DEPARTMENT FOR THE WELFARE OF DIFFERENTLY ABLED PERSONS

POLICY NOTE
2026 – 2027

DEMAND No. 52

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CHIEF MINISTER

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Government of Tamil Nadu
2026

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Welfare of Differently Abled Persons Department

Policy Note

2026-2027

1. Introduction

The foremost priority of this Government is to protect the rights of Differently Abled Persons and ensure that they lead a dignified life. Guided by the principle of equality as per the quote "பிறப்பொக்கும் எல்லா உயிர்க்கும்" (All beings are equal by birth), the Government is committed in creating an inclusive and accessible society for Differently Abled Persons.

The Government's key policy objective is to ensure the effective implementation of reservation in education and employment for Differently Abled Persons and to secure them a sustainable livelihood. Further, the Government strives to create a barrier-free environment that

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enables Differently Abled Persons to independently access public spaces, Government offices and transportation systems.

The Government is also committed to ensure provision of monthly financial assistance to Differently Abled Persons, easy access to modern assistive technologies, comprehensive community based rehabilitation services at their door steps and empower them to enhance their unique abilities so as to achieve economic self-reliance.

2. Rights of Persons with Disabilities Act, 2016

The Persons with Disabilities (Equal Opportunities, Protection of Rights and Full Participation) Act, 1995 was in force before the enactment of the current legislation i.e., the Rights of Persons with Disabilities Act, 2016 (RPwD Act, 2016), which was enacted to give

- The RPwD **Act 2016** replaced the Persons with Disabilities (Equal Opportunities, Protection of Rights and Full Participation) **Act, 1995**. Know both names.

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effect to India's commitments under the United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (UNCRPD). This Act came into force with effect from 19.04.2017.

The RPwD Act, 2016 recognises 21 categories of disabilities. The Act provides the legal framework for ensuring that Differently Abled Persons enjoy equal rights, live with dignity and self-respect and participate fully in an inclusive and accessible society, while mandating the Government to take all necessary measures to safeguard and promote these rights.

The 21 categories of disabilities specified under the Act are as follows:

- The Act gives effect to India's commitments under the **UNCRPD** - a treaty obligation translated into domestic law.
- Enacted **2016**, brought into force **19.04.2017**. Exam questions often test the gap between enactment and commencement.
- The RPwD **Act 2016** recognises 21 categories of disability, against 7 under the **1995** Act.

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Table No. 1

21 Categories of Disability

Sl.No.	Disability
1.	Locomotor Disability
2.	Muscular Dystrophy
3.	Leprosy Cured Persons
4.	Dwarfism
5.	Cerebral Palsy
6.	Acid Attack Victims
7.	Low-vision
8.	Blindness
9.	Deaf (Hearing Impairment)
10.	Hard of Hearing (Hearing Impairment)
11.	Speech and Language Disability
12.	Intellectual Disability
13.	Specific Learning Disabilities
14.	Autism spectrum disorder
15.	Mental Illness
16.	Chronic neurological Conditions
17.	Multiple Sclerosis

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Sl.No.	Disability
18.	Parkinson's Disease
19.	Haemophilia
20.	Thalassemia
21.	Sickle Cell Disease

- Three blood disorders - Haemophilia, Thalassemia and Sickle Cell Disease - are numbers 19, 20 and 21 in the list. Acid Attack Victims and Dwarfism are the other additions worth remembering.

2.1 Major Initiatives Undertaken for the Implementation of the Rights of Persons with Disabilities Act, 2016

The Rights of Persons with Disabilities Act, 2016 (RPwD Act, 2016) is being effectively implemented in Tamil Nadu to protect the rights of Differently Abled Persons and ensure their equality, full participation and empowerment. In accordance with Section 101 of the Act, the Tamil Nadu Rights of Persons with Disabilities Rules, 2018 have been notified and necessary procedures for implementation have been prescribed.

- Section 101 carries the rule-making power; the Tamil Nadu Rights of Persons with Disabilities Rules, 2018 were notified under it.

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Under Section 66 of the Act, the State Advisory Board on Disability has been constituted to advise the Government on policies and programmes relating to the welfare of Differently Abled Persons. Further, in accordance with Section 72, District-Level Committees have been constituted and are functioning to monitor the implementation of the Act at the District level.

- Section 66 - State Advisory Board on Disability, which advises Government on policy.
- Section 72 - District-Level Committees, which monitor implementation of the Act at district level.

Under Section 79(1), the State Commissioner for Persons with Disabilities has been appointed who shall be assisted by a five-member Advisory Committee as provided under Section 79(7) of the Act towards the discharge of the statutory functions.

- Section 79(1) - State Commissioner for Persons with Disabilities; Section 79(7) provides the five-member Advisory Committee that assists the Commissioner.

To uphold the rights of Differently Abled Persons and prevent atrocities against them, necessary legal and institutional mechanisms

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have been established in accordance with Section 84 of the Act; the Principal District Courts have been designated as Special Courts for the trial of offences under the Act. Further, under Section 85, Special Public Prosecutors have been appointed and notified to conduct cases registered under the Act.

- Section 84 - Principal District Courts designated as Special Courts for offences under the Act. Section 85 - Special Public Prosecutors to conduct those cases.

Government Orders have also been issued to ensure equal employment opportunities for Differently Abled Persons in both Government and private establishments, to create barrier-free environments and to implement the Equal Opportunity Policy.

With a view to strengthen the educational and employment rights of Differently Abled Persons, in accordance with Section 32 of the RPwD Act, 2016, five percent reservation in admissions has been provided for Differently

- Section 32 - five percent reservation in admissions in all Government and Government-aided higher educational institutions, with five years' relaxation in the upper age limit.

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Abled students in all Government and Government-aided higher educational institutions, along with a relaxation of five years in the upper age limit.

Further, in accordance with Section 34 of the RPwD Act, 2016, four percent reservation in employment has been made mandatory in Government Departments and Public Sector Undertakings. Accordingly, suitable posts have been identified and appointments are being made against the reserved vacancies. An Expert Committee has also been constituted to identify suitable posts for persons with benchmark disabilities, through which various posts in Group 'A' and Group 'B' services have been identified as suitable for Differently Abled Persons, while all posts in Group 'C' and Group 'D' services have been identified as suitable for them.

- Section 34 - four percent reservation in employment in Government Departments and PSUs, for persons with benchmark disabilities. Section 34(1) is the operative clause.
- An Expert Committee identified particular Group A and Group B posts as suitable, but all posts in Group C and Group D are treated as suitable.

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To ensure the effective implementation of the objectives of the RPwD Act, 2016, a State Fund with a corpus of ₹10.00 crore has been created and continuous efforts are being undertaken to strengthen the necessary administrative and infrastructural facilities for its effective utilisation.

- A State Fund of **Rs.10.00 crore** supports implementation of the Act's objectives.

3. The National Trust Act, 1999 for the Welfare of Persons with Autism, Cerebral Palsy, Intellectual Disabilities and Multiple Disabilities

The National Trust Act, 1999 has been enacted to safeguard the welfare of persons with Autism Spectrum Disorder (Autism), Cerebral Palsy, Intellectual Disability and Multiple Disabilities.

- The National Trust **Act 1999** covers four disabilities specifically - Autism Spectrum Disorder, Cerebral Palsy, Intellectual Disability and Multiple Disabilities.

The primary objective of the Act is to create an inclusive environment in which differently abled persons are able to live as integral

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members of society without being isolated or excluded. The Act provides for the appointment of legal guardians to ensure their protection and welfare and also enables the recognition of Non-Governmental Organisations (NGOs) working for the welfare of persons with these disabilities, by providing necessary support and assistance.

To implement the provisions of the Act, a Local Level Committee (LLC) has been constituted in every district under the chairmanship of the District Collector with a representative of a registered organisation working for the welfare of Differently Abled Persons and a representative of Differently Abled Persons as its member. This Committee is responsible for issuing guardianship certificates.

- Local Level Committees under the National Trust Act are chaired by the District Collector and issue guardianship certificates - the Act's distinctive mechanism.

4. Administrative Structure and Functions

At the State level, the Commissionerate for Welfare of the Differently Abled is functioning and at the District level, 39 District Offices for the welfare of Differently Abled are functioning across Tamil Nadu under the District Differently Abled Welfare Officer. These offices are responsible for implementing schemes relating to social security, distribution of assistive devices, special education and economic development, among others.

- Administrative structure: the Commissionerate for Welfare of the Differently Abled at State level and 39 District Offices headed by District Differently Abled Welfare Officers.

Further, under the direct administrative control of the Commissionerate, Special Schools for differently abled persons and Rehabilitation Homes for leprosy cured are functioning. In addition, more than 800 voluntary organisations are also working in partnership with the Government to provide rehabilitation and

- Over 800 voluntary organisations deliver services in partnership with Government - this department works largely through NGOs rather than its own establishments.

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welfare services for Differently Abled Persons across the State.

5. Registration and Recognition of Non-Governmental Organisations

Non-Governmental Organisations play a vital role in partnering with the Government to provide comprehensive rehabilitation services for Differently Abled Persons. To regulate and recognise such organisations, the following statutory measures have been put in place. In exercise of the powers conferred under Section 50 of the Rights of Persons with Disabilities Act, 2016, voluntary organisations are registered by the Commissioner for Welfare of the Differently Abled. So far, 878 organisations have been registered under the provisions of the Act.

- Section 50 - registration of voluntary organisations by the Commissioner. 878 organisations stand registered.
- 878 organisations registered under Section 50 of the RPwD **Act 2016**.

To encourage and strengthen the services provided by Non-Governmental Organisations, the Government provides grants to support

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nutrition, medical care, rehabilitation therapy and special education required for the care and development of the differently abled persons.

6. Issuance of the Unique Disability Identity (UDID) Card

As provided under the Tamil Nadu Rights of Persons with Disabilities Rules, 2018, disability certificates are issued to Differently Abled Persons after their enrollment in UDID portal (www.swavlambancard.gov.in). The primary objective of this initiative is to create a comprehensive National Database of Differently Abled Persons across the country.

UDID cards are issued through the swavlambancard.gov.in portal, building a National Database of Differently Abled Persons.

The Hospitals authorized by the State Government such as Government Medical College Hospitals, District Headquarters Hospitals, Taluk Hospitals and other Government Hospitals can generate UDID cards after examination of the differently abled person by a

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medical board consisting of Chief Medical Officer and specialists dealing with relevant disabilities.

- A medical board headed by the Chief Medical Officer, with specialists for the relevant disability, certifies before a **UDID** card is generated.

The Unique Disability Identity Card, issued along with the medical certificate, serves as the primary document for Differently Abled Persons to avail themselves of all Government welfare schemes, assistance and concessions required for their day-to-day living.

The printed Unique Disability Identity (UDID) Cards are delivered directly to the residence of Differently Abled Persons. As on 31.03.2026, a total of 10,31,873 Unique Disability Identity (UDID) Cards have been issued.

- As on **31.03.2026**, 10,31,873 **UDID** cards had been issued in Tamil Nadu. Cards are delivered to the beneficiary's residence.

7. Early Intervention Centres for Children with Disabilities

Early Intervention Centres help in identifying physical and developmental

disabilities in children from birth up to six years of age. Appropriate medical assessments and specialised interventions are provided to either treat or minimise the impact of developmental disability in these centres.

95 Early Intervention Centres, run by the Non-Governmental Organisations, receiving Government grants are functioning in various districts across the State, specifically for the children with Hearing Impairment, Intellectual Disabilities, Visual Impairment, Cerebral Palsy, Autism and Multiple Disabilities.

These centres provide a range of rehabilitation services, including Speech Therapy, Physiotherapy and Occupational Therapy, based on the individual needs of the children. Parents and caregivers accompanying the children are also provided with appropriate

- Early Intervention Centres cover children from birth to six years - the window in which developmental disability can be treated or minimised.

- 95 Early Intervention Centres run by NGOs on Government grants, serving 2,623 children with 284 special educators.

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training and awareness on child care practices and rehabilitation techniques.

As these centres function as day-care facility, the children are provided with nutritious supplementary diet and mid-day meals under the Integrated Child Development Services (ICDS) Scheme. To facilitate regular attendance of these children to the centres, free travel in Government buses is provided to them and their caregiver. In addition, to promote the psychological well-being of the children, an educational and recreational excursion is organised once in a year.

- Children in Early Intervention Centres get supplementary nutrition and mid-day meals through the **ICDS** Scheme, plus free bus travel for the child and a caregiver.

The details of the Early Intervention Centres are furnished in the table below:

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Table No. 2

Early Intervention Centres

Early Intervention Centres (EIC)	No. of EICs	No. of Beneficiaries	No. of Special Educators serving in the EIC	Budget allocation for the year 2026-2027 (₹ in Lakh)
For Hearing Impaired Children	33	629	65	210.68
For Intellectually disabled Children	34	1120	124	500.04
For Visually Impaired Children	6	82	12	42.96
For children with Cerebral Palsy	2	81	5	23.64
For children with Autism	19	680	76	328.92
For children with Multiple Disabilities	1	31	2	6.48
Total	**95**	**2623**	**284**	**1112.72**

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Table No. 3

Programmes in Early Intervention Centres

Programme	No. of beneficiaries	No. of Special Educators benefitted	Funds allocated 2026-27 (₹ in Lakh)
One day tour for children in Early Intervention Centres	1480	-	9.30
Training for Special Educators working in Early Intervention Centres for children with Intellectual Disability	-	129	4.73
Transport allowance for providing Noon meal and weaning food from ICDS	2287	-	6.00

For the financial year 2026-2027, a sum of ₹1,132.75 lakh has been allocated for this scheme.

8. Mobile Therapy Units

To extend early intervention services for Differently Abled persons residing in inaccessible

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areas mobile therapy units are operated. These mobile therapy units help to create awareness among the public about the various welfare measures available for the differently abled persons.

For the financial year 2026–2027, a sum of ₹154.34 lakh has been allocated for this scheme.

9. Rehabilitation Homes

The Government of Tamil Nadu, in partnership with Non-Governmental Organisations (NGOs), runs various Rehabilitation Homes with the objective of improving the quality of life of Differently Abled Persons and providing safe residential care for destitutes.

These Non-Governmental Organisations (NGOs) receive financial assistance from the

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Government for providing essential services like food, clothing, safe accommodation and medical care.

9.1. Government Rehabilitation Homes for Leprosy Cured Differently Abled Persons

Leprosy Cured differently abled persons, unable to perform their daily activities independently due to damage to muscles and nerves and who are also socially abandoned, are provided care, protection and rehabilitation by the Government through 10 Rehabilitation Homes across the State.

- 10 Government Rehabilitation Homes for leprosy cured persons - the only homes run directly by the department, the rest being **NGO**-run.

The residents of these homes are given safe accommodation, medical care, two sets of clothing and one blanket every year. Artificial limbs, spectacles and Micro Cellular Rubber (MCR) footwear are also made available to them based on their needs. Further ₹100/- per

- **Rs.100** per resident per day for nutrition in the leprosy homes, with **Rs.2,000** towards funeral expenses on the death of a resident.

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resident per day is provided to meet their nutritional requirements. In the event of the death of a resident, the Government sanctions ₹2,000/- towards funeral expenses. The location of these homes functioning at various districts is given below:

Table No. 4

Government Rehabilitation Homes for Leprosy Cured Persons

Sl. No.	Place	District
1.	Paranur	Chengalpattu
2.	Ulundurpet	Kallakurichi
3.	Bargur	Krishnagiri
4.	Machuvadi	Pudukkottai
5.	Manayeripatti	Thanjavur
6.	Y. Pudhupatti	Madurai
7.	Mallavaadi	Tiruvannamalai
8.	Selliyampatti	Dharmapuri
9.	Deviyakurichi	Salem
10.	Vinnapalli	Erode

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For the financial year 2026–2027, a sum of ₹1,936.32 lakh has been allocated for this scheme.

9.2. Rescue Scheme for Wandering Mentally Ill

This scheme is implemented to rescue destitutes with mental illness or persons with mental illness who have been abandoned by their families found wandering in public places and to provide them with appropriate treatment as well as rehabilitation.

These persons are rescued through the Non-Governmental Organisations and are admitted in Emergency Care and Rescue Centre (ECRC) of the Health Department / Rehabilitation homes of Welfare of Differently Abled Persons Department, where, mental health assessment and treatment are carried out.

- Wandering mentally ill persons are rescued through NGOs into the Health Department's Emergency Care and Rescue Centres or the department's own homes; **Rs.1,500** per rescued person is paid to the **NGO**.

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Financial assistance of ₹1,500/- per rescued person is provided to the Non-Governmental Organisations undertaking rescue operations through this scheme.

For the financial year 2026–2027, a sum of ₹7.50 lakh has been allocated for this scheme.

9.3. Rehabilitation Homes for Differently Abled Persons with Mental Illness

These Rehabilitation Homes are run by Non-Governmental Organisations (NGOs) to provide care and support for persons with mental illness who require structured rehabilitation and continuous assistance.

Under this scheme, beneficiaries are initially provided with appropriate medical treatment. If their mental health status improves, they are imparted vocational training to enhance their livelihood opportunities. Subsequently, efforts

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are also made to facilitate their reintegration with their families wherever possible.

Across the State, a total of 122 Mental Health Rehabilitation Homes are functioning. Of these, 51 homes are receiving Government financial assistance, while the remaining 71 homes are functioning as self-financed institutions.

- 122 Mental Health Rehabilitation Homes in the State - 51 receive Government assistance and 71 are self-financed.

For the financial year 2026–2027, a sum of ₹1,035.54 lakh has been allocated for this scheme.

9.4. Half-way Homes

Half-way Homes are run by Non-Governmental Organisations (NGOs), with the objective of facilitating the reintegration of those Differently Abled Persons with mental illness, who are residing in rehabilitation home for a long time and have shown improvement in

- Half-way Homes bridge rehabilitation home and society for persons whose mental health has improved. Five districts - Madurai, Ramanathapuram, Tirupathur, Tiruchirappalli and Kanniyakumari - with capacity for 250.

their mental health status, into the society. These Homes are functioning in five districts—Madurai, Ramanathapuram, Tirupathur, Tiruchirappalli and Kanniyakumari. These homes have an overall capacity to accommodate 250 beneficiaries, who are provided with food, accommodation, medical treatment and vocational training enabling them for a better livelihood.

For the financial year 2026–2027, a sum of ₹131.66 lakh has been allocated for this scheme.

9.5. "Home Again" Scheme

The "Home Again" Scheme is being implemented through eligible Non-Governmental Organisations (NGOs) registered under the Mental Healthcare Act, 2017, to facilitate the social reintegration of persons with mental

- The 'Home Again' scheme runs through NGOs registered under the Mental Healthcare **Act 2017**; piloted in five districts, two homes each, capacity 40.

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illness who have improved after psychiatric treatment. Under the scheme, eligible persons who have developed skills for economic independence are identified from ECRC, mentally ill homes and half way homes. This scheme supports them to live independently with minimal assistance. At present, the scheme is being piloted in five districts with two homes in each district, with a total capacity of 40 persons.

For the financial year 2026–2027, a sum of ₹72.40 lakh has been allocated for this scheme.

9.6. Rehabilitation Homes for Persons with Intellectual Disabilities Aged Above 14 Years

To provide rehabilitation services for persons with Intellectual Disabilities aged above 14 years, 67 Rehabilitation Homes are run by Non-Governmental Organisations (NGOs) across the State. These homes cater to both male and

- 67 **NGO**-run Rehabilitation Homes for persons with intellectual disabilities aged above 14, with vocational training in horticulture, weaving, candle making and bakery.

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female Differently Abled Persons. The residents are provided with safe accommodation, nutritious food, medical care and rehabilitation services. In addition, they are imparted vocational training in activities such as horticulture, weaving, candle making and bakery, with the objective of enhancing their functional abilities and promoting greater independence.

For the financial year 2026–2027, a sum of ₹1,254.18 lakh has been allocated for this scheme.

9.7. Day Care Centres for Differently Abled Persons with Muscular Dystrophy

To provide rehabilitation services for persons affected by Muscular Dystrophy, 14 Day Care Centres are run by Non-Governmental Organisations (NGOs) with financial assistance from the Government in the districts of Chennai,

- 14 Day Care Centres for Muscular Dystrophy across 14 districts, providing physiotherapy and occupational therapy.

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Tiruchirappalli, Tirupathur, Madurai, Tiruvannamalai, Salem, Tirunelveli, Thoothukudi, Coimbatore, Villupuram, Dindigul, Virudhunagar, Dharmapuri and Thanjavur.

These centres provide Physiotherapy and Occupational Therapy with the objective of improving the mobility of persons with Muscular Dystrophy and enabling them to attain a greater degree of independence in carrying out their day-to-day activities.

For the financial year 2026–2027, a sum of ₹228.80 lakh has been allocated for this scheme.

9.8. Rehabilitation Homes for Differently Abled Persons with Spinal Cord Injury

To provide rehabilitation services for Differently Abled Persons who have sustained

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Spinal Cord Injury due to accidents or neurological disorders and who experience challenges in mobility, Special Rehabilitation Homes run by Non Govenmental Organisations have been established in the Districts of Tiruppur, Coimbatore and Tiruvannamalai to accomodate 25 beneficiaries in each home. The objective of these homes is to enhance the functional abilities of the residents and enable them to carry out their daily activities with greater independence. Qualified rehabilitation professionals are engaged to provide Physiotherapy and Occupational Therapy.

- Spinal cord injury rehabilitation homes in three districts - Tiruppur, Coimbatore and Tiruvannamalai - 25 beneficiaries each.

For the financial year 2026–2027, a sum of ₹73.24 lakh has been allocated for this scheme.

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10. State Resource cum Training Centre – Chennai and Regional Resource Training Centre - Tiruchirappalli

To enable Differently Abled Persons to access multiple services at a single location, State Resource cum Training Centre was established at Chennai in 2005 and Regional State Resource Training Centre at Tiruchirappalli in 2012.

- State Resource cum Training Centre at Chennai from **2005**; Regional Resource Training Centre at Tiruchirappalli from **2012** - single-window access to certificates and concessions.

These Centres provide information on various welfare schemes of the Central and State Governments for Differently Abled Persons and facilitates the issuance of certificates required for availing Government benefits, including enrollment in Unique Disability Identity (UDID) portal, Bus Travel Concession Passes, Railway Fare Concession Certificates and certificates for the appointment of a scribe and

the grant of compensatory time for Government examinations.

Early Intervention services are also provided in these centres through Non-Governmental Organisations (NGOs), for identifying developmental disabilities in children at an early stage and offering appropriate therapeutic interventions. Further, Day Care Centres functioning in these Resource Centres provide skill development programmes for persons with psychosocial disabilities. During the previous year, approximately 4,066 beneficiaries availed services provided through these Centres.

A toll-free helpline (1800-425-0111) is functioning at the State Resource cum Training Centre, Chennai to redress the grievance of the Differrently Abled. In addition, a dedicated mobile number 9498345350 with Video Call

Toll-free helpline 1800-425-0111 at Chennai, plus a dedicated video-call number so persons with hearing impairment can use sign language.

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facility is in use during the office hours, to enable persons with Hearing impairment to communicate using sign language.

For the financial year 2026–2027, a sum of ₹98.00 lakh has been allocated for this scheme.

11. Special Education

Various measures are being undertaken to provide Special Education to children with special needs in accordance with their physical, cognition and developmental needs, as per the Government policy to provide compulsory education for all children. These children studying in Government Special Schools, Government-aided Special Schools and Special Schools run by Non-Governmental Organisations (NGOs) across the State are provided with

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Special Education, hostel accommodation, food, clothing and educational materials.

In addition, students are provided with educational scholarships, examination assistance, reader's allowance for eligible students appearing for examinations and modern educational assistive devices. Further, students are taken on educational tours every year. To facilitate their daily commute to and from school, bus passes are also provided.

11.1. Special Schools

There are 22 Government Special Schools across the State to cater to the specific educational needs of the special children. The category wise special schools are as follows:

22 Government Special Schools - 10 for visually impaired, 10 for hearing impaired, 1 for severe locomotor disability and 1 institution for intellectual disability - with 1,205 students.

1. Special Schools for Visually Impaired - 10
2. Special Schools for Hearing Impaired– 10

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3. Special School for severe locomotor disabled – 1

4. Government institution for Intellectually Disabled - 1

At present, a total of 1,205 students are pursuing their education in these Government Special Schools. Students studying in these schools are provided with hostel accommodation, food, educational materials and four sets of uniforms every year free of cost.

In addition, 48 Government-aided Special Schools are functioning across the State which are as follows:

48 Government-aided Special Schools with 3,900 students, and 334 **NGO**-run Special Schools receiving assistance for 12,230 students.

1. Schools for Visually Impaired - 9

2. Special Schools for Hearing Impaired– 17

3. Special Schools for locomotor disabled – 7

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4. Special Schools for Intellectually disabled - 15

At present, a total of 3,900 students are pursuing their education in these Government Aided Special Schools.

Further, financial assistance is granted to 334 Special Schools run by Non-Govermental Organistations for providing Special Education to 12,230 students.

11.2. Special Educators, Therapists and Care Assistants

To strengthen the delivery of Special Education, the Government provides a monthly honorarium of ₹25,000/- to 980 Special Educators (703) / Therapists (277) working in Special Schools run by Non-Governmental Organisations (NGOs).

- Monthly honorarium of **Rs.25,000** to 980 special educators and therapists in **NGO** schools - 703 educators and 277 therapists - and **Rs.4,500** to 319 care assistants.

Similarly, 319 Care Assistants are engaged on a monthly honorarium of ₹4,500/- to provide

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care and support to children with special needs studying in these Special Schools.

For the financial year 2026–2027, a total sum of ₹3,332.87 lakh has been allocated towards the payment of honorarium to Special Teachers, Therapists and Care Assistants.

11.3. Modern Technology Initiatives for Strengthening Special Education

Smart Classrooms have been established in all the 10 Government Special Schools for the hearing impaired to ensure quality education, through interactive digital boards integrated with touch-screen computers, that deliver lessons in a simple and engaging manner through visual presentations.

- Smart classrooms with interactive digital boards in all 10 Government schools for the hearing impaired; electronic Braille training and Universal Braille Kits in all 10 schools for the visually impaired.

Specialised training is provided in all 10 Government Special Schools for Visually Impaired to help them read and write using

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Braille through electronic devices. Further, essential teaching and learning materials such as Universal Braille Kit, Tactile Books and modern reading devices are being provided to students studying in Government Special Schools.

11.4. Nutrition and Feeding Grants for Differently Abled Students

With a view to promote the health and nutritional well-being of children with special needs studying in Special Schools run by Non-Governmental Organisations (NGOs), supplementary nutrition and mid-day meals are provided. Under this scheme, 5,725 differently abled Day scholar students have been benefitted.

Further, a feeding grant of ₹1,400/- per student per month is provided to 5,878 students residing in Special Schools run by Non-Governmental Organisations and

- Feeding grant of **Rs.1,400** per student per month, reaching 7,046 residential students - 5,878 in **NGO** schools and 1,168 in Government schools.

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1,168 students residing in Government Special Schools, benefiting a total of 7,046 students.

For the financial year 2026–2027, a sum of ₹923.33 lakh has been allocated for this scheme.

11.5. Educational Scholarship

The Government provides educational scholarship every year to encourage school attendance among differently abled students and to promote their Special Education. The scholarship amount is sanctioned according to the class of the student.

This initiative helps to prevent school dropouts among differently abled students, facilitate their continued education and create opportunities for them to pursue higher education.

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The annual amount of scholarship for various classes is as follows:

Table No. 5

Educational Scholarship

Sl. No.	Class	Annual Amount of Assistance (in ₹)
1	1st -5th Standard	2,000/-
2	6th -8th Standard	6,000/-
3	9th -12th Standard	8,000/-
4	U.G Degree	12,000/-
5	P.G / Professional Degree	14,000/-

For the financial year 2026–2027, a sum of ₹1,436.02 lakh has been allocated for this scheme.

- Educational scholarship scales by class: **Rs.2,000** for I-V, **Rs.6,000** for VI-VIII, **Rs.8,000** for IX-XII, **Rs.12,000** for **UG** and **Rs.14,000** for **PG** or professional degrees.

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11.6. Cash Incentive Scheme to Prevent School Dropout

Differently abled students are encouraged to pursue higher education and to prevent them from discontinuing their studies, an annual incentive ranging from ₹1,500/- to ₹2,000/- is provided to students studying in Classes X, XI and XII.

Under this scheme, the incentive amount is deposited as a fixed investment in the Tamil Nadu Power Finance and Infrastructure Development Corporation Limited (TNPFC) in the interest of the students' future welfare. Upon the successful completion of Class XII, the accumulated incentive amount, together with the applicable interest, is credited directly to the student's bank account. The details of cash incentive scheme is as follows:

- The anti-dropout cash incentive is not paid out but deposited with **TNPFC** and released with interest after Class XII - the design makes completion the condition for payment.

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Table No. 6

Cash Incentive Scheme to Prevent School Dropout

Sl. No	Class	Amount (in ₹)
1	10th Standard	1,500/-
2	11th Standard	1,500/-
3	12th Standard	2,000/-

For the financial year 2026–2027, a sum of ₹24.05 lakh has been allocated for this scheme.

11.7. Reader's Allowance

Government provides a Reader's Allowance once in a year for students with Visual Impairment to support them to pursue higher education, from Class IX to Postgraduate degree courses to engage the services of a reader for assisting them in reading and accessing their study materials. The amount of allowance provided is as follows:

Reader's Allowance for visually impaired students from Class IX to **PG**: **Rs.3,000** for IX-XII, **Rs.5,000** for **UG**, **Rs.6,000** for **PG** or professional courses.

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Table No. 7

Reader's Allowance

Sl.No.	Class	Reader's Allowance (in ₹)
1	9th - 12th standard	3,000/-
2	UG Degree	5,000/-
3	PG / Professional Degree	6,000/-

For the financial year 2026–2027, a sum of ₹100.00 lakh has been allocated for this scheme.

11.8. Scribe Assistance

Visually Impaired students studying Class IX and above in Government and aided Special Schools appearing for public examinations are permitted to engage the services of a scribe who is provided an honorarium of ₹300/- per examination paper.

- A scribe for a visually impaired candidate is paid **Rs.300** per examination paper.

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For the financial year 2026–2027, a sum of ₹45.75 lakh has been allocated for this scheme.

11.9. B.Com. and B.C.A. Degree Programmes for Students with Hearing Impairment

An exclusive section, each in the B.Com. and B.C.A. degree programmes, has been established for students with Hearing impairment at Presidency College, Chennai and Government Arts College, Paramakudi, Ramanathapuram District. Three guest Lecturers and one Computer Laboratory Technician have been engaged and are paid a consolidated monthly remuneration of ₹25,000/- and ₹6,000/-respectively.

Exclusive B.Com. and B.C.A. sections for students with hearing impairment at Presidency College, Chennai and Government Arts College, Paramakudi.

For the financial year 2026–2027, a sum of ₹19.66 lakh has been allocated for this scheme.

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11.10. Financial Assistance for Differently Abled Law Graduates

To support differently abled students who have completed their Law degree, the Government provides financial assistance of ₹50,000/- to enable them to enroll as members of the Bar Council and to meet the expenses involved in purchasing law books required for commencing legal practice.

- **Rs.50,000** to differently abled law graduates for Bar Council enrolment and law books.

For the financial year 2026–2027, a sum of ₹20.00 lakh has been allocated for this scheme.

11.11. Chief Minister’s Research Fellowship

To promote the participation of differently abled students in advanced research programmes, the Chief Minister’s Research Fellowship is being implemented, through which an annual fellowship of ₹1,00,000/- is provided to each one of them pursuing a Doctorate of

- Chief Minister's Research Fellowship - **Rs.1,00,000** a year for differently abled Ph.D. scholar**s,** paid on completion of the thesis and on the viva-voce call letter.

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Philosophy (Ph.D.) on completion of their thesis and on submission of viva-voce call letter.

12. Assistive Devices

12.1. Types of Assistive Devices

Various assistive devices suited to the specific nature of the disability, are being provided to Differently Abled Persons for their independent mobility, accessibility and easy communication.

The types of assistive devices provided are as below:

Table No. 8

Assistive Devices

Sl.No	Assistive Devices
1.	Auxiliary Crutches
2.	Elbow Crutches
3.	Magnifier
4.	Braille Watches
5.	Goggles

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Sl.No	Assistive Devices
6.	Walking device
7.	Wheel Chair for Cerebral Palsy affected persons
8.	Corner Seat for children with cerebral palsy
9.	Plastic Caliper
10.	Metal Caliper
11.	Artificial Limb
12.	Commode Wheel Chair
13.	Tricycle
14.	Foldable Wheel Chair
15.	Behind the Ear Hearing Aid
16.	Reflective Folding Sticks
17.	Modular Reflective Folding Sticks
18.	Smart phone for Hearing and Visually impaired persons
19.	Standing Frame
20.	Battery Operated Wheel Chair
21.	Wheel Chair with attached Electric Equipment
22.	Motorised Sewing Machine
23.	Electronic Braille Reader
24.	Modular Reading Device
25.	Retrofitted Petrol Scooter
26.	Specially designed Retrofitted Petrol Scooter for spinal cord affected persons

- 26 types of assistive device are listed, from elbow crutches and Braille watches to battery-operated wheelchair**s,** motorised sewing machines and retrofitted petrol scooters.

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For the financial year 2026–2027, a sum of ₹14,693.74 lakh has been allocated for this scheme.

- Assistive devices draw **Rs.14,693.74** lakh - 9.90% of the department's allocation, the third largest head.

Advanced technology assistive devices like Smart Vision Glasses for persons with visual impairment, Teaching and Learning Material (TLM) Kits for children with intellectual disabilities and other modern assistive devices are to be included in the forthcoming year.

12.2. Replacement of Specific Assistive Devices

New devices are replaced for the old/damaged ones to ensure that the daily activities of Differently Abled Persons are not interrupted. Retrofitted petrol scooters and motorised sewing machines are replaced after 10 years if it is found to be not in working condition. Similarly, hearing aids and Braille

- Replacement cycle: scooters and sewing machines after 10 yea**rs,** hearing aids and Braille watches after 3 yea**rs,** with up to 25% of annual devices earmarked for replacement.

watches are replaced after 3 years if they are not in working condition.

Under this scheme, upto 25 percent of the total number of assistive devices allocated annually is earmarked for replacement of assistive devices.

12.3. Choice Based System for Selection of Assistive Devices

The Choice Based System provides the option for Differently Abled Persons to select assistive devices based on their individual needs and preferences. Assistive devices such as tricycles, battery-operated wheelchairs, behind-the-ear hearing aids, motorised sewing machines and retrofitted petrol scooters are covered under this scheme.

- Under the Choice Based System the beneficiary picks the device and pays only the difference above the approved standard model - a subsidy-plus-top-up design.

A key feature of this scheme is that, if the cost of the assistive device preferred by the

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beneficiary, with additional features, exceeds the cost of the standard model approved by the Government, the beneficiary shall pay the difference in cost directly and obtain the device of their choice.

13. Social Security Schemes

In order to ensure that Differently Abled Persons live with security and dignity, social security schemes such as Maintenance grant and High support needs are provided.

13.1. Maintenance Grant

With the objective of improving the livelihood of Differently Abled Persons, the Government provides a monthly maintenance grant of ₹2,000/-, without any income ceiling, to six categories of Differently Abled Persons.

- Maintenance grant of **Rs.2,000** a month with no income ceiling, to six categories of disability, credited by **DBT** on the 5th of every month.

The maintenance grant is credited directly to the beneficiaries bank accounts on the 5th of

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every month through the Direct Benefit Transfer (DBT) system.

The categories of Differently Abled Persons covered under this scheme are as follows:

Table No. 9

Categories of Differently Abled persons receiving Maintenance Allowance

Sl. No	Categories of Differently abled persons	Eligible percentage to get assistance	No. of DAPs
1.	Intellectual Disability	40% and above	1,97,458
2.	Severe Locomotor disability	75% and above	52,078
3.	Parkinson's Disease / Multiple Sclerosis / Spinal Cord Injured	40% and above	4,400
4.	Autism Spectrum Disorder	40% and above	1,468
5.	Muscular Dystrophy	40% and above	4,915
6.	Leprosy cured	40% and above	11,411
Total			**2,71,730**

- 2,71,730 persons draw the maintenance grant. Intellectual disability at 40% and above accounts for 1,97,458 of them; severe locomotor disability requires 75% and above.

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For the financial year 2026–2027, a sum of ₹64,907.88 lakh has been allocated for the implementation of this scheme.

13.2. High Support Need Allowance

To enable Differently Abled Persons with severe physical impairments to carry out their day-to-day activities without difficulty, the Government provides an additional allowance of ₹1,000/- per month to engage a caregiver apart from the maintenance grant.

- High Support Need Allowance - **Rs.1,000** a month over and above the maintenance grant, for those certified by a Medical Board as having high support needs.

This additional allowance is sanctioned to persons who are certified by a Medical Board as "Differently Abled Persons with High Support Needs."

For the financial year 2026–2027, a sum of ₹2,761.80 lakh has been allocated for the implementation of this scheme.

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14. Unemployment Relief Assistance for Educated Differently Abled Persons

With the objective of improving the livelihood of educated Differently Abled Persons who remain unemployed, the Government provides monthly unemployment relief assistance ranging from ₹600/- to ₹1,000/- based on their educational qualifications.

This assistance is provided to educated Differently Abled Persons who have registered themselves for employment with the Department of Employment and Training and have remained unemployed for a period of one year from the date of registration.

The unemployment relief assistance is provided for a maximum period of 10 years or until the beneficiary secures employment, whichever is earlier.

- Unemployment relief of **Rs.600** to **Rs.1,000** a month by qualification, payable after one year of registration with Employment and Training, for a maximum of 10 years or until employment.

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The details of allowance provided are as follows:

Table No. 10

Unemployment Assistance for Educated Differently Abled Persons

Sl. No	Educational Qualification	Allowance Per month (in ₹)
1.	10th Standard Completed	600/-
2.	12th Standard Completed	750/-
3.	Degree Completed	1,000/-

For the financial year 2026–2027, a sum of ₹500.00 lakh has been allocated for this scheme.

15. Marriage Assistance Scheme

Under the Marriage Assistance Scheme, financial assistance is provided to a person who is not differently abled and marries a Differently

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Abled Person and as well as to persons who are both Differently Abled.

Under this scheme, the couple is provided with ₹25,000/- as cash assistance along with 8-gram gold coin for the Thirumangalyam (Mangalsutra). An enhanced cash assistance of ₹50,000/- is provided if either of the spouses has completed a degree or diploma course.

- Marriage assistance: **Rs.25,000** and an 8-gram gold coin, rising to **Rs.50,000** if either spouse holds a degree or diploma. Payable when a person marries a differently abled person, and when both are differently abled.

For the financial year 2026–2027, a sum of ₹918.21 lakh has been allocated for the implementation of this scheme.

16. Free and Concessional Travel Scheme

16.1. Free Travel concession

The Government provides bus travel concessions to Differently Abled Persons to enable them to travel from their place of residence for employment, education, vocational

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training and for availing medical treatment and rehabilitation services.

Under this scheme, Differently Abled Persons are permitted to travel free of cost in the white board buses operated by the Metropolitan Transport Corporation (MTC) and in all ordinary town buses operating across the State. Differently Abled Persons who are unable to travel independently can be accompanied by an escort whose travel cost is also free.

Further, persons with 90% and above visual impairment are permitted to travel free of cost up to a distance of 100 kilometres in mofussil buses, without any conditions.

Persons with 90% and above visual impairment travel free up to **100 km** in mofussil buses. Free travel in **MTC** white board buses and all ordinary town buses, with a free escort.

16.2. Seventy-Five Percent Bus Fare Concession

All categories of Differently Abled Persons are permitted to travel in all buses operated by

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the State Transport Corporation in Tamil Nadu, except air-conditioned Government buses, with a 75 percent concession in bus fare, without any upper limit on the number of journeys. Differently Abled Persons who are unable to travel independently are also eligible to travel along with one escort with the same concession.

All categories get 75% concession in State Transport Corporation buses except air-conditioned services, with no cap on journeys and the same concession for an escort.

For the financial year 2026–2027, a sum of ₹9,500.00 lakh has been allocated for the implementation of this scheme.

17. Socio-Economic Empowerment Schemes for Differently Abled Persons

17.1. Reservation in Employment

In accordance with Section 34(1) of the Rights of Persons with Disabilities Act, 2016, 4 percent reservation in Government employment is ensured for Differently Abled Persons with benchmark disabilities.

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Accordingly, suitable posts have been identified in Government Departments, Public Sector Undertakings, Educational Institutions, Universities and Local Bodies. To ensure effective implementation of the reservation policy and to monitor recruitment, a High-Level Committee has been constituted.

In addition, 4 percent reservation in promotions for Differently Abled Government employees is also provided.

Reservation runs in promotions too, not only recruitment - four percent for differently abled Government employees.

17.2. Facilitating Employment for Differently Abled Persons in Private Sector

With a view to promote employment opportunities in private sector, Non-Governmental Organisations (NGOs) are encouraged to organise special job fairs on a continuous basis to facilitate the placement of Differently Abled Persons.

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Further, to encourage the employment of differently abled persons in private sector an incentive of ₹2,000/- per person per month for one year is provided if the private organisation employs more than 10 differently abled persons.

- Private sector incentive: **Rs.2,000** per person per month for a year, where an employer takes on more than 10 differently abled persons.

17.3. Incentive for Differently Abled Candidates Appearing for UPSC Civil Services / TNPSC Group-I Main Examination

With a view to encourage greater participation of Differently Abled Persons in higher Government services, the Government provides an incentive of ₹50,000/- to Differently Abled candidates who qualify in the Preliminary Examination of the Union Public Service Commission (UPSC) Civil Services Examination or the Tamil Nadu Public Service Commission (TNPSC) Group-I Examination and appear for the Main Examination.

- **Rs.50,000** to differently abled candidates who clear the **UPSC** Civil Services or **TNPSC** Group-I Preliminary examination and appear for the Main.

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This incentive enables Differently Abled candidates to pursue their higher educational and career aspirations without financial constraints.

For the financial year 2026–2027, a sum of ₹4.50 lakh has been allocated for the implementation of this scheme.

17.4. Equal Opportunity Policy

In accordance with the guidelines issued under Section 21 of the Rights of Persons with Disabilities Act, 2016, accessible, barrier-free working environment has to be provided to enable the differently abled persons to perform their duties without difficulty in both Government and private sector.

- Section 21 - the Equal Opportunity Policy that establishments must publish, with a barrier-free working environment.

The Government continues to monitor all establishments to ensure that they provide a

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barrier-free workplace suitable for Differently Abled Persons and also publish an Equal Opportunity Policy to promote and ensure their employment.

18. Livelihood Schemes

18.1. Financial Assistance for starting Micro Enterprises

To encourage Differently Abled Persons to establish self-employment ventures, the Government provides a subsidy of up to ₹25,000/- or one-third of the total loan amount, whichever is lower, to eligible beneficiaries.

- Micro enterprise subsidy: **Rs.25,000** or one-third of the loan, whichever is lower; **Rs.15,000** or one-fifth for parents of persons with intellectual disability, autism or muscular dystrophy.

Further, in the case of parents of persons with intellectual disabilities, Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD) and muscular dystrophy, a subsidy of ₹15,000/- or one-fifth of the total loan amount, whichever is lower, is provided to enable them to undertake self-employment activities for the benefit of their dependants.

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Further, in order to secure the livelihood of economically disadvantaged Differently Abled Persons residing in urban areas, the Government has directed that priority be accorded to Differently Abled street vendors, including those carrying on business through pushcarts, pavement vending and mobile vending units.

Accordingly, the respective Municipalities and Municipal Corporations are granting eligible Differently Abled Persons the necessary permission to carry on vending activities through their Town Vending Committees, in accordance with the prescribed rules.

Differently abled street vendors get priority from Municipal Town Vending Committees - the note links disability welfare to the street vendors framework.

For the financial year 2026–2027, a sum of ₹500.00 lakh has been allocated for the implementation of this scheme.

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18.2. Financial Assistance for Establishing Aavin Milk Booths

With the objective of improving the economic status of Differently Abled Persons and enabling them to become self-employed entrepreneurs, the Aavin Milk Booth Scheme was introduced.

Initially launched to benefit 100 beneficiaries per year, the scheme has now been expanded to cover 200 beneficiaries annually, thereby encouraging a greater number of Differently Abled Persons to take up entrepreneurship. Further, the financial assistance has been enhanced from ₹25,000/- to ₹50,000/-. This assistance is provided towards the security deposit payable to Aavin and the initial working capital required for the procurement of milk and milk products.

- Aavin milk booths: 200 beneficiaries a year, up from 100, with assistance raised from **Rs.25,000** to **Rs.50,000,** and rent and advance waived in **PWD** and Revenue premises.

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In addition, as a special concession under this scheme, Differently Abled Persons establishing Aavin milk booths in Government office premises under the control of the Public Works Department and the Revenue and Disaster Management Department are fully exempted by the Government of Tamil Nadu from the payment of rent and advance for the allotted space.

For the financial year 2026–2027, a sum of ₹100.00 lakh has been allocated for the implementation of this scheme.

18.3. Prime Minister's Employment Generation Programme (PMEGP)

The Prime Minister's Employment Generation Programme (PMEGP) is being implemented by the Government of India to provide financial assistance through nationalised banks to Differently Abled Persons who are

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18 years of age or above and have studied up to 8th Standard, enabling them to establish self-employment ventures.

To reduce the financial burden on beneficiaries availing loans under this scheme, the Government of Tamil Nadu bears the 5 percent beneficiary margin money contribution that would otherwise be payable by the Differently Abled beneficiary.

For the financial year 2026–2027, a sum of ₹5.00 lakh has been allocated for the implementation of this scheme.

PMEGP eligibility - 18 years and above, educated up to 8th Standard. Tamil Nadu bears the 5% beneficiary margin money under both **PMEGP** and **UYEGP**.

18.4. Unemployed Youth Employment Generation Programme (UYEGP) for Differently Abled Persons

With the objective of improving the livelihood of unemployed Differently Abled youth, the Unemployed Youth Employment

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Generation Programme (UYEGP) is being implemented through the District Industries Centres (DICs) under the Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSME) Department to provide financial assistance for establishing self-employment ventures.

Under this scheme, eligible Differently Abled Persons who establish enterprises are required to contribute 5 percent of the project cost as the entrepreneur's contribution. The Government of Tamil Nadu bears the 5 percent beneficiary margin money contribution that would otherwise be payable by the Differently Abled beneficiary.

For the financial year 2026–2027, a sum of ₹10.00 lakh has been allocated for the implementation of this scheme.

18.5. National Divyangjan Finance and Development Corporation (NDFDC)

To enable Differently Abled Persons to establish self-employment ventures and improve their livelihoods, financial assistance is provided through the National Divyangjan Finance and Development Corporation (NDFDC) of the Government of India at concessional rates of interest.

The Tamil Nadu State Apex Cooperative Bank functions as the Channelising Agency for this scheme by obtaining funds under the programme and extending loans to eligible Differently Abled Persons.

Under this scheme, when beneficiaries repay their loans on time, the State Government bears the interest component of the loan.

For **NDFDC** loans the Tamil Nadu State Apex Cooperative Bank is the Channelising Agency, and the State bears the interest where the borrower repays on time.

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18.6. Book Binding Training

With the objective of enhancing the employability of persons with visual impairment who have completed Higher Secondary Education (12th Standard), a one-year vocational certificate course in Book Binding is being conducted.

The training is imparted at the Government Higher Secondary School for the Blind, Poonamallee. Under this scheme, trainees are provided with a monthly stipend of ₹300/- along with free boarding and free uniforms throughout the training period.

- A one-year Book Binding certificate course at the Government Higher Secondary School for the Blind, Poonamallee, with a **Rs.300** monthly stipend.

For the financial year 2026–2027, a sum of ₹0.66 lakh has been allocated for the implementation of this scheme.

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18.7. Fitter Training

With the objective of creating better employment opportunities in the mechanical engineering sector for persons with hearing impairment, a special skill development training programme is being implemented.

The training is conducted through the Government Industrial Training Institute (Government ITI), Guindy, Chennai and is a comprehensive two-year vocational training programme.

- Two-year Fitter training for 20 persons with hearing impairment every year at Government **ITI**, Guindy.

Under this scheme, 20 persons with hearing impairment are selected every year and provided with extensive training in the technical skills and operational methods required for working with machinery.

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For the financial year 2026–2027, a sum of ₹0.72 lakh has been allocated for the implementation of this scheme.

18.8. Scheme for Providing 5 Percent Reservation in Shops Located in Commercial Complexes for Differently Abled Persons

With a view to improve the livelihood of Differently Abled Persons and enable them to achieve economic self-reliance through commercial activities, 5 percent reservation is provided for Differently Abled Persons in the allotment of shops located in commercial complexes constructed by Local Bodies.

- Five percent reservation for differently abled persons in shops allotted in commercial complexes built by Local Bodies.

19. Tamil Nadu Welfare Board for Differently Abled Persons

The Tamil Nadu Welfare Board for Differently Abled Persons was established in 2007 with the objective of ensuring the social

- The Tamil Nadu Welfare Board for Differently Abled Persons dates from **2007**; membership opens at age 10.

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security and economic development of Differently Abled Persons and their family members. All Differently Abled Persons aged 10 years and above are eligible to enroll as members of the Welfare Board.

A wide range of social security and welfare assistance is provided to Differently Abled Persons and their families through the Welfare Board. These include educational assistance, marriage assistance, financial assistance for the purchase of spectacles, maternity and miscarriage assistance and relief for disabilities arising from accidents, among other welfare benefits.

In addition, emergency financial assistance, including relief in the event of unexpected death and funeral assistance in cases of natural death is also provided.

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The details of assistances provided by the differently abled welfare board are as follows:

Table No. 11

Details of Assistances provided by the Tamil Nadu Differently Abled Welfare Board

1.	Personal Accident Relief		
	(a)	Death due to Accident	₹2,00,000/-
	(b)	Loss of Hand or Leg or sight in both eyes and total loss	₹2,00,000/-
	(c)	Loss of one hand or one leg or sight in one eye or total loss of Vision	₹50,000/-
2.	Financial Assistance to meet the Funeral Expense		₹5,000/-
3.	Natural Death of Differently Abled Persons		₹25,000/-
4.	Annual Scholarships to the Son and Daughter of Differently Abled Persons		
(a)	i.	Daughter studying SSLC	₹2,000/-
	ii.	Son and Daughter who cleared SSLC	₹2,000/-
(b)		Daughter studying 11th Standard or equivalent	₹2,000/-
(c)	i.	Daughter studying 12th Standard or equivalent	₹3,000/-
	ii.	Son and Daughter who cleared 12th Standard or equivalent examination	₹3,000/-

- Welfare Board relief: **Rs.2,00,000** for accidental death or loss of both hands, legs or sight; **Rs.50,000** for loss of one; **Rs.25,000** on natural death and **Rs.5,000** for funeral expenses.

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(d)	i.	Son and Daughter studying Under Graduation Course	₹3,000/-
	ii.	Son and Daughter studying Under Graduation Course and staying in Hostel	₹3,500/-
	iii.	Son and Daughter studying Post Graduation Course	₹4,000/-
	iv.	Son and Daughter studying Post Graduation Course and staying in Hostel	₹6,000/-
(e)	i.	Son and Daughter studying Law, Engineering, Medicine, Veterinary Science or equivalent Professional Courses	₹5,000/-
	ii.	Son and Daughter studying Professional Course and staying in Hostel	₹6,000/-
	iii.	Son and Daughter studying in Professional Post Graduation Courses	₹6,000/-
	iv.	Son and Daughter studying Professional PG course and staying in Hostel	₹8,000/-
(f)	i.	Son and Daughter studying in Vocational Training Institutes or Technical Colleges	₹2,000/-
	ii.	Son and Daughter studying in Vocational Training Institutes or Technical Colleges and staying in hostel	₹2,500/-

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5.	Marriage Assistance (Either to Husband or Wife)		₹5,000/-
6.	Financial Assistance for delivery for female members		
	(a)	Pregnancy	₹6,000/-
	(b)	Miscarriage of Pregnancy	₹3,000/-
	(c)	Caesarean section	₹9,000/-
7.	Assistance for Alpha Beds		₹6,000/-
8.	Financial Assistance for the purchase of Spectacles		₹500/-

For the financial year 2026–2027, a sum of ₹854.62 lakh has been allocated for the implementation of this scheme.

20. Chief Minister's Comprehensive Health Insurance Scheme

Chief Minister's Comprehensive Health Insurance Scheme (CMCHIS), provides medical treatment to all categories of Differently Abled Persons and their family members without any income ceiling. The beneficiaries are entitled to receive medical treatment of up to ₹5.00 lakh

CMCHIS covers all categories of differently abled persons and their families with no income ceiling, up to **Rs.5.00 lakh** per family per year, including prosthetic limbs.

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per family per year through empanelled Government and private hospitals.

The scheme has been of significant benefit to children with Hearing Impairment and Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD). In addition, high-quality artificial limbs (prosthetic limbs) that facilitate the mobility of Differently Abled Persons, are also being provided free of cost under this health insurance scheme.

21. State Awards

The Government of Tamil Nadu confers various prestigious State Awards every year to Differently Abled Persons who have made outstanding accomplishments and also institutions and individuals who have dedicated themselves to the service of Differently Abled Persons.

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These awards are presented annually on 15th August (Independence Day) and 3rd December (International Day for the Differently Abled). The details of these awards are as follows:

- State awards are conferred on 15 August and on 3 December, the International Day for the Differently Abled - 22 awards in all, each carrying a 10-gram gold medal.

Table No. 12

State Level Awards on the Independence Day

Sl. No	Name of the Award	Number of Awards	Details of the Award
1.	Best Institution Award for the private Institution that has employed the maximum number of Differently Abled Persons	1 Award	10 Gram Gold Medal and a Certificate
2.	Best Institution Award for the Institution providing various services to Differently Abled Persons	1 Award	10 Gram Gold Medal, Cash Prize of ₹50,000/- and a Certificate
3.	Best Social Worker Award for outstanding work done for the Welfare of Differently Abled Persons	1 Award	10 Gram Gold Medal and a Certificate

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Sl. No	Name of the Award	Number of Awards	Details of the Award
4.	Best Doctor Award	1 Award	10 Gram Gold Medal and a Certificate
5.	Best Collector Award	1 Award	10 Gram Gold Medal, Cash Prize of ₹25,000/- and a Certificate
6.	Best Bank award for the District Co-operative Bank for providing the maximum amount of loan	1 Award	10 Gram Gold Medal and a Certificate

For the financial year 2026–2027, a sum of ₹7.43 lakh has been allocated for the implementation of this scheme.

Table No. 13

State Level Awards on International Day for the Differently Abled

Sl. No	Name of the Award	Number of Awards	Details of the Award
1.	Best Institution	1 Award	10 Gram Gold Medal and a Certificate

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Sl. No	Name of the Award	Number of Awards	Details of the Award
2.	Best Social Worker	1 Award	10 Gram Gold Medal and a Certificate
3.	Best Teacher (3 categories) a) Helen keller award for Special Teachers of VI and HI students b) Special Teacher for ID students.	3 Awards	10 Gram Gold Medal and a Certificate for each awardee
4.	Best Employee/ Self-Employer Award	10 Awards	10 Gram Gold Medal and a Certificate for each awardee
5.	Best Employer Award for employing maximum number of Differently Abled Persons	1 Award	10 Gram Gold Medal and a Certificate
6.	Best EIC Teacher	2 Awards	10 Gram Gold Medal and a Certificate for each awardee

- The Helen Keller award goes to special teachers of visually and hearing impaired students - a name worth remembering.

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Sl. No	Name of the Award	Number of Awards	Details of the Award
7.	Best Driver and Best Conductor Award who served DAP's	2 Awards	10 Gram Gold Medal and a Certificate for each awardee
8.	Best Government and Private institution that has an accessible environment for Differently Abled Persons	2 Awards	10 Gram Gold Medal and a Certificate for each institution
Total		**22 Awards**	

For the financial year 2026–2027, a sum of ₹119.50 lakh has been allocated for the implementation of this scheme.

22. TN RIGHTS Project

The Government of Tamil Nadu is implementing the TN RIGHTS Project with financial assistance from the World Bank to promote Inclusion, Accessibility and

- **TN RIGHTS** is World Bank assisted: six years from June **2022** to June **2028**, total outlay **Rs.1,773.87 crore**.

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Opportunities for Differently Abled Persons. The project aims to provide accessible, integrated and needbased rehabilitation, social protection and livelihood services across the State. It is being implemented over a six-year period from June 2022 to June 2028, with a total outlay of ₹1,773.87 crore.

Under this project, the Community Rehabilitation Workers (CRWs) and Community Facilitators (CFs) of TN RIGHTS Project are carrying out door-to-door household enumeration using the Social Protection Delivery System (SPDS) App to create a comprehensive database of Differently Abled Persons.

Community Rehabilitation Workers enumerate households on the **SPDS** App, building a database and tracking therapy progress - the scheme's delivery backbone.

The project envisages the creation of 94 Sub-Divisional One Stop Social Care Service Centres (OSCs) and 568 Block-Level OSCs in a phased manner across Tamil Nadu for providing

TN RIGHTS envisages 94 Sub-Divisional and 568 Block-Level One Stop Centres; 44 and 265 respectively are functioning.

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comprehensive rehabilitation services. Currently 44 Sub-Divisional OSCs and 265 Block-Level OSCs are functioning in various districts.

At the Sub-Divisional level, multidisciplinary teams provide six core rehabilitation services under one roof — special education, optometry, audiology and speech therapy, physiotherapy, occupational therapy and psychological counselling. At the Block level, 4 rehabilitation professionals are engaged through Community Service Providers (CSPs) to deliver centre-based and home-based services to ensure outreach and continuity of care.

Six core rehabilitation services under one roof at sub-divisional OSCs - special education, optometry, audiology and speech therapy, physiotherapy, occupational therapy and psychological counselling.

Social Protection Delivery System (SPDS) has been developed to track beneficiaries, monitor therapy progress in OSCs and ensure systematic service delivery. This system will further strengthen access to entitlements and

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welfare schemes for the Differently Abled Persons.

Pilot employment models are also being implemented in partnership with the Leather Sector Skill Council at Government Institute for Intellectually Differently Abled (GIID) in Tambaram, Perambalur and Dharmapuri districts. Additional sector-based models are being explored to expand pathways for both wage employment and self-employment through structured skill training.

- Pilot employment models with the Leather Sector Skill Council at Government Institutes for the Intellectually Differently Abled in Tambaram, Perambalur and Dharmapuri.

23. Centre of Excellence for Persons with Autism Spectrum Disorder

The Centre of Excellence for Persons with Autism Spectrum Disorder was established at the Government Institute of Rehabilitation Medicine, K.K.Nagar, Chennai on 5th December 2024. This Centre provides comprehensive services under a single roof which includes

- The Centre of Excellence for Autism Spectrum Disorder opened at the Government Institute of Rehabilitation Medicine, K.K. Nagar on 5 December **2024**, serving over 1,200 children with a daily footfall of 100.

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Special education, Physiotherapy, Speech therapy, Vocational training, Independent living skills, Caregiver training and guidance to persons with Autism Spectrum Disorder free-of-cost: nurtures an ecosystem that empowers individuals with Autism Spectrum Disorder and also strengthens caregiver support.

Expert doctors specialized in paediatrics and child psychiatry along with rehabilitation professionals, serve more than 1,200 children, with a daily footfall of 100 cases. Out of this, 94 cases are under follow up treatment. This centre creates a supportive community for children with autism, their parents and siblings by conducting weekend webinars for parents for the persons with Autism and also providies exposure visits to persons with autism and their families to places like movie theatres, parks, etc.

For the financial year 2026–2027, a sum of ₹532.00 lakh has been allocated for the implementation of this scheme.

24. Government of India Schemes

24.1. Assistance to Disabled Persons for Purchase / Fitting of Aids and Appliances (ADIP Scheme)

The Assistance to Disabled Persons for Purchase/Fitting of Aids and Appliances (ADIP) Scheme was introduced by the Government of India in 1981 with an objective of identifying the needs of Differently Abled Persons and providing them with quality and modern assistive devices so as to enable them to perform their daily activities with greater ease and to lead an independent life.

- The **ADIP** Scheme for aids and appliances dates from **1981** - one of the oldest disability schemes of the Government of India.

The State Government recommends and sends the proposal submitted by the Non-Governmental Organisations (NGOs) to

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Government of India whereas the District Administration and Members of Parliament (MPs) can submit the proposal directly to Government of India for approval of issuance of assistive devices. On approval of the proposal submitted, special camps are organised through the District Administration, during which assistive devices are distributed directly to eligible beneficiaries.

24.2. Deendayal Disabled Rehabilitation Scheme (DDRS)

Under the Deendayal Disabled Rehabilitation Scheme (DDRS), financial assistance is provided by the Government of India to Non-Governmental Organisations engaged in providing comprehensive rehabilitation services to Differently Abled Persons. The State Government recommends the proposal submitted by the

DDRS funds NGOs directly for institution-based and community-based rehabilitation, with the State only recommending proposals.

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Non-Governmental Organisations (NGOs) for approval to provide institution-based and community-based rehabilitation.

24.3. National Scholarship Scheme for Differently Abled Students

The National Scholarship Scheme is being implemented by the Government of India with the objective of enabling Differently Abled students to pursue higher education without barriers, thereby helping them secure better livelihood opportunities and lead a dignified life.

Details of National Scholarship sanctioned by Government of India are as follows:

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Table No. 14

National Scholarship

Sl. No.	Scheme	Annual Income Ceiling (in ₹)	Scholarship Amount (in ₹)
1	Pre- Matric 9th to 12th Standard	₹2,50,000/-	₹9,000/- to ₹14,600/-
2	Post – Matric Graduate level	₹2,50,000/-	₹10,100/- to ₹1,74,700/-
3	Top – Class Higher Education / Professional course	₹8,00,000/-	₹47,000/- to ₹3,40,000/-

- National Scholarship has three tiers: Pre-Matric and Post-Matric at an income ceiling of **Rs.2.50 lakh**, and Top-Class at **Rs.8.00 lakh**.

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Conclusion

The Government will continue to strive to implement policies and programmes that will empower and elevate the Differently Abled Persons physically, economically and socially. The Department through its schemes, will create an enabling environment for the Differently Abled Persons to realise their potential and abilities so as to face the society with courage and confidence.

C. JOSEPH VIJAY

CHIEF MINISTER

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Table No. 15

Scheme wise Allocation for the Year 2026-2027

Sl. No	Services / Sector	Amount (₹ in Lakh)	Percentage of Allocation
1.	Prevention and Early Intervention	2,351.85	1.58
2.	Special Education	9,429.50	6.35
3.	Employment and Vocational Training	656.94	0.44
4.	Social Security (Maintenance Allowance and Free travel Concession)	82,911.54	55.83
5.	Aids and Appliances	14,693.74	9.90
6.	Barrier Free Structure and Other Infrastructure	895.96	0.60
7.	Rights Project	25,000.00	16.83
8.	Others (Salary, Administrative Expenses)	12,578.03	8.47
Total		**1,48,517.56**	**100**

- Social security - maintenance allowance and free travel concession - accounts for **Rs.82,911.54 lakh**, more than half the department's budget.

- Total allocation **Rs.1,48,517.56 lakh** - about **Rs.1,485 crore**. Social security alone takes 55.83%, the **TN RIGHTS** Project 16.83% and aids and appliances 9.90%.

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The Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu, Thiru. C. Joseph Vijay, handed over the appointment order to Ms. P. Prasanthi, Differently Abled Assistant Medical Officer on 14.07.2026, at an event organised by the Health and Family Welfare Department at the Presidency College Campus, Chennai.

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The Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu, Thiru. C. Joseph Vijay, distributed sweets to differently abled children at the Independence Day celebrations held on 15.08.2026 at the St. George Fort facade, Secretariat, Chennai.

2



The Hon'ble Minister for Artificial Intelligence, Information Technology and Digital Services, Dr. Kumar. R, inaugurated the Block-level One Stop Social Care Service Centre on 17.07.2026 at the Government Hospital, Avadi in Tiruvallur District established under the TN Rights Project,

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In Pudukkottai District, at Nachandupatti, Thirumayam Taluk, the Vizhuthugal One Stop Social Care Service Centre established by the Welfare of Differently Abled Persons Department was inaugurated by the Hon'ble Minister Labour Welfare and Skill Development Thiru. J. Mohamed Farvas on 24.07.2026. He also interacted with the specialists providing training to differently abled children.

4



The Hon'ble Minister for Industries, Selvi S. Keerthana, inaugurated the One Stop Social Care Service Centre on 29.07.2026 at the Government Primary Health Centre, Bagalur, Hosur Taluk, in Krishnagiri District established by the Welfare of Differently Abled Persons Department.

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The Hon'ble Minister for Handlooms, Textiles and Khadi, Thiru. M. Vijay Balaji, inaugurated the Vizhuthugal One Stop Social Care Service Centres, established by the Welfare of Differently Abled Persons Department at Vellore and Pernambut in Vellore District under the TN Rights Project on 30-07-2026.

6



The Hon'ble Minister for Milk and Dairy Development, Tmt.C. Vijayalakshmi, inspected on 31-07-2026 Vizhuthugal One Stop Social Care Service Centre established at Pugalur in Karur District by the Welfare of Differently Abled Persons Department .

7



The Hon'ble Minister for Social Justice, Thiru. Vanni Arasu, on 01.08.2026 inaugurated the newly constructed Vizhuthugal One Stop Social Care Service Centre, at Mavadipattu village in Kalvarayanmalai Block in Kallakurichi District.

8



The Hon'ble Minister for Backward Classes Welfare, Thiru. V. Sampath Kumar, inspected the Vizhuthugal One Stop Social Care Service Centre established at Thondamuthur in Coimbatore District by the Welfare of Differently Abled Persons Department on 01.08.2026 .

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