PUBLIC (REHABILITATION) DEPARTMENT

POLICY NOTE
2026 – 2027

DEMAND NO. 38

- Public (Rehabilitation) is Demand No.38, under the Minister for Non-Resident Tamils Welfare.

K. THENNARASU

Minister for Non-Resident Tamils Welfare

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Government of Tamil Nadu
2026

CONTENTS

Sl. No.	TITLE	PAGE No.
1.	Introduction	1-2
2.	Welfare of Non-Resident Tamils	3-30
3.	Welfare of Sri Lankan Tamils Living in Rehabilitation Camps	30-48
4.	Repatriates	48-51
5.	Overseas Manpower Corporation Limited	51-53
6.	Conclusion	54-55

PUBLIC (REHABILITATION) DEPARTMENT POLICY NOTE 2026-2027

Commissionerate of Rehabilitation and Welfare of Non-Resident Tamils

1. Introduction

The Commissionerate of Rehabilitation and Welfare of Non-Resident Tamils is implementing tasks related to safeguarding the Welfare of Sri Lankan Tamils and Non-Resident Tamils, as well as the rehabilitation of repatriates. This Commissionerate functioning under the Public and Rehabilitation Department in the Secretariat. The Commissionerate of Rehabilitation was established in the year 1969 to undertake welfare schemes and relief measures for people of Indian origin repatriated from Burma, Vietnam, and Sri Lanka.

During 1983, 3,04,269 Sri Lankan Tamils arrived in Tamil Nadu as refugees at various times due to the civil war and ethnic violence that erupted in Sri Lanka. Since then, relief operations for Sri Lankan Tamils have been entrusted to this department.

- The Commissionerate of Rehabilitation was set up in **1969** for people of Indian origin repatriated from Burma, Vietnam and Sri Lanka.
- 3,04,269 Sri Lankan Tamils came to Tamil Nadu as refugees from **1983** onward, after the civil war and ethnic violence.

For a long time, Tamils have been migrating to various countries across the globe in search of education, business opportunities, and employment for their livelihood. To safeguard the welfare of these Non-Resident Tamils, the Directorate of Rehabilitation was renamed as "Commissionerate of Rehabilitation and Welfare of Tamils Living in Abroad" in 2010. In 2021, this Commissionerate was further renamed as "Commissionerate of Rehabilitation and Welfare of Non-Resident Tamils".

In alignment with the government's vision, the Commissionerate of Rehabilitation and Welfare of Non-Resident Tamils identifies Tamils facing distress abroad to provide them with adequate assistance; it also undertakes tasks related to supporting the families of those who have passed away overseas and ensuring their continued livelihood.

- The name trail: Directorate of Rehabilitation, renamed Commissionerate of Rehabilitation and Welfare of Tamils Living in Abroad in **2010**, then of Non-Resident Tamils in **2021**.

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2. Welfare of Non-Resident Tamils

Various initiatives for the Welfare of Non-Resident Tamils are being undertaken through the Commissionerate of Rehabilitation and Welfare of Non-Resident Tamils.

2.1 Schemes implemented for the Welfare of Non-Resident Tamils

a) Pre-Departure Orientation Training Centres

Pre-departure orientation training centres have been established in seven districts of Tamil Nadu—Ramanathapuram, Pudukkottai, Kanyakumari, Thanjavur, Perambalur, Sivaganga and Villupuram. These centres are intended to provide training and create awareness regarding safe and legal migration for Tamils traveling abroad for employment. As of 31.08.2026, 92,906 individuals were trained through these centres.

- Pre-departure orientation centres in seven districts - Ramanathapuram, Pudukkottai, Kanyakumari, Thanjavur, Perambalur, Sivaganga and Villupuram - had trained 92,906 people by **31.08.2026**.

b) NRT Helpline

A "24x7 Toll-Free Telephone Helpline" for overseas Tamils has been functioning at Commissionerate of Rehabilitation and Welfare of Non-Resident Tamils since 14.11.2023.

- The 24x7 toll-free **NRT** Helpline has run since **14.11.2023** and had handled 28,045 calls by 31 August **2026**.

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This center was established to provide immediate solutions to the various issues faced by Tamils living abroad. The primary objective of the centre is to ensure the safety of Non-Resident Tamils by promptly addressing the grievances and petitions received from them. The center operates round-the-clock, seven days a week. From its inception, upto August 31, 2026, a total of 28,045 calls have been received and appropriate actions have been taken.

c) Legal Aid Cell

The number of Tamils migrating abroad for employment has increased significantly in recent times; individuals who travel to foreign countries for work on tourist visas—based on assurances from unregistered local agents—often face severe hardships. To address these issues and assist Tamils encountering legal complications abroad, a Legal Assistance Center was established through the Commissionerate of Rehabilitation and Welfare of Non-Resident Tamils.

In the initial phase, assistance is being provided to overseas Tamils through the

- A Legal Aid Cell with coordinators in Bahrain, Saudi Arabia, Oman, the **UAE** and Malaysia; posts for Kuwait and Cambodia have been added, taking it to seven.

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appointment of five Legal Aid Center coordinators (one each for Bahrain, Saudi Arabia, Oman, the United Arab Emirates, and Malaysia) and two legal consultants within the Department of Welfare of Non-Resident Tamils.

As the tenure of Legal Aid Centre Coordinators in Bahrain, Saudi Arabia, Oman, the UAE and Malaysia concluded on 31.05.2026 and with the creation of two new positions—one each for Kuwait and Cambodia—steps are being taken to fill a total of seven Legal Aid Centre Coordinator posts and two Legal Consultant posts.

2.2 Rescue and Repatriation

Commissionerate of Rehabilitation and Welfare of Non-Resident Tamils undertakes the task of repatriating Tamils stranded abroad and bringing back the mortal remains of Tamils who passed away in foreign countries, with the assistance of the Government of India and the Indian Embassies in the respective nations. Furthermore, upon arrival at the airport, the mortal remains are transported to the families' homes using the Tamil Nadu Government’s free hearse service and handed over to the next of kin.

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A revolving fund of Rs.1 Crore has been allocated to the Commissionerate of Rehabilitation and Welfare of Non-Resident Tamils to facilitate the repatriation of stranded Tamils and the transportation of mortal remains. During the 2025-2026 financial year, a sum of Rs.22,89,317/- was spent from this fund to repatriate Tamils facing distress abroad. From 01.04.2025 to 31.08.2026, the mortal remains of 665 Tamils were brought back to their homeland. Of these, 495 bodies were transported to the deceased's native places using the Tamil Nadu Government's free hearse service. The details of the repatriation operations are as follows:

- A **Rs.1 crore** revolving fund pays to repatriate stranded Tamils and bring home mortal remains; free Government hearse service carries the remains to the family.
- From **01.04.2025** to **31.08.2026** the mortal remains of 665 Tamils were brought home, 495 of them carried by the free hearse service.

i. Rescue of Tamils following a terrorist attack in Pahalgam, Jammu & Kashmir (April 2025)

As a result of the Tamil Nadu Government's sustained efforts, 154 tourists and 242 students pursuing higher education—who had traveled to Jammu & Kashmir and Punjab—were safely brought to Tamil Nadu via the Tamil Nadu House, New Delhi between April 24, 2025 and April 29, 2025.

- After the Pahalgam terrorist attack of April **2025**, 154 tourists and 242 students were brought home through Tamil Nadu House, New Delhi.

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For those who returned, arrangements such as train tickets, local transport, food and accommodation were made through the Tamil Nadu House, New Delhi. Additionally, the Commissionerate of Rehabilitation and Welfare of Non-Resident Tamils arranged for onward transport from the arrival railway stations or airports in Tamil Nadu to their respective hometowns, as well as food during the journey.

ii. Rescue of Tamils stranded due to the conflict between Israel and Iran (June 2025)

- 43 Tamils were brought back from the Israel-Iran conflict of June 2025, in coordination with the Indian Embassies and the Ministry of External Affairs.

Many Tamils were stranded due to the conflict between Israel and Iran. Subsequently, in coordination with the Indian Embassies in Israel and Iran and the Ministry of External Affairs, 43 Tamils were safely brought to Tamil Nadu from New Delhi. The Commissionerate of Rehabilitation and Welfare of Non-Resident Tamils arranged their train tickets, with the expenses borne by the Tamil Nadu Government.

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iii. Madrasi Camp – New Delhi (June 18, 2025)

Approximately, 370 Tamil families had been living for over fifty years in a settlement known as "Madrasi Camp," located on the banks of the Barapullah in the Jangpura area of New Delhi. These families lost their homes following a court order that led to the demolition of the Madrasi Camp area.

Furthermore, on 18.06.2025 in New Delhi, a special event was held to restore the livelihoods of 370 affected Tamil families; relief assistance amounting to Rs.50,00,000/- was provided to those who had lost their homes—comprising a one-time cash grant of Rs.8,000/- per family (totaling Rs.44,40,000/-) along with an essential comododities kit of 25 kg rice, 10 kg wheat, 2 kg sambar dal, 1kg moong dal, 2kg sugar, 3 liters cooking oil, 1 kg salt, 250 g tea powder and a cooking spice kit, worth Rs.4,000/-.

- About 370 Tamil families had lived over fifty years at the 'Madrasi Camp' on the Barapullah in Jangpura, New Delhi, and lost their homes to a court-ordered demolition in June **2025**.

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iv. Financial assistance of Rs.5 Lakh for a Tamilian who died in Qatar (31 August 2025)

Thiru. Navas (aged 35) from Rahmanpettai, Pakkiripalayam village, Chengam Taluk, Tiruvannamalai District, had been working as a car driver in Qatar for the past 10 years. He lost his life in a road accident that occurred on 25 August 2025. An order was issued by the Government of Tamil Nadu to provide financial assistance of Rs.5 Lakh to the family of the deceased, Thiru. Navas, from the Chief Minister's Public Relief Fund.

v. Assistance for Tamilians involved in an accident while on a pilgrimage to Nepal (March 2026)

Twenty-four individuals from various parts of Tamil Nadu had gone on a pilgrimage to Nepal. During their journey, an accident occurred on 14 March 2026, resulting in the deaths of 7 individuals and injuries to another 7. Through the coordinated efforts of the Commissionerate of Rehabilitation and Welfare of Non-Resident

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Tamils—in collaboration with the Indian Embassy in Nepal and Tamil Nadu House in New Delhi—the mortal remains of the deceased were brought back to Tamil Nadu. Additionally, the injured individuals were safely sent to their hometowns.

vi. Assistance to Tamils involved in a boat accident in Jabalpur district, Madhya Pradesh (April 2026)

On April 30, 2026, a boat accident occurred at Bargi Dam in Jabalpur district, Madhya Pradesh, involving tourists from Tamil Nadu; five individuals lost their lives, and nine were rescued alive.

In coordination with the Commissionerate of Rehabilitation and Welfare of Non-Resident Tamils, Tamil Nadu House in New Delhi, and the Madhya Pradesh State Government, the bodies of the deceased were brought back to Tamil Nadu. Additionally, the rescued persons were safely sent to their hometowns.

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vii. Chief Minister's Public Relief Fund assistance for three Tamils who died in a fire accident at a factory in the Ras Laffan Industrial City, Qatar (June 2026)

Three individuals from Tirunelveli district lost their lives in a fire accident at the Ras Laffan Industrial City in Qatar on June 21, 2026. Their mortal remains were brought to Tamil Nadu on June 26, 2026, and handed over to their families. Considering the financial circumstances of the bereaved families, a total sum of Rs.30,00,000/- at the rate of Rs.10,00,000/- per person—was disbursed from the Chief Minister's Public Relief Fund.

- **Rs.30 lakh** - **Rs.10 lakh** each - was paid from the Chief Minister's Public Relief Fund to the families of three Tirunelveli workers killed at Ras Laffan Industrial City, Qatar in June **2026**.

viii. Boat accident in Vietnam (July 2026)

A group of 108 Indian passengers, including 48 Tamils, had gone on a tour to Vietnam. On July 11, 2026, at approximately 10:30 AM, one of the boats in which they were traveling capsized at sea. Reports indicated that 15 people, including 10 Tamils, had lost their lives.

As a result of follow-up measures, 34 Tamils who survived the boat accident arrived at Chennai Airport on July 12, 2026, followed by another 4 Tamils on July 13, 2026. The mortal remains of the 15 deceased individuals were brought to Mumbai Airport on July 13, 2026, via a chartered flight tickets costing Rs.4,70,362/- arranged by the Government of India. From there, air travel arrangements were made through the Commissionerate of Rehabilitation and Welfare of Non-Resident Tamils to transport the mortal remains of the 10 Tamils to Tamil Nadu.

The mortal remains of 4 of the deceased were brought to Chennai Airport, while the remains of the other 6 were brought to Coimbatore Airport on July 14, 2026.

The mortal remains were transported to their respective hometowns using Government-provided free hearse services and handed over to their families.

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ix. Rescue operations for Tamils stranded in the Nepal floods (August 2026)

On August 26, 2026, a massive flood—triggered by a glacier collapse in the Upper Lende River area (on the Chinese side)—caused a sudden, heavy surge in the Bhote Koshi River along the Nepal-Tibet border, affecting Rasuwagadhi, Timure, Syabrubesi and downstream areas. A group of 305 individuals from Tamil Nadu had traveled to Nepal for the Kailash Yatra. Following reports that many people, including Tamils, had gone missing due to the sudden flooding, emergency telephone numbers were announced to assist the stranded Tamils and to facilitate communication for their relatives in Tamil Nadu. Emergency control rooms operating 24x7 were established at the Commissionerate of Rehabilitation and Welfare of Non-Resident Tamils and the Tamil Nadu House in New Delhi; a total of 2,253 calls were handled up to August 31, 2026.

- A glacier collapse on the Upper Lende River surged the Bhote Koshi in August **2026** while 305 people from Tamil Nadu were on the Kailash Yatra; 24x7 control rooms handled 2,253 calls and the State bore the full cost of air travel home.

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As per the orders of the Hon'ble Chief Minister, a team of Ministers has been sent to New Delhi to personally coordinate rescue operations. Actions are being taken in close coordination with the Ministry of External Affairs and the Indian Embassy in Nepal, following a personal meeting with the Indian Foreign Secretary, Mr. Vikram Misri, I.F.S. The Government of Tamil Nadu is bearing the entire cost of air travel for the affected individuals. Free travel tickets are provided to relatives traveling to Nepal and assistance is extended through 3 Tamil Nadu Government officials stationed in Kathmandu. Upon their arrival in Chennai, vehicles are arranged by the Government to transport the affected individuals to their homes, based on their requirements.

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2.3 Recognizing the contributions of Non-Resident Tamils and fostering cultural and intellectual integration

a) World Tamil Diaspora Day

January 12th is celebrated annually as World Tamil Diaspora Day. This event serves to unite and encourage Tamils living in various countries, acknowledging their contributions. Furthermore, the event aims to pass on our nation's heritage, art, literature, and culture to the next generation.

Additionally, the fifth edition of "World Tamil Diaspora Day 2026" was held over two days—January 11 and 12, 2026—at the Chennai Trade Centre in Nandambakkam, under the theme "தமிழால் இணைவோம் தரணியில் உயர்வோம்" (Let us unite through Tamil and rise globally)." More than 1,552 individuals representing 207 Tamil associations from 58 countries and 17 Indian States participated in this event.

For the second time, the 'Tamil Maamani' award, accompanied by a cash prize of Rs.10 Lakh, was presented to individuals making

- World Tamil Diaspora Day falls on 12 January. The fifth edition in **2026** drew 1,552 people from 207 Tamil associations in 58 countries and 17 Indian States.

- The 'Tamil Maamani' award carries a cash prize of **Rs.10 lakh**; the Kaniyan Poongunranar Award went to eight overseas Tamils across seven categories.

significant contributions to the growth of Tamil in foreign countries. Additionally, for the third consecutive year, the "Kaniyan Poongunranar Award" was conferred upon eight overseas Tamils who excelled in seven categories: Science and Technology, Medicine, Education, Social Development, Women, Business and Cultural Ambassadorship.

b) Teaching Tamil to Non-Resident Tamils

An initiative has been launched by the Commissionerate of Rehabilitation and Welfare of Non-Resident Tamils to teach the Tamil language to children residing in abroad and other Indian States through the Tamil Virtual Academy (TVA). These courses are delivered online through 200 centers established by Tamil Sangams, mirroring the three-level curriculum offered by the Tamil Virtual Academy.

- Tamil is taught to children abroad through the Tamil Virtual Academy's three-level curriculum, delivered online via 200 centres run by Tamil Sangams in 8 Indian States and 14 countries.

Funds amounting to Rs.12 Lakh for the 2022-2023 financial year and Rs.44 Lakh for the 2023-2024 financial year were allocated to the

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Tamil Virtual Academy to implement this scheme. Centers have been established across 8 Indian States and 14 foreign countries, benefiting 1,401 students to date (as of 31.08.2026).

c) Reaching Your Roots

- 'Reaching Your Roots' selects 200 young descendants of overseas Tamils a year for a 15-day cultural tour; 292 from 16 countries have come in four phases.

To reconnect with the roots of Tamil heritage, the Government of Tamil Nadu announced a scheme to select 200 youths—descendants of Tamils settled abroad—each year for a cultural tour within Tamil Nadu.

Under this scheme, conducted in four phases so far, 292 youngsters were selected from 16 countries—South Africa, Uganda, Fiji, Indonesia, Mauritius, Australia, Maldives, Canada, Myanmar, Malaysia, Sri Lanka, France, Germany, Norway, USA and Reunion. They were taken on a 15-day tour of Tamil Nadu's key tourist, historical, and culturally significant sites and were introduced to the state's art and culture. They will serve as cultural ambassadors for Tamil Nadu in their respective countries.

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During the tour, the participants visited archaeological sites, historical monuments, UNESCO World Heritage sites, and educational institutions in Tamil Nadu. They also had the opportunity to interact with experts in the fields of Tamil art, culture and archaeological research.

d) Sponsorship for Tamil Sangams

The Government of Tamil Nadu announced a scheme to recognize Tamil associations formed by the Tamil diaspora and provide financial assistance for their events. This scheme aims to achieve two objectives: promoting the Tamil language, art and culture through these associations, and fostering unity among the Tamil diaspora.

e) Enadhu Gramam

The "Enadhu Gramam" scheme was announced to develop the native villages of Tamils living abroad through their own contributions. So far, Rs.60 Lakh has been received from four donors for this scheme.

'Enadhu Gramam' lets Tamils abroad fund development in their native villages - **Rs.60 lakh** received from four donors so far.

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At the request of the donors, streetlights and CCTV cameras have been installed on Odakarai Mosque Street in Keelakarai Taluk, Ramanathapuram District, and in Ward No. 1 to 21 of the Keelakarai Municipality, Sewage tank covers have been installed. Additionally, the construction of a beach park in Ward No. 17 of Keelakarai Municipality is nearing completion.

Furthermore, the construction of a Health Center, as well as a new borewell and bathing facility for women, has been completed in Kapparapatti village, Kannamangalapatti Panchayat, Sivaganga district.

Subsequently, measures are being taken to establish a Community Hall in Vagur village, Cuddalore district, and to construct an auditorium for the Government Higher Secondary School in Vadakku Ilanthaikulam village, Thoothukudi district.

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f) Teaching Tamil arts and Tamil language to Tamils directly who are living abroad ('Tamil Manam')

"A scheme will be formulated to train one hundred teachers and Tamil artists and deploy them to regions where Tamils reside abroad, based on requirements. These instructors will collaborate with local Tamil associations to conduct in-person training classes in the Tamil language and Tamil arts for a period of two years. The Government of Tamil Nadu will bear the associated costs, and a sum of Rs.10 Crore has been allocated for this purpose and work on implementing this scheme is currently underway.

In the first phase, work orders were issued to 10 Tamil teachers recommended by the Tamil Virtual Academy during the 'World Tamil Diaspora Day' celebrations (12.01.2026) and to 10 art instructors recommended by the Department of Art and Culture on 16.02.2026.

- 'Tamil Manam' will train 100 Tamil teachers and artists and post them abroad for two years at State cost, with **Rs.10 crore** allocated; eleven had been deputed to seven countries by **31.08.2026**.

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As of 31.08.2026, a total of eleven Tamil and Art teachers have been deputed to seven countries. One Tamil teacher each has been deputed to Malawi, Uganda and Seychelles; one Art teacher each has been deputed to Maldives, Cambodia, Malawi and Seychelles; two Art teachers have been deputed to Myanmar; and two Tamil teachers have been deputed to Fiji. The process of deputing the remaining teachers to the respective countries is being carried out in coordination with the Tamil Nadu Overseas Manpower Corporation Limited (OMCL).

For this purpose, the 'Tamil Manam' website has been created to monitor the activities of both teachers and students.

g) Tamizhar Thadam

Tamil Nadu Government announced that comprehensive research would be conducted and data fully documented regarding Tamils who have migrated from Tamil Nadu at various times and are living abroad—either permanently or temporarily—and that a database for these migrants would be created.

'Tamizhar Thadam' is a website and research project documenting Tamil migration, with submitted articles peer-reviewed by two evaluators before publication.

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To implement this initiative, a website named 'Tamizhar Thadam' was created, and two professors were appointed for a one-year term to evaluate the articles submitted for publication.

Under this process, submitted works are reviewed by two evaluators before the articles are published on the 'Tamizhar Thadam' website.

h) Tamil Education and Cultural Continuity

With the aim of imparting Tamil education, arts and culture to Tamils living abroad, the government has issued an order sanctioning Rs.21,23,000/- from the Tamil Nadu Non-Resident Tamils Welfare Board fund. This amount is allocated to provide a set of 10 Tamil textbooks—comprising two books for each of the five levels—to approximately 100 organizations; these books were originally developed by the government through the Tamil Virtual Academy.

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i) Global Knowledge Exchange Program

The Government has issued an order allocating Rs.12.66 Lakh in the Revised Budget Estimates (RE 2026–2027) to create a new website. This platform aims to facilitate the sharing of knowledge, experience, innovative initiatives and technological expertise possessed by Non-Resident Tamils with students in educational institutions and universities across Tamil Nadu, utilizing online channels and social media. Work related to this project is currently underway.

2.4 Establishment of the Non-Resident Tamils Welfare Board

Following the announcement made by the Government of Tamil Nadu on October 6, 2021, to protect the Welfare of Tamils living abroad and in other States of India, the "Tamil Nadu Non-Resident Tamils Welfare Board" comprising 15 members, including a Chairperson—was established under Section 10(1) of the

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Non-Resident Tamils Welfare Act, 2011. The office operates from the 10th Floor, EVK Sampath Building, DPI Campus, College Road, Chennai – 600 006. The following welfare schemes have been implemented by this Board for Non-Resident Tamils**.**

i. Membership Registration (Identity Card)

The Non-Resident Tamil (NRT) Identity Card serves as a crucial link connecting Non-Resident Tamils residing in foreign countries and in India (outside Tamil Nadu) with the Government of Tamil Nadu. Through this card, individuals can access various services and Welfare Schemes provided by the TN Non-Resident Tamils Welfare Board.

a) Eligibility

Applicants must be between 18 and 55 years of age. They must possess one of the following valid documents: Aadhaar card, Indian Driver's License, Voter ID, PAN card, or Indian Passport (mandatory for NRTs living abroad).

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For NRTs in India (Outside Tamil Nadu) Proof of living outside Tamil Nadu for more than six months—such as a rental agreement, electricity/ phone bill, or appointment letter—must be provided.

For NRTs Abroad a valid Indian passport, visa, and work permit are mandatory.

Board officials regularly coordinate with 355 Tamil Associations overseas by telephone to share information on schemes/services of the Board and to organize special camps abroad for acquiring ID cards.

As of August 31, 2026, a total of 34,467 individuals have been issued NRT Identity Cards.

ii. Insurance Scheme

The NRT Insurance Scheme provides financial security to members of the Welfare Board and their families during unforeseen circumstances like accidents and critical illnesses. It offers insurance coverage of Rs.5 Lakh to Rs.10 lakh for accidents, and Rs.1 Lakh to Rs.5 Lakh for critical illnesses.

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There are two types of insurance plans available for NRTs to choose from: Personal Accident Insurance (mandatory) and Critical Illness Insurance (optional).

a) Eligibility

Applicants must hold an NRT Identity Card. The age limit is 18–70 years for Accident Insurance and 18–60 years for Critical Illness Insurance. A valid Aadhaar/ Indian Passport/ Ration Card/ Driver's License/ PAN card is required.

b) Benefits of Insurance Scheme

Provides comprehensive coverage for critical conditions like cancer, kidney failure and stroke at low premium rates with flexible options.

As of August 31, 2026, insurance certificates have been issued to 4,050 individuals under this scheme.

iii. Educational Assistance Scheme

This scheme aims to provide educational support to the children of deceased members of the Non-Resident Tamils Welfare Board who were living in impoverished conditions.

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Assistance Amount of Rs.4,000-12,000/- per child, capped at a maximum of two children per family.

a) Eligibility

The applicant's parent must have been an NRT holding a valid NRT ID card at the time of their passing and must reside in India.

The applicant must be studying in Class 11, Class 12, ITI, Polytechnic, or pursuing an undergraduate/ Postgraduate degree in any stream.

iv. Marriage Assistance Scheme

This scheme provides financial assistance of Rs.20,000/- for marriage expenses to the families of deceased, impoverished members of the Welfare Board.

a) Eligibility

Must be a child of a NRT who possessed a valid NRT ID card at the time of their passing. The applicant must currently reside in India. At the time of marriage, the groom must be at least 21 years old, and the bride must be at least 18 years old. Assistance is valid only for the first marriage.

The applicant must have passed at least 10th standard (completion upto 5th grade is sufficient for Scheduled Tribes (ST)). Assistance is limited to a maximum of two children per eligible family.

v. Pension Scheme

This scheme provides a monthly pension of Rs.1,000/- to support families of impoverished NRT Welfare Board members who lost their lives while working abroad.

a) Eligibility

The beneficiary must be a dependent family member of the deceased. The deceased must have possessed a valid NRT ID card at the time of death and they will get a pension of Rs.1,000/- per month. Annual family income must not exceed Rs.1.20 Lakh. No family member should be in Government service. Individuals are ineligible. Families of individuals who passed away after traveling abroad on tourist visas or non-work purposes are not eligible. Beneficiaries must not be Income Tax payees and also drawing any pension from other Central or State Government pension schemes.

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vi. Death Relief Fund

Many Non-Resident Tamils travelling abroad for work are employed as manual labourers and serve as the primary breadwinners for their families. An unexpected death while working abroad causes severe economic hardship for their dependents. This scheme provides financial assistance of Rs.1,00,000/- (Rupees One Lakh only) to the impoverished families of NRT Welfare Board members who pass away while working overseas.

a) Eligibility

The deceased must have been a registered member of the Welfare Board and also working abroad with valid and legal documents at the time of death.

b) Required Documents

For getting the documents like Deceased person's passport, death certificate issued abroad, visa, work permit, legal heir certificate, income certificate, and Aadhaar card are required.

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As of August 31, 2026, Death Relief Fund of Rs.1,00,000/- has been disbursed to an eligible beneficiary.

3. Welfare of Sri Lankan Tamils Living in Rehabilitation Camps

As of August 31, 2026, 56,589 Sri Lankan Tamils belonging to 19,751 families are accommodated in 105 camps (including two Special Camps in Tiruchirappalli and Ramanathapuram districts) across 29 districts of the State. Various relief measures—including shelter, food, drinking water, and electricity—are provided to them free of cost, in accordance with the norms prescribed by the Government of India and the guidelines of the State Government.

- As on **31.08.2026**, 56,589 Sri Lankan Tamils of 19,751 families live in 105 camps across 29 districts, including two Special Camps at Tiruchirappalli and Ramanathapuram.

3.1 Construction of Houses and Upgrading the Basic Amenities

Under the scheme to construct 10,469 new houses for Sri Lankan Tamils, administrative sanction and a financial allocation of Rs.186.99 Crore were issued for the first phase (3,510 houses). Subsequently, 3,510 new houses were completed across 35 camps in 19 districts and handed over to the beneficiaries.

- A 10,469-house programme in three phases: 3,510 completed (**Rs.186.99 crore**), 2,702 of 3,959 handed over in phase two, and 3,000 sanctioned at **Rs.238 crore** in phase three.

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For the second phase, administrative sanction was granted for an expenditure of Rs.236,43,00,000/- to 3,959 houses and a financial sanction of Rs.222,59,78,500/- was issued. Orders were issued to the Rural Development and Panchayat Raj Department to construct these 3,959 houses across 35 camps in 19 districts; of these, 2,702 houses across 28 camps in 15 districts have been inaugurated and handed over to the beneficiaries. Construction work on the remaining 1,257 houses is currently in various stages of progress.

For the third phase, administrative sanction and financial allocation were granted to construct 3,000 houses at a cost of Rs.238 Crore. Orders were issued for construction across 23 camps in 13 districts and the work is currently in various stages of progress.

3.2 Livelihood Enhancement Fund for Sri Lankan Tamils

As per the announcement under Rule 110 of the Legislative Assembly Rules, a sum of Rs.5 Crore was allocated for the financial year 2026-2027 to undertake repairs, maintenance,

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and the improvement of basic amenities in Sri Lankan Tamil camps across 28 districts. Out of this, Rs.3,26,44,391/- has been allocated to the districts and the works are currently in progress.

3.3 Work Sheds

Ten work sheds have been constructed and inaugurated at a cost of Rs.3 Crore for Women Self-Help Groups operating in 10 Sri Lankan Tamil camps across 10 districts.

Funds amounting to Rs.48,30,000/- were allocated from Repco Bank’s CSR funds, with the bank's assistance, for the construction of two work sheds at the Mandapam camp. Of this amount, the first installment (30%) of Rs.14,49,000/- and the second installment (35%) of Rs.16,90,500/- have been transferred to the bank account of the Special Deputy Collector, Mandapam. Administrative sanction has been granted by the District Collector and construction of the sheds has been completed up to roof level.

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3.4 Improvement of Basic Amenities

A sum of Rs.20,27,91,050/- was allocated to provide basic amenities—including roads and drainage channels—in 13 camps across 8 districts. Additionally, Rs.20,27,87,304/- has been released to District Collectors for the provision of basic amenities in 16 camps across 11 districts and these works are currently underway.

3.5 Establishment of Library with Computer Facilities

To encourage an interest in education among students residing in Sri Lankan Tamil camps and to prevent school dropouts, orders were issued to the Commissioner of Rural Development and Panchayat Raj to establish study centres equipped with computer facilities in nine camps across nine districts as a first phase. These centres are being built at a cost of Rs.20.00 Lakh per building, amounting to a total outlay of Rs.1.80 Crore—funded under the scheme Component of Pooled Assigned Revenue Fund; construction work has already been

- Study centres with computers are being built in nine camps at **Rs.20** lakh each, funded from the Pooled Assigned Revenue Fund, to prevent school dropouts.

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completed in 7 districts. In this regard, a study centre at the Sri Lankan Tamil Rehabilitation Camp in Kaulpalayam, Perambalur District, was inaugurated on 30.08.2026 by the Hon'ble Minister for School Education and Information & Public Relations.

Work is currently underway in the remaining two districts. Furthermore, orders have been issued to release funds to the respective District Collectors for the procurement of necessary equipment for these centres, at a rate of Rs.1,99,500/- per centre, amounting to a total of Rs.17,95,500/- for all nine centres.

3.6 Magalir Urimai Thogai Scheme

Since February 2024, Magalir Urimai Thogai has been provided to approximately 14,396 female heads of families residing in 103 Sri Lankan Tamil camps across Tamil Nadu.

- Since February **2024** Magalir Urimai Thogai has reached about 14,396 women heads of families in 103 Sri Lankan Tamil camps.

3.7 Utensils

Sri Lankan Tamil families residing in rehabilitation camps across 29 districts of Tamil Nadu are provided with a set of 8 cooking utensils

- Families in the camps get a set of 8 cooking utensils in 5 varieties once every two yea**rs,** procured from the Salem Steel Plant.

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(comprising 5 varieties) once every two years. These are procured from the Salem Steel Plant and distributed through District Collectors. In the financial year 2025–2026, utensils were provided to 19,594 families at a cost of Rs.2,47,06,662/-.

3.8 Women Self-Help Groups

To improve the livelihoods of women residing in 103 Sri Lankan Tamil camps across 29 districts of Tamil Nadu, a total of Rs.7,76,65,125/- was allocated. Rs.7,75,91,500/- was disbursed to 628 Women Self-Help Groups as a revolving fund and community investment fund, at the rate of Rs.1,25,000/- per group. Furthermore, for the year 2024–2025, funds amounting to Rs.2,50,00,000/- were allocated for 200 Women Self-Help Groups; of this, Rs.1,20,75,000/- has been released to 102 groups as of 31.08.2026.

- **Rs.7.76 crore** went to 628 Women Self-Help Groups in the camps at **Rs.1,25,000** per group as revolving and community investment fund.

3.9 Skill Development Training

In accordance with the announcement to provide skill development training to enhance the livelihoods and employability of Sri Lankan Tamils

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living in camps, training was imparted to 2,415 individuals over a two-year period ending on 31.03.2023.

Subsequently, during the financial year 2023-2024, 39 Sri Lankan Tamils underwent skill development training, while 260 received RPL training. Following this, skill development training for 2,444 individuals and RPL (Recognition of Prior Learning) training for 1,385 individuals have been successfully provided through the Tamil Nadu Skill Development Corporation (TNSDC) upto August 31, 2026. Among them, 2,049 persons have secured employment.

Skill training through **TNSDC** has covered 2,444 people plus 1,385 under Recognition of Prior Learning; 2,049 have found employment.

Furthermore, to ensure the participation of Sri Lankan Tamils in house construction activities within rehabilitation camps, 415 individuals from 10 districts (Tiruppur, Thiruvallur, Tenkasi, Tiruvannamalai, Pudukottai, Salem, Tiruchirappalli, Dindigul, Ramanathapuram and Virudhunagar)—who expressed interest in training—have been recommended to the TNSDC

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for 'Recognition of Prior Learning' (RPL) training in areas such as construction, bar bending and painting.

Under the skill development training programme, the training has been provided to a number of youths exceeding the target.

3.10 Provision of Mental Health Support Services

It was announced that, in collaboration with the Department of Public Health and Preventive Medicine, mental health awareness initiatives would be conducted during 2024-2025 to improve the mental well-being of Sri Lankan Tamils residing in 103 camps across Tamil Nadu. In this regard, 458 visits have been made to Sri Lankan Tamil rehabilitation camps across 29 districts and mental health counseling and support services were provided to 8,867 Sri Lankan Tamils.

3.11 Clothing

As it was not possible to supply garments and blankets at the rates originally fixed by the Government of India, the supply has been made

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at a revised rate—increased from Rs.1,790/- to Rs.3,473/- starting from the financial year 2021–2022. Procurement Orders for the supply of free clothing for the current (2026–2027) financial year were issued to the Tamil Nadu Textile Corporation on 13.07.2026. This year, blankets which are distributed once in every two years will also be provided.

3.12 Free LPG and Subsidy

Free cooking gas connections—comprising a gas cylinder and a stove—have been provided to 7,065 Sri Lankan Tamil families at a cost of Rs.2,73,00,299/-. Furthermore, measures are being taken under this scheme to provide a subsidy of Rs.400 per cylinder for upto five cylinders annually. For the year 2025–2026, a sum of Rs.3,24,88,000/- has been disbursed as a free LPG subsidy to 16,244 families. Measures are being taken to disburse the subsidy amount for the current year.

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3.13 Cash dole

An announcement was made under Rule 110 of the Legislative Assembly stating that the State Government would increase the monthly cash dole provided to Sri Lankan Tamils living in camps. Pursuant to that announcement, an order was issued to provide the monthly cash dole at the following revised rates:

Sl. No	Particulars	Old Amount (in Rs.)	Enhanced amount with effect from 01.09.2021 (in Rs.)
1.	Head of the Family	1000	1500
2.	Each additional member (aged 12 years and above)	750	1000
3.	Children (below 12 years)	400	500

Furthermore, a sum of Rs.77,30,00,000/- has been allocated for cash dole for the financial year 2026-2027. The Cash Dole has been provided upto August 2026.

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3.14 Rice Subsidy

Rice is being provided at free of cost every month to Sri Lankan Tamil families by the Government of Tamil Nadu. Based on the number of members in these families, 12 kg of rice is provided for adults and 6 kg for children under the age of 8. Previously, out of the total rice supplied to each family, the first 20 kg was free, while any additional quantity was provided at a rate of Rs.0.57 per kilogram. Following an announcement made in the Tamil Nadu Legislative Assembly under Rule 110—stating that the entire quantity of rice supplied to Sri Lankan Tamils living in camps would be free and that the State Government would bear the additional expenditure of Rs.19 Lakh—a Government Order was issued and the entire quantity of rice is now being supplied to them at free of cost. Moreover, all essential commodities, such as oil and sugar, are provided to Sri Lankan Tamils living in camps at subsidized rates under the Public Distribution System.

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3.15 Funeral Assistance

If a registered Sri Lankan Tamil living in camps passes away, the Government provides a funeral assistance amount of Rs.5,000/- to the family to facilitate the performance of final rites.

3.16 Educational Assistance

Educational assistance is provided to the children of Sri Lankan Tamils living in camps, just as it is provided to students from Tamil Nadu. The free education scheme has been extended to approximately 11,973 students residing in camps who are studying upto Class 12 (as of 31.08.2026). Similarly, students living in these camps are provided with free uniforms, midday meals, textbooks and free bus passes.

Sri Lankan Tamil students are admitted to higher education institutions—such as arts and science colleges, technical colleges and universities—based on merit through the single-window counseling system used for the general category.

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Educational assistance is being provided at enhanced rates, in accordance with the announcement made under Rule 110 of the Legislative Assembly, as follows:

Sl. No.	Course	Educational Assistance (in Rupees)	Enhanced Educational Assistance (From 2021-2022) (in Rupees)
1.	Polytechnic	2,500	10,000
2.	Bachelor of Arts/ Science	3,000	12,000
3.	Bachelor professional courses (for students other than the top 50 based on marks)	5,000	20,000

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4.	B.E (only for the top 50 students based on marks among those qualified for Engineering studies)	5,000	Full education fees and hostel fees for the first 50 students based on merit in respect of Engineering courses will be borne by the State Government. Similarly, in the case of first 5 students on merit who want to pursue Agriculture/ Agriculture Engineering will be given full education fees and hostel or Bus fees. Apart from the above, in order to encourage the students to pursue Master's degree, (All subjects) the education fees and hostel or Bus fees for all the students will be met by the Government.
5.	Agriculture/ Agricultural Engineering (only for the top 5 students based on marks)		
6.	P.G Course	6,000	

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In the year 2023-2024, 1,944 students (across Undergraduate Arts and Science, Polytechnic, Undergraduate Professional Courses, B.E., Agricultural Engineering, and Postgraduate courses) benefited from educational assistance totaling Rs.3,76,05,365/-.

Sl. No.	Course of Study	Number of Students	Amount (Rs.)
1.	Undergraduate Arts & Science, Polytechnic & Undergraduate Professional Courses	1,641	2,11,70,000
2.	Engineering	185	1,26,18,667
3.	Agricultural Engineering	3	1,65,000
4.	Postgraduate	115	36,51,698
	Total	**1,944**	**3,76,05,365**

In the year 2024-2025, 2,002 students (Undergraduate Arts & Science, Polytechnic, Undergraduate Professional Courses,

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Undergraduate Engineering, Agricultural Engineering, and Postgraduate) have benefited from educational scholarships amounting to Rs.4,02,86,641/-.

Sl. No.	Course of Study	Number of Students	Amount (Rs.)
1.	Undergraduate Arts & Science, Polytechnic & Undergraduate Professional Courses	1,711	2,31,28,000
2.	Engineering	182	1,28,54,423
3.	Agricultural Engineering	4	2,60,000
4.	Postgraduate	100	39,76,218
	Total	**1,997**	**4,02,18,641**

3.17 New arrivals of Tamils due to the economic crisis in Sri Lanka

From 22.03.2022 to 13.11.2025, 193 individuals who arrived due to the economic crisis and food shortage in Sri Lanka have been

- Educational scholarships of **Rs.4.02 crore** reached 1,997 students from the camps across arts and science, engineering, agricultural engineering and postgraduate courses.
- 193 people who arrived between **22.03.2022** and **13.11.2025** during Sri Lanka's economic crisis are housed at Mandapam Camp, fed at **Rs.115** per person a day.

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accommodated at the Mandapam Camp in Ramanathapuram district. They are being provided with necessary basic amenities and clothes at free of cost, as well as free food at a cost of Rs.115 per person/per day.

3.18 Waiver of visa fees and overstay penalties for Sri Lankan Tamils residing outside the camps

Visa fees and overstay penalties have been waived for 1,976 Sri Lankan Tamils belonging to 1,055 families who had been staying outside the camps and expressed a desire to return to Sri Lanka, till 30.06.2026.

- Visa fees and overstay penalties were waived for 1,976 Sri Lankan Tamils of 1,055 families outside the camps who wished to return to Sri Lanka.

3.19 Advisory Committee for Long-term Solutions

Sri Lankan Tamils affected by the ethnic riots in Sri Lanka in 1983 sought refuge in Tamil Nadu at various times. They were accommodated in 103 camps across 29 districts of Tamil Nadu. An advisory committee was

- An advisory committee constituted on 25 October **2021** seeks long-term solutions including citizenship; 15 people have obtained Indian passports and 152 have registered vehicles in their own names.

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constituted on October 25, 2021, to find long-term solutions including citizenship for these Sri Lankan Tamils.

As a result of the committee's efforts, 15 individuals have legally obtained Indian passports. Furthermore, 152 Sri Lankan Tamils have registered vehicles in their own names.

In addition to these measures, the Government of Tamil Nadu addressed a letter to the Hon'ble Prime Minister of India on February 15, 2026, requesting for consideration and favorable decision on the following matters:

- Rescinding earlier administrative instructions that bar consideration of citizenship applications from Sri Lankan Tamils.
- Issuing an executive clarification waiving passport and visa requirements, where appropriate, for the purpose of citizenship or long-term visa applications, based on verified identity documentation issued by the Government of Tamil Nadu.

- On 15 February **2026** the State wrote to the Prime Minister seeking the rescinding of instructions that bar citizenship applications from Sri Lankan Tamils, and a waiver of passport and visa requirements based on State-issued identity documents.

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- Delegating appropriate powers to designated district-level authorities for streamlined processing.
- Formally clarifying the legal status of registered Sri Lankan Tamil nationals sheltered in India upto 9 January 2015.

4. Repatriates

Approximately 4,61,639 Tamils of Indian origin from Sri Lanka, 1,44,445 from Burma (between 1964 and 1982), and 2,055 from Vietnam have returned to India. Initially, they were settled in tea and rubber plantations within the State for rehabilitation purposes. The Government of Tamil Nadu is implementing various schemes to provide them with employment opportunities in spinning mills and factories.

4.1 Repco Bank

Repco Bank (Repatriates Cooperative Finance and Development Bank) was established by the Central Government for the rehabilitation of repatriates from Sri Lanka, Burma, and

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Vietnam; it operates with equity investment from the Central Government and the Governments of five Southern States. The bank was initially registered on September 9, 1969, under the Madras Cooperative Societies Act (53/1961), and commenced operations on November 19, 1969. It functions under the administrative control of the FFR Division of the Union Ministry of Home Affairs.

Currently, the bank operates 108 branches across the Southern States of Tamil Nadu, Andhra Pradesh, Telangana, Karnataka and Kerala, as well as the Union Territory of Puducherry. Its headquarters is located in Chennai.

Details regarding the bank's capital as of March 31, 2026, are provided below:

Sl. No.	Investors	Capital Amount (in Lakh)	%
1.	Government of India	7,632.00	50.01
2.	Government of Tamil Nadu	713.00	4.67
3.	Government of Andhra Pradesh	104.77	0.69

- Repco Bank was registered on **09.09.1969** under the Madras Cooperative Societies Act and began work on **19.11.1969**; it runs under the **FFR** Division of the Union Home Ministry.
- Repco Bank runs 108 branches across five southern States and Puducherry, headquartered in Chennai.
- Repco Bank capital: the Government of India holds 50.01%, individuals 43.63% and Tamil Nadu 4.67%. A 30% dividend of **Rs.2.14 crore** was paid to the State on **13.08.2026**.

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Sl. No.	Investors	Capital Amount (in Lakh)	%
4.	Government of Telangana	74.88	0.49
5.	Government of Kerala	61.16	0.40
6.	Government of Karnataka	17.47	0.11
7.	Individuals	6,657.55	43.63
	Total	15,260.83	100.00

Repco Bank presented a cheque for Rs.2,13,90,000/- representing a 30% dividend on the Tamil Nadu Government's share capital of Rs.7.13 Crore to the Honourable Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu on 13.08.2026.

4.2 Repatriates Trust

Details of financial assistance provided to repatriates through Repco Bank over the past 5 years are given below:

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Sl. No.	Year	Assistance Amount (in Lakh)
1.	2021-22	907.00
2.	2022-23	781.00
3.	2023-24	911.00
4.	2024-25	1,405.00
5.	2025-26	2,556.00

5. Overseas Manpower Corporation

Overseas Manpower Corporation Limited was established as a Government of Tamil Nadu undertaking on 30.11.1978 and operates with the objective of placing job seekers in overseas employment. The Corporation is registered under the Companies Act, 1956. It is registered as a recruiting agency under the Emigration Act, 1983, and holds a license from the Ministry of External Affairs, Government of India, to recruit personnel for overseas employment. The company has a paid-up capital of Rs.15 Lakh and an authorized capital of Rs.50 Lakh.

- The Overseas Manpower Corporation, set up on **30.11.1978**, is registered under the Emigration **Act, 1983** and licensed by the Ministry of External Affairs to recruit for overseas employment.

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5.1 Functions

- Conducting awareness and registration camps for overseas job seekers.
- Organising interviews on behalf of foreign employers and facilitating the participation of registered job seekers in the interview and selection process.
- Assisting selected candidates with certificate attestation and visa procurement.
- Obtaining emigration clearance for ECR passport holders through the Office of the Protector of Emigrants in Chennai.
- Making necessary travel arrangements for selected personnel to travel abroad.
- The Overseas Manpower Corporation recruits personnel on a contract basis for Government Departments, State Public Sector Undertakings, and boards through external agencies.

OMCL obtains emigration clearance for **ECR** passport holders through the Office of the Protector of Emigrants, Chennai.

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5.2 Registration

The company has developed a website, www.omcmanpower.tn.gov.in, to enable overseas job seekers to register for employment abroad. As of 31.08.2026, 10,445 individuals have registered their names seeking overseas employment.

5.3 Deployment

Since its inception in 1978, the company has placed 11,537 individuals in jobs across various countries. Furthermore, in the financial year 2026-2027, it has placed 35 individuals in Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, Oman, Malawi, Seychelles, Maldives, Myanmar and Cambodia.

5.4 Revenue

For the financial year 2025-2026, the pre-audit revenue of the Overseas Manpower Corporation Limited is estimated at Rs.1.94 Crore, with a pre-audit profit of Rs.51 Lakh.

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6. Conclusion

To ensure that Sri Lankan Tamils living in camps in Tamil Nadu lead lives marked by dignity, safety, and improved standards, all essential amenities—such as adequate housing, safe drinking water, and free electricity—have been provided. The Government of Tamil Nadu has undertaken all necessary measures to enhance the education, employment opportunities, and overall quality of life for the Sri Lankan Tamils residing in these camps.

The Government of Tamil Nadu has announced various schemes for the welfare of Tamils living abroad and Sri Lankan Tamils residing in camps. All these schemes are being effectively implemented by the Department of Public and Rehabilitation.

The Non-Resident Tamils Welfare Board has been established and is functioning in full swing to safeguard the interests of Tamils living abroad for

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education, employment, and business; to disseminate the greatness of the Tamil language—its antiquity, history, arts, literature, and culture—across the globe; and to pass this heritage on to the next generation of Tamils.

The Government of Tamil Nadu is acting with great care and proactive zeal to ensure the welfare of Non-Resident Tamils as well as Sri Lankan Tamils living in camps.

K. THENNARASU
Minister for
Non-Resident Tamils
Welfare

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