SOCIAL WELFARE AND WOMEN EMPOWERMENT DEPARTMENT

POLICY NOTE
2026 – 2027

DEMAND No.45

Tmt. K. JAGADESHWARI

MINISTER FOR
SOCIAL WELFARE AND WOMEN EMPOWERMENT

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Government of Tamil Nadu
2026

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Demand No. 45

Social Welfare and Women Empowerment Department

Chapter 1
Introduction

"எல்லோரும் இன்புற்றிருக்க நினைப்பதுவே

அல்லாமல், வேறொன்றறியேன் பராபரமே"

– தாயுமானவர்

"Other than wishing for everyone to
be happy and prosperous,
I know no other way (or purpose),
Oh Supreme Almighty!''

– Thayumanavar

Inspired by the ideals of equality, empowerment, enablement and social justice envisaged by great leaders, the Government of Tamil Nadu is committed to building an inclusive society where every individual enjoys equal opportunity, dignity and security.

Social Welfare and Women Empowerment is Demand No.45. The note opens on Thayumanavar.

Tamil Nadu is consistently a leader in human development, continuing to perform well across several key social and developmental indicators. The State's sustained investments in health, nutrition, education, social protection and gender equality have contributed to improved human development outcomes and strengthened the overall social well-being of its people. The State has been a consistent top performer with 'Front Runner' status in the majority of the Sustainable Development Goals and continues to perform exceptionally well in areas such as decent work, reduced inequalities and inclusive communities.

Tamil Nadu holds Front Runner status in most Sustainable Development Goals, notably decent work, reduced inequalities and inclusive communities.

Tamil Nadu is witnessing significant demographic and socio-economic transformation, with evolving family structures, rising participation of women in the workforce, growing demand for child care, increasing elderly population and inclusive communities. In this

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context, the Social Welfare and Women Empowerment Department through its interventions, assists the vulnerable segments to address the evolving challenges on account of these changes. By laying a comprehensive and inclusive social protection system that goes beyond financial assistance to encompass care, protection, empowerment and rehabilitation, this department plays a pivotal role in addressing these diverse and evolving vulnerabilities of children requiring additional support for early care, nutrition, education and protection, women facing barriers relating to safety, economic independence and social security, more senior citizens requiring care, income security and protection, and transgender persons facing social and economic barriers to education, employment and inclusion.

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The Department focuses on promoting gender equality and inclusive growth by striving to ensure equitable opportunities for all and strengthening social protection mechanisms. Through a life cycle approach i.e., early childhood care, women's empowerment, social security, livelihood promotion and protection services, the Department contributes to building an equitable and inclusive society where every individual can realise their full potential.

The Department implements comprehensive welfare programmes focusing on the early care and development of children, empowerment and rehabilitation of women in vulnerable circumstances, care and social security for destitute senior citizens, and the socio-economic inclusion of transgender persons, enabling them to lead lives of dignity, self-reliance and equal opportunity.

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i. Promoting the well-being of Children

> “Nearly 90% of a child's brain development occurs before the age of five, making early childhood nutrition, healthcare, protection and learning critical for lifelong health, educational attainment and productivity”
>
> - *Building the Foundations Report, UNICEF 2024*

Recognising that the early years of a child's life lay the foundation for lifelong learning, health and well-being, this Government places child development and early childhood care on high priority. Through targeted interventions such as supplementary nutrition under ICDS, Perunthalaivar Kamarajar Breakfast Scheme, Puratchi Thalaivar MGR Nutritious Meal Programme, and Early Childhood Care and Education initiatives, the Department endeavours to promote children’s nutrition, health, learning and holistic development.

The Department also strengthens child protection and the safeguarding of child rights through the implementation of various legislations, services, programmes and through specialised agencies and institutions. Also various outreach activities are undertaken for protection and empowerment of girl children which contribute towards improving the sex ratio at birth and advancing gender equality.

ii. Protection and Empowerment of Women

> "Investing in women's economic empowerment sets a direct path towards gender equality, poverty eradication and inclusive economic growth."
>
> *- UN Women, 2024*

Recognising that women's empowerment is essential for achieving inclusive development, the Department consistently works towards ensuring education, economic empowerment and social security of women and girls. Through initiatives

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such as the financial assistance for higher education of women, working women's hostels, skill development, self-employment support, marriage assistance schemes, State Commission for Women and the Widows and Destitute Women Welfare Board, the Department works to enhance women's access to education, employment, livelihood opportunities, financial independence and to enable women to attain their rightful place in the society.

The Department also strengthens women's safety, protection and access to justice through One Stop Centres, Women Helpline (181), and the implementation of the Protection of Women from Domestic Violence Act, Dowry Prohibition Act and Sexual Harassment of Women at Workplace (Prevention, Prohibition and Redressal) Act. Through these interventions, the Department seeks to create an enabling environment in which women can live with dignity, security, equality and

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greater economic self-reliance, while advancing gender equality and inclusive development.

iii. Welfare of Senior Citizens

> "The proportion of elderly persons (aged 60 years and above) in Tamil Nadu is projected to increase to 18.2% by 2031, reflecting one of the fastest demographic transitions in the country."
>
> -Elderly in India 2021 by the MoSPI

This rising elderly population is a reflection of improvements in healthcare, nutrition, living conditions and life expectancy, as well as the growing capacity of families, communities and care systems to support longer and healthier lives. This demographic transition also highlights the growing importance of the care economy and age-friendly services to meet the evolving health, social and economic needs of senior citizens.

- The elderly (60+) share of Tamil Nadu's population is projected to reach 18.2% by **2031** - one of India's fastest demographic transitions (Elderly in India **2021**, MoSPI).

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The projected increase in the elderly population underscores the need for robust social protection and age-friendly public services. Recognising this demographic transition, this Department strives to provide welfare, protection, dignity and social security to senior citizens through a range of interventions. These include old age pension, senior citizen helpline and other welfare measures aimed at supporting elderly persons.

The Department also promotes the care, protection and social inclusion of senior citizens by providing senior citizen homes, day care centres and other support to those who are destitute, vulnerable or without adequate family support. Through these interventions, the Department seeks to enable senior citizens to lead secure, dignified and independent lives, while strengthening social support systems in response to Tamil Nadu's changing demographic profile.

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iv. Social and Economic inclusion of Transgender Persons

Tamil Nadu continues to be in the forefront in the area of welfare of Transgender Persons through a slew of support measures. The Department promotes economic empowerment and self-reliance of transgender persons through skill development, self-employment assistance and support for livelihood activities. These interventions, together with access to social security, shelter and essential services, seek to reduce social and economic exclusion and enable transgender persons to participate in society with confidence.

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The sustained interventions of the Government especially towards the vulnerable population have translated into measurable improvements across key indicators relating to nutrition, maternal and child health, education, women's empowerment and social welfare. The Gross Enrolment Ratio (GER) in primary education stands at 92%, well above the national average of 89.4%, while the primary school dropout rate is 0%, as reported in UDISE+ 2025–26 by the Ministry of Education, Government of India. Tamil Nadu also has recorded the highest female labour force participation rate in the country, at 47.3%, as per the Periodic Labour Force Survey (PLFS) 2025.

- Tamil Nadu records India's highest female labour force participation rate at 47.3% (**PLFS 2025**); primary **GER** is 92% against the national 89.4%, with a 0% primary dropout rate.

The Social Welfare and Women Empowerment Department delivers these interventions through three directorates viz., Directorate of Social Welfare, Directorate of Integrated Child Development Services and

- Three directorates deliver everything here: Social Welfare, Integrated Child Development Services, and Children Welfare and Special Services.

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Directorate of Children Welfare and Special Services. Various institutions such as Tamil Nadu State Commission for Women, Tamil Nadu State Commission for Protection of Child Rights, Welfare Boards for Transgender, Welfare Boards for Widows and Destitute Women, Child Welfare Committees, and Juvenile Justice Boards have been established to facilitate the effective delivery of welfare, protection and support services. The Department is also responsible for implementing and taking appropriate measures under the following social centric legislations aimed at security, protection, empowerment and progress of women, children, transgenders and senior citizens.

i. The Commission for Protection of Child Rights Act, 2005.
ii. The Prohibition of Child Marriage Act, 2006
iii. The Protection of Children from Sexual Offences Act, 2012

- Ten social legislations sit with this department - from the Child Rights Commission **Act 2005** and **POCSO 2012** to the Maintenance and Welfare of Parents and Senior Citizens Act **2007** and the Transgender Persons **Act 2019**.

iv. The Juvenile Justice (Care and Protection of Children) Act, 2015

v. The Tamil Nadu Homes and Hostels for Children and Women (Regulation) Act, 2014, [and Amendment Act, 2024].

vi. The Sexual Harassment of Women at Workplace (Prevention, Prohibition and Redressal) Act, 2013

vii. The Dowry Prohibition Act, 1961

viii. The Protection of Women from Domestic Violence Act, 2005

ix. The Maintenance and Welfare of Parents and Senior Citizens Act, 2007

x. The Transgender Persons (Protection of Rights) Act, 2019

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Chapter 2

Directorate of Social Welfare

The Directorate of Social Welfare implements welfare schemes and enforces social legislation to protect and safeguard the rights of the vulnerable sections of society, viz., women, children, transgenders and senior citizens.

1.1 WOMEN WELFARE

The Department implements several pioneering welfare schemes towards ensuring security, economic self-sufficiency and social recognition of women. These schemes create an enabling ecosystem that empowers women to realise their full potential and contribute meaningfully to the State's economic and social progress.

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1.1.1 Tamil Nadu State Policy for Women

Tamil Nadu State Policy for Women focuses on boosting female workforce participation, digital literacy, ensuring equal rights to education, healthcare, employment and political participation.

The Tamil Nadu State Policy for Women targets female workforce participation, digital literacy and equal rights in education, health, employment and political participation.

1.1.2 Women Helpline

The women helpline provides 24*7 telecom support services to women through the toll-free number 181. Emergency calls by women in distress are forwarded to Police, Fire, Medical and Disaster Management Departments for appropriate action while other calls relating to counselling, emotional support, legal guidance, education and welfare services are referred to One Stop Centres and other concerned agencies. Information on Government schemes and programmes are also provided through the helpline.

Women Helpline 181 runs 24x7; distress calls go to Police, Fire, Medical and Disaster Management, others to One Stop Centres.

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A sum of Rs.69 lakh has been allocated in the Revised Budget Estimate for the year 2026-27.

1.1.3 One Stop Centres

One Stop Centres (OSCs) are operated to provide accessible and immediate support services to women affected by violence and distress. In Tamil Nadu, 59 OSCs are functioning, across all the 38 districts. These centres provide comprehensive support services including temporary shelter, medical assistance, psychological counselling, free legal aid, police assistance and referral services to the affected women and their children (girls of all ages and boys up to 12 years). The OSCs are integrated with the Women Helpline (181). The OSCs are provided with dedicated vehicles for emergency outreach and rescue operations.

- 59 One Stop Centres across all 38 districts give shelter, medical help, counselling, free legal aid and police assistance to women and their children - girls of all ages and boys up to 12.

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A sum of Rs.18.62 crore has been allocated in the Revised Budget Estimate for the year 2026–27.

1.1.4 Shelter and accommodation facilities for women

i. Short Stay Homes

To restore dignity, instil confidence and improve social security for women affected by abandonment, exploitation and social distress, short stay homes (sakthi sadan) are run through voluntary organizations. The women in these homes are provided food, clothing, counselling, medical care, legal assistance, vocational training and rehabilitation services. In Tamil Nadu, 46 such homes are functioning, which are funded under the Mission Shakthi's Samarthya Scheme with a funding pattern of 60:40 between the Central and State Government.

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A sum of Rs. 25.18 crore has been allocated in the Revised Budget Estimate for the year 2026-27.

ii. Protective Homes

Women who are victims of human trafficking are accommodated in protective homes in Tiruchirappalli, Salem and Coimbatore. They are provided food, medical treatment, psychological counselling, social rehabilitation support and vocational training, thereby enhancing their self-confidence and livelihood skills. Along with free legal aid, a relief amount of Rs.10,000 is provided to each woman through the 'Relief Fund for Affected Women', maintained by the Police Department. Vigilance homes in Chennai and Madurai are functioning as Protective homes.

- Protective homes for trafficking victims at Tiruchirappalli, Salem and Coimbatore; vigilance homes at Chennai and Madurai also serve as protective homes. **Rs.10,000** relief per woman from the Relief Fund for Affected Women.

1.1.5 Financial Support to pursue higher education

Moovalur Ramamirtham Ammaiyar Higher Education Assistance Scheme - Pudhumai Penn is being implemented to encourage girls to continue higher education without interruption. Under the scheme, financial assistance of Rs.1,000 is provided to female students who pursued education in Government and Government-aided schools in Tamil Medium from Class VI to XII. There is no family income limit for availing benefits under the scheme. A sum of Rs.512.07 crore has been allocated in the Revised budget estimate for the year 2026-27.

- Pudhumai Penn gives **Rs.1,000** a month to girls who studied Classes VI to XII in Government or aided schools in Tamil medium - no family income limit. **Rs.512.07 crore** for **2026-27**.

The Tamil Pudhalvan Scheme, provides assistance of Rs.1,000 for higher education to male students who have studied from class VI to XII in Government and Government-aided schools in Tamil medium. A sum of Rs.492.00 crore has been allocated in the Revised Budget Estimate for the year 2026–27.

- Tamil Pudhalvan is the male counterpart at **Rs.1,000** a month - **Rs.492.00 crore** for **2026-27**.

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1.1.6 Employment Support

i. Hostel facilities for working women

To provide secure, pleasant and affordable accommodation to women employed in cities, 'Thozhi Hostels' are constructed and operated through Tamil Nadu Working Women Hostels Corporation Ltd (TNWWHCL). These hostels with a resident manager and round the clock security personnel function with modern facilities and enhanced safety features such as biometric access, CCTV surveillance, generator backup, Wi-Fi, RO water, geysers and laundromat. Online registration, admission, check out, monitoring and reporting are managed through a dedicated portal. The hostels also offer short-term accommodation of one to seven days for the convenience of women visiting cities to attend competitive examinations, interviews, workshops or meetings.

- 25 Thozhi Hostels in 21 districts house 2,282 working women, with biometric access and **CCTV**; new hostels for 840 more in 14 districts at **Rs.75.63 crore**, plus short stays of one to seven days for exam and interview travel.

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Presently, 25 Thozhi Hostels are operated in 21 districts with accommodation capacity of 2,282. New hostels that can accommodate 840 persons are being constructed in 14 districts at a total cost of Rs.75.63 crore from the State fund. Also, construction works are under progress at 7 more locations with financial assistance under the Special Assistance to States for Capital Investment Scheme (SASCI) of Government of India. One working women hostel is also being constructed in Karur at a cost of Rs.5 crore under the 'Namakku Naame Thittam' with an accommodation capacity of 120 persons.

ii. Registration of private working women hostels

To regulate private accommodation for women towards ensuring their safety and protection, the Tamil Nadu Hostels and Homes for Women and Children (Regulation) Act was enacted in 2014 and certain amendments have been made in 2024. The registration of working

- Private working women's hostels are regulated under the Tamil Nadu Hostels and Homes for Women and Children (Regulation) **Act, 2014**, amended **2024** - registration is now online with auto-generated licences.

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women hostels and women homes have been made online. Institutions and Organizations can apply through e-seva portal and based on their self-declaration, license certificates are auto generated.

iii. Free bus travel for women

Safe public transportation for women is an imperative to enable easy access to education, employment, healthcare and social opportunities. The scheme enables women to commute free of cost on town buses operated by the State Transport Corporations.

iv. Tailoring and supply of school uniforms

Women Industrial Cooperative Societies have been formed by enrolling women from Below Poverty Line aged between 18 and 40 who are widows, destitute or deserted. Out of 100 tailoring cooperative societies formed in Tamil Nadu, 99 are women cooperative societies with 37,030

Of 100 tailoring cooperative societies, 99 are women's societies with 37,030 members and one has 68 transgender members - they stitch the four sets of school uniforms.

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members and 1 society has 68 transgender members. Apart from these, 32 cutting centres are functioning to assist in the uniform production. Through these cooperative societies, four sets of school uniforms are stitched and supplied annually to children enrolled in the nutritious meal programme in Government and Government-aided Schools.

v. Preparation and supply of food supplement for ICDS programme beneficiaries

Women co-operative societies have been formed to produce food supplement (sathumaavu) for supply to children, adolescent girls, pregnant and lactating women enrolled in the ICDS programme. There are 25 societies providing employment to 1,000 women which produce approximately 2,250 metric tons of sathumaavu per month for the beneficiaries.

- 25 women's cooperative societies employing 1,000 women produce about 2,250 metric tonnes of sathumaavu a month for **ICDS** beneficiaries.

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vi. Distribution of Free Sewing Machine

Under the Annai Sathyavani Muthu Ammaiyar Ninaivu Free Supply of Sewing Machine Scheme, motorized sewing machines are distributed to eligible widows, destitute, deserted women and women belonging to economically weaker sections who are between 20 to 40 years of age.

- The Annai Sathyavani Muthu Ammaiyar scheme distributes motorised sewing machines to widows, destitute and deserted women aged 20 to 40.

A sum of Rs.2 crore has been allocated in the Revised Budget Estimate for the year 2026–27.

1.1.7 Marriage Assistance Schemes

Marriage assistance is provided to support women affected by economic hardships and to promote inter-caste marriage through various schemes. Dr. Muthulakshmi Reddy Ninaivu Inter-Caste Marriage Assistance Scheme (1968) is intended to provide assistance to inter-caste marriage couples. Dr.Dharmambal Ammaiyar

- Four marriage assistance schemes with their years: Inter-Caste Marriage **1968**, Widow Remarriage **1975**, E.V.R. Maniammaiyar for daughters of poor widows **1982**, and Annai Teresa for orphan girls **1985**.

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Ninaivu Widow Remarriage Assistance Scheme (1975) provides marriage assistance to widows who are entering into remarriage, thereby supporting their social and economic rehabilitation. E.V.R. Maniammaiyar Ninaivu Marriage Assistance Scheme (1982) provides marriage assistance to the daughters of poor widows, with the objective of extending financial support to economically disadvantaged families. Annai Teresa Ninaivu Marriage Assistance Scheme (1985) provides marriage assistance to orphan girls to support them in their marriage and to reduce the financial burden associated with marriage. The assistance consists of an 8-gram gold coin of 22-carat purity. In addition, financial assistance of Rs.50,000 is provided to graduates/diploma holders and Rs.25,000 to non-graduates. A sum of Rs.68.50 crore has been allocated in the Revised Budget Estimate for the year 2026-27 to implement these schemes.

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In Tamil Nadu, lakhs of marriages are solemnized every year. In Tamil tradition, the 'seer' presented by a brother symbolises love, affection, protection and family responsibility. The Government reaffirms its commitment to stand by women in their safety and welfare by institutionalising this tradition as a welfare scheme. Accordingly, under the Annan Seer Scheme the Government shall provide a gift of 8 grams of gold coin and one silk saree to the bride as she embarks on her new life thereby reducing the financial burden on poor and middle- income families. A sum of Rs.812 Crore has been allocated in the Revised Budget Estimate for the year 2026-27.

- The Annan Seer Scheme institutionalises the brother's 'seer' as a welfare measure - an 8-gram gold coin and a silk saree to the bride. **Rs.812 crore** for **2026-27**, the largest women's welfare allocation in this note.

1.1.8 Tamil Nadu State Commission for Women

The Tamil Nadu State Commission for Women, established in 1993 is a statutory body, working for safeguarding the rights of women, addressing grievances relating to crimes and

- The Tamil Nadu State Commission for Women, a statutory body since **1993**, has a chairperson and nine members, takes suo motu cognizance, and inspects prisons, hostels and shelter homes.

discrimination against women. The Commission is headed by a chairperson and supported by nine members. It examines matters relating to the constitutional and legal safeguards available to women and monitors their effective implementation. The Commission also reviews existing laws and policy provisions affecting women and recommends suitable amendments and remedial measures to strengthen the protection of women's rights.

As part of its mandate, the Commission takes up cases involving violations of constitutional and legal provisions relating to women with the appropriate authorities. It also takes suo motu cognizance of issues concerning the non-implementation of law provisions intended to protect women. The Commission also undertakes a range of awareness and outreach activities to promote women's rights and legal literacy. Inspections of prisons, hostels, shelter

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homes and other institutions where women reside are inspected by the Commission and corrective measures are recommended to the concerned authorities.

A sum of Rs. 84.41 lakh has been allocated in the Revised Budget Estimate for the year 2026-27.

1.1.9 Widows and Destitute Women Welfare Board

The Widows and Destitute Women Welfare Board provides social security, livelihood support and welfare measures to widows, destitute women and spinsters. To ensure accessibility and effective outreach, an online registration portal is operational. Around 89,002 widows, 12,361 destitute women and 2,464 spinsters have registered through this portal, till July 2026. Financial assistance of Rs.50,000 in the form of seed capital is extended to eligible women for establishing small business and self-employment

- The Widows and Destitute Women Welfare Board has 89,002 widows, 12,361 destitute women and 2,464 spinsters registered online, with **Rs.50,000** seed capital for self-employment.

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ventures. Through the Tamil Nadu Skill Development Corporation, training is being imparted to interested persons registered with the Board ensuring economic and social empowerment.

1.1.10 Recognition for contribution and excellence

i. Avvaiyar Award

The Avvaiyar Award is conferred annually on International Women's Day to one eminent woman who has rendered excellent service in the field of social reform, women development, communal harmony, service for language, service in art, science, culture, press, administration, etc. The recipient of the Award is honoured with a cash prize of Rs.1.5 lakh and a citation.

- The Avvaiyar Award, given on International Women's Day, carries **Rs.1.5 lakh**; the Kalpana Chawla Award for courage carries **Rs.5 lakh** and a gold-plated silver medal.

ii. Best Social Worker Award and Best Institution Award

Every year on Independence Day, one social worker is awarded with Rs.50,000 cash prize and

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a citation. One institution is also awarded with Rs.1,00,000 cash prize and a citation. These awards are given in recognition of the services rendered by institutions and individuals towards the welfare of women.

iii. Kalpana Chawla Award

This award is presented to one woman annually on Independence Day, for courage and daring enterprise. The award is conferred in the form of a gold-plated silver medal along with a cash prize of Rs. 5,00,000 and a certificate.

1.1.11 Awareness and Outreach activities

Capacity-building programmes are conducted for officers and other stakeholders under the Mission Shakti scheme, for the effective implementation of legislations protecting women's rights and various women and child welfare schemes. The scheme is implemented under a

- Mission Shakti is shared 60:40 between the Union and the State - **Rs.13.45 crore** for **2026-27**.

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60:40 cost-sharing pattern between Government of India and the State Government.

A sum of Rs. 13.45 crore has been allocated in the Revised Budget Estimate for the year 2026–27.

1.2 CHILDREN WELFARE

The Government accords highest priority to child protection and development. Guided by the principles of equity, inclusion and the best interests of children, the Social Welfare Department delivers comprehensive interventions encompassing nutrition, early childhood care and education, health, protection and rehabilitation.

1.2.1 Financial Assurance to safeguard girl children

The Chief Minister's Girl Child Protection Scheme is intended to prevent female infanticide, increase the child sex ratio, prevent child marriage and promote the education of girl

- The Girl Child Protection Scheme deposits **Rs.50,000** for a single girl child or **Rs.25,000** each where there are two, payable at 18 on completing high school. **Rs.114.47 crore** for **2026-27**.

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children. For the families with only one girl child, Rs.50,000 is deposited in the name of the child. For the families with two girl children, Rs.25,000 is deposited in the name of each child. The maturity amount is given once the child attains 18 years of age and complete high school education.

A sum of Rs.114.47 crore has been allocated in the Revised Budget Estimate for the year 2026-27.

1.2.2 Outreach activities for protection and empowerment of girl children

Beti Bachao, Beti Padhao is a flagship initiative under Mission Shakti aimed at addressing issues of declining child sex ratio and ensuring survival, protection and empowerment of girl children. The key activities under this scheme include training and capacity building programmes, preparation and distribution of IEC materials, skill development initiatives, higher education and career guidance.

- Beti Bachao Beti Padhao runs under Mission Shakti against the declining child sex ratio - **Rs.10.70 crore** for **2026-27**.

An amount of Rs.10.70 crore has been allocated in the Revised Budget Estimate for the year 2026–27.

1.2.3 Awards

i. Recognition of bravery of girl children

To recognize and encourage the achievement of girl children and to acknowledge the efforts in preventing child labour, child marriage and other social evils against girl children, a State Award for Girl Child Empowerment is given to one girl child every year in the form of a cash prize of Rs.1,00,000 and an appreciation certificate.

ii. Recognition of Districts for increasing Child Sex Ratio

Tamil Nadu Girl Child Protection Day is celebrated on 24th February. On this occasion, the Government of Tamil Nadu recognises three districts that have shown significant improvement

- Tamil Nadu Girl Child Protection Day falls on 24 February; three districts improving child sex ratio get **Rs.1** lakh, **Rs.75,000** and **Rs.50,000**.

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in child sex ratio. The Collectors of these districts are presented with cash awards of Rs.1,00,000, Rs.75,000 and Rs.50,000 and certificates of appreciation.

1.2.4 Perunthalaivar Kamarajar Breakfast Scheme

Launched in 2022, the Chief Minister's Breakfast Scheme for school children is being implemented in Tamil Nadu for students of class I to V with the objectives of addressing malnutrition, increasing school attendance/ retention, enabling better focus and attention in the classrooms and decreasing the burden of working mothers. To honour Perunthalaivar Kamarajar for his pioneering initiative of providing meals to children in school with a view of promoting education, the Chief Minister's Breakfast Scheme has been named as Perunthalaivar Kamarajar Breakfast Scheme.

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The scheme covers 19.34 lakh students in classes I to V, across 37,447 schools. In the current year 2026-27, the scheme is being expanded to cover 15,14,274 students studying in classes VI to VIII in 15,454 Government and Government-aided schools.

The scheme is implemented across the State through two distinct operational models to ensure efficient delivery of nutritious meals. In urban areas, the scheme is implemented by the Greater Chennai Corporation and the Municipal Administration Department, with meals prepared in centralized kitchens by women Self Help Groups (SHGs) and vendors. In rural areas, the implementation is carried out in kitchens located within school premises by women SHGs through the Tamil Nadu Corporation for Development of Women (TNCDW).

To ensure effective implementation, transparency and real-time supervision of the

- Breakfast Scheme: **19.34 lakh** students in Classes I to V across 37,447 schools, expanding to 15,14,274 students of Classes VI to VIII in 15,454 schools.
- Two delivery models: centralised kitchens run by women's SHGs and vendors in urban areas, school-premises kitchens run by SHGs through **TNCDW** in rural areas.

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scheme, a dedicated mobile app is used for monitoring programme operations across all implementation centres. Key activities, including the commencement and completion of cooking, loading and transportation of meals in urban areas and the serving of meals to students are systematically recorded in the app. Multi-level monitoring committees constituted at the State, District, Corporation, Municipality, Block and school levels regularly review the programme implementation, monitor operational performance, ensure adherence to quality standards and address implementation challenges.

A sum of Rs.506.40 crore has been allocated in the Revised Budget Estimate for the year 2026–27 and additionally Rs.217.63 crore have been sanctioned for the expansion of the scheme.

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1.2.5 Puratchi Thalaivar MGR Nutritious Meal Programme

Tamil Nadu is the pioneer in school nutrition initiatives, beginning with the introduction of a school meal programme in the Chennai Corporation (then Madras Corporation) in 1920. In 1956, the programme was subsequently expanded to primary schools across the State. In 1982, the programme evolved into the Nutritious Meal Programme (NMP), one of the largest and most enduring school feeding initiatives in the country. Over the years, several nutritional enhancements have been introduced, including the provision of eggs to address protein deficiencies and a variety of hot, freshly cooked mixed rice meals.

- The lineage to memorise: school meals began in the Madras Corporation in **1920**, spread to primary schools statewide in **1956**, and became the Nutritious Meal Programme in **1982**.

Drawing insights from the success of the Puratchi Thalaivar MGR Nutrious Meal Programme in Tamil Nadu, the Government of India in 1998 launched National Programme of Nutritional Support to Primary Education across the country,

- Drawing on Tamil Nadu's programme, the Union launched the National Programme of Nutritional Support to Primary Education in **1998** - today **PM POSHAN**, shared 60:40.

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which is now implemented as PM POSHAN for classes I - VIII in the cost sharing pattern of 60:40 between Government of India and State Governments.

Under the Puratchi Thalaivar MGR Nutritious Meal Programme, delicious, hot and nutritious mixed rice varieties along with masala eggs are provided to students of class I to X in Government and Government aided schools on all school working days. The programme is implemented through 42,984 centres, benefitting 39.27 lakh students.

The programme is strengthened through food fortification measures including the use of double-fortified salt (iodine and iron) and fortified cooking oil enriched with Vitamins A and D. The nutritional standards under this scheme exceed national norms, providing higher level of calories and protein to primary, upper primary and high

- The Nutritious Meal Programme runs through 42,984 centres for **39.27 lakh** students of Classes I to X, with masala eggs, double-fortified salt and fortified oil. **Rs.3,191.52 crore** for **2026-27**.

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school students. This contributes significantly to improved health, growth and learning outcomes.

Establishment of school nutrition gardens are encouraged to promote learning through experiential environmental awareness and student participation. They also help create a greener and more sustainable school environment.

A robust three-tier monitoring system at the State, District and Block levels ensures proper implementation. Food quality and quantity are checked regularly by officials. Headmasters and teachers taste the meals before serving. All centres are registered under the FSSAI rules. Comprehensive training programmes on food safety are conducted for cooks, helpers and organisers by FSSAI trainers to improve their skills.

Nutritious Meal Centres are staffed with organisers, cooks and cook assistants, who are

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engaged as part-time permanent employees and are paid under a Special Time Scale of pay along with Dearness Allowance, House Rent Allowance, Medical Allowance, City Compensatory Allowance, Hill & Winter Allowance ensuring fair and stable remuneration. They are also entitled for festival advance, Pongal bonus, casual leave, maternity leave, family benefit fund, insurance coverage, appointment of their wards on compassionate grounds and funeral expenses. Retirement benefits include lump-sum payments of Rs.2,00,000 for organiser, Rs.1,00,000 for cooks and cook assistants, special pension of Rs.3400 for organisers and Rs.3000 for cooks and cook assistants, family pension of Rs.1200 for organisers and Rs.1000 for cooks and cook assistants ensuring comprehensive social security support for employees.

The programme continues to be a flagship social welfare intervention of the Government of

- Nutritious meal organisers, cooks and assistants are part-time permanent employees on a Special Time Scale with **DA**, **HRA** and retirement benefits - **Rs.2 lakh** lump sum and **Rs.3,400** special pension for organisers.

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Tamil Nadu, contributing significantly to the nutritional security, health and educational development of school children. The programme ensures the provision of safe, nutritious and wholesome meals through strengthened quality assurance mechanisms, fortified food ingredients, improved kitchen infrastructure, regular monitoring, capacity building of programme functionaries and audits. The Government will continue to strengthen the programme through continuous improvements in implementation and service delivery, ensuring better nutritional outcomes, enhanced school attendance and the holistic development of students.

A sum of Rs.3191.52 crore has been allocated in the Revised Budget Estimate for the year 2026-27.

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1.3 SENIOR CITIZEN WELFARE

This Government is committed to ensuring that senior citizens live a life of dignity, security, care and active participation in the society. To ensure this, the Social Welfare Department strives to strengthen social protection measures, healthcare support systems, institutional care services and community-based initiatives for the senior citizens.

1.3.1 Tamil Nadu State Policy for Senior Citizens

- The Tamil Nadu State Policy for Senior Citizens covers healthcare, nutrition, shelter, social security and emotional well-being.

The Tamil Nadu State Policy for Senior Citizens has been formulated for creating an inclusive and age-friendly environment in which elderly persons can live independently and safely with dignity. The policy adopts a comprehensive approach towards elders' welfare by addressing the key areas such as healthcare, nutrition, shelter, social security and emotional well-being. It emphasises coordinated action among

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Government departments, local bodies, civil society organisations and private stakeholders to ensure holistic support for senior citizens.

1.3.2 Places of Shelter and Care

i. Senior Citizens Homes

a. Homes funded by State Government

To provide care and protection for destitute and abandoned senior citizens, the State Government extends maintenance grants to Old Age Homes run by Non-Governmental Organisations. These homes offer comprehensive support services including food, shelter, clothing, health care, yoga and other social engagement programmes. Support for final rites is also provided. Each home accommodates up to 40 elderly persons. 26 old age homes are functioning in the State under this scheme. Grant is provided by the Government under the sharing pattern of 5:1 between the Government and NGOs. Recognising the need of additional senior citizen

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homes, 12 new homes will be established in 12 districts viz., Chennai, Karur, Madurai, Mayiladuthurai, Namakkal, Ramanathapuram, Ranipet, Salem, Tenkasi, Tiruvallur, Vellore and Virudhunagar in the current financial year.

A sum of Rs.4.97 crore has been allocated in the Revised Budget Estimate for the year 2026-27.

b. Homes under the Integrated Programme for Senior Citizens (IPSrC)

Under the Integrated Programme for Senior Citizens (IPSrC), institutional services are provided for senior citizen by NGOs. The funding pattern is 90:10 between the Government of India and NGOs. 75 old age homes are functioning in the State under this scheme. Health care, rehabilitation and support services are provided to elders who are vulnerable and in need of institutional care.

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ii. Integrated Complex for Senior Citizen and Destitute Children

The Integrated Complexes provide a unique intergenerational care model where senior citizens and destitute children live together in a family-like atmosphere. Each complex accommodates 25 senior citizens and 25 children. 38 Integrated Complexes are functioning in the State under this scheme.

- Integrated Complexes house 25 senior citizens and 25 destitute children together - an intergenerational care model, 38 of them in the State.

A sum of Rs.7.01 crore has been allocated in the Revised Budget Estimate for the year 2026-27.

iii. Day Care Centre

Anbucholai Day Care Centres have been established to provide various services to senior citizens including day care assistance, essential medical care, recreational facilities, opportunities for companionship, skill development and participation in meaningful activities. At present, 25 Anbucholai Day Care Centres are functioning in

- 25 Anbucholai Day Care Centres in 13 districts serve 1,250 senior citizens; five more with libraries, yoga and indoor sports are coming in Cuddalore, Tiruvannamalai, Kanniyakumari, Villupuram and Namakkal.

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13 districts, each with a capacity of 50 senior citizens, benefiting 1,250 senior citizens. The State Government provides financial assistance to the implementing Non-Governmental Organisations, at the rate of Rs.5.22 lakh per centre per annum towards recurring expenditure and Rs.1.25 lakh for non-recurring expenditure like televisions, libraries, recreational equipment and skill development activities. In the current financial year, new senior citizen day care centres featuring libraries, yoga and meditation facilities and indoor sports will be set up in 5 districts viz., Cuddalore, Tiruvannamalai, Kanniyakumari, Villupuram and Namakkal.

A sum of Rs.1.63 crore has been allocated in the Revised Budget Estimate for the year 2026-27.

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iv. Special Stay Facilities in Spiritual Tourist Places

Special stay facilities for elderly persons have been established in major spiritual tourist destinations viz., Tiruvannamalai, Tiruchendur, Velankanni, Nagoor, Palani, Rameswaram and Kanyakumari. These special stay facilities provide shelter, care, protection and support to abandoned elders rescued from spiritual tourist places.

- Special stay facilities for elders abandoned at spiritual tourist places - Tiruvannamalai, Tiruchendur, Velankanni, Nagoor, Palani, Rameswaram and Kanyakumari.

1.3.3 Senior Citizen Helpline

The senior citizen toll-free helpline (14567) serves as an accessible support system for elderly persons requiring assistance, information, counselling and emergency intervention. The helpline functions daily from 8 a.m. to 8 p.m, providing a wide range of services, including rescue support, information on old age homes and welfare schemes, psychological counselling and legal guidance under the Maintenance and

- Senior Citizen Helpline 14567 runs 8 a.m. to 8 p.m. and has taken 3,39,922 calls since **2021**.

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Welfare of Parents and Senior Citizens Act, 2007. Since its launch in 2021, a total of 3,39,922 (upto July-2026) calls have been received through the helpline, demonstrating its growing importance in addressing the concerns and needs of senior citizens across the State.

1.3.4 Maintenance and Welfare of Parents and Senior Citizens Act

To ensure legal protection for the maintenance, care and welfare of parents and senior citizens and to effectively implement the Maintenance and Welfare of Parents and Senior Citizens Act 2007, the Government of Tamil Nadu framed the corresponding rules in 2009. Under the rules, the Revenue Divisional Officers have been designated as Maintenance Tribunals to adjudicate petitions filed by senior citizens and parents. Presently, 94 Maintenance Tribunals function across the State with powers equivalent to those of a Civil Court. The District Social Welfare Officers have been notified as Conciliation

- Under the **2007** Act and **2009** State Rules: RDOs are Maintenance Tribunals with civil court powers (94 of them), District Social Welfare Officers are Conciliation Officers and District Collectors are Appellate Tribunals.

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Officers to facilitate settlement between parties and assist elderly persons during tribunal proceedings. District Collectors have been designated as Appellate Tribunals to hear appeals against the orders of Maintenance Tribunals.

1.4 WELFARE OF TRANSGENDER PERSONS

The Government is committed to uphold social justice and foster inclusion and empowerment of transgender persons in the society. The Social Welfare Department implements various welfare measures to safeguard the rights and well-being of transgender persons.

A sum of Rs.7.17 crore has been allocated in the Revised Budget Estimate for the year 2026-27 for the various welfare activities.

1.4.1 State Policy

The Tamil Nadu State Policy for Transgender Persons, 2025 aims to enhance the

- The Tamil Nadu State Policy for Transgender Persons, **2025** covers transgender and intersex persons.

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quality of life of transgender and intersex persons by ensuring esteem, equality and equitable access to essential services.

1.4.2 Transgender Welfare Board

Tamil Nadu Transgender Welfare Board established in the year 2008 coordinates welfare measures through targeted interventions to secure dignity and socio-economic upliftment of transgender persons.

- Tamil Nadu's Transgender Welfare Board dates from **2008** - the first of its kind in India and eleven years ahead of the central Act of **2019**.

1.4.3 Transgender Identity Card

An initiative to provide an identity card to transgender persons has been introduced to provide legal recognition of gender identity and facilitate access to Government welfare schemes through an online mobile application - 'Thirunangaikal'. 11,938 identity cards have been issued so far.

- Transgender identity cards are issued through the Thirunangaikal mobile application - 11,938 so far; 1,891 destitute transgender persons above 40 receive monthly assistance.

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1.4.4 Monthly Assistance

This scheme provides social security and financial support to destitute transgender persons above 40 years of age. At present, 1891 beneficiaries receive monthly assistance under this scheme.

1.4.5 Shelter homes

'Aran' Shelter homes for transgender persons have been established in Chennai and Madurai with a capacity of 25 residents each. These homes provide safe accommodation, rehabilitation, counselling and healthcare support for transgender persons facing homelessness, exclusion or violence. To further expand this initiative, "Aran" shelter homes will be established in the current financial year in 5 districts Chengalpattu, Coimbatore, Salem, Tiruchirappalli and Tiruvallur for transgender persons facing social and family-related challenges.

- Aran shelter homes for transgender persons at Chennai and Madurai (25 residents each) will extend to Chengalpattu, Coimbatore, Salem, Tiruchirappalli and Tiruvallur.

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1.4.6 Short Stay Homes

Transgender persons commute from one place to another for various purposes, including education, skill training, employment, medical treatment, meetings and workshops. During such journeys, they face considerable difficulties in securing safe, dignified and affordable accommodation, particularly when an overnight stay is required. To address this need and ensure their safety, dignity and well-being, Short Stay Homes for Transgender Persons will be established in 15 districts, providing safe, accessible and supportive accommodation for short-term stay.

1.4.7 Free Bus Travel

The free bus travel scheme is being implemented to enable transgender persons to have easy access to education, health care and other social opportunities.

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1.4.8 Higher Education Assistance

Financial assistance is extended to transgender persons to ensure that they pursue higher education without interruption. College expenses such as tuition fees, hostel fees and related educational expenses are covered. So far, a sum of Rs. 21.80 lakh have been spent for 24 transgender students. Higher Education Assistance under the Pudhumai Penn and Tamil Pudhalvan Schemes have been extended to transgender students for pursuing higher education. The eligibility criteria for the schemes are relaxed to include transgender who have completed schooling from private schools and non-Tamil medium. At present 35 transgender persons are receiving monthly incentive under this scheme.

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1.4.9 Skill Development Training

To promote the economic self-sufficiency of transgender persons, skill development programmes are being implemented through the Tamil Nadu Skill Development Corporation. So far, 220 transgender persons have undergone training in tailoring, beautician courses, catering, vegetable vending, livestock rearing and entrepreneurship development. These programmes are being conducted to improve employability and self-employment opportunities through vocational and entrepreneurship training.

1.4.10 Self-Employment Grant

This grant is provided to promote entrepreneurship and economic self-reliance among transgender persons. Financial assistance up to Rs.50,000 is provided annually to 200 beneficiaries for income-generating activities.

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1.4.11 Induction into Home Guard Force

A special initiative has been launched to induct transgender persons into Home Guard service to enhance employment opportunities, social recognition and participation of transgender persons in public service. In the first phase, 50 transgender persons were trained and appointed in 6 Police Commissionerates viz., Chennai, Avadi, Tambaram, Tiruchirapalli, Coimbatore and Madurai.

1.4.12 Award

The “Best Transgender Award” has been instituted to recognise and honour outstanding contributions by transgender persons towards community welfare, social advancement and human rights. This award includes a cash prize of Rs.1 lakh and a certificate. It is presented on April 15th annually, observed as “Transgender Day”.

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1.4.13 Glossary

LGBTQIA+ Glossary has been published to promote the use of respectful, inclusive and dignified erminology related to LGBTQIA+ communities in media and public communication.

1.5 Acts Implemented

The Social Welfare and Women Empowerment Department is responsible for implementing the following Acts for the care, protection and empowerment of children, women, senior citizen and transgender persons.

- The Dowry Prohibition Act, 1961
- The Protection of Women from Domestic Violence Act, 2005
- The Prohibition of Child Marriage Act, 2006
- The Maintenance and Welfare of Parents and Senior Citizens Act, 2007
- The Sexual Harassment of Women at Workplace (Prevention, Prohibition and Redressal) Act, 2013

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- The Transgender Persons (Protection of Rights) Act, 2019
- The Tamil Nadu Homes and Hostels for Children and Women (Regulation) Act 2014, Amendment Act, 2024.

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Chapter 3

Integrated Child Development Services

The Integrated Child Development Services (ICDS) is a flagship community-based programme of Government of India aimed at promoting the holistic development of children below six years of age, and improving the nutritional and health status of pregnant women, lactating mothers and adolescent girls.

Launched in 1975, ICDS has emerged as one of the world's largest and most comprehensive early childhood care and development programmes. It addresses the multifaceted challenges faced by vulnerable and marginalized communities. The scheme is implemented through a vast network of anganwadi centres, where anganwadi workers and anganwadi helpers serve as the frontline functionaries, acting as the primary interface

- **ICDS**, launched in **1975**, is now subsumed under Mission Saksham Anganwadi and Poshan 2.0.

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between the community and the service delivery system. The Integrated Child Development Services (ICDS) scheme has now been subsumed under Mission Saksham Anganwadi and Poshan 2.0, under which anganwadi centres are being upgraded with better digital learning and physical infrastructure in a phased manner.

In Tamil Nadu, this scheme is implemented through the Directorate of Integrated Child Development Services, via an extensive network of 54,481 anganwadi centres. These centres function as the focal point for delivering a package of integrated services i.e. nutrition including supplementary nutrition, early childhood care and education, health education, immunization, health check-ups and referral services.

- Tamil Nadu runs 54,481 anganwadi centres delivering six services - supplementary nutrition, nutrition and health monitoring, non-formal pre-school education, immunisation, health check-ups and referral.

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3.1 ANGANWADI SERVICES

The following six packages of services are provided in an integrated manner to eligible beneficiaries through anganwadi centres.

- Supplementary nutrition
- Nutrition and health monitoring
- Non formal pre-school education
- Immunization
- Health check-ups
- Referral services

Out of these six services, immunization, health check-ups and referral services are delivered through the National Health Mission and the public health infrastructure under the Health and Family Welfare Department through convergence mechanism.

Three of the six **ICDS** services - immunisation, health check-ups and referral - are delivered by the Health Department through convergence, not by **ICDS** itself.

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3.1.1 Supplementary Nutrition

This Supplementary Nutrition Programme is a major initiative designed to deliver supplementary food to individuals enrolled in anganwadi centres under the ICDS framework all over the State. The primary objective of this initiative is to bridge the deficit between the Average Daily Intake (ADI) and the Recommended Dietary Allowance (RDA). The beneficiaries of this programme are:

- Children below six years of age
- Pregnant women
- Lactating mothers
- Adolescent girls aged 14–18 years in two aspirational districts (Virudhunagar and Ramanathapuram).

The Supplementary Nutrition Programme exists to bridge the gap between Average Daily Intake and the Recommended Dietary Allowance.

Adolescent girls aged 14-18 are covered only in the two aspirational districts, Virudhunagar and Ramanathapuram - 39,919 of the 27,41,104 total beneficiaries.

Identification of beneficiaries under this package is done through periodic family surveys and continuous updation at the level of anganwadi

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centre to ensure inclusion of all the eligible beneficiaries.

Details of Beneficiaries as of July 2026 are as follows

Category	Number of Beneficiaries
i. Children (age wise)	21,26,638
• 6months-1year	3,47,563
• 1-2 years	6,47,205
• 2-3 years	4,58,470
• 3-6 years	6,73,400
ii. Pregnant women	3,23,337
iii. Lactating mothers	2,51,210
iv. Adolescent Girls (in the age group of 14-18 in Virudhunagar and Ramanathapuram)	39,919
Total Beneficiaries	27,41,104

As per the directives of Mission Poshan 2.0 guidelines, it is compulsory to provide supplementary nutrition to all pregnant women, lactating mothers upto 6 months of post-delivery and all children between 6

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months and 6 years of age, including malnourished children. Additionally, the regulations mandate that beneficiaries must receive these supplementary nutrition services for a total of 300 days throughout the year.

Mission Poshan 2.0 mandates supplementary nutrition for 300 days a year to all pregnant women, lactating mothers up to six months post-delivery and children from 6 months to 6 years.

The major components of Supplementary Nutrition Programme are:

1. Food Supplement (sathu mavu).
2. Fortified Biscuits.
3. Eggs (Thrice a week).
4. Hot cooked Nutritious meal.

a. Sathu Mavu

This nutritional supplement is distributed to ICDS beneficiaries in two different compositions as recommended by the Expert Committee formed by the Government of Tamil Nadu. One for children aged from 6 months to 6 years and another for adolescent girls, antenatal and postnatal mothers. To enhance the flavour of sathu mavu given to the children between the

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age of 2 to 6 years, cardamom and vanilla flavours are added.

Sathu mavu provided for children in the age group of 6 months to 6 years contains micronutrients such as vitamin A, B1, B2, B3, B4, B5, B6, B7, B12, C, D and minerals such as iron, inositol, selenium and zinc. 100 grams of food supplement (sathu mavu) contains 400 kcal of energy and 15 grams of protein.

100 g of sathu mavu for children gives 400 kcal and 15 g protein; fortified biscuits for severely malnourished children give 500 kcal and 6 g protein.

To address the extra dietary requirements of severely malnourished children in the age group of 6 months to 6 years, in addition to sathu mavu, fortified biscuits are being provided as Take Home Ration (THR). These enriched biscuits are formulated with vital nutrients, including vitamin A, B1, B2, iron, calcium, niacin and folic acid. 100 grams of these fortified biscuits provide the children with 6 grams of protein and 500 Kcal of energy.

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Sathu mavu provided to antenatal / postnatal mothers, adolescent girls contains micronutrients such as vitamin A, B1, B2, B3, C, D, folic acid, iron and calcium. 100 grams of food supplement (sathu mavu) contains 400 kcal of energy and 14 grams of protein.

Around 65% of sathu mavu is procured from 25 weaning food manufacturing women co-operative societies functioning under the Directorate of ICDS. The balance 35% of sathu mavu is procured from manufacturers through an open tender process in accordance with the Tamil Nadu Transparency in Tenders Act, 1998 and Rules 2000.

- About 65% of sathu mavu comes from 25 women's cooperative societies; the remaining 35% is tendered under the Tamil Nadu Transparency in Tenders **Act, 1998**.

Sathu mavu produced by both women cooperative societies and manufacturers are subjected to rigorous testing in Government-certified laboratories. The product is distributed to the anganwadi centres only after obtaining the quality certification. Also, sathu mavu collected

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from anganwadi centres on random basis are sent to State Food Analysis Laboratories for verification of prescribed standards.

b. Hot Cooked Nutritious Meal:

Considering the special nature and digestive capacity of the small children in the age group of 2 to 6 years coming to anganwadi centres for pre-school education, the nutrition experts have recommended variety meals for all six days in a week like tomato rice, mixed dal rice, vegetable pulav, lemon rice which are freshly prepared using rice, dal and vegetables. Boiled eggs are served three times a week and black bengal gram/green gram sundal is served on Tuesdays to boost child health and protein intake. On Fridays boiled potatoes are given to increase the carbohydrate intake. To address micro nutrient deficiency, salt fortified with iron and iodine and oil fortified with vitamin A and D are used for cooking.

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c. Scheme for Adolescent Girls (SAG)

The scheme for adolescent girls implemented under the Poshan 2.0 scheme, has been revised to target beneficiaries in aspirational districts across the country. In Tamil Nadu, supplementary nutrition in the form of 150 grams of sathu mavu containing 600 calories, 21 grams of protein and micronutrients is being provided in the form of Take Home Ration (THR) to adolescent girls in the age group of 14 to 18 years in the aspirational districts of Virudhunagar and Ramanathapuram. Additionally, the scheme provides iron and folic acid (IFA) supplements, health services, nutrition and health education, and skill training to adolescent girls.

This Scheme also has a non-nutrition component under which the Health and Family Welfare Department, Rural Development and Panchayat Raj Department, Skill Development Corporation, Department of Education and Youth

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Welfare and Sports Development are involved for giving life skill education to the adolescent girls.

3.1.2 Nutrition Monitoring

As part of the State's initiative, the TN-ICDS application has been developed and implemented in coordination with Tamil Nadu e-Governance Agency (TNeGA). All information available in the POSHAN Tracker and various State-specific programme details are uploaded and synchronized through the TN-ICDS application. The application is integrated with Pregnancy and Infant Cohort Monitoring and Evaluation (PICME) of the Health and Family Welfare Department and Education Management Information System (EMIS) of the School Education Department through API integration for seamless data exchange.

To ensure effective service delivery to all the beneficiaries through anganwadi centres, the Government of India introduced the POSHAN

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Tracker application in January 2021. Through this application, the activities carried out by anganwadi workers are continuously monitored and the services provided to beneficiaries such as pregnant women, lactating mothers and children are being continuously tracked and monitored. Smart phones have been provided to all anganwadi workers to monitor the nutritional status of beneficiaries through this application and growth monitoring devices have been supplied to all anganwadi centers to facilitate accurate data recording and real time tracking of the nutritional status of beneficiaries.

The Government has designated the Director of ICDS as the Registrar under UIDAI for Aadhaar enrolment and issuance for children in the age group of 0–6 years. A total of 437 child development project offices are functioning as Aadhaar enrolment centres in accordance with the guidelines issued by the Information Technology

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and Digital Services Department. Special enrolment camps are also conducted through anganwadi centres wherever necessary.

Jan Andolan, implemented under the National Nutrition Mission, is a comprehensive awareness and community-based initiative approach aimed at taking nutrition-related information to every household. The movement is taken forward with the participation of local body representatives, State Government Departments, community based organisations and stakeholders from both public and private sectors. Necessary funds have been provided to districts to conduct samudaya valaikappu programmes, World Breastfeeding Week celebration, traditional food festivals, nutrition month and nutrition fortnight, awareness exhibitions at the State, District and Block levels, health and nutrition education to adolescent girls workshops and training programmes for anganwadi workers.

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3.1.3 Non-Formal Pre School Education

Early childhood (0-6 years) is a critical and formative phase in a child's life laying the foundation of holistic development. Learning begins at birth, and experiences during these early years provide the base for all subsequent learning and Early Childhood Care and Education (ECCE) plays a significant role in the learning process of the child in this stage.

Aadi Paadi Vilaiyadu Paapa (APVP) programme is a specialized curriculum implemented in the State in alignment with the National Early Childhood Care and Education Policy, 2013. This developmental age-appropriate and contextualized annual curriculum has been designed for the holistic development of the children. The curriculum comprises preschool activities with 11 child-friendly theme-based modules for 11 months.

Necessary learning and teaching aids related to preschool education such as activity

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books for the age group of 2-3, 3-4 and 4-5 years, child assessment cards, parent – teacher meetings, graduation day ceremony, pre-school completion certificates and child profile have been printed and distributed. Trainings on early childhood care and education, nutrition, preschool education and early detection of developmental delays in children are provided to anganwadi workers. Also, training on Poshan Tracker and TN-ICDS application are provided to all field officers and staff.

Age appropriate play materials are also being provided to all anganwadi centres at the rate of Rs.3,000 (inclusive of printing and supply) per anganwadi centre. Two sets of unisex ready-made uniforms are provided to children in the age group of 2 to 6 years at anganwadi centres at the rate of Rs.300 per child, which is fully funded by the State Government.

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3.1.4 Health Check-ups and Referral services

i. Care for Low Birth Weight Children

Some newborns are identified as having low birth weight due to various factors. In addition, a significant number of children are found to be malnourished, while some others are born with different health complications that require special care and monitoring. Low birth weight children who attain normal growth within the first six months through appropriate care and adequate nutrition are more likely to grow into healthy and well-nourished individuals. Mothers are continuously sensitized on the importance of exclusive breast feeding for the first six months, as it plays a vital role in ensuring growth and development of the child.

Under the Home Based Young Childcare (HBYC) Programme, low birth weight children are identified and regularly monitored with special

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focus on those affected by malnutrition. To track the low birth weight infants, anganwadi workers should make 5 home visits viz., after 3, 6, 9, 12 and 15 months, for which they are provided a special incentive of Rs.50 per home visit. The programme facilitates continuous follow up and timely interventions to improve the nutritional status and promote growth and development.

ii. Provision of Medicine and Hygiene Kits

All anganwadi centres are provided with medicine and hygiene kits annually. Medicine kits are provided to address common ailments such as fever, small wounds, diarrhoea, skin infections etc. The medicine kit contains paracetamol tablet and syrup, ORS powder sachets, povidone iodine ointment, bleached bandage cloth, iron and folic acid syrup and multi vitamin drops. Hygiene kits are distributed to anganwadi centres to promote the hygiene practices among the children. The kit contains items such as floor cleaner, toilet

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cleaner, antiseptic liquid, comb, nail cutter, soap and a small towel.

3.2 INFRASTRUCTURE

3.2.1 Construction of Anganwadi Centres

To ensure that all anganwadi centres function with adequate facilities, new anganwadi building construction is taken up every year at an estimated cost of around Rs.16.69 lakh per building. The construction of anganwadi centre buildings is undertaken by the Rural Development and Panchayat Raj Department and Municipal Administration and Water Supply Department.

Construction of new anganwadi centre buildings are undertaken through dovetailing Integrated Child Development Services funds and various funding sources, including VB-G RAM G (erstwhile MGNREGS) Legislative Assembly Member's Constituency Development Fund, the Namakku Naame Scheme, the District Collector's

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Discretionary Fund and Panchayat Union/Panchayat General Funds.

During the current financial year more than 500 anganwadi buildings will be constructed in rural areas and dilapidated buildings in urban areas will also be replaced with new ones.

3.2.2 Upgradation of Anganwadi Centres as Saksham Anganwadi Centres

Anganwadi Centres are being upgraded, modernized, equipped with better infrastructure, digital tools with enhanced focus on foundational learning. The upgradation includes nutri-gardens, water purifiers, rain water harvesting, internet/Wi-Fi connectivity, LED screens, ECCE facilities with smart learning aids, audio-visual aids, child-friendly learning equipment, including BaLA paintings etc., at the rate of Rs.1 lakh per anganwadi centre.

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3.2.3 Creation of New Anganwadi Centres in Tribal Areas

To uplift the socio-economic condition of Tribal groups, new anganwadi centres are being constructed under PM-JANMAN (Prathan Mantri Janjati Adivasi Nyaya Maha Abhiyaan) and DA-JGUA (Dharti Aaba Janjatiya Gram Utkarsh Abhiyan) schemes. 42 new anganwadi Centres have been established under these two schemes and construction of new buildings is under progress.

3.3 ANGANWADI EMPLOYEES

As per the recommendations of the 7th Pay Commission, anganwadi employees are provided with special time scale of pay at the rate of Rs.7,700–24,200 for anganwadi workers, Rs.5,700–18,000 for mini anganwadi workers and Rs.4,100–12,500 for anganwadi helpers. Allowances such as Dearness Allowance, House Rent Allowance, City Compensatory Allowance,

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Medical Allowance, Hill Allowance, Winter Allowance and annual increment are also provided.

Retired anganwadi employees are provided with lumpsum amount, special pension, special family pension and funeral assistance. The special pension has been enhanced from Rs.2,000 to Rs.3,400 for anganwadi workers, Rs.3,200 for mini anganwadi workers and Rs.3,000 for anganwadi helpers. Similarly, the lumpsum retirement benefit for anganwadi workers and mini anganwadi workers has been enhanced from Rs.1 lakh to Rs.2 lakh, and for anganwadi helpers from Rs.50,000 to Rs.1 lakh.

Promotions are being provided on seniority basis to mini anganwadi workers who have completed 5 years of service and anganwadi helpers who have completed 10 years of service. Further, anganwadi workers are appointed as supervisor grade-II or Rural Women Welfare

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Officer on the basis of seniority. Eligible female legal heir of the deceased anganwadi employees are appointed on compassionate grounds.

Anganwadi employees are also provided 180 days of maternity leave up to two children, Rs.2,500 per month as conveyance allowance for differently abled employees, annual supply of two sarees and overcoats as uniform.

3.4 OUTCOMES

The Department of Integrated Child Development Services (ICDS), Tamil Nadu, has been implementing wide range of nutrition, health and early childhood care interventions through anganwadi Centres. These initiatives improve the nutritional status of children, pregnant women and lactating mothers.

To strengthen service delivery and monitoring, all 54,481 anganwadi Centres in Tamil Nadu have been integrated with the

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POSHAN Tracker platform. Continuous growth monitoring, supplementary nutrition, home visits, nutrition counselling, convergence activities with the Health Department and real-time beneficiary tracking have contributed significantly towards improving child nutrition indicators in the State. The improvements in nutritional outcomes are reflected through the comparative findings of NFHS-4, NFHS-5 and POSHAN Tracker data.

Indicator	NFHS-4 India	NFHS-4 Tamil Nadu	NFHS-5 India	NFHS-5 Tamil Nadu	POSHAN Tracker April 2026 Tamil Nadu	Status
Stunting (%)	38.4	27.1	35.5	25.0	8.9	Improvement
Wasting (%)	21.0	19.7	19.3	14.6	2.7	Improvement
Under weight (%)	35.8	23.8	32.1	22.0	4.4	Improvement

Through continuous monitoring, the nutritional status of the beneficiaries has shown significant improvement. Notably, the prevalence of stunting, wasting and underweight status have

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significantly dropped reflecting substantial progress.

The Government of Tamil Nadu is committed to further strengthening anganwadi services under POSHAN 2.0, through better infrastructure, effective service delivery and technology-based monitoring systems. The department continues to work towards achieving the vision of a “Malnutrition-Free Tamil Nadu” by concerted efforts and coordinated activities.

3.5 BUDGET ESTIMATE FOR 2026-27

The estimated gross total project cost for 2026–27 is Rs.3,834.38 crore. The cost is shared between Government of India and Government of Tamil Nadu in the ratio of 50:50 for supplementary nutrition and 60:40 for anganwadi services.

Accordingly, the Government of India’s share is Rs.892.31 crore, while the State

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Government's share is Rs.771.02 crore. The State Government has also provided an additional Rs.2,171.05 crore, taking the total State contribution to Rs.2,942.07 crore which is 35% more than the mandated norm.

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Chapter 4

Children Welfare and Special Services

Children are the foundation of a nation's future. Ensuring their care, protection, development and participation is essential for building an equitable, inclusive and prosperous society. The Government of Tamil Nadu accords top priority of safeguarding the rights and well-being of every child. The Directorate of Children Welfare and Special Services functions as the nodal agency of the State Government for the care, protection, rehabilitation and social reintegration of vulnerable children.

Guided by the best interests of the child, the Directorate promotes family-based care as a preference, and institutional support as an alternative means of care, rehabilitation and social reintegration. The interventions undertaken by the Directorate also cover various other child

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protection services such as adoption, foster care, sponsorship, aftercare, education, skill development and psychosocial support including convergence with other Government Departments and stakeholders.

The Directorate implements and coordinates the enforcement of the following major legislations relating to the care, protection, welfare and rehabilitation of children:

- The Juvenile Justice (Care and Protection of Children) Act, 2015
- The Protection of Children from Sexual Offences (POCSO) Act, 2012
- The Commissions for Protection of Child Rights Act, 2005
- The Prohibition of Child Marriage Act, 2006
- The Tamil Nadu Prevention of Begging Act, 1945

The Juvenile Justice (Care and Protection of Children) Act 2015, is an umbrella act which aims to protect and support children towards meeting

- The **JJ Act 2015** is the umbrella law, creating Child Welfare Committees, Juvenile Justice Boards, District Child Protection Units and Special Juvenile Police Units.

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their basic needs and providing for their education, development, rehabilitation and various other interventions. It prescribes mechanisms for the overall well-being of children through appropriate institutions, services and support systems. It establishes statutory and institutional mechanisms such as Child Welfare Committees (CWCs), Juvenile Justice Boards (JJBs), District Child Protection Units (DCPUs) and Special Juvenile Police Units (SJPUs).

The Act provides for specific interventions towards two categories of children viz Children in need of Care and Protection (CNCP) and Children in Conflict with Law (CCL). Children who are orphaned, abandoned, abused, neglected, living on the streets or otherwise without adequate parental care are considered as Children in Need of Care and Protection. A child below 18 years who is alleged or found to have committed an offence is considered as Children in Conflict with

- The Act's two categories: Children in Need of Care and Protection (orphaned, abandoned, abused, on the streets) and Children in Conflict with Law (under 18, alleged to have offended).

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Law. The juvenile justice system adopts a reformative and rehabilitative approach, focusing on education, counselling, skill development and social reintegration.

To support implementation of the Juvenile Justice Act, various measures are taken up by both Central and State Governments through various schemes and programmes such as Mission Vatsalya, Child Helpline (1098), Anbu Karangal scheme etc. The Tamil Nadu Juvenile Justice Fund was established under Section 105 of the Juvenile Justice (Care and Protection of Children) Act, 2015, with an initial corpus of Rs. 25 lakh to support the care, rehabilitation and welfare of Children in Need of Care and Protection (CNCP) and Children in Conflict with Law (CCL). The corpus presently has Rs.77.28 lakh. For the effective administration of the Fund, the Government of Tamil Nadu has framed the Tamil Nadu Juvenile Justice Fund Rules, 2017.

- Anbu Karangal gives **Rs.2,000** a month to orphaned or otherwise vulnerable children cared for by relatives, to prevent institutionalisation - **Rs.16.80 crore** for **2026-27**.

The Tamil Nadu Juvenile Justice Fund was set up under Section 105 of the **JJ Act 2015** with a **Rs.25 lakh** corpus, now **Rs.77.28 lakh**, governed by State Rules of **2017**.

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To ensure the collection and maintenance of comprehensive and reliable data on the protection and development of children under the Juvenile Justice System, a web-based Child Protection Information Management and Monitoring System (CPIMMS) has been developed. The system facilitates data sharing among stakeholders and supports the effective monitoring and strengthening of various services and schemes for children.

4.1 INTERVENTIONS MADE FOR CHILDREN IN NEED OF CARE AND PROTECTION (CNCP)

The Directorate endeavors to provide immediate care and protection, family tracing, restoration wherever feasible, education, healthcare, counselling, rehabilitation and long-term social reintegration for children in need of care and protection. Family-based support such as sponsorship, foster care and adoption are promoted in accordance with the legal provisions

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and in the best interests of the child, and institutional care is resorted to only where family-based support is not available. These interventions are made through various Central and State Government schemes/programmes including by convergence and coordination with other Departments.

4.1.1 Nodal Agencies Implementing Child Protection Services

a. Child Welfare Committees (CWCs)

Child Welfare Committees are statutory bodies constituted under the Juvenile Justice Act to deal with matters relating to Children in Need of Care and Protection. The Committees inquiries and ensures that children receive appropriate care, protection, rehabilitation and support through institutional and non-institutional services.

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The Committees conduct inquiries, arranges suitable care i.e. foster care or institutional placement, and make efforts to restore children to their families. They also deal with orphaned, abandoned and surrendered children and take steps for their adoption. The Committees regularly inspect child care institutions and ensures the safety and well-being of the children, and take suitable action in case they find anything adverse. They coordinate with the Police and other Departments and ensure legal assistance to children. In POCSO cases, the Committees also pass orders for appointing a support person, translator or sign-language interpreter for the child victim and also order special relief and financial assistance.

In Tamil Nadu, 40 Child Welfare Committees are functioning across 38 districts. Each Committee comprises a Chairperson and four members, including at least one woman member.

- 40 Child Welfare Committees across 38 districts, each with a chairperson and four members including at least one woman.

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They follow a child-friendly approach in all their activities and ensure that the best interests of the child are given priority.

b. State Child Protection Society (SCPS)

The State Child Protection Society (SCPS) functions as the State-level mechanism for planning, coordination, implementation and monitoring of Mission Vatsalya and child protection services, facilitating convergence with line Departments, statutory bodies and stakeholders for effective implementation of child protection laws, policies and schemes.

In Tamil Nadu, the SCPS functions under the aegis of the Directorate of Children Welfare and Special Services, headed by the Secretary to Government, Social Welfare and Women Empowerment Department, as Chairperson, with the Director of Children Welfare and Special Services as Member Secretary along with the

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Program Managers and Program Officers, supported by the State-level child protection machinery.

c. District Child Protection Units (DCPUs)

District Child Protection Units function as the district-level mechanism for implementing and monitoring child protection services. They coordinate with Child Welfare Committees, Juvenile Justice Boards, Child Care Institutions, Police, Health, Education Departments, local bodies and other relevant stakeholders. The DCPUs comprise of District Child Protection Officer (DCPO), counsellor, legal cum probation officer, protection officers (institutional and non-institutional care), social workers, outreach workers and administrative staff. The DCPO shall function as the officer-in-charge of the DCPU and shall be responsible for carrying out all the day-to-day functions of the DCPU at the district level.

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The probation system functions as an effective tool for early rehabilitation and social integration with the participation of the children at every stage under the Juvenile Justice System. Probation Officers have been appointed to assist Child Welfare Committees and Juvenile Justice Board in preparing Social Investigation Reports (SIR). In specific cases, probation officers undertake follow up activities on CCLs and children moving from children homes to families.

d. Child Help Line Services

Child Helpline (CHL) is a 24-hour emergency toll free number (1098) providing outreach services for children in crisis, connecting them with immediate or long-term care and rehabilitation services. It is a response mechanism for children in distress. It receives complaints and information regarding children facing abuse, neglect, child labour, exploitation, abandonment or other risks. The CHL team

- Child Helpline 1098 runs 24 hours; 38 district child helplines, plus child help desks at 22 railway stations and 24 bus stands.

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responds to the situation, assesses the child's needs and coordinates with the DCPU, Police, CWC, hospitals and other agencies for immediate assistance. Depending on the child's needs, support shall include rescue, shelter, medical care, counselling, legal assistance and rehabilitation. Where required, the child is produced before the Child Welfare Committee (CWC) for appropriate care and protection, with follow-up to ensure the child's safety and welfare.

A dedicated Women and Child Development Control Room (WCD-CR) has been established at the Directorate of Children Welfare and Special Services. Further, 38 District Child Helplines have also been established in all District Child Protection Units. To ensure immediate care, protection and rescue Child Help Desks are established at 22 railway stations and 24 bus stands across Tamil Nadu.

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e. Child Protection Committees

Child Protection Committees (CPCs) have been established as a grassroots mechanism for identification of vulnerable children, prevention of child rights violations and timely referral for care and protection. At present, 12,938 committees have been constituted across Tamil Nadu at various levels. Apart from District level CPCs, in urban areas, Child Protection Committees are constituted at the corporation zonal, corporation ward, municipality, municipality ward, town panchayat, and town panchayat ward levels. In rural areas, CPCs are constituted at the block and village levels. The Committees address issues including child marriage, child labour, trafficking, illegal adoption, sexual offences against children, female infanticide and other violations of child rights. Quarterly meetings are conducted where the children related issues are discussed and appropriate actions are initiated.

- 12,938 Child Protection Committees run from district down to village and municipal ward level, meeting quarterly on child marriage, child labour, trafficking and female infanticide.

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f. Tamil Nadu Commission for Protection of Child rights

The Tamil Nadu Commission for Protection of Child Rights (TNCPCR) is a statutory body established to safeguard and promote the rights, safety, and welfare of children in the State. The Commission consists of one chairperson and six members, who are appointed by the Government. It plays an important role in ensuring that children receive proper care, protection, and access to their rights.

The Tamil Nadu Commission for Protection of Child Rights has a chairperson and six members, and monitors the **JJ** Act, **POCSO** Act and Right to Education Act.

The Commission monitors the implementation of child-related laws, including the JJ Act, POCSO Act and Right to Education Act. It receives and examines complaints relating to child rights violations, including abuse, neglect, exploitation and denial of children's rights and recommends appropriate remedial action. It may also inquire into violations, review existing safeguards, identify gaps in child protection

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mechanisms and suggest improvements to the Government and concerned authorities.

In addition, the Commission promotes awareness of child rights among children, families, institutions, and the wider community. It works with government Departments, local authorities, institutions, and other stakeholders to strengthen child protection systems. Through monitoring, inquiry, advocacy, and recommendations, the Commission contributes to creating a safe, protective, and child-friendly environment for children across Tamil Nadu. A sum of Rs.94 lakh has been provided in the Revised Budget Estimate for the year 2026–27.

4.1.2 Institutional Care – Schemes and Services

Institutional services are care, protection, rehabilitation and other support provided to children through authorised Child Care Institutions (CCIs). These services provide a

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structured and supportive environment for children facing difficult or vulnerable circumstances by addressing their essential needs such as shelter, education, healthcare, nutrition, counselling.

4.1.2.1 Child Care Institutions

Child Care Institutions are authorised institutions that are established to provide immediate care, development and rehabilitation to children in need of care and protection. Children identified as CNCP are placed in CCIs for short-term or long-term care after due inquiry by Child Welfare Committees. CCIs provide safe residential care, nutritious food, clothing, personal hygiene, education, health care, counselling and psychosocial support, life-skill and vocational training, sports and recreational activities, legal aid, and preparation of an Individual Care Plan. CCIs also facilitate family tracing, restoration and reintegration of children with their families.

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Follow-up services and aftercare support are also provided to help children become self-reliant and lead a safe and dignified life. There are different types of CCIs based on the nature of services they provide to children in need of care and protection as below.

a. Children Homes

Children Homes are institutions where children in need of care and protection so identified by the Child Welfare Committee (CWC), after proper inquiry, are placed for short-term or long-term care, shelter, treatment, education, training, rehabilitation and social reintegration. There are 42 Homes run by the Directorate of Children Welfare and Special Services, 10 Homes run by the Hindu Religious and Charitable Endowment Department and 28 Homes run by other Government Departments. Also there are 139 Grant-in-Aid Homes and 465 Self-financing Children Homes run by NGOs. In total, there are

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684 Children Homes functioning across Tamil Nadu.

Various interventions are made for the welfare of children in these Homes. Therapeutic interventions are provided to support their emotional well-being, improve behaviour and develop coping skills. Psychosocial support is provided in Government Child Care Institutions, and Individual Care Plans are prepared based on the assessment of each child. Education, vocational training and skill development training are provided based on the talents, interests and career aspirations of the children and accordingly suitable career plans are prepared. Self defence and sports training are provided to improve the confidence, physical fitness and sporting spirit of children. Educational tours and state-level sports and cultural meets are also organized to provide children with opportunities for recreation, exposure and entertainment.

- 684 Children Homes in all - 42 run by the Directorate, 10 by **HR**&**CE**, 28 by other departments, 139 grant-in-aid and 465 self-financing **NGO** homes.

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b. Children Homes for Children with Special Needs

Children Homes for Children with Special Needs are specialised CCIs that provide care, protection, treatment, education, rehabilitation, and other support services to children with special needs, ensuring their safety and development. Across Tamil Nadu, 29 homes are operated by NGOs for children with special needs. Among them, 4 homes receive Government financial assistance. Apart from the monthly maintenance grant of Rs.3,000 per child, additional grant of Rs.4,000 + Rs.400 are provided towards specialized medical assistance and nutritious food. Additionally, these children are provided with Rs.10,000 per annum for special equipment and assistive materials.

c. Open Shelters

Open Shelters are temporary residential homes established to provide care, protection,

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and support to vulnerable children rescued from difficult circumstances, helping them to access basic services and ensuring their safety and well-being. Across Tamil Nadu, 17 Open Shelters in 9 districts are operated by Non-Governmental Organizations, of which 12 receive Government financial assistance. A monthly maintenance grant of Rs.2,500 per child is provided to the Grant in Aid shelters.

4.1.2.2 Aftercare Homes

Aftercare homes are established to support young persons up to the age of 21 years who have completed 18 years of age while residing in CCIs. These Homes provide continued care, guidance, skill development and support to help young person's transition from institutional care to independent and self-reliant living. Three Government Aftercare Homes are functioning in Tamil Nadu - two for boys at Chengalpattu and Madurai and one for girls at Vellore. A specialized

- Aftercare homes support young persons to 21 who have turned 18 in institutions - two for boys at Chengalpattu and Madurai, one for girls at Vellore, with **Rs.4,000** a month for up to three years.

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aftercare facility for differently-abled persons is operated by an NGO at Mayiladuthurai. A sum of Rs.2.41 crore has been provided in the revised budget estimate for the year 2026-27.

4.1.3 Non-Institutional Care – Schemes and Services

Non-institutional services provide family and community-based support to children who require care, protection and assistance while enabling them to remain in a familiar and supportive environment. These services address their essential needs, including education, healthcare and finance. They also help to strengthen families, prevent unnecessary separation, and promote the emotional and social well-being of children. By supporting children within their families and communities, these services encourage stability, rehabilitation, social integration, and overall development, while

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helping children move towards a safe and independent future.

4.1.3.1 Financial Support

Financial support for children under family and community based support is an important aspect of non-institutional care. Providing families with the financial assistance to meet children's essential needs such as nutrition, healthcare, and education, helps in preventing child abandonment and promotes family-based care environments. Strengthening families financially ensures children remain in safe and supportive environment, thereby reducing reliance on institutionalization and also promotes child protection, rehabilitation and the overall well-being of children.

Sponsorship Scheme under Mission Vatsalya provides financial support to vulnerable children to prevent family separation and promote family-based care. It covers children of widowed,

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divorced or abandoned mothers, orphaned children living with extended families, children whose parents are affected by serious illness or are unable to provide care. Under preventive sponsorship, children from vulnerable families with an annual family income not exceeding Rs.72,000 in rural areas and Rs.96,000 in urban areas are eligible. They are provided with Rs.4,000 per month until they attain the age of 18 years.

- Preventive sponsorship under Mission Vatsalya: family income up to **Rs.72,000** rural or **Rs.96,000** urban, **Rs.4,000** a month until the child turns 18.

With a view to ensure that no deserving vulnerable child is deprived of family-based care and financial support, the Government of Tamil Nadu has introduced the Anbu Karangal Scheme. The scheme provides financial assistance to children who are totally orphaned, have lost one parent and the surviving parent is deserted, or are physically challenged or terminally ill or incarcerated and are being cared for by relatives or other caregivers. Eligible

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children are provided with Rs. 2,000 per month until they attain the age of 18 years, thereby supporting their continued care within a family environment and preventing institutionalization. A sum of Rs.16.80 crore has been provided in the Budget Estimate for the year 2026–27.

The Government of Tamil Nadu has provided financial support through the Chief Minister's Public Relief Fund (CMPRF) for children affected by the loss of parents due to COVID-19, with ₹5 lakh deposited in the name of a child who has lost both parents and ₹3 lakh for a child who has lost either one of the parent. Children who have lost both parents are also provided ₹3,000 per month as maintenance support up to the age of 18 years, ensuring continued care, protection and long-term financial security.

In addition, the PM CARES for Children Scheme provides Rs.10 lakh in financial

- **COVID** orphans: **Rs.5 lakh** from the **CM**'s Public Relief Fund for losing both parents and **Rs.3 lakh** for one, plus **Rs.10 lakh** under **PM CARES** for Children.

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assistance to children who have lost both parents due to the pandemic, supporting their education and future needs. These children are also covered under the Sponsorship Scheme of Mission Vatsalya, which provides Rs.4,000 per month to support their care, education and well-being.

Foster Care provides an alternative family environment for children who are unable to remain with their biological families, either temporarily or for an extended period. Children in the age group of 6–18 years who require family-based alternative care are identified and placed with suitable foster families following assessment, approval and regular monitoring in accordance with the Model Foster Care Guidelines, 2024. Foster families are provided with Rs. 4,000 per month to meet the needs of the foster child until they attain the age of 18 years. Upon successful completion of two years of foster care, foster adoption may be pursued, with the consent of the

- Foster care for children aged 6 to 18 under the Model Foster Care Guidelines, **2024** at **Rs.4,000** a month; foster adoption may follow after two years.

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child, foster parents and biological parents, wherever applicable, and in accordance with the provisions of the Model Foster Care Guidelines, 2024 and Adoption Regulations, 2022.

Aftercare support is provided to young person's leaving Child Care Institutions upon attaining 18 years of age to facilitate their transition to independent living and reintegration into mainstream society. Financial assistance of Rs. 4,000 per month is provided for a maximum period of three years.

4.1.3.2 Adoption

Adoption means the process through which the adopted child is permanently separated from his biological parents and becomes the lawful child of his adoptive parents with all the rights, privileges and responsibilities that are attached to a biological child. Orphan, abandoned and surrendered children upon being declared Legally

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Free for Adoption (LFA) by the Child Welfare Committee after due inquiry, are placed for adoption. Prospective adoptive parents register through the Mission Vatsalya portal and undergo a home study by specialised adoption agencies. Eligible children are then referred and matched with suitable prospective adoptive parents, followed by acceptance, pre-adoption foster care and issuance of the adoption order by the District Magistrate. The process is completed with the required documentation and post-adoption follow-up to ensure the child's safety, well-being and smooth adjustment in the adoptive family.

Central Adoption Resource Authority (CARA) functions under the Juvenile Justice (Care and Protection of Children) Act, 2015, the Juvenile Justice Model Rules, 2016, and the Adoption Regulations, 2022 and serves as the national nodal authority for regulating, monitoring and promoting adoption in India. CARA provides

- Adoption requires the Child Welfare Committee to declare a child Legally Free for Adoption; parents register on the Mission Vatsalya portal and undergo a home study.

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the rules, standards and guidelines for in-country and inter-country adoption, maintains the centralised adoption database, regulates online adoption procedures, issues certificates for inter-country adoptions, and supports counselling, training, research and awareness activities. CARA works with SARA, DCPUs, SAAs and other stakeholders to ensure that adoption is carried out in a transparent, child-friendly and legally compliant manner, with proper safeguards and post-adoption support.

The State Adoption Resource Agency (SARA) functions as the State-level agency for coordinating and monitoring adoption-related activities in accordance with the guidelines and procedures prescribed by the Central Adoption Resource Authority (CARA). It supports specialized adoption agencies and promotes safe, transparent and child-centric adoption practices. Specialized Adoption Agencies (SAAs) provide

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care, protection and rehabilitation services to orphaned, abandoned or surrendered children upto the age of 6. At present, 42 specialized adoption agencies are functioning through NGOs. Of these, 18 agencies are receiving Grant-in-Aid under the Mission Vatsalya Scheme.

From 1993 to 31.07.2026, a total of 8,406 children have been adopted, of whom 7,713 children were adopted under in-country adoption, comprising 5,323 female children and 2,390 male children, while 693 children were adopted under inter-country adoption, comprising 511 female children and 182 male children.

The Cradle Baby Scheme was launched in 1992, with the primary objective of preventing female infanticide and child abandonment. Under the scheme, Cradle Baby Reception Centres have been established in Government Hospital in Salem, Madurai, Theni, Dindigul, Dharmapuri, Cuddalore, Ariyalur, Perambalur, Villupuram and

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Tiruvannamalai. These centres function in coordination with Specialized Adoption Agencies (SAAs) and provide temporary care to the infants. A sum of Rs.25 lakhs has been provided in the revised budget estimate for the year 2026-27.

4.2 CHILDREN IN CONFLICT WITH LAW (CCL)

The juvenile justice system adopts a reformative and rehabilitative approach. Children are provided with opportunities for education, counselling, skill development, behavioural intervention, de-addiction wherever required and social reintegration with the objective of preventing recidivism and enabling them to become productive members of society.

The Juvenile Justice Boards (JJBs) conduct inquiries into cases involving children in conflict with law and ensure a child-friendly approach throughout the process. They assess the child's needs, circumstances and family

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background and provide appropriate care, counselling, education, rehabilitation, and support. The JJBs also pass suitable orders focusing on the child's reformation, rehabilitation, and social reintegration while protecting their rights, dignity, and best interests. JJBs are established in all the 38 districts. Each Board comprises a Metropolitan Magistrate or First Class Judicial Magistrate and two social worker members of whom at least one is a woman.

Further, to provide short and long-term institutional care, protection and rehabilitation services to children in conflict with law, the following homes are established by the Government.

Observation Homes are temporary care homes established to provide care and protection to Children in Conflict with Law, whose inquiry is pending before the Juvenile Justice Board. Eight Observation Homes managed by the Government

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are established in Chennai, Cuddalore, Thanjavur, Trichy, Salem, Coimbatore, Madurai and Tirunelveli.

Special Homes are established for the rehabilitation of children found to be in Conflict with Law. Children are placed in such Homes for specific length of time by the order of the Juvenile Justice Board. The children are segregated based on age, gender, nature of offence and their mental and physical status. In Tamil Nadu, two Government Special Homes are functioning, one for boys at Chengalpattu and one for girls at Chennai.

Places of Safety are established for Children in Conflict with Law between the age of 16-18 years, accused of or convicted for committing a heinous offence. Person above 18 years of age are also placed in these homes as per the order of the Juvenile Justice Board and Children's Court. Two Places of Safety have been

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established - one for boys at Chengalpattu and one for girls at Madurai

Basic Training Modules providing life skills and constructive activities are implemented for children housed in Observation Homes, Special Homes and Place of Safety. Additionally, Pathai project is being implemented at the Government Observation Home, Chennai, through an NGO. The project exclusively focuses on Children in Conflict with Law (CCL), particularly first-time and young offenders involved in petty offences. The project aims to facilitate rehabilitation, prevent re-involvement in unlawful activities, and reduce recidivism.

4.3 Protection, Rehabilitation, Other Interventions for Children Affected by Crime and other risks.

Protection of children from crimes and risks is essential to safeguard their life, dignity, rights, and future. Children are particularly vulnerable to

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abuse, violence, exploitation, trafficking, neglect, child labour, online risks and other forms of harm. Protection mechanisms help in the early identification of risks, prevention of abuse, timely intervention, and access to appropriate care and support.Effective protection not only prevents immediate harm but also reduces the long-term physical, emotional, psychological, and social impact on children. It creates a safe environment where children can grow, learn, develop their potential, and participate confidently in society. A strong child protection system contributes to the safety, well-being, rehabilitation, and long-term development of every child.

4.3.1 Protection of Children from Sexual Offences and Child Victim Compensation

Preventive and awareness activities are carried out through District Child Protection Units and Child Protection Committees to educate children, parents, caregivers and the community

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on child sexual abuse, safe and unsafe touch, online safety, reporting mechanisms and the protections available under the POCSO Act. 20 Special POCSO Courts have been established in the State to ensure the speedy and child-friendly disposal of POCSO cases. Following the reporting of an incident, special relief is provided through the Child Welfare Committee (CWC). Case monitoring and follow-up are also undertaken by the Legal Probation Officer to ensure timely legal support, coordination with the concerned authorities and appropriate action at each stage of the case.

The Government of Tamil Nadu constituted the Tamil Nadu Child Victim Compensation Fund in October 2020 under the Protection of Children from Sexual Offences (POCSO) Act, 2012, to provide financial assistance to child victims of sexual offences. The compensation awarded by the Special Court is disbursed by the

State Government from the Victim Compensation Fund, thereby ensuring timely financial support to affected children for their care, rehabilitation and recovery. So far, a total amount of Rs.123.87 crore has been provided as compensation to victims. A sum of Rs.25 crore has been provided in the Revised Budget Estimate for the year 2026-27.

4.3.2 Prevention of Drug Use and Rehabilitation

Addiction prevention and rehabilitation are important to protect individuals, families, and communities from the harmful effects of substance abuse. Prevention focuses on awareness, counselling, early intervention, and promoting healthy lifestyles, while rehabilitation helps people who are already addicted through treatment, counselling, skill development, family support, and social reintegration. These services help to reduce health and social problems,

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prevent relapse, rebuild family relationships, and support individuals in becoming healthy, self-reliant and productive members of society.

Activities in respect of awareness generation, and community participation against drug and other substance use are taken up across the State under Nasha Mukt Bharat Abhiyan (NMBA). The Government of India provides financial assistance of Rs.10 lakh per district per year for conducting the programme under NMBA.

The De-addiction Programme focuses on three important areas - awareness and prevention, early intervention, and rehabilitation. Awareness and prevention activities educate individuals and communities about the harmful effects of substance use and encourage healthy and responsible lifestyles. Early intervention helps to identify people at risk of addiction at an early stage and provides timely counselling and support. Rehabilitation focuses on treatment,

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counselling, skill development, family support, and social reintegration to help individuals overcome addiction and lead a healthy, independent, and productive life. A sum of Rs. 88 lakhs has been provided in the Revised Budget Estimate for the year 2026–27.

Tamil Nadu has pioneered a state-funded initiative for children affected by substance abuse by establishing exclusive de-addiction centres for children. There are 11 De-addiction centers established through NGOs in the State. Children referred by Juvenile Justice Boards and Child Welfare Committees are providing specialized de-addiction, counselling, treatment and rehabilitation services.

Integrated Rehabilitation Centre for Addicts (IRCAs) are functioning across Tamil Nadu to provide inpatient and outpatient treatment and rehabilitation for persons affected by alcohol and substance addiction. At present, 25

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centres are functioning in 23 districts, operated by NGOs with financial support from Government of India. Under the National Action Plan for Drug Demand Reduction (NAPDDR) which focuses on prevention, treatment and rehabilitation through awareness programmes, drug prevention education, capacity building and targeted interventions. Under this programme, District De-Addiction Centres (DDACs) have been established through NGOs in seven districts - Chennai, Coimbatore, Theni, Tirunelveli, Tiruvannamalai, Mayiladuthurai and Dindigul.

To ensure a comprehensive, accessible, and coordinated response to Substance Use Disorders (SUDs), a Hub-and-Spoke Model is proposed for Tamil Nadu's de-addiction care ecosystem. The model will strengthen access to medical treatment, psychosocial rehabilitation, and community reintegration through an integrated referral and coordination mechanism.

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De-addiction Centres work in coordination with the Health Department, other Government Departments, and NGOs to ensure effective referral, treatment, and rehabilitation, while supporting awareness and prevention activities related to substance abuse.

4.3.3 Rehabilitation of Persons Engaged In Begging

Prevention of beggary is important to protect people from exploitation, abuse, poverty, and unsafe living conditions. People resort to begging due to poverty, homelessness, disability, unemployment, or lack of family support. Measures such as shelter, food, healthcare, counselling, skill training, employment and rehabilitation can help them become self-reliant and live an independent life with dignity.

At the district level, for the rehabilitation and reintegration of persons engaged in begging, district-level monitoring committees have been

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constituted under the chairpersonship of the District Magistrate. Corporations and Municipalities play an important role in addressing beggary in accordance with the Tamil Nadu Prevention of Begging Act, 1945. They also identify homeless and destitute persons through civic helplines and other mechanisms and facilitate their transfer to temporary shelters, care centres or government health institutions. In coordination with Social Welfare authorities and through schemes such as SMILE (Support for Marginalized Individuals for Livelihood and Enterprise), they support counselling, skill development, welfare assistance and rehabilitation.

Additionally, five Beggary Rehabilitation Homes have been established through NGOs in Chennai, Tiruchirappalli, Ramanathapuram, Madurai and Tiruvannamalai with financial support from the Government of Tamil Nadu.

4.3.4 Child Marriage Prevention

Child marriage is a serious social concern that affects the education, health, dignity and future opportunities of children. Its prevalence is closely linked with factors such as poverty, social and cultural practices, lack of awareness, school drop-out and vulnerability among children and families. Prevention therefore requires sustained community engagement, early identification of vulnerable children and timely intervention, rather than action only when a marriage is imminent. As part of the preventive approach, awareness and sensitisation activities are being undertaken at the community level through Village Level Child Protection Committees (VLCPCs), Block Level Child Protection Committees (BLCPCs), schools, local bodies and other community platforms, with emphasis on the legal age of marriage, the consequences of child marriage and the

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importance of education and continued development of children.

Standard Operating Procedure (SOP) on prevention and response to child marriage shall be implemented to ensure a coordinated and timely response by the concerned field-level functionaries. This will strengthen mechanisms for identification of children at risk, information sharing, verification, preventive intervention, protection of the child and follow-up support. Continuous efforts are undertaken to strengthen community vigilance, encourage reporting of proposed child marriages and address the underlying vulnerabilities that place children at risk. The focus will remain on ensuring that children are protected from early marriage and are enabled to continue their education, develop safely and pursue their aspirations.

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4.3.5 Child Trafficking

Child trafficking is a grave violation of the rights, dignity, safety and well-being of children, involving their recruitment, transportation, transfer, harbouring or receipt for purposes of exploitation such as forced labour, domestic servitude, begging, sexual exploitation, forced marriage and other forms of exploitation. Children who are missing, separated from their families, out of school, living in vulnerable circumstances or migrating without adequate safeguards may be particularly at risk.

The Government has already established various mechanisms to prevent and respond to child trafficking. Child Helpline (1098) provides a platform for reporting children in distress or at risk. At District level, District Child Protection Units acts as Nodal Agency coordinating to deliver holistic child protection services. Police and Anti-Human Trafficking Units undertake

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tracing, rescue and legal action and Child Welfare Committees provide care, protection, restoration and rehabilitation. Other Departments such as Labour, Education and Health, along with existing missing child reporting and tracing mechanisms, also support identification and protection of vulnerable children.

The rescued or unaccompanied child is produced before the Child Welfare Committee (CWC). The child's details are uploaded on the Mission Vatsalya Portal and police verification is initiated. The child's details are shared with the Police, SJPU, DCPU and concerned State authorities for family tracing and verification. After the family is verified, the CWC issues a restoration order and the child is safely restored or repatriated to the family or fit person, followed by post-restoration follow-up. Until restoration, the child is provided with care, protection,

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counselling, education and other necessary support at the CCI.

4.3.6 Children In Street Situations (CISS)

Children in Street Situations (CISS) are children who live, work, or spend most of their time on the streets facing problems such as poverty, abuse, neglect, exploitation and lack of education and healthcare. The Rehabilitation Policy for CISS aims to provide these children with immediate protection, care and rehabilitation through shelter, food, education, healthcare, counselling, family support and rehabilitation services, enabling them to transition to a safe, secure and dignified life.

Children in Street Situations (CISS) are identified through district-level mapping of hotspots and vulnerable areas. The identified children are rescued by the district authorities and produced before the Child Welfare Committee

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(CWC) for appropriate orders regarding their restoration to their family, guardian or relatives, or placement in institutional care, as appropriate. During the CWC's inquiry, children are provided with immediate care and protection, including medical examination and treatment, counselling, food, clothing and safe shelter. A Social Investigation Report (SIR) and Individual Care Plan (ICP) are also prepared by the concerned officials and placed before the CWC for consideration.

The child and family are further linked with eligible Government welfare schemes and financial assistance, wherever applicable. The Individual Care Plan is implemented with continuous follow-up by the district authorities to monitor the child's education, health, counselling, family reintegration, overall rehabilitation and protection, thereby facilitating the child's safe and

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sustainable reintegration into family and community.

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Chapter 5

Social Reforms Department

Creation of the Department - An Introduction

For improving Communal harmony and enhance Social amity, Social Reforms Department was created in 1999. This department was merged with Social Justice Department in the year 2002. Reiterating the vital role of the department, this department revived in 2006.

- The Social Reforms Department was created in **1999**, merged into Social Justice in **2002** and revived in **2006**.

Social Justice Monitoring Committee

On the occasion of the centenary of the Social Justice, the Government of Tamil Nadu constituted the "Social Justice Monitoring Committee" in 2021, comprising with a Chairman and 7 Members.

- Constituted in **2021** on the centenary of social justice, with a chairman and seven members, to check whether reservation is properly implemented in education, employment, posts and promotions. Its tenure runs to **23.12.2027**.

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Objectives of Social Justice Monitoring Committee

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

Extension of tenure of the Committee

Considering the performance of the Social Justice Monitoring Committee and with a view to fulfilling its objectives, the tenure of the said Committee was extended twice. The tenure of the Committee ends on 23.12.2027.

Creation of Posts

In order to fulfil the objectives of the Social Justice Monitoring Committee, 9 posts were

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created to carry out the works of the Committee and fund sanction was made for recurring and non-recurring expenditure.

The office of the Committee is functioning in 2nd floor of Devaneya Pavanar Library Building, Anna Salai, Chennai-600 002.

Meetings of the Committee

So far, 19 Meetings have been conducted by the Social Justice Monitoring Committee. For the past 4 years, Social Justice Monitoring Committee has inspected 11 Universities, Tamil Nadu Water Supply and Drainage Board, Teachers Recruitment Board, Greater Chennai Corporation, Vellore Corporation and Tamil Nadu Uniformed Services Recruitment Board and submitted its report to the Government. Action is being taken by the respective Departments to implement the Recommendations / findings of the Committee.

In four years the Social Justice Monitoring Committee held 19 meetings and inspected 11 universities, **TWAD**, the Teachers Recruitment Board, Greater Chennai and Vellore Corporations and the Uniformed Services Recruitment Board.

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Celebration of Social Justice Day

In commemoration of Social Justice Day on 17th September, during the years 2024 and 2025, a sum of Rs.5,00,000 each was sanctioned to conduct the celebrations in a grand manner. To promote social justice and create awareness among students, the Social Justice Monitoring Committee conducted a Tamil essay and oratorical competitions for students studying in Government Colleges and Universities. The selected students were invited and a grand prize distribution ceremony was held at Chennai.

- Social Justice Day is observed on 17 September. Hostels under Social Justice and **BC**/**MBC**/Minorities Welfare - 1,258 and 1,305 respectively - have been renamed Social Justice Hostels.

Social Justice Hostels

The names of the hostels functioning for poor school and college students under the control of various Departments have been changed to "**சமூக நீதி விடுதிகள்**". Accordingly, the names of 1,258 hostels functioning under the Social Justice Department and 1,305 hostels

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functioning under the Backward Classes, Most Backward Classes, and Minorities Welfare Department have been changed to Social Justice Hostels.

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Chapter 6

Conclusion

The Social Welfare and Women Empowerment Department plays a crucial role in advancing the Government of Tamil Nadu's ambition of furthering a just, inclusive and equitable society. Through a comprehensive range of care, protection, welfare, empowerment and social security interventions, the Department constantly endeavours to address the diverse needs of children, women, senior citizens and transgender persons across different stages of their life. These programmes seek not only to provide support to vulnerable sections but also to strengthen their access to nutrition, education, healthcare, protection, livelihood opportunities and social security thereby enabling them to overcome vulnerabilities and lead lives of dignity and independence.

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These interventions have also contributed significantly to Tamil Nadu's progress towards the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). The Department plays a vital role in contributing towards the SDGs by implementing various policies that promote social protection, nutrition, education, equality and the empowerment of vulnerable sections of society.

The Department contributes to SDG 1 – No Poverty, through comprehensive social security and livelihood support programmes. Social security pensions benefit more than 35 lakh beneficiaries, including destitute and deserted women, senior citizens and transgender persons alleviating poverty and reducing economic vulnerability. Marriage assistance, self-employment and livelihood initiatives further strengthen economic security, while children homes, protection homes for women, senior citizen homes, integrated care complexes and

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shelter for transgender persons provides care, protection and rehabilitation. These interventions strengthen resilience, promote economic participation and reduce poverty and social exclusion of vulnerable sections.

SDG 2 - Zero Hunger, which aims to end hunger, improve nutrition, and ensure food security, is at the core of the Department's mandate. These objectives are advanced through targeted integrated nutrition programmes covering children, pregnant and lactating mothers. The ICDS programme provides supplementary nutrition and growth monitoring for children aged below 6 years, through a network of more than 50,000 anganwadi centres. Nutritious meals and eggs are provided to children through Perunthalaivar Kamarajar Breakfast Scheme and Puratchi Thalaivar MGR Nutritious Meal Programme, while maternal beneficiaries are supplied with nutritional kits.

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These interventions have significantly improved maternal and child health outcomes, including reducing malnutrition, stunting, wasting and underweight prevalence among children.

Driving progress towards SDG 4 – Quality Education, the Department executes initiatives that span from foundational early childhood learning to higher education. ICDS provides Early Childhood Care and Education through anganwadi centres, while the Girl Child Protection Scheme promotes girls' education and discourages gender discrimination. At the higher education level, Pudhumai Penn and Tamil Pudhalvan schemes provide a monthly incentive of Rs.1,000 to eligible undergraduate students, while dedicated higher education assistance supports transgender students. Together, these interventions promote equitable access to education, improve educational outcomes and strengthen human capital development.

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The Department strives to advance SDG 5 – Gender Equality through programmes that address the social, educational, economic and institutional barriers faced by women and girls. Girl Child Protection Scheme, Pudhumai Penn, Scheme for Adolescent Girls, One Stop Centres and Women Helpline (181) strengthen girls' education, women's safety and access to support and justice. Economic empowerment initiatives, including Thozhi working women's hostels and skill development promote women's workforce participation and financial independence. Transgender Welfare Board initiatives, higher education assistance, self-employment grants, monthly financial assistance and free travel in city buses further promote the social and economic inclusion of transgender persons. Together, these interventions advance gender equality, safety, economic empowerment and inclusive participation.

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The Government has further strengthened and accelerated the delivery of people-centric and responsive welfare services through a range of recently proposed initiatives. The expansion of the Perunthalaivar Kamarajar Breakfast Scheme to benefit 15.14 lakh students in Classes VI–VIII, along with the strengthening of the Women Helpline (181) for enhanced outreach and grievance redressal, reflects the continued focus on improving access to essential services. New anganwadi centres will be constructed with superior facilities to strengthen early childhood care and learning through infrastructure development. Further, the Annan Seer Scheme to be launched this year further reflects the Government's commitment to women-centric welfare by providing 8 grams gold coin and a silk saree to eligible beneficiaries at the time of marriage. To ensure dignity and comprehensive social security for senior citizens, 12 integrated senior citizen homes shall be established across

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12 districts, with essential amenities and qualified caregivers. ‘Aran’ shelter homes will be established in five districts to provide safe accommodation for transgender persons, while short-stay homes for transgender persons will be set up in 15 districts for the convenience of those travelling for education and employment. Skill training and subsidy-linked bank credit facilities will also be provided to promote their livelihood and economic empowerment. These efforts, demonstrate the Government’s continued commitment to translating welfare priorities into effective, accessible and responsive service delivery.

Tmt. K. Jagadeshwari,

Minister for
Social Welfare and Women
Empowerment

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ANNEXURE -I
IMPORTANT DAYS

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

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ANNEXURE – II
BUDGET ESTIMATE – 2026-27

DEMAND No.45

SOCIAL WELFARE AND WOMEN EMPOWERMENT DEPARTMENT

TOTAL BUDGET ESTIMATE FOR 2026-27: Rs.9,818.52 cr

Head of Account		(Rs. in lakh)
Revenue Section		Allocation
2059	Public Works	282.55
2235	Directorate of Children Welfare and Special Services	35,662.66
2235	Directorate of Social Welfare	1,98,526.59
2235	Directorate of Integrated Child Development Services Scheme	14,444.42
2236	Secretariat	38.39
2236	Directorate of Social Welfare	3,60,389.29
2236	Directorate of Integrated Child Development Services Scheme	3,68,945.51
2251	Secretariat	1,123.32
Revenue Section Total		9,79,412.73

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Head of Account		(Rs. in lakh)
Capital Section		
4070	Other Administrative Services	0.06
4235	Directorate of Social Welfare	600.01
4235	Directorate of Children Welfare and Special Services	1713.01
4236	Directorate of Social Welfare	0.03
4236	Directorate of Integrated Child Development Services Scheme	27.08
Capital Section Total		2,340.19
Loan Section		
7610	Loans to Government Servants etc.,	100.00
Loan Section Total		100.00
Grand Total		9,81,852.92

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Gross Total

(Rs. in lakh)

Revenue Section	:	9,79,412.73
Capital Section	:	2,340.19
Loan Section	:	100.00
Total	:	9,81,852.92

(or)

Rs. 9818.52 crore

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ANNEXURE – III

Helplines

1.	Child Helpline	1098
2.	Student and Exam Helpline	14417
3.	Women Helpline	181
4.	Senior Citizens Helpline	14567
5.	Cyber Crime Helpline	1930

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Government Central Press, Chennai - 600 001.



The Hon'ble Chief Minister Thiru. C. Joseph Vijay chaired the meeting to review the schemes and activities of the Social Welfare and Women Empowerment Department on 15.06.2026.

1



The Hon'ble Minister, Social Welfare and Women Empowerment, Tmt. K. Jagadeshwari, inspected the breakfast provided to children at Chennai Primary School, Shenoy Nagar on 04.06.2026.

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The Hon'ble Minister for Social Welfare and Women Empowerment, Tmt. K. Jagadeshwari, visited the Anganwadi Centre in Chennai District on 04.06.2026.

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The Hon'ble Minister for Social Welfare and Women Empowerment, Tmt. K. Jagadeshwari, flagged off the vehicle awareness campaign from the Virudhunagar District Collectorate on 26.06.2026, on the occasion of the International Day Against Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking.

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The Hon'ble Minister for Social Welfare and Women Empowerment, Tmt. K. Jagadeshwari, chaired a review meeting for District Programme Officers at the Directorate of Integrated Child Development Services, Chennai on 07.07.2026.

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The Hon'ble Minister for Social Welfare and Women Empowerment, Tmt.K.Jagadeshwari, inspected the construction works of the Thozhi Working Women's Hostel in Taramani on 07.07.2026.

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The Hon'ble Minister for Social Welfare and Women Empowerment, Tmt. K. Jagadeshwari, inaugurated the newly constructed Anganwadi Centre in Virudhunagar District on 25.07.2026.



The Hon'ble Minister for Social Welfare and Women Empowerment, Tmt.K.Jagadeshwari, inspected the preparation of supplementary nutritional food at the Women Development Co-operative Society in Thalavaipuram, Virudhunagar District on 13.08.2026.

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The Hon'ble Minister for Social Welfare and Women Empowerment, Tmt.K.Jagadeshwari, distributed Girl Child Protection Scheme deposit bonds to beneficiaries in Tenkasi district on 13.08.2026

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The Hon'ble Minister for Social Welfare and Women Empowerment, Tmt.K.Jagadeshwari, inspected the school uniform stitching work at Annai Sathya Women Tailoring Industrial Co-operative Society in Thalavaipuram, Virudhunagar district on 13.08.2026.

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The Hon'ble Minister for Social Welfare and Women Empowerment, Tmt. K.Jagadeshwari, chaired a review meeting with PA (NMPs) to District Collectors regarding preparedness for the expansion of the Perunthalaivar Kamarajar Breakfast Scheme at the Directorate of Social Welfare on August 20, 2026.

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