs for policy improvement.

Through these activities, the Planning and Development Department acts as a **strategic**

coordinating, monitoring and knowledge-support arm of the Government, facilitating effective planning, informed decision-making, timely implementation and continuous evaluation of the State's developmental priorities.

2.0 NOTES ON ACTIVITIES

2.1 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)

Sustainable Development Goals represents an agenda of unprecedented scope and significance accepted by all countries and applicable to all, developed and developing countries alike. The framework recognises differing national realities, capacities and levels of development while respecting local policies and priorities. Its goals and targets are universal, engaging the entire world rather than any single group of countries.

2.1.1 Core Principles of SDGs

Leave No One Behind (LNOB) is the Central transformative promise of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

- 'Leave No One Behind' is the central transformative promise of the **2030** Agenda - the phrase to quote for **SDG** questions.

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It represents an unequivocal Commitment of all UN Member States to eradicate poverty in all its forms, end discrimination and reduce inequalities that leave people behind - Understanding that the most vulnerable and the farthest behind need to be prioritised and included through affirmative action.

2.1.2 SDG Framework

The UN Sustainable Development Goals give a roadmap to achieve global peace and prosperity by 2030. It is a tool to tackle economic, social and environmental challenges in a focussed manner. The framework has 17 goals, 169 targets and 240+ indicators.

- The **SDG** framework: 17 goals, 169 targets and 240+ indicator**s,** to be met by **2030**.

A framework that focuses on translating data insights into actionable outcomes and interventions.

2.1.3 Accelerating Tamil Nadu's SDG Growth Trajectory

The focus on Tamil Nadu's SDG growth in the past years has been on Social Justice with a thrust on the Human Development or People Centric Indicators. At this juncture, a slew of

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schemes and programmes have been implemented by the Government, aligning with SDGs.

SDG 1-No Poverty: Tamil Nadu's progress on poverty reduction is driven primarily by the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (MGNREGA) (State implementation with near-universal coverage), Chief Minister's Comprehensive Health Insurance Scheme (CMCHIS), State Housing Schemes, and the Dr. Muthulakshmi Reddy Maternity Benefit Scheme. Together, these schemes provide income security, housing, health protection and maternity support, addressing poverty in its multidimensional form rather than income alone. The strong Self-Help Group (SHG) movement further supports poverty reduction by expanding women's access to credit and livelihoods. As a result, **Tamil Nadu ranks 1st among States in goal-1**, as per the SDG India Index-4.0 (2023-24).

Tamil Nadu ranks 1st among States on **SDG** 1 (No Poverty) in the **SDG** India Index 4.0 (**2023-24**), driven by **MGNREGA**, **CMCHIS**, housing schemes and the Dr. Muthulakshmi Reddy Maternity Benefit Scheme.

SDG 2 – Zero Hunger: The flagship Scheme, All Village Integrated Agriculture Development Programme (AVIADP), anchors Tamil Nadu's

AVIADP anchors the State's **SDG** 2 strategy on food security and sustainable agriculture.

strategy to achieve food security and sustainable agriculture. Along with ICDS nutrition interventions, organic farming promotion, and soil health and crop insurance initiatives, the State focuses on improving farm productivity, farmer incomes and child nutrition. These programmes ensure stable food availability while making agriculture climate-resilient and environmentally sustainable.

SDG 3 – Good Health and Well-being: Tamil Nadu's health outcomes are extensively supported by the following schemes(viz.), Chief Minister's Comprehensive Health Insurance Scheme (CMCHIS), Makkalai Thedi Maruthuvam, Innuyir Kappom-Nammai Kaakum 48. These schemes extend affordable, doorstep, and emergency healthcare across the State, significantly reducing out-of-pocket expenditure and preventable deaths. The Dr. Muthulakshmi Reddy Maternity Benefit Scheme strengthens maternal and child health, supporting near-universal institutional deliveries.

SDG 4 – Quality Education: Education progress is driven by the innovative Breakfast Scheme,

SDG 3 rests on **CMCHIS**, Makkalai Thedi Maruthuvam and Innuyir Kappom-Nammai Kaakum 48.

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Dr. M.G.R. Nutritious Meal Programme and flagship social inclusion schemes such as Puthumai Penn and Tamil Pudhalvan. These interventions improve enrolment, retention and learning outcomes, especially among girls and first-generation learners. Complemented by sustained investments in school infrastructure and skilled teachers, Tamil Nadu has emerged as a National leader in higher education enrolment.

- **SDG** 4 is carried by the Breakfast Scheme, the Dr. M.G.R. Nutritious Meal Programme, Puthumai Penn and Tamil Pudhalvan.

SDG 5 – Gender Equality: Tamil Nadu advances gender equality through transformative schemes such as Madhippumigu Magalir Thittam, free travel for women, Pudumai Penn, one-Stop Centres for women and the Girl Child Protection Scheme. These programmes enhance women's economic independence, mobility, safety and decision-making power, translating rights into tangible social and economic empowerment. Women-focused programmes aim to transition participants into economically independent participants in the workforce.

- **SDG** 5 instruments: Madhippumigu Magalir Thittam, free bus travel for women, Pudumai Penn, One-Stop Centres and the Girl Child Protection Scheme.

SDG 6 – Clean Water and Sanitation: The State's water and sanitation achievements rest on the Tamil Nadu Irrigated Agriculture

Modernisation Project (TNIAMP), robust implementation of Jal Jeevan Mission and sanitation initiatives under Swachh Bharat Mission (ODF Plus). These efforts have expanded piped water supply, improved irrigation efficiency and ensured near-universal sanitation, directly improving public health and quality of life.

SDG 7 – Affordable and Clean Energy: Tamil Nadu's leadership in clean energy stems from large-scale wind and solar energy programmes, supported by Green Energy Corridor projects. With over half of its installed capacity from renewables and universal household electrification, the State is reducing emissions while ensuring reliable and affordable energy access for all.

SDG 8 – Decent Work and Economic Growth: Economic growth and employment are powered by Thiran Tamil Nadu, New Entrepreneur-cum-Enterprise Development Scheme (NEEDS), Startup Tamil Nadu and strong Micro Small and Medium Enterprises (MSME) incentive programmes. These initiatives align skills with industry demand, promote entrepreneurship and

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expand decent employment opportunities, particularly for youth and women, sustaining inclusive economic growth. Tamil Nadu's economic strategy prioritises large-scale youth employability, global skill mobility and private-sector-linked job creation.

SDG 9 – Industry, Innovation and Infrastructure: Schemes such as Industrial Parks and Estates, Micro Small and Medium Enterprises (MSME) and agro-industry incentives, Comprehensive Road Infrastructure Development Programme (CRIDP), Chennai Metro Rail and TIDEL / IT Parks are strengthening Tamil Nadu's industrial base and digital infrastructure. These investments promote innovation, enhance connectivity and support resilient, future-ready economic development.

SDG 10 – Reduced Inequalities: Tamil Nadu's long-standing reservation policies, effective implementation of SC/ST Sub-Plans and targeted welfare spending are central to reducing inequalities. These measures ensure fair access to education, employment and public resources,

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helping marginalised communities participate fully in the State's development process.

SDG 11 – Sustainable Cities and Communities: Urban sustainability is advanced through the Tamil Nadu Urban Flagship Investment Programme (TUFIP) and integrated urban development initiatives focusing on housing, roads, water supply, sanitation and resilience. These programmes improve livability, reduce slums and strengthen disaster preparedness in fast-growing urban centres.

SDG 12 – Responsible Consumption and Production: Schemes such as Kudimaramathu, Meendum Manjappai (single-use plastic elimination) and the Chief Minister's Dry Land Development Mission promote resource efficiency and sustainable practices. Tamil Nadu's strong, solid and biomedical waste management systems further support circular economy principles.

SDG 13 – Climate Action: Tamil Nadu is a national leader in climate action through the Tamil Nadu Climate Change Mission, State Action Plan on Climate Change and the Tamil Nadu Coastal Restoration Mission (TN-SHORE). These

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initiatives enhance climate resilience, mainstream adaptation across sectors and strengthen disaster preparedness.

SDG 14 – Life Below Water: Tamil Nadu Sustainably Harnessing Ocean Resources and Blue Economy (TN-SHORE) (Neithal Meetchi Iyakkam) initiative anchors coastal ecosystem restoration and livelihood protection across 14 coastal districts. Mangrove restoration and coastal pollution control measures safeguard marine biodiversity while strengthening climate resilience.

SDG 15 – Life on Land: The Green Tamil Nadu Mission, along with social forestry and agroforestry programmes, has significantly increased the State's green cover. Forest restoration and wildlife protection efforts contribute to biodiversity conservation and land degradation reversal.

SDG 16 – Peace, Justice and Strong Institutions: Tamil Nadu's progress in governance is supported by strong e-governance systems, near-universal civil registration and effective policing and justice delivery. These

measures enhance transparency, access to justice and citizen trust in institutions.

SDG 17 – Partnerships for the Goals: Tamil Nadu through structured partnerships that pool technical expertise, data and finance strengthens its efforts towards the goals of 2030.

Tamil Nadu partners with academic institutions, research institutions, UN bodies to accelerate the progress towards achieving the SDGs in the State.

The State's partnership with United Nations Development Programme(UNDP) through the Sustainable Development Goals Coordination Centre(SDGCC) brings in global best practices, enables cross-departmental coordination, evidence-based policymaking and monitoring framework into the State's SDGs localisation efforts.

The Centre works with five (5) vertical pillars of Policy Analysis and Capacity Building, Knowledge Management, Communication, Partnership, Data Analytics with Monitoring and Evaluation.

2.1.4 Tamil Nadu in the SDG India Index 4.0

The SDG India Index aims to monitor SDG progress at the National and Sub-National levels, enabling policy adjustments. The SDG India Index ranks States and UTs on their SDG achievements, thereby fostering healthy competition and highlighting critical areas needing attention. Tamil Nadu stands in the second position with a score of 78 points, close behind Kerala and Uttarakhand, which have scored the first position with 79 points. The State has always been the frontrunner in the SDG India Index. **Tamil Nadu State is ranked 1st in three out of 16 goals, namely goal 1-No Poverty (91/100), goal 7 - Affordable and Clean Energy (100/100) and goal 13-Climate Action (81/100). Also, Tamil Nadu State has been an achiever (100 Score) in goal 7**, a front runner (65-99) in 13 goals and a performer (50-64) in 2 goals.

2.1.5 Capacity Building

Capacity-building programmes play a key role in advancing SDGs across the State. Regular Capacity Building Programmes for all departments

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concerned are ensured through the Member-Convenors of SDG Working Group, State Planning Commission, Tamil Nadu State Statistical Training Institute (TNSSTI), Directorate of Economics and Statistics and Sustainable Development Goals Coordination Centre.

The Management Information System Team and Nodal Officers of all related departments are facilitated in uploading Data for the indicators under State Indicator Framework in the SDG Dashboard by the Directorate of Economics and Statistics.

The officials across departments who are involved in the SDGs are nominated to various Training Programmes organised at National Level Training Institutes, viz., Administrative Staff College of India (ASCI) in Hyderabad, Institute of Rural Management, Anand (IRMA) in Ahmadabad, besides the Workshops organised by NITI Aayog and other States.

At the Capacity Building Workshop on Monitoring Frameworks of Sustainable Development Goals, Compilation of Environment Accounts and Gender Statistics held at Patna,

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Bihar, organised by UNDP, the Secretary, Planning and Development Department, presented the State Statistical System on strengthening SDGs monitoring and improving the use of gender statistics in policy design for promoting evidence-based decision-making in Governance. As the 2030 Agenda timeline approaches, the need for reliable, timely and policy-relevant data is becoming increasingly important for Governments at every level.

Three-day Exposure-cum-Study visit of a team of officials from UT of Lakshadweep

A three day Exposure-cum-Study Visit to Tamil Nadu for the officials of the Planning, Statistical and Taxation Department, UT of Lakshadweep was organised in the State Planning Commission in February 2026, in association with the Directorate of Economics and Statistics and Sustainable Development Goals Coordination Centre under the aegis of Planning and Development Department.

The following key capacity-building programmes were organized by SDGCC as efforts towards localisation of SDGs:

i) *"Shaping the future of WOMEN'S economic progress in Tamil Nadu"*

ii) *"Industry Roundtable on 'Establishing Childcare Centres in Tamil Nadu"*

iii) Policy Round Table on "*EV convening, Charge ahead Tamil Nadu: Shaping the 2030 EV Charging & Swapping Roadmap*"

iv) *"Leveraging Global Opportunity for Tamil Nadu: Country Dialogue with Germany"*

v) An Event of "*Planning for EV Charging and Vehicle-to-Grid (V2G) Infrastructure*", bringing together policymakers, practitioners and researchers to explore pathways for a smarter, more resilient electrified transport future.

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2.1.6 Whole of Government Approach

The Government of Tamil Nadu has adopted a Whole-of-Government (WoG) approach to advance the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), recognising that achieving the 2030 Agenda requires coherent, coordinated and integrated action across all arms of Government. From an SDG perspective, this approach emphasises breaking down departmental silos and aligning policies, programmes, financing and monitoring systems across sectors and levels of governance, i.e. State, district and village levels, towards shared development outcomes.

- The Whole-of-Government approach treats the SDGs as a governance framework inside the planning machinery, not a parallel agenda - departments are judged on service delivery outcomes and citizen experience.

The Whole-of-Government approach is further reflected in inter-departmental convergence initiatives, such as integrated responses to skill development, youth employment, gender equity, climate resilience and urban governance. Programmes like Thiranagam demonstrate how multiple departments, institutions, and delivery mechanisms work together within a unified governance framework to address complex, cross-cutting challenges. The use of shared digital

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platforms, harmonised data systems and regular high-level reviews, reinforce accountability and collective ownership of SDG outcomes. To this end, the departments are evaluated based on measurable service delivery outcomes and citizen experience indicators.

From an SDG lens, Tamil Nadu's Whole-of-Government (WoG) approach transforms the Goals into a governance framework embedded within the State's planning and implementation machinery, ensuring policy coherence, efficient use of public resources and consistency across departments.

By institutionalising coordination, strengthening monitoring systems and aligning sectoral actions with long-term development priorities, the State reinforces its commitment to inclusive growth, social justice and the principle of "Leave No One Behind," positioning the SDGs as a core driver of public policy rather than a parallel agenda.

2.1.7 Whole of Society Approach

The Government of Tamil Nadu has adopted a Whole-of-Society (WoS) approach as a central

The Whole-of-Society approach brings in local government, private sector, civil society, academia and citizens as co-creators rather than beneficiaries.

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strategy for advancing the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), recognising that achieving the 2030 Agenda requires collective action beyond Government alone. Anchored in the principle that development outcomes are strongest when State institutions, local Governments, the private sector, civil society, academia, communities and citizens act in convergence, Tamil Nadu's SDG strategy emphasises collaboration, co-creation, and shared responsibility.

At the institutional level, mechanisms such as SDGCC and the State Planning Commission enable horizontal and vertical coordination across departments while engaging with NGOs. Platforms like Mission Inaippagam, the State's CSR matchmaking portal, operationalise this approach by aligning private sector CSR investments with State SDG priorities, thereby mobilising corporate resources for public good. Similarly, partnerships with UN agencies, academic institutions, industry bodies and civil society organisations, support knowledge exchange, innovation and implementation capacity.

- Mission Inaippagam is the State's **CSR** matchmaking portal, aligning corporate **CSR** spending with **SDG** priorities.

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At the local and community level, initiatives such as Urban Social Innovation Platforms, participatory planning processes and people-centric policy designs ensure that citizens are active stakeholders in development rather than passive beneficiaries. Flagship programmes such as Thiranagam demonstrate how inter-departmental coordination, digital systems and partnerships with skilling institutions and industry can coalesce to address youth employability and livelihoods. The State's emphasis on gender equity, inclusion and social justice further reinforces the WoS approach by prioritising women's participation, community care systems and safe public spaces as enablers of sustainable growth.

From an SDG perspective, Tamil Nadu's Whole-of-Society approach transforms the Goals from a government-led reporting exercise into a shared development compact, where policies, financing, innovation and citizen action converge.

By institutionalising partnerships, fostering trust and aligning incentives across stakeholders, this approach strengthens implementation,

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accelerates progress and ensures that development outcomes are inclusive, resilient and aligned with the SDG core principle of "Leave No One Behind."

2.1.8 Data as a catalyst and evidence base

The State Indicator Framework 1.0, anchors Tamil Nadu's SDGs monitoring. It has been refined from version 1.0 to version 2.0. It now spans 244 indicators from 107 targets under 17 SDGs, with inputs received from all the line departments through SDG Working Groups.

2.1.9 Way forward

Tamil Nadu should use the final four years to transition from broad-based SDG progress to targeted acceleration and outcome achievement. With the State's SDG score rising to 78, an improvement recorded across 12 Goals, and a strong Front Runner position overall, the strategic priority is to consolidate areas of strength while directing disproportionate policy attention and resources towards persistent gaps and emerging risks.

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Key Priorities for the State:

- **Focus Acceleration:** Develop focused acceleration strategies for SDG 5 and SDG 14, while improving performance in SDGs 3 and 9 and sustaining momentum in the Goals showing strong gains.
- **Institutionalise "Leave No One Behind":** Move from State-level averages to disaggregated outcome monitoring by district, geography, gender, social group, disability and other dimensions of vulnerability, enabling precision targeting of underserved populations.
- **Shift from scheme delivery to outcome convergence:** Align departmental plans, budgets and programmes around shared SDG outcomes, supported by stronger inter-departmental convergence and district-level SDG action plans.
- **Make districts the engines of SDG acceleration:** Establish district-specific

SDG priorities, annual milestones and convergence mechanisms, using local data and the Panchayat Advancement Index (PAI 2.0) to strengthen last-mile localisation.

- **Prioritise human capital and productive prosperity:** Integrate education, health, nutrition, skills, employment and women's economic participation as a human-capital investment agenda, while linking industrial growth and infrastructure to quality employment and inclusive economic opportunity.

- **Embed climate resilience into development planning:** Build climate and disaster resilience into infrastructure, urbanisation, agriculture, water, health and coastal development, while strengthening the blue-green economy and biodiversity protection.

- **Mobilise SDG financing and partnerships:** Establish a stronger SDG financing and partnership architecture,

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leveraging State resources alongside CSR, private capital, philanthropy and strategic partnerships.

- **Strengthen SDG intelligence and accountability:** Evolve the existing monitoring architecture towards an outcome-oriented SDG intelligence system, integrating administrative data, surveys, GIS and district-level indicators to enable timely course correction.

The next four years of the Government shall be a phase of SDG acceleration—from merely sustained implementation to averages to equity, from schemes to outcomes, from departmental programmes to convergence, from public expenditure to catalytic financing and from government-led delivery to whole-of-society partnerships.

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2.2 Evidence Based Policy Making

As ordered in G.O.(Ms)No.81, Planning, Development and Special Initiatives (ST2&E) Department, dated: 02.09.2014, the Government of Tamil Nadu entered into a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the Abdul Latif Jameel Poverty Action Lab, South Asia (JPAL-SA), to institutionalise the evidence-based approach to policy making to maximize the impact of the anti-poverty programmes. JPAL-SA, based out of the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, USA, is a network of some of the best Development Economists and Social Scientists located at different Universities and Institutions across the World, who do focused research on the formulation and evaluation of various policy initiatives on the most cost-effective and efficient ways of reducing poverty. JPAL South Asia (JPAL-SA), based at the Institute for Financial Management and Research in India, leads JPAL's work in the South Asian Region.

- An MoU of **02.09.2014** with J-**PAL** South Asia, based at **MIT**, institutionalised evidence-based policy making - randomised evaluation applied to State schemes.

The Government of Tamil Nadu is being assisted by JPAL-SA in building a culture of rigorous research-based policy making through four main activities:

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(i) Engaging in Policy Research Dialogues to understand the key policy priorities of the different departments, based on which adopting insights from existing research to local challenges;

(ii) Designing and testing new innovations with the potential for scaling up;

(iii) Strengthening Government capacity to generate and consume evidence in its projects Policy formulation; and

(iv) Leveraging use of administrative data in decision making.

The work has spanned across 13 Government Departments involving over 70 Researchers, including more than 20 from JPAL's network. A total number of 28 studies and 2 pilots for scale-up have been approved since 2014 through Nine Steering Committee meetings. Of these, 14 pilot and scoping studies and 4 full-scale impact evaluations addressing a range of topics like understanding the challenges around improving child nutrition and reducing malnutrition, improving child development and

The J-**PAL** partnership spans 13 departments and over 70 researchers; 28 studies and 2 scale-up pilots approved since **2014** through nine Steering Committee meetings.

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school readiness, reducing the burden of non-communicable diseases to strengthening early childhood care and education through ICDS and one pilot for introducing innovative game-based math curriculum for pre-primary children have been completed.

A baseline, first and second wave of a panel survey to understand the challenges faced by the elderly in Tamil Nadu have been completed. The third wave of the elderly panel survey is to be initiated this year. Currently, under the partnership, 3 randomised evaluations on providing community-based interventions to improve the mental health of the elderly, using machine learning for strengthening the diagnosis of silent heart attacks and identifying and nurturing math talent in Government School students and a scoping study to strengthen early childhood outcomes are being undertaken.

J-PAL-SA has been supporting the Departments in adopting evidence-based programmes aligned to the policy priorities of the State. To uplift the poorest of the poor, J-PAL-SA is supporting piloting the evidence-based

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graduation approach through the Tamil Nadu Inclusive Livelihoods Programme, in coordination with the Rural Development and Panchayat Raj Department.

J-PAL is piloting the evidence-based 'graduation approach' for the poorest through the Tamil Nadu Inclusive Livelihoods Programme with the Rural Development Department.

To strengthen gender attitudes among adolescents, J-PAL-SA conducted a formative study and provided recommendations to the School Education Department in adopting an evidence-based gender attitude change curriculum.

JPAL has been engaging with multiple departments through Policy Dialogues for sharing evidence, co-designing and testing new interventions and recommending interventions for policy uptake that have been tested for impact around the key priorities for the State.

In addition to the collaborative Policy Dialogues and evaluation, JPAL has supported the State Government with drafting the State Policy for Senior Citizens with the Social Welfare and Women Empowerment Department and the State Data Policy, in association with the Information Technology and Digital Services Department. JPAL

J-PAL helped draft the State Policy for Senior Citizens and the State Data Policy, and supported TNeGA in using administrative data.

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has supported TNeGA in unlocking the potential of administrative data for decision-making.

Results and recommendations on innovations and improvements based on the findings have been presented to the Steering Committee and given to the collaborating Departments for follow-up. Departments engaged in these Policy Research studies include Health and Family Welfare, Social Welfare and Women Empowerment, School Education, Special Programme Implementation, Environment Climate Change and Forest, Welfare of the Differently Abled and Rural Development and Panchayat Raj Departments.

The work involved building internal capacity to generate, analyze and use evidence from internal evaluations which encompassed 18 customized workshops, training courses for staff members of the Departments including personnel in the Departments of Evaluation and Applied Research (DEAR), Directorate of Economics and Statistics (DoES) and Social Welfare as well as Trainees of the Indian Administrative Service, besides advisory support.

- Capacity building has meant 18 customised workshops for departmental staff, **DEAR**, DoES and **IAS** trainees.

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Currently, J-PAL-South Asia is conducting technical workshops around Monitoring and Evaluation for the Department of Evaluation and Applied Research and Directorate of Economics and Statistics under the Planning and Development Department.

2.2.1 Key achievements

The Government of Tamil Nadu's Policy Research partnership with JPAL-SA has provided a formal structure for many Departments to integrate the use of evaluations to address key policy questions. The Government has now a stronger culture with an active demand for data and evidence for decision-making. Notably, the Departments of Health and Family Welfare, Social Welfare and Women Empowerment and School Education have taken up multiple studies and used the research insights to understand the underlying problems better and make improvements in policy making.

For example, the findings from the baseline and first wave of the elderly panel survey have helped State Policy for Senior Citizens especially around improving the health and nutritional status

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of the elderly and reforming the social security schemes targeted at the elderly.

Consistent with the findings from the elderly panel survey that specifically shows that the elderly living alone were worse off in all aspects including physical and mental health and financial status, the Government has increased its focus on the elderly living alone through various schemes such as Doorstep Goods Delivery Scheme (Veedu Thedi Porutkal Vazhangum Thittam). Findings from the completed study on understanding the impact of the 'Makkalai Thedi Maruthuvam' Scheme on the well-being of the elderly, have also been incorporated into strengthening the implementation of the scheme by the Directorate of Public Health.

In order to strengthen and institutionalise the use of evaluations and data in policy making, "Guidelines for Programme Evaluations" have been issued. This creates a common framework to use evaluations in policy making and a Data Analytics Unit to support advanced analysis and use of administrative data for effective decision making.

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The Departments of Evaluation and Applied Research (DEAR) and Economics and Statistics (DoES) have adopted digital data collection platforms. This integrates new quality assurance mechanisms to improve the usability of their generated data. JPAL-SA and the Government of Tamil Nadu, in close co-ordination with key line departments, identify top policy priorities of the State Government. This is followed by co-designing interventions that can be field tested before a State-wide scale up. This helps identify policy innovations tested elsewhere in India and globally that would be contextually adapted in Tamil Nadu.

2.3 Special Initiatives

The subject “Special Initiatives” was included in First Schedule of the Business Rules and brought into Planning and Development Department in 2006. The Objective of Special Initiatives wing is to implement Innovative schemes emanating from different Departments and constitute priority areas for Government action.

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On this basis and as per G.O.(Ms) No.10, Planning, Development and Special Initiatives Department, Dated:18.01.2007, the Chennai Metro Rail Project has been declared as a 'Special Initiative' under the Special Initiatives Department. Now, as per G.O.(Ms) No.36, Human Resources Management(A) Department, Dated: 07.07.2026 the subject "Special Initiatives" has been entrusted to the Tourism & Culture Department.

- The Chennai Metro Rail Project was declared a 'Special Initiative' by **G.O.(Ms) No.10** of **18.01.2007**; the subject moved to the Tourism & Culture Department on **07.07.2026**.

2.4 Twenty Point Programme – 2006

The Twenty Point Programme (TPP) was formulated as a composite poverty alleviation project in 1975. It was restructured in 1982, 1986 and 2006. Now it is renamed as "Twenty Point Programme - 2006".

- The Twenty Point Programme dates from **1975** and was restructured in **1982**, **1986** and **2006** - hence 'Twenty Point Programme - **2006**'. Quarterly reports go to the Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation.

The main objective of the Programme is to eradicate poverty and improve the quality of life of the poor and under-privileged population. The programme components span specific issues of reduction in poverty, employment generation, education, housing, health, agriculture, land reforms, irrigation, drinking water, protection and

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empowerment of weaker sections and consumer protection.

The performance details of various monitorable items and schemes implemented by the Departments and organisations under TPP-2006 are collected and compiled every quarter by this Department. The quarterly progress reports are being sent to the Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation, Government of India.

2.5 Major Infrastructure Projects

Major Infrastructure Projects, with a sanctioned cost exceeding **Rs. 100 crore**, constitute a significant component of Tamil Nadu's Development strategy and cover key sectors such as **Energy, Highways, Industries, Water Resources and other critical Infrastructure sectors.** Timely implementation and effective monitoring of these projects are essential for achieving the intended developmental outcomes.

Previously, the details on the progress of Major Infrastructure Projects were updated by the Secretariat Departments and their respective

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Heads of Departments through web portal, "e-Munnetram". Now the existing "e-Munnetram" Portal has been upgraded to onboard all Major Infrastructure Projects into the **"Issue-Based Project Monitoring Tool (IBPMT)"**.

- The e-Munnetram portal has been upgraded into the Issue-Based Project Monitoring Tool (**IBPMT**), with pendency tracking, an inter-departmental issue tracker and real-time resolution status.

IBPMT has been developed and operationalized to strengthen project monitoring and improve governance. The platform provides the following advantages:

- **Transparency**: Centralized dashboard enabling stakeholders to monitor project progress and identify bottlenecks.
- **Accountability**: Structured reporting and escalation mechanisms to ensure timely action by the concerned authorities.
- **Real-time resolution**: Immediate identification and redressal of implementation challenges, thereby reducing delays and improving project execution efficiency.

The Issue-Based Project Monitoring Tool (IBPMT) comprises the following key modules:

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- **Pendency Tracking** – Systematic tracking of unresolved issues with escalation protocols.
- **Inter-Departmental Issue Tracker** – Facilitation of coordination among departments and officers concerned.
- **Issue Resolution Status** – Real-time updates on categorization, progress and closure status.
- **Chat Box Facility** – Direct communication mechanism for clarification and coordination among stakeholders.
- **Automated Notifications and SMS Alerts** – Timely reminders and alerts to designated officers for prompt action.

The portal has been designed to move beyond conventional project progress monitoring and focus on **active bottleneck identification and resolution,** its salient features include:

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- **Real-Time Tracking** – Continuous monitoring of project-specific impediments.
- **Automated Escalation** – Escalation of unresolved issues to higher authorities when prescribed timelines are exceeded.
- **Enhanced Visibility** – Improved oversight of pending actions and inter-departmental dependencies.
- **Data-Driven Decision Making**– Availability of analytics for informed decision-making across departments.

The High Level Official Committee to review the Major Infrastructure Projects has been reconstituted vide G.O.(Ms)No.170, Planning, Development and Special Initiatives (TC-1) Department, dated: 23.12.2024.

So far, 19 Departments have uploaded 204 Major Infrastructure Projects through 125 Data Entry Operators. The entries have been verified by 100 Approvers and are being monitored by 39 Nodal Officers. The Planning and

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Development Department is the Nodal Department for facilitating review and monitor the progress of Major Infrastructure Projects.

3.0 Heads of Department

The Departments under the administrative control of the Planning and Development Department are:

i. State Planning Commission (SPC)

ii. Directorate of Economics and Statistics (DoES)

iii. Department of Evaluation and Applied Research (DEAR)

iv. Special Area Development Programme (SADP)

The activities of these Departments are detailed below:

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3.1 STATE PLANNING COMMISSION

The State Planning Commission functions as an advisory body to assist the Government in formulating policies and strategies for balanced economic and social development. It makes policy advice recommendations to the Government on various aspects pertaining to the development of the State guided by principles of social justice through evidence-based planning.

The State Planning Commission is headed by the Hon'ble Chief Minister as Ex-Officio Chairman. The Chief Secretary to Government, the Additional Chief Secretary to Government, Planning & Development Department and the Additional Chief Secretary to Government, Finance Department are Ex-Officio Members of the State Planning Commission. The Member Secretary is the administrative head of the State Planning Commission.

The State Planning Commission was lastly reconstituted on 07.06.2021.

- The State Planning Commission is chaired ex-officio by the Chief Minister, with the Chief Secretary and the Additional Chief Secretaries of Planning and Finance as ex-officio members; last reconstituted on **07.06.2021**.

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3.1.1 Major Functions of State Planning Commission are as follows:

(i) Monitor macro-economic growth parameters like economic growth, employment, poverty etc. and give advice to Government on restructuring existing schemes / programmes or formulate new projects / schemes / programmes.

(ii) Monitor the Tamil Nadu Economy and send Reports to the Government for improvement as and when necessary.

(iii) Assist the State Government in formulating long term, medium term and short-term goals to guide overall development and also achieve the targets set by the Sustainable Development Goals Agenda 2030.

(iv) Evolve Sector wise Strategic Plans and Documents, in consonance with Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) adopted by the United Nations General Assembly to be achieved

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by 2020, 2025 and 2030, in correlation to the milestones of the Finance Commissions.

(v) Systematically address policy coherence issues and offer a platform for resolution of inter-sectoral and inter-departmental issues in order to appropriately devise policies, programmes and schemes and accelerate their implementation.

(vi) Encourage partnerships between Government stakeholders and National and International Policy Advisory Bodies, as well as Educational and Policy Research Institutions.

(vii) Provide access to measuring the progress and performance through different Indices such as Human Development Index, Gender Development Index and other Sectoral Indices of relevance to State and advise the Government for appropriate interventions.

- The Commission tracks the Human Development Index, Gender Development Index and other sectoral indices to advise on interventions.

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(viii) Conduct periodic studies on various sectors and provide inputs to Government based on the study findings and to co-ordinate with leading State, National and International Institutions.

(ix) Help create a knowledge, innovation and entrepreneurial support system through a collaborative community of National and International Experts, Practitioners and other Partners.

(x) Study and advise on uniform Policy adoption covering inter-sectoral, inter-departmental issues and allocations and other regulatory /mandatory frameworks in achieving goals.

(xi) Advise the Government on plans for Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes and inclusive growth coverage i.e., Leave No One Behind (LNOB).

(xii) Advise on the effectiveness of implementation of mandated systems

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under the Decentralized Planning concept for good local governance.

(xiii) Apart from the above, the State Planning Commission implements the following special programmes:

1. Focus Blocks Development Programme (FBDP)
2. Tamil Nadu Innovation Initiatives (TANII)

(xiv) Conducts various studies through Tamil Nadu State Land Use Research Board (TNSLURB)

3.1.2 Preparation of Policy Documents

The State Planning Commission is mandated with the task of preparing Policy Documents on the important aspects of Socio-economic development of Tamil Nadu. The State Planning Commission has prepared and submitted ten policies viz.,

1. Tamil Nadu Right to Health Policy
2. LGBTQIA+ Policy

- Ten policy documents prepared by the State Planning Commission, beginning with the Right to Health Policy and the **LGBTQIA**+ Policy.

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3. Industrialisation Policy for a Transitioning Economy
4. Sustainable Land Use Policy
5. Employment Policy
6. Tamil Nadu State Water Policy
7. Community Dog Management & Regulation Policy
8. Housing Policy for Rural and Urban Tamil Nadu
9. Integrated Townships Development Policy
10. State Action Plan for Anti-Microbial Resistance to the Government.

The sectoral departments are releasing Policies that align with the guidance and recommendations outlined in the policy papers prepared by the State Planning Commission.

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3.1.3 Focus Blocks Development Programme (FBDP)

3.1.3.1 Introduction

The Focus Blocks Development Programme is a flagship initiative of Government of Tamil Nadu. The State Planning Commission is the nodal department for implementation of Focus Blocks Development Programme. In the Budget Speech 2023-2024, the Focus Blocks Development Programme (Priority Blocks including Hill area regions) was made as an announcement for 50 Blocks to promote balanced & inclusive regional development. Rs. 5.00 crore has been allocated for each block for a period of three years. In addition, each district has been provided a discretionary fund of Rs.1.00 crore to the District Collector, for each of the focus blocks to take up any project that is aligned to uplift the identified 131 sub-Indicators in 7 themes.

- The Focus Blocks Development Programme, announced in the **2023-24** Budget Speech, cover**s 50** blocks at **Rs.5 crore** each over three year**s,** plus **Rs.1 crore** of discretionary funds per block with the District Collector.
- Focus Blocks are measured against 131 sub-indicators in 7 themes; a revised list of 50 Key Development Indicators was issued by G.O.(Ms.) No.99 of **29.07.2024**.

Accordingly, the Government have issued guidelines governing the implementation of the Focus Blocks Development Programme (Priority Blocks including Hill Area Regions) vide G.O.(Ms.)No.27, Planning, Development and

Special Initiatives (SPC) Department, Dated:16.02.2024. Revised list of the 50 Key Development Indicators (KDIs) was issued vide G.O.(Ms.) No.99, Planning, Development and Special Initiatives (SPC) Department, Dated:29.07.2024 for better monitoring of the incremental improvement in indicators and performance of blocks.

3.1.3.2 Objectives

- The primary objective of the scheme is to identify 50 blocks that require additional Government assistance while converging the existing departmental schemes to improve public utilities and lives of poorer households.
- The secondary objective is to strengthen the capacity of the block level administrative machinery. It strives towards augmenting development resources and deploying them effectively to achieve faster development in relation to other regions in the State.

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3.1.3.3 Methodology adopted for the selection of Focus Blocks

The selection of blocks has been made based on composite index of nine indicators:

- Percentage of SC & ST population in the blocks
- Percentage of agricultural workers to total workers in the blocks
- Percentage of students in Government and Government aided school to total school students in the blocks
- Least Pass percentage of students in 10^{th} class in Government and aided schools
- Infant Mortality Rate
- Maternal Mortality Rate
- Percentage of Households in Huts
- Percentage of Households without tap connection at home
- Percentage of habitation with earthen roads

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These indicators broadly reflect the economic and social development status of blocks.

The list of Selected Blocks for implementation of FBDP is as follows: -

Sl. No	Districts	Selected Blocks List-1 (1 to 37)	Selected Blocks List-2 (38 to 50)
1	Ariyalur	Jayankondam (1)	Andimadam (38)
2	Chengalpattu	Lathur (2)	
3	Coimbatore	Anaimalai (3)	
4	Cuddalore	Nallur (4)	Melbhuvanagiri (39)
5	Dharmapuri	Karimangalam (5)	Harur (40)
6	Dindigul	Natham (6)	
7	Erode	Nambiyur (7)	
8	Kallakurichi	Kalrayan Hills (8)	Thiyagadurgam (41)
9	Kancheepuram	Uthiramerur (9)	
10	Kanniyakumari	Thovalai (10)	
11	Karur	Thogaimalai (11)	
12	Krishnagiri	Uthangarai (12)	
13	Madurai	Sedapatti (13)	
14	Mayiladuthurai	Kuthalam (14)	
15	Nagapattinam	Kilvelur (15)	Keelaiyur(42)
16	Namakkal	Kollihills (16)	
17	Perambalur	Veppanthattai (17)	Alathur (43)
18	Pudukottai	Karambakudi (18)	Thiruvarankulam (44)
19	Ramanathapuram	Tiruvadanai (19)	Mudukulathur (45)
20	Ranipet	Thimiri (20)	
21	Salem	Pethanaickenpalayam (21)	

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Sl. No	Districts	Selected Blocks List-1 (1 to 37)	Selected Blocks List-2 (38 to 50)
22	Sivagangai	Tirupuvanam (22)	Tirupathur (46)
23	Tenkasi	Kuruvikulam (23)	
24	Thanjavur	Thiruvonam (24)	
25	The Nilgiris	Gudalur (25)	
26	Theni	Kadamalaikundru-Myladumparai (26)	
27	Tiruppur	Kundadam (27)	
28	Tiruvallur	Poondi (28)	
29	Tiruvannamalai	Kalasapakkam (29)	Jawadhu Hills (47)
30	Tiruvarur	Kottur (30)	Thiruthuraipoondi (48)
31	Thoothukudi	Ottapidaram (31)	
32	Tirunelveli	Nanguneri (32)	
33	Tirupathur	Alangayam (33)	
34	Tiruchirappalli	Marungapuri (34)	
35	Vellore	K.V.Kuppam (35)	
36	Villupuram	Thiruvennainallur (36)	Melmalaiyanur (49)
37	Virudhunagar	Narikudi (37)	Tiruchuli (50)

3.1.3.4 Strategy for implementation

The 50 focus blocks selected are to focus on convergence of various Government programmes and schemes. The objective being improving the development indicators in each of these blocks over a period of 3 years. Action Plans are being drawn to converge the programmes on to the

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blocks with aggregation of funds under various schemes. This will enable the administration to co-ordinate the developmental works to meet the development demands of the blocks.

3.1.3.5 Key Development Indicators

The Key Developmental Indicators (KDIs) under the Focus Blocks Development Programme (FBDP) i.e., 50 indicators and 131 sub-indicators are categorized into 7 themes viz., Health & Nutrition, Social Welfare, Education, Skill Development and Employment, Agriculture & Allied Activities, Economic Development and Infrastructure. The KDIs are also aligned with 61 schemes of 19 departments.

3.1.3.6 Block Development Strategy Paper (BDSP) and Block Annual Plans (BAPs)

The Block Development Strategy Paper (BDSP) outlines development facilities in a block, such as schools, hospitals, roads, drainage, housing and drinking water access. It includes baseline indicators for 2023-24 and targets upto 2026-27. The District Administration has prepared

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the BDSP based on the inputs received from the line departments. BAP-III for 2026-27 will be prepared by the District Administration in line with the BDSP which includes a) the achievement of KDIs in 2025-26, b) a list of convergences of schemes and c) the list of new projects for the progress of KDIs.

3.1.3.7 Monitoring and Evaluation

A dedicated dashboard for the Focus Blocks Development Programme has been developed to track the performance of the indicators along with a project tracker facility to monitor the physical and financial progress of the projects at the block level. This dashboard helps to visualize the data and information that is typically used to exhibit the performance of the scheme, which helps to quickly understand the status of the scheme and the performance of Key Development Indicators (KDIs).

3.1.3.8 District Level Committee

At the district level, a Project Committee, headed by the District Collector, oversees planning and execution. This Committee includes

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district level officials and the programme is monitored by the District Planning Cell (DPC).

3.1.3.9 Two State Level Committees

a. **The State Level Monitoring Committee (SLMC)** has been constituted under the Chairmanship of the Member Secretary, State Planning Commission, with nominated officials from key departments as Members (not below the rank of Joint Directors). The SLMC is responsible for monitoring the physical and financial progress of projects under the Focus Blocks Development Programme once in three months, while the District Collectors are required to appraise the Committee every month on the progress of implementation. The Committee will also collate the Block Annual Plans from implementing block. They conduct preliminary screening of the appraisal report of the projects for recommendation and place them before the State Level Empowered Committee.

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The Head of Division (RD&DP), State Planning Commission acts as the Member Convener of SLMC.

b. **The State Level Empowered Committee (SLEC)** has been constituted under the Chairmanship of the Chief Secretary, with the Vice Chairman, State Planning Commission as Co-Chair and Secretaries of various departments as Members. The Member Secretary, State Planning Commission acts as the Member Secretary/Convener. SLEC is empowered to approve the Block Annual Plans for each block, oversee the progress of sanctioned projects at the State level.

3.1.3.10 Project Management Unit (PMU)

A Project Management Unit (PMU) comprising of Project Consultant and Project Associate has been established at State Planning Commission for effective monitoring and evaluation of FBDP. PMU assists in the preparation of Block Annual Plans, tracking project implementation,

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documentation, studies, surveys and assessments.

3.1.3.11 Budget

Block Annual Plan (BAP)

The Block Annual Plan will be prepared for each year based on the BDSP by the Districts and submitted for funding. A sum of Rs.5.00 crore per block is allocated for a period of 3 years.

Block Annual Plan	Year	No. of Projects sanctioned	Sanctioned Amount (Rs. In Cr)	Status of Projects	
				Comple-ted	On-going
I	2024-25	765	96.83	689	76
II	2025-26	772	96.93	9	763

Block Annual Plan (BAP – III) 2026-27

Project proposals for 2026-27 are being prepared for BAP – III and Rs.1.00 crore under the discretionary fund of District Collector for each block under Focus Blocks Development Programme.

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3.1.3.12 Ranking Methodology

To encourage the performance of the focus blocks, ranking methodology has been approved by the State Level Empowered Committee and the blocks have been ranked for the year 2024-25.

3.1.3.13 Chief Minister Award for Best Blocks Transformation for the year 2024-25

An amount of Rs.5.00 crore has been allocated in the Revised Budget Estimates (RBE) 2026-27. Proposals are also being collected from the top five best-performing blocks, for the year 2024-25, viz., Kanniyakumari–Thovalai, Ariyalur–Jayankondam, Ariyalur–Andimadam, Kancheepuram–Uthiramerur and Theni–K.Myladumparai, to the tune of Rs.1.00 crore as price amount for each block.

The second-year annual ranking of the blocks, based on 2025–26 data of selected 70 Indicators is currently in progress.

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3.1.4 Tamil Nadu Innovation Initiatives (TANII)

To foster innovation in the Government Departments and Government Agencies, Tamil Nadu Innovation Initiatives (TANII) scheme was formulated in the State Planning Commission during September 2014 to herald an era of innovation in the State of Tamil Nadu.

The TANII sectoral innovation projects collectively aims to transform Tamil Nadu into a knowledge-driven, technology-enabled sustainable economy by:

- Promoting research, development and innovation across Government departments.
- Accelerating the adoption of AI, digital technologies, drones, biotechnology and advanced manufacturing.
- Improving public service delivery through citizen-centric digital solutions.
- Advancing healthcare, environmental sustainability and climate resilience.

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- Supporting economic growth through industrial modernization, startup ecosystems and technology commercialization.
- Enhancing livelihoods and quality of life through innovations in agriculture, tourism, sports, education and rural development.

Overall, TANII serves as a catalyst for piloting innovative solutions that can be scaled across the State, fostering evidence-based governance, inclusive development and long-term socio-economic progress.

Since the inception year 2015-16, 437 projects worth Rs.1129.27 crore have been recommended upto 2025-26 for departments, under Tamil Nadu Innovation Initiatives scheme.

The Modified guidelines for implementation of TANII have been issued vide G.O.(Ms).No.69, Planning, Development and Special Initiatives (TC-1) Department, dated: 12.05.2023. As per these modified guidelines, TANII proposals can be received throughout the year. The Planning and

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Development Department will be the authority to issue sanction orders for all the Projects under the scheme for centralized close monitoring and tracking of Innovation projects.

The Government has also issued orders on revised accounting procedure for implementation of TANII scheme from the year 2023-2024 vide G.O.(Ms).No.164, Planning, Development and Special Initiatives (TC-1) Department, dated: 18.11.2023. As per revised accounting procedure, the State Planning Commission adopts Single Nodal Account for implementing TANII schemes under Tamil Nadu Public Fund Tracking System.

For the year 2025–26, 22 projects were sanctioned with a total outlay of Rs.113.89 crore over a period of three years.

For the year 2026-2027, a Budget allocation (RBE) of Rs.100.00 crore has been allocated for the TANII Scheme and proposals are being received from the departments/ Districts.

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3.1.4.1 Centre for Innovation in Governance

Under Tamil Nadu Innovative Initiatives (TANII) a Centre for Innovation in Governance was established as per G.O. (Ms.) No.25, Planning, Development and Special Initiatives (TC-I) Department, Dated: 16.02.2024 for three years from 2023-24 to 2025-26 to act as an enabler between departments, district administration and cutting-edge institutions to identify innovative solutions which would transform governance.

3.1.4.2 Vision

- To bridge the gap between problems of public service delivery, to identify and implement innovative solutions which improve public governance.
- To work with the departments to identify the issues of public service delivery which require innovative solutions.
- To create a challenge statement/ problem statement and call for

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solutions from public/private/ not-for-profit institutions and organizations.

- To promote sustainable innovation by engaging cutting-edge institutions such as i-TNT Centre, TANSIM, TNeGA etc. to foster innovative solutions from private sector as well.
- To foster grass root innovation by actively engaging with the district administration
- To periodically conduct hackathons and seminars

3.1.4.3 Mission

- Grass root innovation with specific focus on Districts
- Sectoral innovations with special focus on departments and sectors
- 'Challenge Tamil Nadu' – engaging public and private experts to come out with innovative ideas to support governance

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- ❖ Hackathons to augment young minds.

3.1.4.4 Activities of CIG during the years 2024-2025 and 2025-26

Assisting the Government department and Agencies in developing innovative proposals events conducted:

As part of the mandate of the centre, a series of workshops / seminars such as (i) Capacity Building Strategies for Enhancing TANII proposals: Innovation for Governance (ii) Driving Social Innovation, Improving Governance through Design Thinking with UNICEF and School of Design Thinking (iii) Unlocking Block chain Potential: Enabling Tamil Nadu's Digital Growth and Transforming Governance (iv) Future Power Train Conclave (v) Tamil Nadu Manufacturing Round Table with TN Guidance (vi) Water Conclave-2025 (vii) Shaping the Future of Women's Economic progress in Tamil Nadu (viii) Sensitization program for promotion of Public Procurement by Government Departments from Startups (ix) AI and Workforce Displacement: Enabling Inclusive Workforce

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Transitions in the Age of AI (x) Workshop on S2G Demonstration Forum.

These workshops aim to empower Government Departments and District Administrations to systematically identify and implement innovative solutions for enhancing governance in State.

3.1.4.5 International Collaboration: UNICEF-OECD-OPSI and State Planning Commission Collaboration First-of-its-kind global partnership:

Tamil Nadu is the first sub-national Government globally to collaborate with UNICEF Office of Innovation and OECD-OPSI on a structured public sector innovation programme. A Six month collaboration between UNICEF-Office of Innovation, Sweden and Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development - Observatory of Public Sector Innovation (OECD-OPSI), Paris with State Planning Commission, Government of Tamil Nadu on Supporting Public Sector Innovation in Tamil Nadu was signed.

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As a part of this partnership, a delegation visit was undertaken by the team from State Planning Commission during 21st – 27th January 2026 to OECD Paris and Office of Innovation, Stockholm, Sweden to participate in the "COMPASS Cohort" – a global UNICEF Platform where 30 countries participated.

The following activities have been undertaken under this initiative:

(i) State Innovation Policy- A working group has been constituted for formulation of innovation policy

(ii) Innovation Framework and Tamil Nadu Public Innovation Index

(iii) Capacity building programmes - Training of Trainers (ToT)

(iv) Monitoring and Evaluation & Learning framework.

The initiative will strengthen Tamil Nadu's position as a leader in public sector innovation by fostering evidence-based policymaking, enhancing institutional capacity, and promoting a culture of

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innovation across Government departments. It is expected to improve the quality, efficiency, and inclusiveness of public service delivery while creating opportunities for global partnerships, knowledge exchange, and long-term governance reforms. This will enable a resilient and future-ready public administration.

3.1.5 Tamil Nadu State Land Use Research Board

Tamil Nadu State Land Use Research Board (TNSLURB) is a permanent body under the State Planning Commission. The primary objective of the Board is to undertake studies for the conservation of land and water resources and to promote their optimal utilization for the benefit of the people, while providing scientific recommendations and policy guidance to Government Departments.

To ensure integrated land use planning, sustainable land management and optimal utilization of land resources of the State, the research study proposals are being called for in the following 6 focus areas:

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- ❖ Sustainable Urban & Industrial Development
- ❖ Agriculture & Rural Development
- ❖ Water & Land Resources Management
- ❖ Tourism & Heritage
- ❖ Energy Infrastructure
- ❖ Environment, Climate Resilience & Natural Landscape

From 2011–12 to 2025–26, the State Planning Commission sanctioned 106 research studies and 22 workshops/seminars at a total cost of Rs.1,193.08 lakh, of which 90 studies have been completed and the workshops/seminars were conducted in collaboration with reputed institutions. The findings have proven instrumental in guiding various Government departments, assisting them in formulating schemes and programmes to assess and enhance outcomes based on the research insights. Further, more than 10 research studies have been published with International Standard Book Number (ISBN) through the State Planning

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Commission Forum, facilitating wider dissemination of knowledge and research findings.

3.1.5.1 International Conference

The International Conference "Tamil Nadu Land Use 2025: Research & Innovation for a Sustainable Future", held on 6th – 7th October 2025, brought together more than 800 participants from over 150 institutions across India and abroad. The Conference provided a common platform for Senior Government Officials, Policymakers, Academic Experts, Researchers, Technical Specialists, Research Scholars and Practitioners to deliberate on emerging challenges and opportunities related to sustainable land use planning, integrated resource management and climate resilience.

During the Conference, the Hon'ble Minister for Industries released two publications titled "Land Use Research in Tamil Nadu: 15 Years of the Tamil Nadu State Land Use Research Board" and "Vaduvoor – A Landscape of Wings."

The Conference was organized by Tamil Nadu State Land Use Research Board in partnership

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with the School of Sustainability, IIT Madras and WRI India as academic and knowledge partners, along with thematic working group partners.

Seven thematic sessions were conducted covering Urban and Industrial Development, Agriculture and Rural Development, Water and Land Resource Management, Sustainable Tourism and Heritage, Energy Transition, Environment and Climate Change and Geospatial Technologies.

These sessions featured keynote addresses, best practice presentations, research paper presentations and panel discussions, facilitating knowledge exchange and cross-sectoral collaboration.

A Poster Presentation Session was also organized to showcase innovative research ideas from academic and research institutions across the Country. Selected proposals, as recommended by the jury, were considered for funding under TNSLURB. Following the Conference, selected completed research papers are being compiled for publication in a Conference compendium by engaging TNAU as a resource Institution.

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The Conference significantly contributed to strengthening research collaboration, promoting innovation, and reaffirming Tamil Nadu's leadership in sustainable development and evidence-based policymaking.

3.1.5.2 Awards and Recognitions

- TNSLURB represented Government of Tamil Nadu at the UNEP Global Cooling Pledge Focal Points Meeting held in Germany on 13th – 14th June 2025, showcasing the State's leadership in heat resilience and sustainable cooling.
- Received the National Geospatial Practitioner Award 2025 for its geospatial initiatives under TNSLURB, presented during Open-Source GIS Day at IIT Mumbai on 17th July 2025.

3.1.6 Tamil Nadu Land Use Information System (TiNAI)

The Tamil Nadu State Land Use Research Board is developing TiNAI (Tamil Nadu Land Use Information System), an AI-enabled Digital Twin platform for the State. The project has been

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sanctioned financial assistance of Rs.150.00 lakh under the Tamil Nadu Innovation Initiatives (TANII) programme. TiNAI brings together large volumes of data from nine key sectors—Land Use & Land Cover, Urban & Peri-Urban Systems, Forests, Agriculture, Energy, Water Resources, Climate Change, Disaster Management and Coastal & Marine Ecosystems, into a single integrated platform. Beyond mapping and visualization, TiNAI enables advanced analysis, scenario modelling, policy impact assessment and real-time monitoring. With historical data, predictive capabilities and a conversational AI interface, it supports informed decision-making, effective governance and long-term planning.

TiNAI was launched on 22nd December 2025 under Phase I and Phase II development is currently in progress. So far, 45 tools and 30 Key Performance Indicators (KPIs) have been developed across nine thematic modules for Geospatial and Digital Twin platforms respectively.

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3.1.7 Malcolm Adiseshiah Fellowship in Public Policy and Management

In 2024-25, the State Planning Commission has launched a six-month Public Policy and Management Certificate Course in collaboration with the Madras Institute of Development Studies at a cost of Rs. 80.00 lakh per year for a period of three years. This programmes aims to provide education and training in Public Policy and Management. Subsequently, in order to recognise the contributions of Dr. Malcolm Adiseshiah's works, the course has been renamed as "Malcolm Adiseshiah Fellowship in Public Policy and Management" and a monthly fellowship of Rs.15,000/- is provided to fellows throughout the course. Two Batches have been successfully completed. The Third Batch is scheduled to commence in October 2026.

State Planning Commission plays a key role in facilitating departmental coordination and enriching the learning experience. Towards this training programmes, expert lectures, motivational sessions and interactive discussions with policymakers, senior Government officials,

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domain experts, and institutional leaders are organised. In addition, State Planning Commission coordinates field immersion visits and experiential learning activities across various Government departments and development sectors, enabling first-hand exposure to policy implementation, governance challenges and best practices. These engagements provide participants with practical insights into public administration and evidence-based policymaking.

3.1.8 Tamil Nadu Policy and Governance Experiential Centre (TNPAGE)

Tamil Nadu Policy and Governance Experiential Centre (TNPAGE) was established at a cost of Rs.12.65 crore (Rs.10.00 crore under TANII fund and remaining Rs.2.65 crore from ***Service/Commitment Charges***). The Tamil Nadu Policy and Governance Experiential Centre (TNPAGE) was inaugurated on 28.02.2026.

TNPAGE aims to transform governance into an interactive and dynamic process, enabling Government departments to test interventions, explore scenario-based policy modelling and drive

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data-driven decision-making with unprecedented precision.

TNPAGE is first of its kind Governance Knowledge and Experiential Centre, designed as a public knowledge space that presents Government policies, development indicators and governance outcomes in an immersive and accessible format.

The Centre also includes the Tamil Nadu Policy Portal - the Strategy Room at TNPAGE will serve as a dedicated space for policy discussions, planning and collaborative decision making, supported by advanced data visualisations and analytical tools. Through interactive dashboards, maps and thematic visualisations, it enables policymakers and researchers to explore key socio-economic indicators, track development trends and gain insights that support informed and evidence-based policy formulation for Tamil Nadu.

3.1.9 Transformation of Aspirational Districts Programme

Transformation of Aspirational Districts Programme (ADP) was launched by NITI Aayog in

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January 2018. The objectives of Aspirational Districts Programme are:

(i) To improve the socio-economic status of 112 identified backward districts,

(ii) To focus on the strengths of each district, and

(iii) To prioritize the attainable outcomes for immediate improvement.

The Districts of Virudhunagar and Ramanathapuram from Tamil Nadu have been selected for implementation of the programme.

3.1.9.1 Focus Areas

The Core focus areas of the Aspirational Districts Programme (ADP) are Health & Nutrition, Education, Agriculture & Water Resources, Financial Inclusion & Skill Development and Basic Infrastructure. Districts are encouraged to become one of the best in the country by competing with and learning from others in the spirit of Competitive Federalism.

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3.1.9.2 Real time Monitoring and Ranking

The programme is being monitored through the 49 Key Performance Indicators (KPIs) on a monthly basis by NITI Aayog. Based on the performance, the Districts are being ranked on overall and sectoral performance.

3.1.9.3 Funding Support

The Districts under Aspirational Districts Programme (ADP) are supported by Central Public Sector Enterprises (CPSEs) through their Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) funding. NITI Aayog provides incentives for Districts based on performance in the Key Performance Indicators (KPIs) through Externally Aided Project (EAP) and Japan International Co-operation Agency (JICA).

3.1.9.4 Performance of Districts

Virudhunagar and Ramanathapuram Districts are progressing steadily since inception of the programme. They have reached a composite index score of 71.10 and 70.50 respectively in March 2026 from their baseline score of 45.6 and 46.8 respectively in April 2018.

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3.1.9.5 Award Money

The following incentives have been awarded to these Districts for their best performance in 5 Core Sectors.

(1) Virudhunagar district has won award money of Rs.22.00 Crore for the best performance in the sectors such as Basic Infrastructure, Health & Nutrition and also for Overall sectors.

(2) Ramanathapuram District has won award money of Rs.15.00 Crore for the best performance in the sectors such as Agriculture and Water Resources, Basic Infrastructure and also for Overall sectors.

3.1.9.6 Aspirational Blocks Programme

Aspirational Blocks Programme (ABP) was launched during the month of January 2023 by NITI Aayog, on the lines of Aspirational Districts Programme (ADP).

3.1.9.7 Objective

The objective of Aspirational Blocks Programme is to achieve saturation of essential

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Government services in the selected 500 blocks across the country in five thematic areas i.e., Health & Nutrition, Education, Drinking Water, Agriculture & Allied Services, Basic Infrastructure and Social Development. The State Nodal Officer for the Aspirational Blocks Programme is the Member-Secretary, State Planning Commission.

The Programme is being monitored through 40 Key Performance Indicators (KPIs). The blocks are being ranked by the Delta Ranking Method. The Programme is being directly monitored by NITI Aayog.

Under Aspirational Blocks Programme, the following 16 under-developed blocks have been identified from Tamil Nadu:

S. No.	Name of District	Block selected
1	Ariyalur	Andimadam
2	Kallakurichi	Kalvarayan Hills
3	Karur	Thogaimalai
4	Perambalur	Alathur
5	Pudukkottai	Tiruvarankulam
6	Ramanathapuram (AD)*	Tiruvadanai
7	Ranipet	Timiri
8	Sivagangai	Tirupathur

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S. No.	Name of District	Block selected
9	The Nilgiris	Kothagiri
10	Tenkasi	Melaneelithanallur
11	Tiruvannamalai	Javadhu Hills
12	Tiruchirrappalli	Thuraiyur
13	Tirunelveli	Nanguneri
14	Vellore	K.V.Kuppam
15	Villupuram	Tiruvennainallur
16	Virudhunagar (AD)*	Tiruchuli

*Aspirational District

3.1.9.8 Activities and Status

1) Preparation of Block Development Strategy (BDS) has been completed and uploaded in appropriate web portal by the 16 Districts under Aspirational Blocks Programme.

2) Aspirational Block Fellows for 16 Aspirational Blocks have been deployed and Digital Notepads have been provided to the Aspirational Block Fellows.

3) Participated in Sectoral Training for Block Level Officers / Aspirational Block Fellows organized in National Institute of

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Rural Development and Panchayat Raj (NIRD-PR), Hyderabad & State Institute of Rural Development (SIRD), Pune and Orientation-cum-Induction for Block Level Officers / Aspirational Block Fellows organised at Indian Institute of Public Administration (IIPA), New Delhi.

4) Delta Ranking for all Aspirational Blocks is being published by NITI Aayog in the web portal of ABP-Champions of Change on quarterly basis.

5) Sampoornata Abiyan Samman Samaroh (Muzhumai Iyyakkam) and Akansha Haat (Sakthi Sangamam) were conducted in the State Head Quarters, Medals and Certificates were awarded to the districts based on their performance in Sampoornata Abiyan 1.0.

6) Sampoornata Abiyaan 2.0, an intensive campaign (January 2026 to April 2026), was conducted in 2 Aspirational Districts / 16 blocks for saturation of 5 specific Aspirational District Programme indicators / 6 specific

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Aspirational Blocks Programme indicators respectively.

3.1.10 Sustainable Development Goals

The Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) for 2030 evolved from the Millennuim Development Goals for 2015. The SDGs have been formulated based on a series of Global Conferences that deliberated on the crucial agenda of environmental sustainability, along with economic development and social inclusiveness. In 2015 September, at the United Nations General Assembly, 193 Countries including India, adopted SDGs which came into effect from 01.01.2016 with 17 goals, 169 targets.

The Government of Tamil Nadu with its commitment to achieve the SDGs in the State in line with NITI Aayog, is guiding the departments concerned, to work on with innovative ideas/initiatives and with transparency

The State Planning Commission in association with the Directorate of Economics and Statistics and the Sustainable Development Goals Coordination Centre, is working for the

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implementation of Sustainable Development Goals in the State in coordination with line departments for various activities.

3.1.10.1 Institutional Mechanism for SDGs in Tamil Nadu

a) High Power Committee

A State Level High Power Committee (HPC) has been constituted with Chief Secretary to the Government, as Chairperson and Secretaries of Departments as its members, to oversee the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals. The Additional Chief Secretary to Government, Planning and Development Department is the Member-Secretary of the High Power Committee.

b) Theme based Working Groups

Similarly, eight theme based Working Groups have been formed with Secretaries of Nodal Departments as its Chairman along with Line Departments concerned as its Members to plan, implement, monitor and report on the achievements of SDGs to High Power Committee.

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c) Importance of Working Groups

The Working Groups cut across sectors and departments. They provide the forum for higher level decision making, overseeing aspects related to convergence. The Heads of Departments / Public Sector Undertakings of State Government work in tandem for the tasks assigned to the Working Groups.

3.1.10.2 Document on Tamil Nadu's Vision for SDGs

The Vision Document provides a broad outline of the State's position in terms of the indicators under SDGs. It also provides appropriate Strategies and Action Plan to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals in Tamil Nadu.

The Vision Document highlights current status of the State and Government of Tamil Nadu's interventions through various welfare schemes, innovations and policy measures. It also outlines the strategies and action plans for each Goal and target. This Document reflects the Government's commitment

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to ensure convergence of multiple departments. This goes a long way in achieving the SDGs. The document can be accessed in the web link https://spc.tn.gov.in/sustainable-development-goals/

3.1.10.3 State / District / Block Indicator Framework

Development of monitorable indicators for each target and goal is another task of the Working Groups. Based on the National Indicator Framework (NIF) by the Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation (MoSPI), through a series of consultative meetings which were attended by senior level officers i.e. Secretaries / Head of Departments, the State has also come out with a State Indicator Framework (SIF).

A document namely, TN State Indicator Framework with 314 indicators was published by the Directorate of Economics and Statistics in association with State Planning Commission. District Indicator Framework (DIF) with 104 indicators and Block Indicator Framework (BIF) with 93 indicators has been identified and finalised.

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3.1.10.4 State Indicator Framework 2.0 (SIF 2.0)

To keep abreast of the changing scenario at global and national level, in monitoring SDGs, in line with the refined National Indicator Framework and other indices, the SIF 1.0 has been revisited in order to evolve SIF 2.0.

SIF 2.0 has been finalised with a set of 244 unique indicators, with inputs from the line departments. The SIF 2.0 can be accessed in the web link https://spc.tn.gov.in/wp-content/uploads/TN-SIF-2.0.pdf

3.1.10.5 SDG Web portal & Dashboard

In order to collect data and monitor the progress of each target and indicator for the departments and the State, a dedicated Web portal with Dashboard, with an online data monitoring system has been developed through Tamil Nadu e-Governance Agency in 2019. The dashboard is an evolving process for looking at how the State fares on SDG from State to Local level.

The SDG Web portal is to be revamped with additional features making it interactive.

3.1.10.6 Formation of SDG District Level High Power Committee, SDG District Level Executive Committee and SDG Cells in Districts

The State's performance is a reflection of the performance of Districts. The relevance of SDGs for the State is on account of the localization of SDGs at District Level, Block Level, Village Level and City/Municipality/Town Panchayat level. In order to enable localizing of SDGs in the State by formation of SDG Cells in District, SDG District Level High Power Committee, SDG District Level Executive Committee and SDG Cells in Districts have been formed.

a) The Hon'ble Minister in charge of the respective District is the Chairman of SDG District Level High Power Committee, where the District Collector is the Member-Secretary and Project Director (DRDA) is the Convenor. The Members of Parliament, Members of Legislative Assembly and the Heads of

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District Offices of the related departments are the Members of the Committee.

b) The District Collector is the Chairman of the SDG District Level Executive Committee, where the District Planning Officer is the Member Convenor and Deputy Director of Statistics is the Data Coordinator of the Committee. The Terms of Reference of the SDG District Level Executive Committee are similar to that of the Working Groups at State Level, covering all the goals, targets and indicators applicable to the District and Sub-District Levels.

c) The District Level SDG Cell is the monitoring and support unit in the District. It is headed by the Deputy Director of Statistics who is the Data Manager. The District Planning Officer is the Convenor of the SDG Cell.

The District Level SDG Cell is responsible for ensuring all data updation in the Dashboard, implementing the directions of the District Level

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Committee in enabling the District to achieve the SDGs.

3.1.10.7 SDG India Index 4.0 – Ranking of States/UTs

The NITI Aayog has released the SDG India Index 2023-24, the fourth edition of the report, which measures national and sub-national progress on the SDGs, through an authenticated methodology, towards meeting the Global Goals and targets. The SDG India Index is a tool which offers possibilities for the States/UTs to identify priority areas which demand action, facilitate peer learning, highlight data gaps and promote healthy competition.

This SDG India Index 2023-24 is based on 113 indicators aligned to MoSPI's NIF. The index computes goal-wise scores on the 16 SDGs for each State and UT. It does not measure indicators of SDG-17 owing to the unavailability of suitable data at the State/UT level.

3.1.10.8 Scores and Classification

As per the SDG India Index 4.0 (2023-24), overall score for the country is 71, where it was

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66 in SDG India Index 3.0 (2020-21) and 57 in 2018 (SDG India Index baseline report). Tamil Nadu with score of 78 stands after Uttarakhand and Kerala each 79. In the last edition (SDG II 3.0 released on July, 2021), Tamil Nadu had a score of 74 sharing second position with Himachal Pradesh after Kerala 75.

The performances of States/UTs are classified by scores, as Aspirant (0-49), Performer (50-64), Front Runner (65-99) and Achiever (100)

3.1.10.9 Key Highlights on the performance of Tamil Nadu

- As far as Tamil Nadu is concerned, the State has progressed with 4 index scores and retained the second position (with index score of 78), amongst States. One point away from the first position.
- For the consecutive fourth time, Tamil Nadu is the top performer in SDG-1 (No Poverty).
- In SDG-7 (Affordable and Clean Energy) TN has achieved the target (100%) and placed in achiever Category.

- ❖ In SDG-13 (Climate Action), TN is crowned as Top Performing State with a score 81.

- ❖ Overall, TN is in the achiever category in SDG-7 (100), Front Runner Category in 13 Goals (65-99).

3.1.10.10 Output Outcome Monitoring Framework (OOMF)

The Development Monitoring and Evaluation Office (DMEO), NITI Aayog, Government of India has prepared Output Outcome Monitoring Framework (OOMF) an important tool for planning and output, outcomes monitoring for schemes and programmes. The key objectives of this framework is to promote a better understanding among stakeholders about the Government's use of funds as it allows for better fiscal management and oversight, which would in turn allow for a targeted approach towards the SDGs.

Sensitisation workshops on the importance and preparation of the Output Outcome Monitoring Framework, with the Resource Team of Development Monitoring and Evaluation Office,

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NITI Aayog were organised for various Departments.

The State Institution for Transformation (SIT) has been entrusted to facilitate the Departments in preparation of OOMF.

3.1.11 State Institution for Transformation (SIT)

The State Institution for Transformation (SIT) for Tamil Nadu has been established under State Support Mission (SSM) of NITI Aayog, GoI. The SIT serves as a multidisciplinary resource unit strengthening governance, supporting evidence-based decision making and enhancing the impact of sectoral programmes. It also plays a major role in establishing a stronger partnership with NITI Aayog and State Planning Commission.

As per G.O.(Ms.) No.44, Planning, Development and Special Initiatives (SPC) Department, Dated: 10.03.2025, the Government of Tamil Nadu approved the formation of State Institution for Transformation at State Planning Commission under State Support Mission as per NITI Aayog guidelines. State Institution for

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Transformation has been established at State Planning Commission with a funding support from State Support Mission, NITI Aayog. Government of India approved Rs.148.5 lakhs for the financial year 2025-26 and Rs.109.5 lakhs for the financial year 2026-27 (upto September 2026).

The establishment of the State Institution for Transformation within the State Planning Commission represents an important step in strengthening evidence-based policy formulation and strategic governance in Tamil Nadu.

Activities undertaken by SIT are (i) Conceptualizing and operationalizing the Tamil Nadu Policy & Governance Experiential Centre (TNPAGE) (ii) Establishing the Tamil Nadu Policy Portal (TNPP) (iii) Coordination with departments for Implementation of Output Outcome Monitoring Framework (OOMF) (iv) Providing operationalizing support for Tamil Nadu Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) Match making Platform.

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3.1.12 Mission Inaippagam

Mission Inaippagam is a unified Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) digital platform conceptualised to enable structured and outcome-oriented collaboration between Government Departments and Corporates. The initiative launched in December 2025 aims to facilitate the collaborative projects of measurable, inclusive and sustainable development outcomes across Tamil Nadu.

3.1.12.1 About Mission Inaippagam

The platform serves as a single-window interface to align CSR resources with state development priorities, enhance transparency and strengthen public–private partnerships for social impact.

State Planning Commission has been designated as Nodal Agency for operating the portal.

- **Vision**

To empower collective impact by seamlessly connecting Government Departments with CSR

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initiatives, accelerating progress towards the Sustainable Development Goals and fostering a more equitable and sustainable future.

- **Mission**

To operationalize a transparent, technology-enabled matchmaking web platform that enables convergence between Government Departments and Corporates, ensuring CSR resources are effectively directed towards State priorities and local development needs.

3.1.12.2 Objectives of Inaippagam

- Align CSR initiatives with the State's holistic development roadmap and district-level focus areas.
- Establish a digital interface enabling Government Departments to publish priority projects requiring CSR support.
- Provide corporates with verified, high-impact CSR project options aligned with Government priorities through AI-enabled matchmaking.

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- Build a repository of CSR best practices, case studies and replicable models for scaling across districts.

3.1.12.3 Key Stakeholders

Government Departments, District Administration, Corporates, Public Sector Undertakings, Non-Governmental Organisations, and Multilateral Agencies.

3.1.12.4 Activities of Mission Inaippagam

Connecting Government priority projects with CSR Resources:

Enables Government Departments to identify priority projects and mobilise CSR funding and corporate investments through a unified digital platform.

Ensure Last-Mile Delivery:

Facilitates effective implementation across State, District, and Block levels, with focused attention on Aspirational Districts and underserved regions.

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Intelligent Project–Partner Matchmaking:

Leverages AI-enabled tools to match credible projects with suitable corporate partners and optimise funding deployment.

Simplifying and Accelerating Processes:

Streamlines approvals, MoU execution and inter-departmental coordination to ensure timely and efficient project implementation.

Align with Development Goals:

CSR investments towards initiatives aligned with Tamil Nadu's development priorities and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

Showcase Impact and Success:

Highlights successful CSR interventions and measurable outcomes to encourage replication and foster new partnerships.

3.1.12.5 Role of District Administration

The district administration identifies projects aligned with Focus Blocks Development

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Programme, SDGs, State development agendas which benefit from CSR intervention.

District Project proposals are validated by concerned department at the State level for technical feasibility, policy priorities and readiness for CSR funding.

Effective monitoring of the funding at all levels in the district are undertaken for project progress and fund utilisation.

While tracking output and outcomes, best practices that showcase successful CSR interventions are documented.

3.1.13 Tamil Nadu Economic Survey Report

The State Planning Commission has prepared the Tamil Nadu Economic Survey for the years 2024–25 and 2025–26, which traces the status of the State's economy over the past five years.

The Survey reports highlight the performance of the State's economy, indicates areas of concern that needs to be addressed to reach the desired twin targets of a trillion-dollar economy and a per capita income on par with developed countries. It

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provides a comprehensive assessment of the State's economic performance over the years.

The survey report offers valuable insights for the policymakers, business, and stakeholders. By documenting these economic trends, the survey serves as a critical tool in shaping the Tamil Nadu's future development strategies and strengthening evidence-based policy decisions in the State.

Economic Survey of Tamil Nadu 2025–26 is organized into ten chapters covering the State's economic performance over the last five years, prepared by the State Planning Commission. The following are the features of the chapters in the report:

1. The State of the Economy: Examines global and Indian economic trends, Tamil Nadu's GSDP, sectoral performance, per capita income and key growth drivers, with a focus on the roadmap towards a trillion-dollar economy.

2. Prices and Food Management: Reviews Consumer Price Index (CPI), Whole Price Index (WPI), core and food inflation in Tamil Nadu and

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India, along with food security and PDS measures to protect households from price shocks.

3. Employment Inclusion and Diversification: Analyses labour force participation, employment patterns, gender and rural-urban gaps, youth not in employment, education or training, job quality and the shift of workers from agriculture to industry and services.

4. Industrial Policy and Development: Assesses industrial performance, wages, industrial diversification, Research & Development (R&D), skilling, Public Sector Undertakings (PSUs) and Micro Small and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs), including their formalisation, financing and spatial distribution across industrial corridors.

5. Agriculture: Covers land use, irrigation, cropping patterns, productivity, inputs, agricultural GVA, livestock, fisheries and landholdings, with emphasis on climate risks and groundwater management.

6. Social Sector: Reviews social-sector expenditure, demographic and health transitions, poverty, housing, urban development, water and

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sanitation, education and welfare programmes for vulnerable and disadvantaged groups.

7. Infrastructure and Energy: Covers urban infrastructure such as transport, EVs, metro, ports, aviation and digital connectivity; rural infrastructure including roads, housing and sanitation; and energy demand and renewable capacity.

8. Modern Services and Tourism: Examines IT and digital services, Global Capability Centres, AI, telecom, banking, logistics and warehousing, along with domestic and international tourism trends and growth potential.

9. Ecology and Environment: Reviews climate trends, resource and energy use, green hydrogen, pollution, waste management, forests, biodiversity, wetlands and coastal ecosystems, along with Tamil Nadu's climate action initiatives.

10. Women and Welfare: Examines women's access to resources, health and nutrition, employment, unpaid work, gender norms and leadership, along with key welfare

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schemes and measures for inclusive empowerment.

3.1.14 Impact Assessment Studies and Special Studies

The State Planning Commission has undertaken Evaluation & Impact Assessment studies of the flagship programmes of the Government to address the gaps and to improve the scheme performance for better public service delivery. Special studies on specific domains are also being taken up. The State Planning Commission has conducted 65 studies including the Impact Assessment Studies of the Government flagship schemes during last 5 years.

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3.2 DIRECTORATE OF ECONOMICS AND STATISTICS

The Department of Statistics, established in the year 1953 and renamed in 1996 as the Directorate of Economics and Statistics (DoES), coordinates all major statistical activities of the State, giving considerable importance to data accuracy, coverage and quality. As the primary provider of socio-economic statistics, DoES furnishes the foundational data required by the State and Union Governments for evidence-based policy formulation, monitoring and governance. The Directorate also undertakes data-driven projections, forecasts and estimations concerning the overall health of the State Economy.

- The Department of Statistics of **1953** became the Directorate of Economics and Statistics in **1996**.

The Directorate is currently moving towards digitisation at all levels to enable real-time or near real-time access to data for policy formulation.

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3.2.1 Functions of the Directorate

The core mandate of the Directorate is systematic collection, collation, compilation and analysis of sectoral data. The key functions of DoES include:

- Preparing estimates for various socio-economic parameters, including State Income, District Income, the Index of Industrial Production (IIP), the Consumer Price Index (CPI), the Wholesale Price Index (WPI) and the Producer Price Index (PPI).

- DoES prepares State and District Income, the Index of Industrial Production, and the Consumer, Wholesale and Producer Price Indices.

- Conducting large-scale operations such as the Agriculture Census, the Economic Census and regular Socio-Economic Surveys, alongside special Censuses and Surveys pursuant to the directions of the State and Union Governments, providing a faster and more cost-effective means of estimating trends.

- DoES conducts the Agriculture Census, the Economic Census and socio-economic surveys, and publishes the Statistical Handbook, Tamil Nadu at a Glance and the Season and Crop Report.

- Releasing the Statistical Handbook of Tamil Nadu, Tamil Nadu at a Glance and the Season and Crop Report of

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Tamil Nadu, along with the reports of various surveys addressing immediate data needs, which serve as ready reckoners for various Directorates of the Government.

- Publishing Statistical reports on weekly, monthly, quarterly, annual and quinquennial schedules covering sectors such as Agriculture, Industry, Housing, Prices and State Income.

- Conducting rigorous impact assessments and evaluations of ongoing Government schemes to optimise public service delivery.

By employing scientific sampling methodologies and data analytics, the highest standards of data integrity are ensured. These reports and insights are widely utilised by Government Directorates, academic institutions, research organisations and the general public, fostering transparent and effective governance.

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3.2.2 Estimation of State Income

State Income estimate is an important indicator to measure the economic growth of the State. The State Domestic Product and related economic aggregates serve as an important indicator to assess the status of the State's economy and to measure its economic growth.

3.2.2.1 State Income

Gross State Domestic Product (GSDP), Net State Domestic Product (NSDP) and Per Capita Income are computed every year for 17 sectors of the State economy. The District Income Estimates are also computed. The GSDP/NSDP estimates in the Series (Base Year 2011-2012) for the years 2022-2023 (Revised Estimates), 2023-2024 (Quick Estimates), 2024-2025 (Advance Estimates) and 2025-2026 (Advance Estimates-Provisional) have been prepared at Current and Constant (2011-2012) Prices.

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The Estimates of the State Domestic Product over the years, along with the State Per Capita Income are tabulated below:

Estimates of State Domestic Product of Tamil Nadu
(Base year 2011-12)

(Rs. in Crore)

Year	Gross State Domestic Product				Net State Domestic Product			
	at Current Prices	Growth rate (%)	at Constant (2011-12) Prices	Growth rate (%)	at Current Prices	Growth rate (%)	at Constant (2011-12) Prices	Growth rate (%)
2011-12	7,51,486	-	7,51,486	-	6,74,478	-	6,74,478	-
2012-13	8,54,825	13.75	7,91,824	5.37	7,68,295	13.91	7,09,343	5.17
2013-14	9,68,530	13.30	8,51,976	7.60	8,58,870	11.79	7,50,416	5.79
2014-15	10,72,678	10.75	8,93,915	4.92	9,57,350	11.47	7,91,915	5.53
2015-16	11,76,500	9.68	9,67,562	8.24	10,57,084	10.42	8,62,437	8.91
2016-17	13,02,639	10.72	10,36,762	7.15	11,71,973	10.87	9,22,084	6.92
2017-18	14,65,051	12.47	11,25,793	8.59	13,17,984	12.46	10,00,308	8.48
2018-19	16,30,209	11.27	12,04,667	7.01	14,68,449	11.42	10,71,602	7.13
2019-20	17,43,144	6.93	12,43,836	3.25	15,64,831	6.56	10,99,402	2.59
2020-21	17,88,074	2.58	12,44,650	0.07	15,98,520	2.15	10,94,122	-0.48
2021-22	20,72,496	15.91	13,42,817	7.89	18,54,762	16.03	11,80,710	7.91
2022-23 (RE)	23,72,469	14.47	14,25,736	6.17	21,13,128	13.93	12,52,845	6.11
2023-24 (QE)	26,88,963	13.34	15,57,821	9.26	24,12,414	14.16	13,74,293	9.69
2024-25 (AE)	31,18,590	15.98	17,32,189	11.19	27,92,496	15.76	15,27,041	11.11
2025-26 A.E(P)	35,29,052	13.16	19,19,804	10.83	31,60,206	13.17	16,92,158	10.81

R.E: Revised Estimates, Q.E: Quick Estimates, A.E: Advance Estimates, A.E(P): Advance Estimates (Provisional).

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The District Income Estimates in the Series with the Base Year 2011-12 for the years 2011-12 to 2023-2024 (Provisional) prepared at Current and Constant Prices have been released.

Per Capita Income of Tamil Nadu

(in Rupees)

Sl. No.	Year	At Current Prices	At Constant (2011-12) Prices
1	2011-12	93,112	93,112
2	2012-13	1,05,340	97,257
3	2013-14	1,16,960	1,02,191
4	2014-15	1,29,494	1,07,117
5	2015-16	1,42,028	1,15,875
6	2016-17	1,56,595	1,23,206
7	2017-18	1,75,276	1,33,029
8.	2018-19	1,94,373	1,41,844
9.	2019-20	2,06,165	1,44,845
10	2020-21	2,09,628	1,43,482
11	2021-22	2,42,339	1,54,269
12	2022-23(RE)	2,75,272	1,63,205
13	2023-24(QE)	3,13,329	1,78,496
14	2024-25 (AE)	3,61,619	1,97,747
15	2025-26 A.E(P)	4,08,027	2,18,481

3.2.2.1.1 Base Year Shifting

The Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation (MoSPI) released the New Series of GDP estimates on 27.02.2026. The Financial

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Year 2022-23 has been selected as the base year, as it represents a recent normal year in the post-COVID period. The revision of the base year enables the National Accounts to capture the structural changes that have taken place in the economy over time.

The New Series is strengthened by the inclusion of key administrative data sources, namely the Goods and Services Tax (GST) data and the Public Financial Management System (PFMS). In addition, the New Series makes use of the latest survey results, viz., the Annual Survey of Unincorporated Sector Enterprises (ASUSE), the Periodic Labour Force Survey (PLFS), the Household Consumption Expenditure Survey (HCES) and the All India Debt and Investment Survey (AIDIS).

3.2.2.2 State Accounts

The scheme involves the Economic-cum-Purpose Classification of the Tamil Nadu Budget every year, based on the methodology given by the National Statistical Office (NSO). The analysis of the State Budget for the years 2023-2024 (Actual), 2024-2025 (Revised

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Estimate) and 2025-2026 (Budget Estimate) has been completed. The statements have been used for Gross State Domestic Product (GSDP) estimation. These reports are sent to the Union and State Governments.

The accounts of the local bodies play a crucial role in the estimation of Gross Domestic Product and capital asset formation. The Economic-cum-Purpose Classification of the audited local body accounts, viz., the Receipts and Expenditure of Municipal Corporations, Municipalities, Panchayat Unions and Town Panchayats in Tamil Nadu, has been compiled for the year 2024-2025. These reports are communicated to the Union and the State Governments.

3.2.2.3 Capital Formation

Estimates of capital formation throw light on the potential for future development of the economy. This helps to estimate the Gross Fixed Capital Formation for Tamil Nadu in both the Public and Private Sectors, based on the methodology given by the NSO. It assists the Government in formulating policies and plans for economic development.

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The analysis of the accounts of Non-Directorate Commercial Undertakings (NDCU) of the State and the Centre and Autonomous Institutional bodies (Public and Educational Institutions) in Tamil Nadu has been completed upto the year 2024-2025.

3.2.3 Prices and Price Indices

3.2.3.1 Market Intelligence and Prices

Wholesale and Retail prices of important agricultural and non-agricultural commodities, the arrivals, off-take and stock details of major agricultural commodities, are being collected every week from 96 Market Intelligence Centres spread across the State. Monthly price statements are sent to the Government, the Agriculture, Horticulture and Plantation Crop Departments, the Coconut Development Board and the Food Corporation of India. Prices are also sent to the Prison Department, Government Hospitals, the Forest Department and other line Departments when sought for.

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3.2.3.2 Wholesale Price Index (WPI)

The Wholesale Price Index of Tamil Nadu is compiled and released every month with Base year 2011-12=100. WPI tracks the changes in the prices of goods before the retail level. Wholesale prices of agricultural and non-agricultural commodities (excluding GST and other taxes) are collected from 83 Centres and selected Industrial Units in all Districts for the compilation of Wholesale Prices for the State. This Directorate has commenced the process of shifting the base year to 2022–23.

3.2.3.3 Consumer Price Index for Industrial Workers (CPI-IW)

Under the Central Series, the Consumer Price Index for Industrial Workers is compiled and released for 7 Centres in Tamil Nadu viz., Chennai, Salem, Madurai, Coimbatore, Coonoor, Tirunelveli and Virudhunagar, by the Labour Bureau, Chandigarh, Government of India, with Base year 2016=100. The Weekly/Monthly price statistics for the compilation of this index are collected by the officials of this Directorate from

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14 markets (2 markets from each centre) and sent to the Labour Bureau, Chandigarh.

Under the State Series, the Consumer Price Index for Industrial Workers with Base year 2011=100 is compiled and released on a monthly basis for four Centres viz., Cuddalore, Nagercoil, Thoothukudi and Vellore. These indices are used for calculating Dearness Allowances for the Government servants and also Daily Wages and Minimum Wages. This Directorate has commenced the process of shifting the base year to 2022–23.

3.2.3.4 Consumer Price Index for Rural, Urban and Combined at State and District level (CPI (R, U, C))

The Consumer Price Index (Rural, Urban, Combined) for Tamil Nadu and the Districts at Group and Sub-Group level is being released every month with effect from October 2022, with Base year 2019-2020=100. The price statistics are collected from 153 rural and 190 urban markets spread over the State for the compilation of the CPI. The Consumer Price Index (Rural, Urban, Combined) at the District level is useful for understanding price trends at the District level

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and for decentralised planning. This Directorate has commenced the process of shifting the base year to 2022–23.

3.2.4 Collection of Agricultural Statistics

Agricultural Statistics remain a prime database, providing valuable insights on various agricultural indicators that facilitate evidence-based policy decision-making. The time series data on agriculture plays a pivotal role in providing crucial inputs for a holistic view of agricultural operations in the State. The Directorate of Economics and Statistics is the **State Agricultural Statistics Authority** (SASA) for the collection, compilation and analysis of agricultural data under various schemes such as Land Use Statistics, Irrigation details, Crop Forecast, the Timely Reporting Scheme, Improvement of Crop Statistics, Crop Insurance (PMFBY), Agricultural Wages, Marketable Surplus and the Crop Estimation Surveys on principal crops, fruits and vegetables, minor crops and coconut and arecanut, through the conduct of Crop Cutting Experiments.

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3.2.4.1 Season and Crop Report

Data on the area under crops are obtained from the G-Return at the Village, Block, District and State levels following the annual Jamabandhi process. The data are collected by the Directorate of Economics and Statistics from the Revenue Department. Estimates of yield per hectare and total production for selected crops are derived from the Crop Cutting Experiments conducted by the Directorate in collaboration with the Agriculture Department.

Accordingly, the Season and Crop Report is prepared annually, containing data on the Nine-fold classification (land utilisation), sources of irrigation, area brought under irrigated and un-irrigated crops, estimates of production and yield rates of food and non-food crops at the State/District level.

In addition, the report contains data on Rainfall, Price trends of Agricultural Commodities, Agricultural Wages paid and the Index of the Agricultural Economy.

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3.2.4.2 Forecasting of Crop Area and Production

The scheme aims to provide advance information on season-wise area and production of certain principal crops before the final data of area under crops is settled during Jamabandhi and the final yield rates as per the Crop Cutting Experiments (CCE) become available. The advance estimates of area and production of 56 principal food and non-food crops are worked out for the State based on the Team Meetings conducted at the District/State level, and the reports are furnished to the Government.

3.2.4.3 Crop Estimation Survey on Principal Crops

To estimate the average yield per hectare and total production of principal crops, the Directorate of Economics and Statistics conducts Crop Cutting Experiments in coordination with the Agriculture Department.

Under the General Crop Estimation Survey, Crop Cutting Experiments are conducted every Fasli year for 24 food and non-food crops

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(Paddy, Cholam, Cumbu, Ragi, Maize, Varagu, Redgram, Blackgram, Greengram, Horsegram, Samai, Cowpea, Cotton, Sugarcane, Gingelly, Groundnut, Sunflower, Thinai, Panivaragu, Kuthiraivali, Bengalgram, Castor, Soyabean and Mochai). The data is uploaded through the Digital General Crop Estimation Survey (DGCES) App of the Government of India. Based on the data uploaded through the DGCES App, estimates of average yield per hectare and total production are arrived at and submitted to the Government.

During the year 2025-2026, a total number of 9,524 Crop Cutting Experiments have been planned and are being conducted in the Districts. For the year 2026-2027, there are 9,724 Crop Cutting Experiments have been planned.

3.2.4.4 Crop Cutting Experiments for Fruits and Vegetables

A **Crop Cutting Experiment (CCE)** is a scientific method used to estimate the average yield of a crop. In this method, a small, randomly selected plot in a field is harvested and the produce is weighed. The result is then used to estimate crop yield per hectare for a larger area.

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CCEs are useful for preparing crop production statistics, assessing crop losses, and determining crop insurance compensation.

Under the Fruits and Vegetables Estimation Scheme, this Directorate conducts Crop Cutting Experiments every Fasli year for 8 fruit crops viz., Banana, Mango, Jack, Guava, Grapes, Orange, Lemon and Pineapple and 5 vegetable crops viz., Sweet Potato, Brinjal, Lady's finger, Cabbage and Tomato. Estimates of average yield and production are arrived at based on the data collected through these experiments.

During the year 2025-2026, 1,510 Crop Cutting Experiments were planned and have been completed in the Districts. For the year 2026-2027, it has been planned to conduct 1,520 Crop Cutting Experiments.

3.2.4.5 Minor Crops

Under the Minor Crops Scheme, Crop Cutting Experiments are conducted every Fasli year for 8 crops viz., Chillies, Ginger, Coriander, Turmeric, Cashewnut, Potato, Tapioca and Onion, with the fieldwork and supervision executed by the

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Directorate. Estimates of average yield and production are submitted to the Government based on the data collected through these experiments.

During the year 2025-2026, 1,260 Crop Cutting Experiments were planned and are being conducted in the Districts. For the year 2026-2027, there are 1,260 Crop Cutting Experiments have been planned.

3.2.4.6 Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana (PMFBY)

Under the Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana (PMFBY) Scheme, Crop Cutting Experiments are conducted to estimate average yield and assessment of crop losses caused by natural calamities such as drought, flood, cyclone, insect damages and diseases for extending insurance coverage to affected farmers through the CCE-Agri mobile app of the Government of India, which is integrated with the National Crop Insurance Portal (NCIP). The experiments are planned by the Directorate of Economics and Statistics, and five per cent of the experiments

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are supervised by this Directorate to ensure accuracy.

During the year 2025-2026 (Fasli 1435), a total number of 1,45,272 Crop Cutting Experiments were planned under the scheme, of which 47,434 experiments covering 26 crops were planned in the Kharif season, and 97,838 experiments covering 34 crops were planned in the Rabi season. Nearly 1.5 lakh Crop Cutting Experiments have been planned for the year 2026-2027.

3.2.4.7 Crop Estimation Survey on Coconut and Arecanut

Under the Coconut and Arecanut Scheme, yield data are collected by the officials of the Directorate every Fasli year. Estimates of average yield and production of Coconut and Arecanut are submitted to the Government based on the collected data.

During the year 2025-2026, 980 experiments were planned covering 490 villages in the State. For the year 2026-2027, it has been planned to

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conduct 1,002 Crop Cutting Experiments covering 501 villages.

3.2.4.8 Rainfall Data

Rainfall data is collected from 604 manual/automatic Rain gauge stations maintained by the Revenue Department, Public Works Department, Forest Department, Rural Development Department and the Indian Meteorological Department. Based on this data, Monthly, Seasonal and Annual Rainfall statistics are compiled.

3.2.4.9 Irrigation and Reservoirs data

Irrigation data is collected under three major heads, viz., source-wise area irrigated, crop-wise area irrigated and data on water storage in reservoirs used for Agriculture. The data is collected from the Revenue Department, Rural Development Department and Public Works Department. Every year, Block-wise and District-wise Irrigation details are prepared.

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3.2.4.10 Agricultural Wages

Data on agricultural wages is collected from one village per Block in respect of the 388 Blocks of the State. The prevailing agricultural wage details in the selected villages are collected directly from the villages by the field officials of the Directorate every month. The wage details are used to calculate the Agricultural Wages Index and are sent to the Government of India and the State Government.

3.2.4.11 Marketable Surplus

The objective of the Marketable Surplus Scheme is to estimate the Paddy available at the end of each of the three seasons (Kuruvai, Samba and Summer) for sale, after deducting the own consumption of cultivators, wages in kind and seed reserves. During the year 2025-2026, a total of 1,182 Crop Cutting Experiments have been planned and are being conducted.

3.2.4.12 Timely Reporting Scheme (TRS)

In 20 per cent of randomly selected villages, land use statistics relating to irrigated and un-irrigated lands and high-yielding and local

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variety crop details are collected for three seasons viz., Kharif, Rabi and Summer, for nine principal crops (Paddy, Jowar, Bajra, Ragi, Cotton, Groundnut, Sugarcane, Potato and Onion). During the year 2025-2026, 3,480 villages were selected.

3.2.4.13 Improvement of Crop Statistics (ICS)

The key activities of the Improvement of Crop Statistics scheme are the sample check on area enumeration of selected survey/sub-division numbers of the Khasra Register (Adangal) maintained by the Village Administrative Officers and the supervision of Crop Cutting Experiments for some important food crops in State-wide selected sample villages under this scheme.

The purpose of this scheme is to identify deficiencies in the system of collection of Agricultural Statistics in the State by exercising meaningful supervision by the Union and State authorities over the primary field workers viz., the Village Administrative Officers, and to suggest remedial measures for the improvement of the system. The results of this scheme are used by the National Statistical Office (NSO) to effect

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improvements in the quality of primary data in respect of both Crop Area and Yield Estimation in the State.

3.2.4.14 Agriculture Census

The Agriculture Census is a Central Sector Scheme undertaken in Tamil Nadu under the aegis of the Ministry of Agriculture & Farmers Welfare, Government of India. The Directorate of Economics and Statistics is the Nodal Directorate for the conduct of the Agriculture Census in Tamil Nadu.

The main objectives of the Agriculture Census are:

- To describe the structure and characteristics of the agriculture sector based on the number and area of Operational Holdings, land use, cropping pattern, pattern of input usage, etc., by Operational Holdings.
- To provide benchmark data up to the lowest geographical level (District/Taluk/Village), which is needed for formulating new agricultural

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development programmes and for evaluating their progress.

- To provide a statistical frame of Operational Holdings for carrying out future agricultural surveys.

- The Agriculture Census was started during the year 1970-71 and is conducted once in every five years in three distinct phases:
- **Phase-I**: The number and area of all Operational Holdings are collected through the census method (all villages - 100%). It also captures significant information such as gender, types of Agricultural Holdings (Individual, Joint and Institution), tenancy status, social group and size class of land holders.

- **Phase-II**: Detailed data on land use, irrigation status and cropping pattern are collected in 20% of the villages in a Taluk.

- **Phase-III**: The Input Survey is carried out in 7% of the sample villages in a

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Taluk, collecting details on the usage of fertilisers, seeds, pesticides, farmyard manure/compost and agricultural implements and machinery used for agricultural activities.

So far, ten Agriculture Censuses have been completed. The ongoing Census is the 11th Agriculture Census with reference year 2021-2022. For the first time in the 11th Agriculture Census, the data is collected using hand-held devices such as smart phones and Tablets.

All the three Phases of the 11th Agriculture Census (2021-2022) have been completed, and the data of all the three Phases in respect of Tamil Nadu have been accepted by the Government of India.

In the Annual Action Plan, an amount of Rs.465.00 lakh has been allocated by the Government of India to the Agriculture Census scheme in respect of Tamil Nadu for the financial year 2026-2027.

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3.2.4.15 Irrigation Census

The Irrigation Census Scheme is a 100% Centrally Sponsored Scheme under the Ministry of Jal Shakti (MoJS), Department of Water Resources (WR), River Development (RD) & Ganga Rejuvenation (GR), launched to build up a comprehensive database on the Irrigation Sector. Under the scheme, the Minor Irrigation Census, covering irrigation schemes having an ayacut area of upto 2,000 hectares, and the Census of Water Bodies are being conducted.

The scheme aims at building a comprehensive and reliable database of Minor Irrigation structures and Water Bodies for effective planning and policy making, including water use efficiency and water budgeting; estimating the availability of Ground Water for formulating a realistic plan for Water Resources Development; and providing a statistical frame of irrigation schemes, water bodies and springs for carrying out future surveys.

The Minor Irrigation Census was started during the year 1986-87, and the 1st Census of Water Bodies was conducted along with the

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6th Minor Irrigation Census with reference year 2017-18.

As per the orders issued in G.O.(Ms)No.62, Planning, Development & Special Initiatives (ST2&E) Department, dated: 25.04.2023, the Directorate of Economics and Statistics is the Nodal Directorate for the conduct of the Minor Irrigation Census and the Census of Water Bodies. The Commissioner of the Directorate has been declared as the State Minor Irrigation Census Commissioner, under whose administrative control the Rationalization of Minor Irrigation Statistics (RMIS) Wing functions.

3.2.4.15.1 7th Minor Irrigation Census (MIC) and 2nd Census of Water Bodies (CWB) (Reference Year 2023-2024)

The Department of Water Resources, River Development & Ganga Rejuvenation (DoWR, RD & GR), Government of India, has undertaken the 1st Census of Major & Medium Irrigation Projects (MMIP) and the 1st Census of Springs along with the 7th Minor Irrigation Census and the

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2nd Census of Water Bodies, all with the reference year 2023-2024.

The Directorate of Economics and Statistics is the Nodal Directorate for the 7th MIC and the 2nd CWB, while the State Water Resources Department is the Nodal Department for the 1st Census of Major and Medium Irrigation Projects and the 1st Census of Springs.

All the four Censuses were conducted in digital mode through a mobile app, with the data viewed and validated in the online portal and the fieldwork has been completed.

3.2.5 Industrial Statistics

3.2.5.1 Annual Survey of Industries (ASI)

The Annual Survey of Industries (ASI) is the main source of industrial statistics in India. It collects information on production, employment, wages, capital and other aspects of registered manufacturing industries. The survey helps the Government to understand industrial growth, formulate polices and plan economic development.

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The objective of the survey is to provide data for computing the value added by the manufacturing sector, in order to arrive at the State Income Estimates. Every year, the survey is conducted in randomly selected factories registered under sections 2m(i) and 2m(ii) of the Factories Act, 1948.

The survey provides data for 31 key indicators such as Capital Invested, Outstanding Loans, Input, Output, Gross Value Added, Number of Workers and Wages paid to workers. It is designed to collect information on the principal characteristics of the industries at the State Level, classified according to the 2-digit and 3-digit levels of the National Industrial Classification (NIC).

Key highlights of Annual Survey of Industries Report for the year 2023-2024 released on 03.02.2026:

- ❖ Tamil Nadu has the largest estimated number of factories (40,121) in the Country.

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- Largest number of estimated number of factories (32,000) in operation.
- Largest share of employees (29,84,439) in all India level.
- 3rd position in terms of Fixed Capital (Rs. 3,74,272.25 crore) in the country.
- 3rd largest State in the country in terms of Gross Industrial Output (Rs. 15,49,395.45 crore).
- Occupying one among top three positions in terms of Gross value Added in rupee terms (Rs. 2,52,175.14 crore).

3.2.5.2 Index of Industrial Production (IIP)

To estimate the general level of industrial performance in the economy, the Index of Industrial Production (IIP) (Base year 2011-12) is compiled every month using the production data collected for 253 items across three major sectors viz., Mining, Manufacturing and Electricity. Of these 253 items, the production data for 8 items in the mining sector are collected from the State Geology and Mining Directorate and the

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Neyveli Lignite Corporation, the data for 244 items in the manufacturing sector are collected directly from 1,244 selected factories, and the data for the electricity sector are collected from the Central Electricity Authority (CEA), New Delhi.

Based on these production particulars, sector-wise indices and use-based indices are compiled and released every month. This Directorate has commenced the process of shifting the base year to 2022–23.

3.2.6 Social Statistics

3.2.6.1 National Sample Survey (NSS)

Since 1950, the National Sample Survey (NSS) has been conducted every year in India to capture socio-economic indicators for evidence-based policy-making, using scientific sampling methods. Tamil Nadu has been participating in the survey since the 18th Round (1963), under the technical guidance of the National Statistical Office (NSO), Government of India. The sample selection for each round is carried out by the

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NSO, New Delhi, using a stratified multi-stage random sampling method.

Under the NSS 80th Round, the following surveys are in progress during 2025-2026:

1. Domestic Tourism Expenditure Survey
2. Annual Survey of Unincorporated Sector Enterprises (ASUSE)
3. Periodic Labour Force Survey (PLFS)

The NSS 81st Round is scheduled to be conducted from July 2026 to June 2027, covering the following surveys:

1. Migration Survey
2. All India Debt and Investment Survey (AIDIS)
3. Land and Livestock Holding of Households and Situation Assessment of Rural Agricultural Households (SAS)

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3.2.6.2 Housing Statistics

Under this scheme, data on housing and building activities are collected annually from both the Public and Private Sectors for the formulation of housing policies and the implementation of housing programmes at the national level. The data collection broadly covers the nature and type of construction, plinth area, floor area, number of dwelling units, residential and non-residential buildings and the estimated cost of construction.

Under the Public Sector, data is collected from various Government construction agencies like Tamil Nadu Housing Board, Tamil Nadu Urban Habitat Development Board and all local bodies.

Similarly, the Private Sector data are collected from 151 Urban Local Bodies (ULBs) and the reports are shared with the National Buildings Organisation (NBO).

3.2.6.2.1 Housing and Building Statistics

The scheme aims to strengthen the statistical system by establishing a coherent and consistent mechanism for collecting and transmitting data on housing and building construction sector. The

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collected data are uploaded online to the Building Related Information and Knowledge System (BRIKS) portal of the National Buildings Organisation (NBO), Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs (MoHUA), New Delhi.

In Tamil Nadu, 17 Cities with a population of more than one lakh (as per the 2011 Census) have been selected under this scheme for data collection since the year 2014-2015. The Directorate of Economics and Statistics collects housing and building construction-related data from various sources across the State, using the prescribed formats and time schedules issued by the NBO.

3.2.6.2.2 Building Construction Cost Index (BCCI)

The Building Construction Cost Index (BCCI) (Base year 2011-12) is compiled using quarterly data on the prices of important building materials and the wage rates of building construction labourers, collected from 16 selected district centres in Tamil Nadu viz., Chennai, Kancheepuram, Cuddalore, Vellore, Salem, Dharmapuri, Coimbatore, Erode, Thanjavur,

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Tiruchirappalli, Madurai, Pudukkottai, Virudhunagar, Palayamkottai, Nagercoil and Udhagamandalam.

Based on the collected data, the BCCI report is prepared and submitted to the National Buildings Organisation, Government of India, on a quarterly basis. The quarterly reports have been prepared upto the quarter ending 31.12.2025.

3.2.7 Economic Census

Economic Census provides complete count of all establishments including unorganized sectors located within the geographical boundary of the State. It is a Central Sector Scheme, 100% funded by Government of India. Economic Census is conducted once in five years. The forthcoming Census is the Eighth Economic Census. So far, Seven Economic Census have been conducted. Tamil Nadu State has participated in all Seven Economic Census conducted by Government of India.

The Economic Census aims to provide a profile of all establishments engaged in various economic activities both in organized and

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unorganized sectors of the Indian Economy. Various characteristics of the establishments like Economic Activity, Type of Ownership, Major Source of Finance, Employment, Registration details, etc. are collected in the Economic Census.

The findings of the Economic Census provide basic entrepreneurial data on number of enterprises mainly in the unorganized sectors and details of employment in different sectors of Economy. The information collected during the Economic Census is useful for Socio-Economic development planning at State and District Levels.

3.2.7.1 Eighth Economic Census

The Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation (MoSPI), Government of India has planned to conduct the Eighth Economic census during 2027-28. The Planning and Development Department is designated as Nodal Department.

The enumeration and supervision of Eighth Economic Census will be carried out through Directorate of Economics and Statistics. The Census will be conducted by using Advanced

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Information and Communication Technology (ICT) tools and applications using state of the art ICT platform.

Data capture is through Computer-Assisted Personal Interview (CAPI) Mode, which entails collection of data on smart phones using mobile app, validation, processing data for finalization, monitoring the progress of all Economic Census activities through dashboard and generating statistical reports at various levels.

State Level Co-ordination Committee (SLCC), District Level Co-ordination Committee (DLCC)– (other than Chennai) and Co-ordination Committee for Greater Chennai Corporation have been constituted vide G.O. (Ms.) No. 4, Planning, Development and Special Initiatives (DB) Department, Dated: 06.02.2025, for the smooth conduct of Eighth Economic Census.

3.2.8 Reports

This Directorate consistently prepares reports on a wide range of topics, covering State, District, and Block-level analyses. Noteworthy publications include the "Statistical Handbook of Tamil Nadu,"

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"Tamil Nadu at a Glance", "District Statistical Handbook", “Municipal Statistical Handbook”, “Corporation Statistical Handbook” and "Block Statistical Handbook" released annually.

The key reports are the Season and Crop report, Estimates of State Domestic Product and the Economic-cum-Purpose classification of the Tamil Nadu State Budget. These publications serve as valuable resources for stakeholders seeking comprehensive insights into various aspects of the region.

The latest reports released by this Directorate are as follows:

1. Index of Industrial Production – Monthly - May (Final) 2026 and June (Provisional) 2026
2. Improvement of Crop Statistics - Annual Report - 2024-25
3. Housing Private Sector 2024-25
4. Housing Public Sector 2024-25
5. Timely Reporting Scheme - Annual Report 2023-24

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6. Consumer Price Index (Rural, Urban and Combined) - State
7. Consumer Price Index (Industrial Workers) - State
8. Wholesale Price Index
9. Building Construction Cost Index
10. Annual Survey of Industries - 2023-24

3.2.9 Initiatives of the Directorate

3.2.9.1 Data Analytics Unit (DAU)

To support evidence-based policy making and to provide data-based inputs to policy making bodies, the Data Analytics Unit in the Directorate of Economics and Statistics has been formed in collaboration with Tamil Nadu e-Governance Agency (TNeGA).

This Unit provides relevant inferences based on analysis using application software and the latest Information Technology tools to quicken the decision-making process.

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3.2.9.1.1 Tamil Nadu Household Panel Survey on Socio-Economic Development (TNHPS)

The Tamil Nadu Household Panel Survey was approved under the Tamil Nadu Innovation Initiatives (TANII) Fund for a period of three years at a total project cost of Rs.390.00 lakh vide G.O.(Ms)No.19, Planning, Development and Special Initiatives (SPC) Department, dated: 26.02.2016.

The Baseline Survey (Wave-I) was conducted in all Districts from October 2022 to March 2023, covering 20,380 households selected from the Pre-Baseline Survey frame. The Madras Institute of Development Studies (MIDS) has submitted the Baseline Report to the Government. Wave-II is to be commenced during 2026-2027.

This Survey captures the dynamics of changes taking place in the economy and society, with individuals and households as the reference units, and provides timely information on socio-economic development to policymakers and the public. It analyses changes in income, occupational structure and living conditions and

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the impact of the convergence of welfare schemes at the household level, covering dimensions such as health, consumption, migration, employment, economic assets and demography across all Districts of Tamil Nadu.

3.2.9.1.2 Conduct of Panel Survey on Socio-Economic Status of Elderly Population in Tamil Nadu (TNEPS)

The Tamil Nadu Elderly Panel Survey (TNEPS), conceptualised in 2015 under the guidance of the Planning, Development and Special Initiatives Department, is implemented by the Directorate of Economics and Statistics in collaboration with the Abdul Latif Jameel Poverty Action Lab - South Asia (J-PAL SA) and Directorate of Public Health. It is the first longitudinal survey undertaken by the Government of Tamil Nadu, with data collected in Computer Assisted Personal Interview (CAPI) mode using Tablets.

The survey builds a high-quality eight-year panel dataset (2016-2026) through a Census, baseline survey and three follow-up rounds at two-year intervals among nearly 5,000 households with

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elderly persons aged 55 years and above, tracking their socio-economic status, physical and financial dependency, health and social outcomes and access to healthcare services and social protection schemes.

Five Districts viz., Chennai (Greater Chennai area), Tiruvannamalai, Dharmapuri,Tiruchirappalli and Kanniyakumari were selected based on the Human Development Index (HDI) and Dependency Ratio to be representative of the whole of Tamil Nadu.

The survey was approved at a total project cost of Rs.606.00 lakh under the Tamil Nadu Innovation Initiatives (TANII) Fund for a period of three years vide G.O.Ms.No.21, Planning, Development and Special Initiatives (ST.2&E) Department, dated: 27.02.2016.

The Directorate of Public Health has collected health measurements from 4,496 elderly individuals. The Wave-I Survey was completed in March 2022 and the fieldwork of Wave-II in October 2024; J-PAL South Asia submitted the Wave-II findings to the Government in

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December 2025. The Wave-III Survey is planned for 2026-2027.

The findings from the panel survey has provided crucial insights on the challenges faced by the increasingly elderly population of Tamil Nadu and has contributed to strengthening Government's initiatives such as Old Age Pension Scheme, Makkalai Thedi Maruthuvam and initiatives during the Covid pandemic. The panel study has contributed to the state policy of Senior Citizens launched by the Social Welfare Department. The panel acts as a platform for testing further innovative solutions for improving the wellbeing of the elderly.

3.2.9.1.3 Survey on Knowledge, Attitude and Practices (KAP) of Citizens

The Survey on Knowledge, Attitude and Practices (KAP) of Citizens is being conducted jointly by the Directorate of Economics and Statistics, Government of Tamil Nadu, and the Public (Elections) Department. The survey aims to strengthen the Systematic Voters' Education and Electoral Participation (SVEEP) Programme, as envisaged by the Election Commission of India, by

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assessing citizens' awareness, attitudes and electoral participation practices.

The objectives of the survey are to assess the knowledge, attitudes and practices of citizens regarding the electoral process; to identify the factors influencing voter participation and electoral engagement; to evaluate the effectiveness of the SVEEP activities implemented by the Election Commission; and to provide evidence-based recommendations for improving voter awareness and participation. The survey covers all 38 Districts of Tamil Nadu. Baseline and Endline Surveys on the KAP of Voters were earlier conducted prior to the General Election to Assembly, 2021 and after the General Election to the Lok Sabha, 2024, respectively.

The KAP of Citizens was conducted in December 2025 in 140 selected Assembly Constituencies prior to the General Assembly Election 2026, and the final report of the Baseline Survey was submitted to the Government on 09.02.2026.

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3.2.10 New Initiatives of the Directorate

3.2.10.1 District Good Governance Index

The District Good Governance Index (DGGI) is a comprehensive and actionable framework designed to assess Governance in Districts. It enables the ranking of Districts and provides a comparative overview, helping to identify areas requiring improvement. The Baseline report on "District Good Governance Index-Tamil Nadu 2021" prepared by this Directorate has been shared with the Secretaries of Government Departments, Heads of Department, District Collectors and the Government of India. The next version of the Report is currently under preparation. The Web Application for the DGGI has been developed by TNeGA.

3.2.10.2 Open Government Data (OGD)

The Directorate of Economics and Statistics is a Nodal organization for implementing the Tamil Nadu Open Government Data (TNOGD) project in the State in concordance with the National Data Sharing and Accessibility Policy (NDSAP) Government of India. This project has a

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TNOGD portal viz., https://tn.data.gov.in hosted by ELCOT. TNOGD promotes transparency, accountability and value creation by making Government data available to all. This Portal publishes data online which can be accessed by the public. The Statistical Handbook published by the Directorate of Economics and Statistics has been uploaded for 11 years since 2009 in the shareable format in the TNOGD portal which can be downloaded for analytical purposes.

3.2.11 Tamil Nadu State Statistical Training Institute (TNSSTI)

The Tamil Nadu State Statistical Training Institute (TNSSTI), established in 2012, has been functioning in the premises of the Directorate of Economics and Statistics, and is headed by a Director with supporting staff.

Its core mandate is to impart training on need-based/special schemes, general administration, to enrich and enhance statistical knowledge and to improve the efficiency of the officials working in the Directorate of Economics and Statistics.

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During the year 2025-2026, training programmes were conducted in 11 batches for 374 officials. In-service training was imparted to the directly recruited Assistant Directors of Statistics. Need-based training on the methods of State Income estimation, computer applications, report writing, etc., are conducted periodically by utilising resource persons from various fields. During the current year (2026-2027), it is proposed to conduct training programmes for 1,035 officials in 25 batches.

3.2.12 Sustainable Development Goals

3.2.12.1 Indicator Framework

The Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) serve as a roadmap for building a more sustainable and equitable world. These Goals address vital global challenges such as poverty, inequality, climate change, environmental degradation, economic growth, peace and justice.

The indicators form the foundation of the SDGs. The State Indicator Framework–1.0 (SIF–1.0) comprises 314 indicators, while the District Indicator Framework (DIF) consists of

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104 indicators and the Block Indicator Framework (BIF) contains 93 indicators.

As part of the Localization of SDGs, the State has finalized 60 indicators for the Urban Indicator Framework (UIF) and 32 indicators for the Resettlement Indicator Framework (RIF) to support the development of Urban and Resettlement areas.

The Analytical Report on SIF–1.0 prepared by this Directorate has been shared with the line Departments.

The SIF-2.0 has been developed through a series of collaborative discussions involving the State Planning Commission, the Sustainable Development Goals Coordination Centre (SDGCC), the Directorate of Economics and Statistics and various line Departments.

3.2.12.2 SDG Dashboard

This Directorate played a key role in the core team that revamped the SDG dashboard developed by the Tamil Nadu e-Governance Agency (TNeGA) to monitor the progress of the SDGs. The SDG Dashboard has been designed for

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dynamic data uploading of the indicators at State, District and Block levels by the line Departments, with visualisation tools to check the performance of the Goals, Targets and Indicators. The SDG Web portal is to be revamped as per SIF 2.0 with additional features making it interactive.

3.2.12.3 Capacity Building

Capacity Building programmes on data entry procedures for the SDG dashboard are organized for the Nodal Officers and Management Information System (MIS) Personnel from all the line Departments and District Officials of this Directorate.

3.2.12.4 Monitoring

This Directorate plays a vital role in data collection through close co-ordination with the stakeholder departments under the SDGs. This Directorate also analyses the performance of the State across various SDGs based on the SDG India Index released by NITI Aayog.

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3.2.12.5 SDG Fact Sheet

This Directorate prepares the SDG Fact Sheet, highlighting the performance of the SIF indicators since 2015-16. The SDG Fact Sheet upto the year 2025 has been prepared.

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3.3 DEPARTMENT OF EVALUATION AND APPLIED RESEARCH

The Department of Evaluation and Applied Research (DEAR), established in 1974, serves as the apex evaluation agency of the Government of Tamil Nadu. The Department undertakes evaluation and impact assessment studies of various welfare schemes implemented by the State and Union Governments. The findings and recommendations emerging from these studies provide evidence-based inputs for policy formulation, programme improvement, resource allocation and effective governance.

- The Department of Evaluation and Applied Research, established **1974**, is the apex evaluation agency of the State Government.

Over the years, the Department has played a significant role in assessing the outcomes and impact of Government welfare and developmental schemes across diverse sectors including Education, Health, Social Welfare, Agriculture, Rural Development, Housing, Industry, Transport, Irrigation, Horticulture, Forests, Social Justice and other development sectors.

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3.3.1 Functions of the Department

- ❖ Undertaking evaluation and impact assessment studies of Government schemes, programmes and projects.
- ❖ Conducting ad hoc, quick and thematic evaluation studies based on Government requirements.
- ❖ Providing evidence-based policy recommendations to Government Departments.

3.3.2 Administration and Monitoring

The Department functions under the administrative control of the Planning and Development Department and also approves evaluation reports before submission to Government.

3.3.3 Performance

Since its inception, the Department has completed and submitted **839 Evaluation Studies** covering various sectors such as Education, Health, Social Welfare, Agriculture, Rural Development, Housing, Industry, Transport

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and Infrastructure Development. The findings and recommendations of these studies have contributed substantially to evidence-based policy formulation and programme improvement.

During 2025–26, the Department made significant progress in ongoing evaluation studies. As on date, 17 Evaluation Studies are in hand. 6 Draft Evaluation reports have been completed and communicated for comments from the implementing departments.

The Department continues to strengthen its evaluation framework through digital data collection systems, advanced analytical techniques and capacity-building initiatives for its Officers.

3.3.4 Methodology and Technology-Enabled Evaluation

The Department follows a rigorous evaluation framework involving consultation with stakeholder departments, development of methodologies and sample designs, pilot testing, digital data collection, Data analysis, preparation and presentation of evaluation reports.

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The e-Evaluation system introduced by the Department has enabled end-to-end digitalization of survey operations. Primary data collection is carried out through Tablet-based applications ensuring improved data quality, real-time monitoring and efficient processing of information.

3.3.5 Evaluation Guidelines

To strengthen the role of Evaluation in policy decision making, Evaluation Guidelines have been issued to create a common basis for designing, understanding and commissioning of Evaluation Studies by various Government Departments for new policy decision making, review of ongoing schemes / programmes and for extension or termination of schemes / programmes.

The Department has been directed to undertake feasible schemes to do impact evaluations for State sponsored schemes/ programmes with a budget outlay of over Rs.150.00 crore per year.

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3.3.6 Institutional Strengthening and Capacity Building Initiatives

The Department of Evaluation and Applied Research has accorded high priority to strengthening institutional capacity and enhancing the professional competencies of its Officers and staff Members. In view of the increasing importance of evidence-based policy making and advanced evaluation methodologies, several capacity-building initiatives were undertaken during 2025–26.

To improve analytical and technical capabilities, officers of the Department participated in specialized training programmes conducted by premier institutions. Training has been provided to the officers on "Estimation of Gross State Domestic Product (GSDP), Methodology and Sectoral Performance Analysis" and "Data Analysis, Report Writing and Policy Recommendations" at the Tamil Nadu State Statistical Training Institute. These programmes have enhanced the officers' skills in economic analysis, interpretation of statistical indicators and formulation of policy recommendations.

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A Five-Day Residential Management Development Programme was attended by officers at the Indian Institute of Management (IIM), Tiruchirappalli. The programme focused on strategic management, decision-making and organizational effectiveness.

To strengthen digital governance capabilities, officers underwent a three-day training programme on "Data Visualization and Dashboarding for Governance using Business Intelligence and Data Analytics platform (Power BI)" at the Indian Institute of Technology (IIT), Madras. The training enabled officers to develop competencies in data visualization, dashboard creation and evidence-based presentation of findings.

Further, a four-day Capacity Building Workshop on **"Mechanics of Measurement and Survey Design"** was organized in collaboration with the Abdul Latif Jameel Poverty Action Lab (J-PAL). The workshop provided officers with advanced knowledge on survey design, sampling methodologies, questionnaire development,

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measurement techniques and data quality assurance.

These initiatives have significantly enhanced the Department's institutional capacity and strengthened its ability to undertake high-quality evaluation studies, generate actionable policy insights and support informed decision-making across Government Departments.

3.3.7 Way Forward 2026–2027

The Department proposes the following measures to effectively implement evidence-based programmes, enhance their impact on public welfare and further strengthen governance by:

- Expanding impact evaluation studies of major State-sponsored schemes.
- Enhancing the use of digital technologies, data analytics and dashboard-based monitoring systems.
- Strengthening collaboration with academic institutions, research organisations and subject experts.

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- Building advanced analytical capabilities among departmental officers through continuous capacity development programmes.
- Ensuring timely completion and dissemination of evaluation studies for effective policy decision-making.

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3.4 SPECIAL AREA DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME (SADP)

Consequent on the withdrawal of Hill Area Development Programme (HADP) from Central Assistance, the Special Area Development Programme (SADP) was launched in Tamil Nadu during the year 2015-2016.

- The Special Area Development Programme replaced the Hill Area Development Programme when central assistance was withdrawn, running on State funds since **2015-16** at **Rs.75 crore** a year for soil and water conservation and eco-restoration.

Special Area Development Programme is being implemented under State fund in Tamil Nadu since 2015-2016 to till date. The annual expenditure for the programme is Rs.75.00 Crores.

The main objective of the Special Area Development programme is Soil and Water Conservation, Eco restoration and Forest Protection. The Projects also aim at Water and Land Development activities along with Development of Human Livelihoods, as well as protection of Environment, Aquatic Life and improving the livelihood opportunities of people in hilly areas at the Micro-catchment level.

The Special Area Development Programme projects initially implemented in the 11 Western

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Ghats Districts of The Nilgiris, Coimbatore, Tiruppur, Erode, Dindigul, Madurai, Theni, Virudhunagar, Tirunelveli, Kanniyakumari and Tenkasi Districts has been further extended to 11 Districts of the Eastern Ghats.

The hilly areas above 600 Mean Sea Level (MSL) of the Western Ghats area alone are considered for implementation of Special Area Development Projects.

As per the Government Order (Ms). No.116, Planning, Development and Special Initiatives (TC-II) Department, dated: 01.10.2024, 33 Blocks of the following 11 Districts in Eastern Ghats having 50% or more area lying above the altitude of 400 Mean Sea Level (MSL) viz., Dharmapuri, Krishnagiri, Kallakurichi, Namakkal, Dindigul, Erode, Salem, Tirupathur, Tiruvannamalai, Tiruchirappalli and Vellore have been included for coverage under SADP.

Besides the above, Horticulture, Tribal Welfare, Livestock, Construction of Rural Roads, Gap filling Infrastructures of Urban and Rural Local Bodies, Agri-Marketing, Aquaculture

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Development are also given adequate importance under Special Area Development Programme.

All projects implemented under this scheme are assessed and recommended by the concerned District Collectors and Administrative Departments. The Project Sanctioning and Monitoring Committee (PMSC) headed by the Chief Secretary to Government approves the Projects.

An allocation of Rs.584.013 Crore has been made to implement 3,230 works under the Special Area Development Programme in the Western and Eastern Ghats Districts, covering the period from 2015-2016 to 2025-2026.

An online Web Portal has been hosted to keep track on the progress of SADP Projects.

CONSOLIDATED PRIORITIES FOR 2026-27

- ❖ Accelerate Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) outcomes through district-level localisation, disaggregated monitoring, convergence and a stronger focus on lagging indicators while sustaining high-performing Goals.

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- Use evidence, evaluation and administrative data as routine inputs into policy design, budget prioritisation and programme course correction.
- Strengthen outcome-based monitoring of Major Infrastructure Projects through Issue-Based Project Monitoring Tool (IBPMT) and timely escalation of unresolved inter-departmental issues.
- Complete current Focus Block Development projects, prepare Block Annual Plan-III (BAP-III) with strong convergence, use rankings and awards to encourage measurable block-level transformation, and connect underserved areas with CSR and partnership resources.
- Scale innovations through TANII and the public-sector innovation ecosystem, including CIG, TiNAI, SIT.
- Modernise the State Statistical System through revised base years, digital census and surveys, open data,

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panel datasets, analytics and intensive capacity building.

- ❖ Expand rigorous impact evaluation of large schemes, improve dissemination of findings and ensure that evaluation results influence implementation and future policy choices.
- ❖ Continue ecologically sensitive, livelihood-oriented development under SADP with strengthened project monitoring and convergence.

CONCLUSION

The Planning and Development Department's current architecture brings together strategic planning, inter-governmental coordination, innovation, infrastructure monitoring, statistical analysis, research, evaluation and targeted regional development.

State Planning Commission provides policy and strategic support; Directorate of Economics and Statistics supplies the statistical and analytical foundation; Department of Evaluation and Applied Research assesses programme

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effectiveness; and Special Area Development Programme addresses the special developmental needs of hill regions.

With digital monitoring platforms, district localisation, evidence partnerships and stronger outcome orientation, the Department is positioned to support Government in achieving inclusive growth, social justice, sustainable development and measurable improvements in public-service delivery.

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