



Rural Development and Panchayat Raj Department

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1. Introduction

Introduction

“Villages are the backbone of a Nation’s prosperity - was the strong belief of Mahatma Gandhi. We must strive to achieve prosperity by developing the villages. For this, the amenities available in town should be brought to the villages as well”.

***Hon’ble Former Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu
Kalaignar M. Karunanidhi***

India lives in its villages. The roots of all development, urban or rural is based on the sustainability of natural resources and industriousness of human resources in the rural hinterland.

In this context, the Rural Development & Panchayat Raj Department is entrusted with the vital mandate of enhancing the quality of life by providing and sustaining basic amenities, citizen friendly service delivery and livelihood opportunities for the

people living in rural Tamil Nadu. The edifice of rural development in Tamil Nadu is built on the twin pillars of robust governance structures at the State, Districts and Blocks and a deep-rooted three-tier system of Local Self Governance.

The Department has a shared vision with the Sustainable Development Goals of the United Nations. The objectives and strategies of the Department are in align with the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) like No Poverty, Clean Water and Sanitation, Reduced Inequalities, Climate Action etc. It is progressing towards these objectives through the effective implementation of various schemes of the Union and State Government.

Ensuring that every family in Tamil Nadu is free from the clutches of poverty is at the heart of various policies and schemes of this Government. The Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme (MGNREGS) assures adequate and accessible wage employment while simultaneously creating productive individual and

community assets to fulfil the infrastructure and livelihood needs of the people in rural areas. The Government intends to prioritise the strategies under this scheme to focus on creating Climate Resilient Villages and individual income generating assets and works in the coming years in a convergence model.

The safety and dignity of the rural poor is ensured through provision of durable concrete houses under Pradhan Mantri Awaz Yojana (Gramin). To ensure **“Housing for All”** and a **“Hut Free State”** by 2026, a State Housing Scheme will also be launched after conducting a State wide survey to identify the deserving beneficiaries left out of previous surveys.

The objective of providing all weather road connectivity to the unconnected habitations and upgradation of through routes and major link roads is achieved through Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana (PMGSY), Tamil Nadu Rural Road Improvement Scheme (TNRRIS) among other schemes. The infrastructure requirements of Panchayat Union Primary and Middle Schools would

be met by the School Infrastructure Development Scheme (SIDS).

In order to provide safe drinking water at the door steps of rural households, Jal Jeevan Mission (JJM) is implemented in convergence with Union and State Finance Commission Grant to provide water supply at 55 lpcd to all rural households by 2024. With increasing per capita waste generation, the challenge of ensuring comprehensive solution for Solid and Liquid waste management will be one of the focus areas. Swachh Bharat Mission (Gramin) scheme combined with Union and State Finance Commission funds will be dovetailed to ensure safe sanitation in rural areas.

Hon'ble former Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu, **Kalaignar M. Karunanidhi**, had introduced and implemented several path breaking schemes like **Anna Marumalarchi Thittam, Anaithu Grama Anna Marumalarchi Thittam, Namakku Naame Thittam etc., during the period 1996-2001 and 2006-2011.** These schemes were unique in their

inclusiveness, equity and founded on the principles of social justice.

This Government which follows the footsteps of the Hon'ble former Chief Minister **Kalaignar M. Karunanidhi** will formulate and reintroduce the Anaithu Grama Anna Marumalarchi Thittam-II which will address the aspirational requirements of the people at the habitation level.

Along with providing infrastructure facilities to rural masses, providing economic growth through the movement of Women Self Help Groups will aid in sustainable rural economy. Strengthening of SHG movement through training, collectivization of their skills and local resources into Producer Groups, Enterprise Groups will enable better bargaining power for their skills and products. Preparing business plan, paving way for access to finance and extensive marketing opportunities including setting up of business incubators, foraying into online marketing etc, will provide a better standard of living to the downtrodden households. In addition to this, skilling, training and placement for rural youth will

substantially improve the economic condition of masses. All these activities will be spearheaded with zeal and enthusiasm by the Government machineries in place thereby proudly marching towards declaring Tamil Nadu, a poverty free state.

Mobilising the community in this developmental process towards attaining these objectives of the State are the three-tier Panchayat Raj Institutions. Nurturing and empowering these institutions is part of the developmental priorities of this Government.

The training, capacity building, skilling of various target groups have been the top priority of this Government to enhance the implementation capabilities of the Rural Development and Panchayat Raj functionaries and also the community based organisations such as SHGs to improve their skills, entrepreneurial abilities and marketing of their products.

2. State Schemes

2.1. Anaithu Grama Anna Marumalarchi Thittam-II (AGAMT-II)

Anaithu Grama Anna Marumalarchi Thittam- II (AGAMT-II) will be implemented in a phased manner aiming to promote holistic development of the Villages by providing required infrastructure facilities in convergence with other schemes for five years from 2021-22 to 2025-26.

2.1.1 Scheme implementation:

Anaithu Grama Anna Marumalarchi Thittam - II (AGAMT-II) will be implemented in rural areas during the year 2021-22 in 2,505 Village Panchayats at an estimated cost of Rs.1,200.00 crore.

2.1.2 Scheme components:

In Anaithu Grama Anna Marumalarchi Thittam - II (AGAMT-II), the basic infrastructure works like construction of cement concrete roads, laying of paver blocks in streets and lanes, construction of drainage, improvements to burial ground, rejuvenation of water bodies will be taken

up. Further, new requirements/unaddressed needs like solid waste and liquid waste management/grey water treatment etc., will also be undertaken.

2.2. Member of Legislative Assembly Constituency Development Scheme (MLACDS)

The objective of this scheme is to enable the Members of Legislative Assembly to identify the infrastructure gaps in their Constituencies and propose the works to be taken under MLACDS. This scheme is being implemented in the State both in rural and urban areas. The fund allocation under the scheme is Rs.3.00 crore per constituency per annum.

The District Collectors accord Administrative Sanction for the works recommended by the Members of Legislative Assembly. They also select the implementing agency. A sum of Rs.1.50 crore is earmarked as Tied Fund for priority works and for the remaining Rs. 1.50 crore, which is earmarked as untied funds, the MLAs can choose any work of their

choice, not falling within the 'Negative list' as per the guidelines of the scheme.

For the year 2021-22, a sum of Rs.702 crore will be allocated for this scheme.

2.3. Namakku Naame Thittam (NNT)

Namakku Naame Thittam is a participatory demand driven scheme announced by **Dr. Kalaingar M. Karunanidhi**, Hon'ble former Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu during the Budget Speech 1997-98. The scheme aims to promote and strengthen the self-help and self-reliant attitude of the community. The guidelines for the implementation of this Scheme were issued in G.O.(Ms.) No.112, Rural Development (IRD-1) Department dated: 01.06.1998. The scheme directly involves the community in the developmental process from planning, resource mobilization, execution and maintenance. State Government financial support supplements the efforts of the community besides technical

support. This scheme gives enough scope for covering all the felt needs of the public.

The need for taking up of works under the scheme may originate from individuals, groups, institutions, companies or from the community. After identification of the work to be executed, an application specifying the nature of work, acceptance letter for contributing one-third of the amount by means of Demand Draft should be given to the District Collector or Project Director, District Rural Development Agency.

Namakku Naame Thittam will be revived and implemented from the year 2021-22 with a budget outlay of Rs.100 crore.

2.4. Tamil Nadu Rural Roads Improvement Scheme (TNRRIS)

The Tamil Nadu Rural Roads Improvement Scheme (TNRRIS) provides for improvement of Village Panchayat and Panchayat Union roads. The scheme permits improvement of all types of roads,

i.e. upgradation of un-surfaced roads and strengthening/maintenance of surfaced roads. The roads selected are prioritized based on various parameters including roads linking habitations, schools, markets etc. The important feature of the scheme is the flexibility in selection of roads based on road network characteristics in a District.

So far, 27,186 Km length of roads have been taken up at a cost of Rs. 5,800 crore under TNRRIS.

2.4.1 Funding

The fund for TNRRIS is provided from the State Finance Commission Grant.

2.5. Road Connectivity through NABARD-Rural Infrastructure Development Fund (RIDF)

The Union Government created the Rural Infrastructure Development Fund (RIDF) in NABARD in 1995-96, to provide loan under three broad categories including agriculture and related sector, social sector and rural connectivity. The

Rural Development and Panchayat Raj Department has been improving the Village Panchayat and Panchayat Union roads through RIDF. The funds are also used for construction of bridges in Village Panchayat and Panchayat Union roads. The selection of roads under NABARD-RIDF is done by prioritizing bus plying/mini bus plying, roads used for agricultural purpose, roads leading to industrial clusters and marketing centers, roads leading to tourism and pilgrimage centers. The minimum length of road taken up for improvement under NABARD-RIDF is one km length.

So far, 19,069 Km length of Village Panchayat and Panchayat Union roads and 317 bridges have been taken up at a cost of Rs.3,718.65 crore under this scheme.

2.6. Minor Link Roads

The rural road network consists of about 30% of roads of length less than one Km. Considering the limitation of improving these roads under major schemes like Pradhan Mantri Gram

Sadak Yojana (PMGSY), NABARD-RIDF etc, the improvement of important minor link roads of less than one Km length in rural areas has been taken up under 20% Grant of Capital Grant Fund (CGF). So far, 3,227 roads of length 1,911 km have been taken at a cost of Rs. 488 crore under this scheme.

2.7. Link roads in Tribal areas

The improvement of 125 Km length of link roads (WBM roads) in Tribal areas has been taken up at a cost of Rs.58.17 crore in 19 Districts for the year 2020-21. The funds are provided by the Tribal Welfare Department and the implementation is done by Rural Development and Panchayat Raj Department.

2.8. School Infrastructure Development Scheme (SIDS)

Panchayat Union Primary and Middle Schools located in rural and urban areas are the property of the Panchayat Unions concerned. As per Section

112 of the Tamil Nadu Panchayats Act, 1994, it is the statutory responsibility of the Panchayat Unions concerned to ensure the maintenance of infrastructure facilities in these Schools. From 2021-22 onwards, this Scheme will be re-introduced as School Infrastructure Development Scheme with a budget outlay of Rs.150 crore.

The aim of the scheme is to ensure the maintenance of repair and renovation of existing infrastructure facilities and providing modern amenities in the Panchayat Union Primary and Middle Schools located in rural and urban areas.

2.9. Socio Economic Development Programme (SEDP)

To curb the rise of Naxalite elements in the backward Districts of Dharmapuri and Krishnagiri, a Socio Economic Development Programme was launched (SEDP) in the year 2003-04.

Under this scheme, a sum of Rs.750 lakh is allocated to take up works such as construction of

Green houses with solar power, Aavin parlors, purchase of power sprayers to poor farmers, purchase of medical equipments for Primary Health Centres, modernization of Anganwadi buildings etc., and various training programmes to curb the activities of Naxalites in Dharmapuri and Krishnagiri Districts.

This scheme will be implemented with an allocation of Rs.750 lakh for the year 2021-22.

2.10. Sanitation

The Tamil Nadu Government is focused in creating a conducive environment which will help in improving the living standards of the rural community. In the recent pandemic, it is clearly understood that the safe sanitation and hygienic practices of the people directly influences the Socio-Economic status. Bearing in mind the consequences of Open Defecation and improper waste management, the State Government is according highest priority and is taking several measures to achieve “Clean and Green Villages”.

The Tamil Nadu Government is also committed in accomplishing the Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) of the United Nations, especially related to Sanitation and Waste Management.

Status of Sanitation in rural areas

Tamil Nadu has attained 100% sanitation coverage under Swachh Bharat Mission (Grameen) by providing access to toilets to all the households through the construction of Individual Household Latrines (IHHLs) and Community toilets. All 12,525 Village Panchayats have declared themselves as Open Defecation Free (ODF).

To ensure that no household is left without safe sanitation facilities, additional 2.17 lakh households have been approved to be covered with toilet facilities under Phase II of SBM (G).

Scheme Quality Monitoring

Periodical inspections of State level Officials are undertaken to assess the quality of Sanitation infrastructure. At District level, the District

Collector is the overall monitoring authority of the Sanitation programme. In order to ensure quality of construction and sustainability of functional toilets and SLWM infrastructures, frequent inspections are undertaken by Senior Officials at the District level and Block level.

Steps undertaken to achieve Clean and Green Villages:

(a) Utilizing the Social Capital

Nudging the community to adopt Safe Sanitation practices is vital in achieving and sustaining the ODF status. The State already have a huge Social Capital in the form of Women Self Help Groups. Community Based Organizations (CBO) like Village Poverty Reduction Committees (VPRCs) / Panchayat Level Federations (PLFs) in each Village Panchayat under Mahalir Thittam have been fully involved in Inter-Personal Communication (IPC) to disseminate ODF and ODF Plus messages. The influence of peer groups help

in behavioural change of the entire community to achieve and sustain the ODF status of the village.

(b) Stakeholders in promoting Sanitation

Poor Sanitation practices has an adverse impact on the overall development of the children. Furthermore, to sustain the ODF status, constant reinforcement of sanitation messages is utmost important. Also, Sanitation and Hygiene are one of the fundamental parameters which influences the Health, Education, Livelihood and other important indicators of the community. As all the Departments are working towards improving their respective indicators, coordinated efforts are being taken along with the Health, Medical Education and Family Welfare, School Education and Social Welfare Departments at State and District Levels.

(c) Training for Field Functionaries

For any behavioural change programme, capacity strengthening at all levels play a vital role in ensuring effective Inter-Personal

Communication activities, so as to achieve the desired results. A dedicated unit, 'State Training and Management Unit' has been formed at the State Institute of Rural Development & Panchayat Raj (SIRD&PR) to conduct a session on the objectives of ODF and ODF Plus in all the training programmes. Cascade training model for ODF Plus will be conducted utilizing the State Level and Block Level Master Trainers who were identified from among the Motivators trained at State Level.

(d) Inter Personal Communication (IPC) through Motivators

Around 12,000 active Motivators, identified from among the SHGs/PLFs are provided with basic training on ODF and ODF Plus activities to ensure effective IPC at grassroots. They interact with the rural community and disseminate information related to toilet usage, Solid and Liquid Waste Management, retrofitting of toilets, menstrual hygiene management for inculcating safe sanitation and personal hygiene practices. In addition, they visit the Schools, Anganwadi

Centres and Primary Health Centres, where they coordinate with the field functionaries of Stakeholder Departments like Village Health Nurses, Anganwadi Workers and School Teachers to have an effective IPC with the targeted audience.

(e) Handbook on 'WASH'

Resource materials are the prerequisite for any capacity building exercises. The multifaceted resource material has been prepared which serves as a compendium of information relating to Sanitation, Water, Health, Nutrition and Environmental protection. 'Handbook on WASH' - 2021 is widely used for training the Motivators and other field functionaries and the same is also updated from time to time. Besides using the 'Handbook on WASH' as a resource material in all the training programmes, it is also widely used by all the Motivators and other field functionaries of several 'Stakeholder Departments' for conducting an effective IPC at grassroots. It also has distinct

information to be disseminated relating to the target groups such as anti-natal/post-natal mothers, children, adolescent girls, out-patients, SHG members and others.

2.11. Solid Waste Management (SWM) and Grey water management in rural areas

Solid Waste Management Systems with collection, segregation and waste disposal facilities has been established in all the 12,525 Village Panchayats of Tamil Nadu. Door to door collection of waste, segregation, transportation and processing of waste is being carried out in all the Village Panchayats.

Minimum of 3 Micro-Composting Centres (MCC) per Block will be established preferably in peri-urban / bigger Village Panchayats adjacent to Corporations and Municipalities.

Periodical monitoring of the implementation of SWM activities is ensured through regular field inspections by District level senior officials and by Block level officials. The daily activities of SWM in

each Village Panchayat is being monitored through online monitoring system in the Department's Website, with the support of NIC, Chennai.

For effective management of Solid Waste, awareness is created among the general public and particularly, children on the importance of waste segregation at source, '4R' concept of Waste Management (Refuse, Reduce, Reuse and Recycle), use of alternatives to plastics and in-house composting techniques and safe handling of hazardous waste.

Grey water, which are generally the waste water generated from bathing, washing, general cleaning, laundry, as well as from community over-head tanks, bore-wells, hand pumps etc., are to be effectively managed in order to prevent the stagnation of water at roads and streets. Individual soak pits and community soak pits will be taken up under MGNREGS as a part of Grey Water Management activities. Drainage channel works will be taken up under 15th Finance

Commission Grant. The Government is also taking steps to find out the feasible and suitable Liquid Waste Management model which will be carried out in peri-urban/ bigger Village Panchayats.

To ensure clean and green villages, it has been decided to carry out the Grey Water Management works on saturation approach under SBM (G) in convergence with MGNREGS, 15th Finance Commission grant and Jal Jeevan Mission.

3. PANCHAYAT RAJ INSTITUTIONS IN TAMILNADU

3.1 EVOLUTION OF PANCHAYAT RAJ INSTITUTIONS IN TAMIL NADU

Tamil Nadu has a very strong tradition in creating, maintaining and sustaining the Village based community institutions for the welfare and development of villages. These basic units of administration helped to ensure a systematic and holistic approach in overall development of rural people and paved the path for the communities to flourish.

The stone inscriptions of Sri Vaikundavasa Perumal temple at Uthiramerur Village in Kancheepuram District inscribed during the period of Paranthaga Chola-I in the 10th Century bear solid evidence on the existence of Village Councils. Of the two Assemblies, called 'Oor' and the 'Sabha' or 'Mahasabha', Oor was a General Assembly of the village which had features of autonomy. The affairs of the villages were managed by an Executive Committee, called 'Sabha'. The members were elected for a period of three years and this Committee managed the Village activities.

The elections to these councils/committees were conducted with well laid qualification and disqualification norms for contestants through a secret ballot system called 'Kuda Olai Murai'.

Mahatma Gandhiji, the Father of our Nation and a great champion espousing the cause of rural development was an advocate of self-reliance and self-administration of villages. During the British period also, in the late 19th Century, Lord Ripon, the then Viceroy of India gave importance for Local Self Governments.

Article 40 in Part-IV of the Constitution of India enshrines one of the Directive Principles of State Policy that the State shall take steps to organise Village Panchayats and endow them with such powers and authority as may be necessary to enable them to function as units of Self-Government.

In 1957, the union Government constituted the Balwantrai Mehta Committee on Panchayat

administration and this Committee in its report recommended for the democratic decentralization of powers among the three-tier institutions of Panchayat Raj. Based on this report, Panchayats were established across the country from 1960 onwards and the grass root level institution of governance gained importance.

The Panchayat Raj Institutions (PRIs) slowly and steadily developed throughout the country. But the representation of weaker sections like Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes and Women, was less and also there was inadequate devolution of powers and lack of financial resources.

In order to institutionalize powers and functions of these Local Body Institutions, the 73rd Constitutional Amendment Act was passed and it came into effect from April, 1993. Part IX was inserted in the Constitution as a sequence to the 73rd Constitutional Amendment and the Panchayats were granted Constitutional Status.

Based on the 73rd Constitutional Amendment Act, the Government of Tamil Nadu enacted Tamil Nadu Panchayats Act, 1994, (Tamil Nadu Act 21 of 1994), which came into force on 22.4.1994. This Act introduced the following features in the Tamil Nadu Panchayat Raj structure:

- Three tier system came into existence in Tamil Nadu
- "Panchayat" became a generic term for all the three tiers
- Members of three tiers of rural Local Bodies and Village Panchayat Presidents are directly elected whereas the Chairpersons of Panchayat Union Councils and District Panchayats are indirectly elected from among the elected Ward Members.
- All the three tiers of Panchayats are independent of each other and the Village Panchayat Presidents are not members in the Panchayat Union Council.

- Reservation of seats and offices for SCs/STs in proportion to their population and reservation of one third of the total number of seats and offices for women have been mandated. Later, 50% of the Seats and offices of rural Local Bodies has been reserved for women in 2016.
- The rotation of offices in all three tiers will be done once in 10 years.
- Tamil Nadu State Election Commission was constituted.
- State Finance Commission is being constituted quinquennially to recommend the ratio of devolution of resources from the State Government to the rural and urban Local Bodies.
- District Planning Committee was constituted to prepare District Development Plan by consolidating the Development Plans of rural and urban Local Bodies in the districts.

Article 243-G read with the Eleventh Schedule of the Constitution stipulates that States may, by law, endow the Panchayats with 29 subjects listed in the Eleventh Schedule of the Constitution. The Tamil Nadu Government through various Government Orders have adequately provided devolution of powers and responsibilities to Panchayats on those 29 subjects such as Education, Health, Water supply, Agriculture, Animal Husbandry, Cooperation, Public Distribution System etc.,

3.2 Powers and Functions of three tier Panchayat Raj Institutions

Village Panchayats

There are 12,525 Village Panchayats consisting of 79,395 habitations in the State spread across 37 rural Districts. The Village Panchayat President is the Executive Authority of the Village Panchayat. Every Village Panchayat, unless dissolved, shall continue for 5 years from

the date of its first meeting after each ordinary election.

In co-ordination with the Director of Census Operations, the Village Panchayat wise rural population data as per Census 2011, for all the Village Panchayats were published in August 2014. The data contains total population of Village Panchayat, SC/ST and Women. The same has also been uploaded in www.tnrd.gov.in

Village Panchayat Committees:

Every Village Panchayat shall constitute the following Committees, namely-

- Appointment Committee
- Development Committee
- Agricultural and Watershed Committee
- Works Committee
- Education Committee

Appointment Committee

The Appointment Committee may select candidates for appointment to any of the posts sanctioned in the Village Panchayats. The

Appointment Committee shall consist of the President of the Village Panchayat and selected Ward Members from the Village Panchayat.

Development Committee

- The Chairperson of the Development Committee shall be selected from among the women members of the Village Panchayat. It has two other members of the Village Panchayat.
- This committee will look after welfare subjects like Health, Drinking water, community assets, conduct of campaigns to create awareness among the public on prevention of communicable diseases and vaccination campaigns.

Agricultural and Watershed Committee:

The Chairperson of the Agricultural and Watershed Committee shall be selected by the members of the Village Panchayat. This committee will organize farmers' forum in Village Panchayat

to promote application of latest technologies, improved irrigation system in Minor Irrigation tanks, Public Works Department Tanks and assist in the implementation of programmes relating to agriculture, horticulture, sericulture, floriculture, pisciculture, dairy development, poultry development, drought prone area development, watershed, waste land development, social forestry, soil conservation and water management.

Works Committee

The Works Committee shall assist the Village Panchayat in preparation of Village Panchayat development plan based on the available local resources and execute Union and State government sponsored schemes to ensure quality and timely execution.

Education Committee

The Education Committee shall monitor the functioning of all schools in its area, plan and facilitate the public participation to develop school

infrastructure, organize campaign for universal education, non-formal education, maintenance of libraries and promote the literacy and reading habit among public.

Table 3.1
Details of Village Panchayats on the basis of Population as per 2011 census

Sl. No.	Population	No. of Village Panchayats
1	500 and below	46
2	501-1,000	833
3	1,001-3,000	6,822
4	3,001-5,000	2,781
5	5,001-10,000	1,753
6	Above 10,000	290
Total		12,525

The District wise details of rural population as per 2011 census are given below:

Table 3.2
District wise Rural Population

Sl. No.	District	Rural Population	Scheduled Caste & Scheduled Tribe (ST)
1	Kancheepuram	734580	253798
2	Chengalpattu	1127209	400366
3	Tiruvallur	1585280	541823
4	Cuddalore	1800133	635870

Sl. No.	District	Rural Population	Scheduled Caste & Scheduled Tribe (ST)
5	Viluppuram	1724186	555125
6	Kallakurichi	1188774	435472
7	Vellore	862476	247498
8	Ranipet	808534	218568
9	Tirupathur	811546	204412
10	Tiruvannamalai	2039049	589140
11	Salem	1957105	466879
12	Namakkal	1087895	303517
13	Dharmapuri	1290530	274147
14	Krishnagiri	1465743	241925
15	Erode	1130722	235773
16	Tiruppur	1139466	265486
17	Coimbatore	1021359	233057
18	The Nilgiris	310591	114213
19	Thanjavur	1667809	385756
20	Nagapattinam	1261288	463090
21	Thiruvavarur	1006482	389679
22	Tiruchirappalli	1471945	319628
23	Karur	668360	159919
24	Perambalur	468017	152640
25	Ariyalur	671100	173716
26	Pudukkottai	1341111	252397
27	Madurai	1300481	277390
28	Theni	575394	144966
29	Dindigul	1457412	338644
30	Ramanathapuram	1009270	214109
31	Virudhunagar	1286543	316993
32	Sivaganga	952610	188972
33	Tirunelveli	770260	157927
34	Tenkasi	875249	204659
35	Thoothukkudi	971273	250673
36	Kanniyakumari	646441	30439
	Total	40486223	10638666

3.2.1. District-wise area of Village Panchayats

The total rural area of the State is 1,04,149.61 sq.kms. The District wise rural area details are given below:

Table 3.3
District-wise area of Village Panchayats

Sl. No	District	No. of Panchayats	No. of habitations	Average No. of habitations per VP	Rural Area	Average Area per Panchayat (in Sq Km)
					(in Sq Km)	
1	Kancheepuram	274	1,354	5	1539.19	5.62
2	Chengalpattu	359	2,158	6	2312.56	6.44
3	Thiruvallur	526	3,862	7	2,859.84	5.44
4	Cuddalore	683	2,403	4	2,942.24	4.31
5	Viluppuram	688	2,285	3	3607.42	7.04
6	Kallakurichi	412	1,202	3	2902.47	4.89
7	Vellore	247	2,122	9	1207.13	4.89
8	Ranipet	288	1,593	6	1620.58	5.63
9	Thiruppathur	208	2,394	12	1194.59	5.74
10	Tiruvannamalai	860	4,267	5	4,826.27	5.61
11	Salem	385	5,109	13	4,561.41	11.85
12	Namakkal	322	2,520	8	3,119.43	9.69
13	Dharmapuri	251	2,835	11	4,407.43	17.56
14	Krishnagiri	333	3,983	12	4,965.73	14.91
15	Erode	225	3,199	14	2,626.99	11.68
16	Tiruppur	265	2,455	9	4,545.50	17.15
17	Coimbatore	228	1,200	5	2,534.24	11.12
18	The Nilgiris	35	1,282	37	1,170.39	33.44
19	Thanjavur	589	2,260	4	3,657.67	6.21
20	Nagapattinam	434	2,054	5	2,400.31	5.53
21	Thiruvaur	430	1,704	4	2,130.40	5.4
22	Tiruchirappalli	404	2,210	5	4,028.00	9.97
23	Karur	157	2,179	14	2,656.25	16.92
24	Perambalur	121	314	3	1,609.54	13.3
25	Ariyalur	201	710	4	1,710.17	8.51
26	Pudukkottai	497	4,062	8	4,433.78	8.92
27	Madurai	420	1,946	5	3,183.18	7.58
28	Theni	130	607	5	1,159.89	8.92
29	Dindigul	306	3,083	10	4,401.34	14.38
30	Ramanathapuram	429	2,306	5	4,116.19	9.59
31	Virudhunagar	450	1,760	4	3,282.08	7.29

Sl. No	District	No. of Panchayats	No. of habitations	Average No. of habitations per VP	Rural Area	Average Area per Panchayat (in Sq Km)
					(in Sq Km)	
32	Sivaganga	445	2,723	6	3,075.90	6.91
33	Tirunelveli	204	1,337	7	2277.48	11.16
34	Tenkasi	221	1,000	5	2005.58	9.08
35	Thoothukkudi	403	1,761	4	4,260.78	10.57
36	Kanniyakumari	95	1,156	12	626.14	6.59
Total		12,525	79,395	6	1,04,149.61	8.32

3.2.2. Income range of Village Panchayats

The annual income range of the Village Panchayats are given below on the basis of income of the year 2020-21.

Table 3.4
Annual Income range of the Village Panchayats

Annual Income Range	No. of Panchayats
Rs.10 to 20 lakh	6,440
Rs.20 to 50 lakh	5,371
Rs.50 lakh to 1 crore	605
Above Rs.1 crore	109
Total	12,525

3.2.3. Grama Sabha

Article 243 of the Constitution ensures the formation of Grama Sabha. All the registered voters of a Village Panchayat constitute Grama Sabha, which is provided with specific powers and functions. Grama Sabha shall statutorily be conducted in such a way that the intervening period between two Grama Sabhas shall not exceed a period of 6 months.

Section 3 of Tamil Nadu Panchayats Act, 1994, stipulates that;

- (a) The Grama Sabha shall -
 - (i) approve the Village Plan
 - (ii) approve the Village Budget for the year;
 - (iii) approve the Audit Report of the Village Panchayat accounts of the previous year;
 - (iv) review the progress of the implementation of all schemes entrusted to the Village Panchayat.

(b) The Government may, by notification, entrust to the Grama Sabha such other functions as may be specified.

The Government of Tamil Nadu has made it mandatory to convene Grama Sabha a minimum number of 4 times i.e. on 26th January, 1st May, 15th August and 2nd October of every calendar year. However, during extraordinary circumstances such as natural disasters, pandemics, Model Code of Conduct in force etc., the mandatory Grama Sabhas may not be conducted. Grama Sabha can be convened as and when the necessity arises. The quorum for the Grama Sabha meeting has been fixed by the Government, based on population of the Village Panchayat, as given below:

Table 3.5
Quorum for Grama Sabha

Sl. No.	Population of Village Panchayat	Quorum
1	Up to 500	50
2	501 to 3,000	100
3	3,001 to 10,000	200
4	Above 10,000	300

Passing of resolutions, documenting the proceedings through proper registers and maintaining photographic / video evidences are mandatory in the conduct of Grama Sabha.

3.2.4. Mandatory Functions of the Village Panchayat

Section 110 of Tamil Nadu Panchayats Act, 1994 mandates that it shall be the duty of the Village Panchayat to undertake the following activities in rural areas:-

- i) Construction, repair and maintenance of all village roads (other than those classified as Highways and Panchayat Union roads), all bridges, culverts and cause-ways

- ii) Street lights in built up areas
- iii) Construction of drains and disposal of drainage
- iv) Cleaning of streets and improvement of sanitary conditions through Solid Waste Management activities
- v) Provision of public latrine
- vi) Provision of burial and cremation grounds
- vii) Supply of drinking water
- viii) Maintenance of community assets
- ix) Sinking and repairing of wells, the excavation, repair and maintenance of ponds
- x) Other duties that the Government may by notification impose

3.2.5. Discretionary Functions of the Village Panchayat

Section 111 of Tamil Nadu Panchayats Act, 1994 warrants Village Panchayats to carry out the following requirements, which are deemed to be

discretionary functions of the Village Panchayats subject to the limits of its resources:

- i) Planting and preservation of trees
- ii) Lighting of public roads and public places other than built-up areas
- iii) Opening and maintenance of public markets
- iv) Control of fairs and festivals
- v) Opening and maintenance of cart stand and cattle sheds, public slaughter houses and reading rooms
- vi) Formation and maintenance of play grounds, parks and gyms etc.,

3.2.6. Provision of safe Drinking Water Supply

Provision of safe drinking water is the basic duty of the Village Panchayat. Hand pumps and Power pumps are the major sources of drinking water supply in areas with adequate locally available sources. In other areas and places with

quality affected ground water, Combined Water Supply Schemes executed by the Tamil Nadu Water Supply & Drainage Board supply protected bulk water. Over Head Tanks (OHTs), Ground Level Reservoirs (GLRs) and Mini tanks are the major water storage structures in the Village Panchayats.

The number of water supply sources in operation in rural areas are given below:

Table 3.6
Water Supply sources and Schemes

Sl. No	District	No. of Hand pumps	No. of Power pumps	No. of Mini Power pumps	No. of Over Head Tanks (OHTs)	No. of Ground Level Reservoirs (GLRs)	No. of CWSS
1	Kancheepuram	2048	2044	1943	1716	2	6
2	Chengalpattu	3560	2528	3716	2320	7	11
3	Thiruvallur	4299	3717	2427	3779	23	8
4	Cuddalore	7282	3940	4128	3933	0	13
5	Viluppuram	4615	3580	6702	3821	0	3
6	Kallakurichi	6561	4078	7562	1820	0	4
7	Vellore	1223	2464	4538	2134	63	5
8	Ranipet	1483	1803	2288	1683	1683	7
9	Thiruppathur	2627	2365	4275	2214	0	4
10	Tiruvannamalai	11584	5115	8556	5164	0	37
11	Salem	4554	5452	4764	3052	135	9
12	Namakkal	2364	4750	1817	4220	547	13

Sl. No	District	No. of Hand pumps	No. of Power pumps	No. of Mini Power pumps	No. of Over Head Tanks (OHTs)	No. of Ground Level Reservoirs (GLRs)	No. of CWSS
13	Dharmapuri	9678	2582	6760	3486	84	10
14	Krishnagiri	8187	4969	4288	4727	121	18
15	Erode	3642	4841	1716	4338	812	41
16	Tiruppur	2274	4557	1005	4635	643	21
17	Coimbatore	1286	2938	747	2344	878	12
18	The Nilgiris	17	1259	127	15	1551	1
19	Thanjavur	6176	5356	3119	4875	0	10
20	Nagapattinam	21370	1616	2734	2636	294	13
21	Thiruvarur	9892	2752	1413	2752	0	4
22	Tiruchirappalli	8504	4574	5508	4772	199	28
23	Karur	2367	2938	2568	2995	457	14
24	Perambalur	3249	792	1160	763	158	6
25	Ariyalur	1167	1644	1523	1644	2	7
26	Pudukkottai	6961	3999	4337	2799	169	3
27	Madurai	4137	4199	3848	2639	147	9
28	Theni	252	1063	957	1062	196	79
29	Dindigul	2439	3241	4344	3241	3066	4
30	Ramanathapuram	537	1333	1277	1254	1420	60
31	Virudhunagar	10881	4954	6096	2702	379	14
32	Sivaganga	3685	2981	5094	2943	4	34
33	Tirunelveli	1495	1773	1779	1949	373	18
34	Tenkasi	1754	1556	2644	1568	775	12
35	Thoothukkudi	8155	2314	2359	1801	184	23
36	Kanniyakumari	221	1526	1802	1460	57	21
Total		170526	111593	119921	99256	14429	582

3.2.7. Installation and maintenance of Street Lights in rural areas

Section 110 of Tamil Nadu Panchayats Act, 1994, mandates that maintenance of street lights in rural areas is one of the statutory duties of the Village Panchayats. Rural areas of the State at present is having 29.71 lakh street lights in use which include 21.40 lakh Light Emitting Diode (LED) lights, 7 lakh Compact Fluorescent Lamps (CFL), 21,089 Solar Lights, 86,617 tube lights, 11,187 Sodium Vapour Lamps, 2,686 Mercury Vapour Lamps and 9,198 High mast lights. It is estimated that 35% of Village Panchayat income is spent towards electricity consumption charges. To ensure energy efficiency, durability and effective management of street lights, latest technologies including renewable energy sources will be adopted.

Table 3.7
District wise details of street lights in rural areas

Sl. No.	Name of the District	LED lights			CFL	Mercury lights	Sodium Vapour lights	Solar Lights	Tube Lights	High Mast Lights	Total No. of Lights
		20W	90W	Total							
1	Kancheepuram	43610	4064	47674	39746	0	652	4852	0	1594	94518
2	Chengalpattu	56765	5136	61901	45213	17	1339	665	13355	558	123048
3	Tiruvallur	55233	3019	58252	92948	106	723	567	1562	277	154435
4	Cuddalore	88455	4352	92807	32047	74	862	404	0	159	126353
5	Villupuram	72180	4041	76221	34884	103	314	396	6064	446	118428
6	Kallakurichi	42230	892	43122	10858	104	117	0	0	314	54515
7	Vellore	28010	6428	34438	9612	174	90	216	4055	56	48641
8	Ranipet	26130	3512	29642	15635	57	109	148	7118	196	52905
9	Tirupattur	27216	4506	31722	11336	97	0	1984	16527	356	62022
10	Tiruvannamalai	75484	3400	78884	37693	840	941	952	0	136	119446
11	Salem	91720	1957	93677	9199	82	615	339	5738	477	110127
12	Namakkal	58964	732	59696	12845	31	123	557	6386	104	79742
13	Dharmapuri	48838	1326	50164	23515	0	484	0	6073	1786	82022
14	Krishnagiri	55407	379	55786	12516	0	0	110	0	254	68666
15	Erode	68123	1175	69298	1733	29	96	1214	1218	127	73715
16	Tiruppur	69754	354	70108	13034	0	0	823	0	0	83965
17	Coimbatore	60480	831	61311	18029	94	737	1324	0	130	81625
18	The Nilgiris	15014	0	15014	851	0	0	128	960	18	16971
19	Thanjavur	112387	6158	118545	52005	0	0	1305	0	396	172251
20	Nagapattinam	79278	2086	81364	38948	0	0	395	0	99	120806
21	Thiruvarur	62089	0	62089	45496	3	76	717	0	192	108573
22	Tiruchirapalli	100803	235	101038	9085	67	548	410	3078	210	114436
23	Karur	34420	320	34740	11044	17	282	209	1727	185	48204
24	Perambalur	17127	0	17127	9477	37	607	81	0	182	27511
25	Ariyalur	37251	2847	40098	9527	0	0	645	0	30	50300
26	Pudukottai	88651	2152	90803	14798	437	327	501	0	271	107137
27	Madurai	59783	443	60226	10774	0	0	307	0	5	71312
28	Theni	26381	94	26475	1343	0	0	616	0	0	28434
29	Dindigul	67889	320	68209	15129	0	2	9	1420	0	84769
30	Ramanathapuram	41153	0	41153	30259	40	666	217	0	460	72795
31	Virudhunagar	66385	658	67043	18167	216	755	201	4472	44	90898

Sl. No.	Name of the District	LED lights			CFL	Mercury lights	Sodium Vapour lights	Solar Lights	Tube Lights	High Mast Lights	Total No. of Lights
		20W	90W	Total							
32	Sivaganga	55136	0	55136	0	53	439	0	0	0	55628
33	Tirunelveli	64614	1460	66074	0	0	0	0	0	8	66082
34	Tenkasi	54994	1142	56136	26	0	18	50	632	12	56874
35	Thoothukudi	82717	485	83202	10362	8	265	747	6232	62	100878
36	Kanniyakumari	40167	1064	41231	1972	0	0	0	0	54	43257
Total		2074838	65568	2140406	700106	2686	11187	21089	86617	9198	2971289

3.2.8. Sanitation

It is mandatory for the Village Panchayat to maintain hygiene and cleanliness in rural areas. In this connection, the following activities are performed by Village Panchayats.

- i) Cleaning of streets and Panchayat roads
- ii) Construction and cleaning of drains and proper disposal of drainage water
- iii) Removal of garbage heaps and jungle growth
- iv) Maintenance of public toilets
- v) Construction and maintenance of burial and cremation grounds

- vi) Filling up of unused wells, insanitary ponds, pools, ditches, pits or hollows.

For maintaining the cleanliness in rural areas, 26,622 Thooimai Paniyalargal are engaged. Now, Solid Waste Management (SWM) activities are being carried out in the Village Panchayats by engaging 66,130 workers through Village Poverty Reduction Committees (VPRC) as 'Thooimai Kavalars'. Annually, Rs.285.68 crore is being met out from State Finance Commission grant for the remuneration of those Thooimai Kavalars. Each Thooimai Kavalar is paid an honorarium of Rs.3,600/- per month for their service.

For the maintenance of Panchayat Union Elementary Schools, Middle and High Schools, 33,587 School Sanitary workers have been engaged on outsourcing and an amount of Rs.63.93 crore is proposed from the SFC Grant for the year 2021-22.

3.2.9. Preventive and controlling measures of COVID-19 Pandemic

Covid-19 pandemic which spread in 2020 all over the World continues to affect the rural population in 2021. After assuming the office, this Government during the past three months has been taking earnest efforts in preventing the spread of Covid-19 through various preventive activities. Under the guidance of the Government, Rural Development and Panchayat Raj Department, the Panchayat Raj Institutions and officials, in coordination with Health, Medical Education & Family Welfare Department are extending the fullest support in maintaining cleanliness and hygiene to prevent further outbreak of epidemic.

The rural Local Bodies are creating awareness among the rural public to remove vaccine hesitancy through inter-personal communications, pamphlets, hand bills and through audio visual aids on a campaign mode.

The Village Panchayats are also ensuring strict compliance of standard operating protocols by the public such as wearing face mask, physical distancing, controlling the public gathering especially in marriage and funerals. Disinfection of public places is also carried out in regular manner in rural areas. As per the directions of Government of Tamil Nadu, the rural Local Bodies played a major role in supply of vegetables, fruits and groceries and maintain uninterrupted supply of essential items in rural areas during various phases of lockdown.

The RLBs are taking the following steps to popularize the vaccination and make it acceptable by public:

- a) The Village Panchayats are utilizing the services of Self Help Groups, Panchayat Level Federation (PLF), front line workers for house to house surveillance for fever tracking and vaccination acceptability

- b) Further, the rural Local bodies are organizing camps in coordination with Health, Medical Education & Family Welfare Department
- c) In terms of vaccination, the initial apprehension among the rural public towards inoculation was very high and the cooperation was low. Hence, RLBs have undertaken continuous IEC activities, which have started showing results. Now more public in rural areas are coming forward for vaccination.
- d) Apart from the PRI functionaries and front line workers who are involved in the control and prevention of Covid-19 have inoculated themselves voluntarily.
- e) Special vaccination camps are organized in MGNREGS work sites with the active participation of Doctors and Health Workers.

The vaccination drive given by the PRI elected representatives and the Department

functionaries resulted in rapid upscaling of the vaccinated programme in rural areas.

3.2.10. Village Panchayat Development Plan (VPDP)

As per Section-240 of Tamil Nadu Panchayats Act, 1994 every Village Panchayat will prepare a development plan for the Village Panchayat every year.

For the preparation of Village Panchayat Development Plan (VPDP) for the ensuing financial year, Government is organising People's Plan campaign from 2nd October to 31st December every year as a part of participatory approach.

Preparation of the Village Panchayat Development Plan and planning process are done based on participatory approach for the development of Village. This involves full convergence of Schemes of all the Departments related to 29 subjects listed in the Eleventh Schedule of the Constitution.

As part of this campaign, social and economic assessment of all the Village Panchayats in the State will be undertaken. This exercise will be done by Tamil Nadu State Rural Livelihoods Mission, through Mission Antyodaya Mobile App, by engaging Community Resource Persons (CRP).

Special Grama Sabhas or Village Panchayat Council meetings will be held in all the Village Panchayats for the finalization of the Village Panchayat Development Plan.

Panchayat Unions

At the intermediate level, there are 388 Panchayat Unions (Block Panchayats) in the State. The Panchayat Union, otherwise called as Block Panchayat is divided into territorial wards for a minimum of every 5,000 population. The Panchayat Union Ward Members are directly elected from the territorial wards and the Panchayat Union Chairperson is elected indirectly from among the Ward Members.

Table 3.8
Details of Panchayat Unions based on
Number of Village Panchayats

Range of Village Panchayats in Panchayat Unions	Number of Panchayat Unions
10 & Less than 10	23
11-20	80
21-30	82
31-40	83
41-50	66
51 and above	54
Total	388

The District wise details of Panchayat Unions, Village Panchayats and area are given below:

Table 3.9
District-wise details of Panchayat Unions and
Village Panchayats

Sl. No	District	No. of Panchayat at Unions	No. of Village Panchayats	Average No. of Panchayats per union	Rural Area (in Sq. km)	Average Area per Panchayat Union (in Sq.km)
1	Kancheepuram	5	274	55	1539.19	121.47
2	Chengalpattu	8	359	45	2312.56	174.80
3	Thiruvallur	14	526	38	2859.84	204.27
4	Cuddalore	14	683	49	2942.24	226.33
5	Viluppuram	13	688	53	3607.42	201.20

Sl. No	District	No. of Panchayat at Unions	No. of Village Panchayats	Average No. of Panchayats per union	Rural Area (in Sq. km)	Average Area per Panchayat Union (in Sq.km)
6	Kallakurichi	9	412	46	2902.47	94.68
7	Vellore	7	247	35	1207.13	62.35
8	Ranipet	7	288	41	1620.58	74.41
9	Thiruppathur	6	208	35	1194.59	64.36
10	Tiruvannamalai	18	860	48	4826.27	268.13
11	Salem	20	385	19	4561.41	228.07
12	Namakkal	15	322	21	3119.43	207.96
13	Dharmapuri	10	251	25	4407.43	550.93
14	Krishnagiri	10	333	33	4965.73	496.57
15	Erode	14	225	16	2626.99	187.64
16	Tiruppur	13	265	20	4545.5	349.65
17	Coimbatore	12	228	19	2534.24	211.19
18	The Nilgiris	4	35	9	1170.39	292.6
19	Thanjavur	14	589	42	3657.67	261.26
20	Nagapattinam	11	434	39	2400.31	218.21
21	Thiruvavarur	10	430	43	2130.39	232.27
22	Tiruchirappalli	14	404	29	4028	287.71
23	Karur	8	157	20	2656.25	332.03
24	Perambalur	4	121	30	1609.54	402.39
25	Ariyalur	6	201	34	1710.17	285.03
26	Pudukkottai	13	497	38	4433.78	341.06
27	Madurai	13	420	32	3183.18	244.86
28	Theni	8	130	16	1159.89	144.99
29	Dindigul	14	306	22	4401.34	314.38
30	Ramanathapuram	11	429	39	4116.19	374.2
31	Virudhunagar	11	450	41	3282.08	298.37
32	Sivagangai	12	445	37	3075.9	256.33
33	Tirunelveli	9	204	23	2277.48	103.69
34	Tenkasi	10	221	22	2005.58	99.18
35	Thoothukkudi	12	403	34	4260.78	355.07
36	Kanniyakumari	9	95	11	626.14	69.57
Total		388	12,525	32	104,149.61	270.52

The Block Development Officer (Block Panchayat) is the Executive Authority of the Panchayat Union. He is assisted by administrative and technical wings. According to section-112 of the Tamil Nadu Panchayats Act, 1994, Panchayat Union Council performs the following important functions:-

1. Construction, repair and maintenance of classified Panchayat Union roads and bridges, culverts and causeways on such roads.
2. Construction and maintenance of Panchayat Union Elementary and Middle Schools.
3. Construction and maintenance of water bodies i.e., Minor irrigation tanks, ponds and ooranies under the control of Panchayat Unions.
4. Taking preventive and remedial measures to control any epidemic outbreak.
5. Conducting fairs and festivals classified by the Panchayat Union Council.

6. Opening and maintenance of Panchayat Union Markets.

As per Section 114 of the Tamil Nadu Panchayats Act, 1994 the Government may entrust schemes, programmes and activities to Panchayat Unions on economic development for implementation.

Finance

1. The Panchayat Union Council cannot levy taxes.
2. It can avail non-tax revenues, assigned/shared revenues such as a portion of the pooled assigned revenue, fees and charges, rentals, fines and penalties
3. The Grants of State Finance Commission which consists of Population Grant and Minimum Lumpsum Grant released to Panchayat Unions. As per fifth State Finance Commission's recommendation, Minimum

Lumpsum Grant is increased to Rs.40 lakh per annum per Panchayat Union.

4. Based on the recommendations of the Fifteenth Union Finance Commission, 15% of the total grant earmarked for the RLBs to the Panchayat Unions.

Infrastructure of Panchayat Unions

All the 388 Panchayat Unions have permanent office buildings. The aged and dilapidated buildings are reconstructed under Scheme Component of Pooled Assigned Revenue (SCPAR) and so far 224 Panchayat Union Office buildings have been taken up with an estimated cost of Rs.453.70 crore.

Water Bodies

Ponds and Ooraries and Minor Irrigation Tanks in rural areas are some of the important assets of rural Local Bodies. The District wise number of Ponds / Ooraries and Minor Irrigation tanks are given below:

Table 3.10
District wise details of Ponds/Ooranies and
Minor Irrigation Tanks

Sl. No.	Districts	No. of MI Tank available	No. of Ponds & Ooranies available
1	Kancheepuram	380	2112
2	Chengalpattu	620	2512
3	Tiruvallur	581	3296
4	Cuddalore	221	2586
5	Villupuram	780	3238
6	Kallakuruchi	379	1873
7	Vellore	134	819
8	Ranipet	188	1349
9	Tirupathur	244	260
10	Tiruvannamalai	1272	4359
11	Salem	192	564
12	Namakkal	128	598
13	Dharmapuri	546	504
14	Krishnagiri	1097	1404
15	Erode	22	623
16	Tiruppur	0	1149
17	Coimbatore	9	644
18	The Nilgiris	0	0
19	Thanjavur	52	3306
20	Nagapattinam	0	5219
21	Tiruvarur	0	4152
22	Tiruchirappalli	1131	1774
23	Karur	107	823
24	Perambalur	132	1219
25	Ariyalur	471	1792
26	Pudukkottai	3915	5344
27	Madurai	951	2370
28	Theni	24	465
29	Dindigul	1056	1484
30	Ramanathapuram	1122	3897
31	Virudhunagar	712	2925
32	Sivaganga	4251	4771
33	Tirunelveli	311	192
34	Tenkasi	415	458
35	Thoothukkudi	402	1501
36	Kanniyakumari	206	186
Total		22051	69768

District Panchayats

There are 36 District Panchayats. District Panchayat has been constituted in each District as per Section 24 of the Tamil Nadu Panchayats Act, 1994. The Ward Members are elected directly by the voters, whereas the Chairperson is indirectly elected from among the Ward Members.

In continuation of the creation of 5 new revenue Districts, five new District Panchayats namely Chengalpattu, Kallakurichi, Tirupathur, Ranipet and Tenkasi have been constituted by reorganizing the Blocks from the erstwhile Districts. These District Panchayats will become functional immediately after the forthcoming elections to these rural Local Bodies. In addition to these 36 rural Districts, Mayiladuthurai also has been formed as a District and was carved out from Nagapattinam District. However, District Panchayat will be formed for Mayiladuthurai during the next election.

In each District, an officer in the cadre of Assistant Director from the Rural Development and Panchayat Raj Department is appointed as Secretary to District Panchayat who is assisted by supporting staff. The District Panchayat constitutes the following Standing Committees to coordinate with the line Departments, such as:

1. Food and Agriculture
2. Industries and Labour
3. Public Works
4. Education
5. Health and Welfare including Prohibition

The District Panchayat may constitute additional Standing Committees for such purposes as it deems fit. Each Standing Committee shall elect its own Chairperson from among its members who are elected members of the District Panchayat. The Chairperson of the District

Panchayat shall be the ex-officio member in all the Standing Committees.

Functions

1. Preparation of development plan for the District.
2. Compilation of administrative reports of Village Panchayats and Panchayat Union Councils and preparation of Annual Report for the District.
3. Planning and review of the schemes of Agriculture and Land Development, Animal Husbandry, Dairy, Poultry, Fisheries and Rural Industries etc.,
4. Planning and review of rural housing programme, in particular, the housing for SCs/STs
5. Identification of major water supply schemes

Finance

The District Panchayat has no taxation powers. The State Finance Commission Grant is the main source of revenue. In certain District Panchayats, income from their own properties like lands and buildings, constitute the major source of income. 8% of the share from the SFC Devolution Grant for rural Local Bodies is given to the District Panchayats, which is released on a monthly basis.

Based on the recommendations of the Fifteenth Union Finance Commission, 5% of the total grant has been earmarked to District Panchayats.

District Planning Committee

The constitution of District Planning Committee is envisaged in the 74th Constitutional Amendment Act, 1992 and the District Planning Committee has to be constituted in 36 Districts. District Panchayat Chairperson is the Chairperson of the Committee and District

Collector is the Vice Chairperson of the Committee. Member of Parliament, Member of Legislative Assembly and the representatives of Urban and Rural Local Bodies are appointed as members subject to the norms and ceiling prescribed.

This Committee will function based on the District needs and on the consolidated plan compiled from the data received at various Local Bodies. The District Planning Committee will be formed in all the rural Districts after the Local Body elections for both Rural and Urban are completed.

3.3. Resources to rural Local Bodies

In Tamil Nadu, among the three tiers of rural Local Bodies, Village Panchayat is the only body empowered to levy and collect taxes. The Village Panchayats receive revenue from the following sources:

- a) Tax Revenue
- b) Non Tax Revenue
- c) Grants

Tax Revenue

Village Panchayats are entitled to get tax revenue such as;

- i. House / Property Tax
- ii. Professional Tax
- iii. Advertisement Tax

i) House / Property Tax

Section 172 of Tamil Nadu Panchayats Act, 1994 empowered the Village Panchayats to levy House Tax / Property Tax. Every approved building constructed in the Village Panchayat area is levied with House Tax / Property Tax by the concerned Village Panchayat. The guidelines for assessment of House Tax is given in G.O. (Ms.) No. 255, Rural Development & Panchayat Raj Department, dated 13.12.1999. Self-Financing Institutions are subjected to Property Tax from the year 2008-09 onwards. An amount of Rs.200.28 crore has been collected by the Village Panchayats as House Tax / Property Tax for the year 2020-21.

ii) Professional Tax

Section 198-B of the Tamil Nadu Panchayats Act, 1994 provides for the levy and collection of Professional Tax payable by the employees from their salaries or wages and the employer has to deduct the same and remit to the concerned Village Panchayats. The Village Panchayats are empowered to collect Professional Tax and appropriate the tax amount to Village Panchayat Fund. Accordingly, during 2020-21, an amount of Rs.138.36 crore was collected.

iii) Advertisement Tax:

In exercise of the powers conferred by Section 172, 220 and 242 of the Tamil Nadu Panchayats Act, 1994, rural Local Bodies are empowered to levy Advertisement Tax. Tamil Nadu Panchayats (Licensing of Hoardings and Levy and Collection of Advertisement Tax) Rules, 2009, laid rules that the Government by its order shall fix the minimum and maximum rates of annual rent to be collected from the licensees for the erection

of hoarding in rural areas. The Executive Authority concerned shall collect the annual rent and credit into the General Fund of the respective Village Panchayats.

Non-Tax Revenue

The Village Panchayats are entitled to get revenue from the following sources as non-tax revenue:

- i) Licensing fee for building plan and layout approval
- ii) Fees and charges on Dangerous and Offensive trades
- iii) Market fee
- iv) Water charges
- v) Fee on cart stand
- vi) Social Forestry auctions
- vii) Fishery rentals
- viii) 2-C patta fee
- ix) Income from markets and fairs

- x) Fee from ferries
- xi) Fines and penalties
- xii) Mines and Minerals seigniorage fee and lease amount

i) Layout and Building Plan approval

Tamil Nadu Combined Development and Building Rules, 2019 have been notified in the Tamil Nadu Government Extraordinary Gazette No. 43, dated: 04.02.2019.

The layout plan of a land is to be approved by the Village Panchayat President with the prior concurrence of the Director of Town and Country Planning or his authorized Joint Director or Deputy Director. Approval of residential buildings with plinth area upto 10,000 sq.ft. with certain conditions and commercial buildings plinth area upto 2,000 sq.ft. are granted by the Village Panchayat President.

iii) Water Charges

The Village Panchayats are collecting water charges for individual house service connections in rural areas. A deposit amount of Rs.1,000 is collected from the households by the Village Panchayat to provide water connection. The household also has to make payment of Rs.50 every month as water charges. Accordingly, a sum of Rs.97.49 crore has been collected towards water charges during the year 2020-21.

Grants to Rural Local Bodies (RLBs)

3.3.1. State Finance Commission Grant

Tamil Nadu is one of the States that regularly constitutes the State Finance Commission once in 5 years as mandated by 73rd Amendment to the Constitution of India and Section 198 of the Tamil Nadu Panchayats Act 1994. Major functions of the State Finance Commission are:

1. Distribution of the net proceeds of taxes, duties, tolls and fees leviable by the Government between the State and the Panchayats
2. Determination of taxes, duties, tolls and fees which may be assigned to the Panchayats
3. Grants to the Panchayats from the consolidated fund of the State
4. Measures needed to improve the financial position of the Panchayats

So far, five State Finance Commissions have been constituted since 1994 for devolution of funds to the Local Bodies.

i) Fifth State Finance Commission (2017-18 to 2021-22)

Based on the recommendations of the 5th SFC, funds are devolved to the rural and urban Local Bodies. The following are the major recommendations of the fifth SFC (2017 to 2022) for which orders have been issued by the Government.

- a) 10% of State's Own Tax Revenue will be devolved to rural and urban Local Bodies.
- b) Devolution grant will be shared in the ratio of 56:44 between rural and urban Local Bodies.
- c) The vertical sharing ratio among three tiers of rural Local Bodies shall be 8:37:55 for District Panchayats, Panchayat Unions and Village Panchayats.
- d) Minimum Lumpsum Grant to the Village Panchayats increased from Rs.5 lakh to Rs.7 lakh per year from the year 2017-18.
- e) Minimum Lumpsum Grant to Panchayat Unions increased to Rs.40 lakh per annum per Panchayat Union.
- f) Horizontal distribution of SFC devolution to rural Local Bodies will be done on the basis of the following formula:
 - a) Population as per 2011 census : 60%
 - b) Area : 15%
 - c) SC/ST population : 15%

- d) Per capita consumption expenditure distance : 10%
- g) Capital Grant Fund has been established to replace the Infrastructure Gap Filling Fund, which aggregates 20% of the devolution intended for rural Local Bodies.
- h) Pooled Fund for Deficit Rural Local Bodies has been created with the aggregate of 10% of overall devolution intended for Rural Local Bodies.

The Government has provided Budget Estimate of Rs. 6,654 crore as grant to rural Local Bodies for the year 2021-22.

ii) Sixth State Finance Commission

The sixth SFC has been constituted by the Government in 2020 and its recommendations are awaited.

3.3.2. Capital Grant Fund (CGF)

Capital Grant Fund was created on the recommendation of 5th State Finance Commission and 20% of the overall devolution of SFC grant to rural Local Bodies is earmarked for this grant. Of this 20%, CGF 20% shall be set apart for taking up projects which are deemed to be of importance at the State level. These works shall be identified and approved by a Committee comprising of the Principal Secretary to Government, Rural Development and Panchayat Raj Department, Director of Rural Development & Panchayat Raj , a representative of the Finance Department and Member Secretary, State Development Policy Council (SDPC). The balance 80% will be distributed District wise, based on the formula adopted for horizontal distribution among District Panchayats. The project wise allocation of these funds shall be decided by the District Planning Committee based on detailed guidelines issued by the Rural Development & Panchayat Raj

Department in consultation with Finance and Planning & Development Department.

The Government has provided Budget Estimate of Rs.1,330.85 crore as Capital Grant Fund (CGF) within the overall SFC grant meant for rural Local Bodies for the year 2021-22.

3.3.3. Pooled Fund for Deficit rural Local Bodies

In addition to Capital Grant Fund, from the overall SFC grant for the local bodies, 10% of fund is earmarked for Pooled Fund for deficit RLBs. Of this 10% fund, 40% will be disbursed by the Director of Rural Development & Panchayat Raj, to those Panchayat Unions and Village Panchayats recommended by the SFC which have been in deficit for at least 3 of the last 5 years.

20% of the fund will be retained by the Director of Rural Development & Panchayat Raj and 20% distributed among the District Collectors based on the horizontal District Panchayat wise share. These funds will be utilized by the Director

of Rural Development & Panchayat Raj to provide grant to those Village Panchayats and Panchayat Unions which have financial problems which cannot be met out by the other Schemes due to paucity of funds.

20% of the Pooled fund for deficit rural Local Bodies will be provided to Tamil Nadu Water Supply and Drainage Board to meet the deficit on Combined Water Supply Schemes (CWSS).

The Government has provided Budget Estimate of Rs.665.42 crore as Capital Pooled Fund for Deficit Rural Local Bodies within the SFC grant to rural Local Bodies for the year 2021-22.

3.3.4. Pooled Assigned Revenue (PAR)

The assigned revenues due to rural Local Bodies from the proceeds of surcharge on stamp duty collected by the Registration Department is being pooled at State level for apportioning the same to the Village Panchayats and Panchayat Unions.

Accordingly, the Government have sanctioned from the proceeds of surcharge on stamp duty to the tune of Rs.618.43 crore as Pooled Assigned Revenue for the year 2020-21, as detailed below:

1. One third (1/3) of total allocation of Rs.206.14 crore has been apportioned to the Village Panchayats and the Panchayat Unions and the same has been earmarked for settlement of long pending dues of current consumption charges of Village Panchayats
2. The balance two third (2/3) amount of Rs.412.29 crore has been earmarked for 'Fund for the Priority Schemes in rural areas' for implementing proposed specific development schemes in the rural areas.

3.3.5. Scheme Component of Pooled Assigned Revenue (SCPAR)

SCPAR is a portion of PAR allotted by the Government to exclusively take special works based on the need.

Since 2007-08, the State Government had been ordering the pooling of assigned revenue due to the rural Local Bodies from the proceeds of surcharge on Entertainment Tax and Stamp Duty at the State level and apportioning the same to the rural Local Bodies and fund for priority schemes and works. Once GST was introduced surcharge on Entertainment Tax was abolished.

In 2020-21, under SCPAR, out of 1,345 works taken up at an estimate of Rs.379.45 crore, 263 works have been completed and funds so far utilized are Rs.33.89 crore. Steps are being taken to complete the pending works in this year.

3.3.6. Union Finance Commission (CFC) Grant

The Fifteenth Union Finance Commission submitted its report during January 2020 and it was accepted by the Union Government. FFC submitted its report in two stages one for the year 2020-21 and another for the rest of the award period (i.e., 2021-22 to 2025-26).

The total allocation for the year 2020-21 to the RLBs of Tamil Nadu is Rs.3,607 crore of which Tied and Untied Grant will be in 50:50 ratio.

Basic- Untied grant

Basic grants are untied and can be used by RLBs for location-specific felt needs, except for salary or other established expenditure.

Tied Grant

Tied Grant is to be used for the basic services of (a) Supply of drinking water, rain water harvesting and recycling and (b) Sanitation and maintenance of Open Defecation Free (ODF) status.

The fifteenth Union Finance Commission has also recommended that its Grant, Basic and Tied, should be distributed to all the tiers of the Panchayats in the State on the basis of the accepted recommendations of the latest State Finance Commission (SFC) and also in conformity of the following bands recommended by the 15th CFC.

The vertical sharing ratio among three tiers of rural Local Bodies is as follows:

District Panchayats	5 %
Panchayat Unions	15 %
Village Panchayats	80 %

Distribution of fifteenth Finance Commission Grant within the tier shall be as per the Horizontal Distribution formula as recommended by fifth State Finance Commission, as given below:

Population as per 2011 Census	60%
Area	15%
SC/ST Population	15%
Per Capita Consumption Expenditure Distance	10%

Allocation

Total allocation for the entire award period of fifteenth Union Finance Commission is detailed below:

Table 3.11

(Rs.in crore)

Year	Total Grant	Untied (40%)	Tied (60%)
2021-22	2666	1066.4	1599.6
2022-23	2761	1104.4	1656.6
2023-24	2791	1116.4	1674.6
2024-25	2957	1182.8	1774.2
2025-26	2884	1153.6	1730.4
Total	14059	5623.6	8435.4

The guidelines to utilize the 15th Union Finance Commission has been issued vide G.O.Ms. No 18, Rural Development and Panchayat Raj (PR-1) Department dated: 03.02.2021.

Public Financial Management System (PFMS)

PFMS is a common electronic platform for complete tracking of fund flow from the Governments to Implementing Agencies so as to ensure the benefit reaches the end user. PFMS was introduced in rural Local Bodies of Tamil Nadu during the year 2018. The fund from the

Government is directly transferred to the rural Local Body accounts.

36 District Panchayats, 388 Block Panchayats, 12,525 Village Panchayats are treated as Individual Agencies and registered in the PFMS Platform at State, District, Block and Village Panchayat level.

Advantages of PFMS

- It enables real time monitoring of disbursements and utilization of funds and also provides decision support system across Departments, Institutions and Offices.
- It tracks any unnecessary parking of funds by the Implementing Agencies.
- Minimizes the delay in payments.
- It promotes transparency and tangible improvements in the overall financial management and implementation of various schemes.

- It ensures plugging of leakages and eliminating ghost beneficiaries.

Plastic Waste Management

The Government Departments/Agencies/Organizations have got a very significant role to play in making the State, plastic free. The Government under Environment (Protection) Act, 1986 has issued orders banning the one-time use and throwaway plastics irrespective of thickness.

Under Section 244 of the Tamil Nadu Panchayats Act, 1994, the Panchayat has been enabled to make a bye-law to provide that any person who commits the breach in the matter relating to the use of one time use and throwaway plastics shall be liable to pay by way of penalty such sum as fixed by the Panchayat not exceeding the amount specified in the Schedule III-A.

Table 3.12
Schedule III-A Penalties for breach of by –
laws made under Section 244 (2-A)

Sl. No.	Offences	Fine for first time offence.	Fine for second time offence	Fine for third time offence
1.	Storage, supply. Transport, sale and distribution of use and throwaway plastics.	Twenty five thousand rupees.	Fifty thousand rupees.	One lakh rupees
2.	Use and distribution of use and throwaway plastics in large commercial establishments like malls, textile shops and super markets.	Ten thousand rupees.	Fifteen thousand rupees.	Twenty five thousand rupees.
3.	Use and distribution of use and throwaway plastics in medium commercial establishments like grocery shops and pharmaceuticals shops.	One thousand rupees.	Two thousand rupees.	Five thousand rupees.
4.	Use and distribution of use and throwaway plastics in Small commercial vendors.	One hundred rupees	Two hundred rupees	Five hundred rupees

There are 42 plastic shredding units in rural areas. The shredded pellets are mixed with bitumen for laying eco-friendly roads.

Awareness campaigns & IEC activities are conducted regarding ban on one time use and throwaway plastics in rural areas. Shops/Commercial Establishments are inspected by field officials and fine is imposed on the defaulters according to the norms.

Bio-Diversity Management Committee (BMC):

For the purpose of promoting conservation, sustainable use and documentation of biodiversity, as per Rule 22 of the Biological Diversity Rules 2004 and Rule 20 of the Tamil Nadu Biological Diversity Rules, 2017, the Biodiversity Management Committee (BMC) should be constituted in all the three tiers of RLBs.

The Biodiversity Management Committee has been formed in three tiers. At Village Panchayat level, Village Panchayat President is the Chairperson of BMC and it should consist of following 7 members:

- One member from Village Forest Committee (VFC).
- Three women members from Community based organizations:
 - i. Panchayat Level Federation of SHGs
– one woman

- ii. Village Poverty Reduction Committee
 - one woman
- CRP / CST or Makamai (Community Professionals Learning and Training Centre)
 - one woman.
- A farmer representative
- An Animal farmer/fisher folk representative (Panchayats with coastal areas or rich inland wetlands to opt for fisher folk representative).
- An appropriate NGO representative from the area.

3.4. Election to rural Local Bodies

3.4.1. State Election Commission

The Tamil Nadu State Election Commission was established in 1994 as an independent and autonomous constitutional authority to conduct elections to both urban and rural local bodies in the State. The superintendence, direction and control of the preparation of electoral rolls are also

vested with the Tamil Nadu State Election Commission.

The Tamil Nadu State Election Commissioner and other administrative staff are appointed as per the sub-section (3) of Section 239 of the Tamil Nadu Panchayats Act, 1994. The State Election Commissioner shall hold office for a term of 2 years and shall be eligible for re-appointment for two successive terms, subject to the condition that the aggregate total years of service should not exceed 6 years. Further, a person appointed as Tamil Nadu State Election Commissioner shall retire from office if he/she completes the age of sixty five years during the term of his/her office.

3.4.2. Constitution of State Delimitation Commission

Section 28 of the Tamil Nadu Panchayats Act, 1994 necessitates the delimitation of territorial wards of rural Local Bodies after every census. In exercise of the powers conferred by Section 12 of the Tamil Nadu Delimitation

Commission Act, 2017 (Tamil Nadu Act 23 of 2017), the Delimitation Commission has been constituted.

Based on the delimited wards of RLB's of 27 Districts, the notification for the same was done and ordinary elections to the rural Local Bodies in 27 districts were completed during 2019-2020. After the assumption of this new Government, the delimitation for the wards of rural Local Bodies of newly reorganized 9 districts have been completed and steps are being taken to conduct the ordinary elections to rural Local Bodies early.

Table: 3.13

Sl.No.	District	Village Panchayat Wards	Panchayat Union Wards	District Panchayat Wards
1	Kanchipuram	1938	98	11
2	Chengalpattu	2679	154	16
3	Villupuram	5088	293	28
4	Kallakurichi	3162	180	19
5	Vellore	2079	138	14
6	Ranipet	2220	127	13
7	Tirupathur	1779	125	13
8	Tirunelveli	1731	122	12

Sl.No.	District	Village Panchayat Wards	Panchayat Union Wards	District Panchayat Wards
9	Tenkasi	1905	144	14
Total		22581	1381	140

3.4.3. Reservation and Rotation of Seats and Offices in rural Local Bodies

As per Article 243-D of the Constitution of India, Seats shall be reserved for Scheduled Castes/Scheduled Tribes in every Panchayat and the number of seats reserved shall bear, as nearly as may be, the same proportion to the total number of seats to be filled by direct election in that Panchayat as the population of Scheduled Castes in that Panchayat area or of the Scheduled Tribes in that Panchayat area bears to the total population of that area and such seats may be allotted by rotation to different wards in a Panchayat.

3.4.4. Reservation for Women in Offices and Seats in rural Local Bodies:

The Tamil Nadu Panchayats Act, 1994 provided for reservation of one third of total

number of the seats and Offices for Women in Village Panchayats, Panchayat Union Councils and District Panchayats. In 2016, it was enhanced to 50% for women to empower them in political participation and local governance. The same will come into effect in the ensuing Local Body Elections also.

3.4.5. Elections to the rural Local Bodies

In Tamil Nadu, after enactment of Tamil Nadu Panchayats Act in April, 1994, the first ordinary elections were held to all the three tiers of rural Local Bodies in October, 1996. The second, third and fourth ordinary elections to the rural Local Bodies were conducted in October, 2001, October 2006 and October 2011 respectively.

The State Election Commission issues notification to the seats (i.e. Ward Members) and Offices (i.e. Chairpersons) of District Panchayats and Panchayat Unions which are held on party basis. Whereas, the elections to the seats and

Offices of Village Panchayats are held on non-party basis.

During December 2019, rural Local Body elections to 27 Districts were conducted. The State Government in 2019, trifurcated Vellore District into the Districts of Vellore, Tirupathur and Ranipet; and bifurcated Kancheepuram District into Kancheepuram and Chengalpattu District. Likewise, Villupuram District was bifurcated into Villupuram and Kallakurichi Districts and Tirunelveli District was bifurcated into Tirunelveli and Tenkasi Districts. In total, 4 erstwhile Districts were bifurcated into 9 Districts. Hence the number of Districts in Tamil Nadu became 36 as against 31 and in these newly formed 9 Districts elections for rural Local Bodies were not conducted due to delimitation process. The elections for the same will be conducted soon. Mayiladuthurai district was created in December 2020 after the conduct of rural Local Body elections to combined Nagapattinam District.

4. Union Schemes

4.1 Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme (MGNREGS)

4.1.1 Salient Features of the Scheme

Ten major entitlements of the scheme are:

- i. Right to a Job Card
- ii. Right to demand and receive work within 15 days
- iii. Right to un-employment Allowance
- iv. Right to plan and prepare a Shelf of Projects.
- v. Right to obtain work within a radius of 5 km
- vi. Right to work-site facilities
- vii. Right to notified wage rate
- viii. Right to receive wages within 15 days
- ix. Compensation for delay in payment of wages

x. Right to time bound redressal of grievances and right to conduct concurrent social audits of all MGNREGS expenditure

1. MGNREGS 'work week' starts from every Thursday and ends on next Wednesday.
2. In order to provide more employment opportunities to MGNREGS workers, the habitations in a Village Panchayat are grouped into clusters in such a way that more number of works are taken in all the clusters.
3. The wages for unskilled labourer has been fixed based on the Rural Schedule of Rates (RSoR). As per the revised Schedule-I of MGNREG Act, the Schedule of Rate for wages of unskilled labourers is so fixed that an adult unskilled labourer working for eight hours which includes an hour of rest (i.e., 7 hours of effective work) will earn wages equal to wage rate.

4. Government Order for Special Rural Schedule of Rates (RSoR) for differently-abled was issued and adopted. The Government Order provides either special activities for the differently-abled workers or special provisions for undertaking earthwork related activities.
5. No contractors or labour displacing machineries are allowed. However, machineries are permitted to be used in executing some of the works.
6. For all civil construction works RSoR should be adopted for Labour Component and PWD SOR in respect of other materials involved.
7. Every individual worker in a household is entitled to a job card so that they can apply and receive work. Renewal of job cards are being done once in 5 years. New job cards were issued for all active workers after 100% verification from 1.04.2017 and it will be valid for 5 years.

8. From 2017-18, e-MR has been adopted in all the 12,524 Village Panchayats.
9. Seven mandatory Registers prescribed by Union Government of India and Job Card Stock Register in addition are maintained in all the Village Panchayats.
10. The notified wage rate for the year 2021-22 is Rs.273 per day w.e.f 01.04.2021 for both men and women without any difference.
11. The MGNREGS worker can earn full wage rate, if the out turn is 37 Cu.ft. as per G.O.(Ms).No. 25 RD & PR (CGS-1) Dept., dated 27.2.2014.
12. If the distance of worksite exceeds 5 km, additional wage of 10% of existing wage rate is payable to meet the cost towards the additional transportation and living expenses. However, in Tamil Nadu, worksites are being selected in such a way

that works are available within a radius of 2 km.

13. Facilities such as drinking water, First-Aid kit, shade etc., are provided at the work sites.
14. Disbursement of wages is done through National electronic Fund Management System (Ne-FMS) from 7.11.2016.
15. Grama Sabha conducts the Social Audit in respect of MGNREGS works through Social Auditors, i.e. Village Resource Persons trained from SHG members.
16. All workers shall have a right to participate in the Grama Sabha and decide the Shelf of Works with the order of priority to be taken up under MGNREGS in their Village Panchayat.
17. Worksite Citizen Information Boards depicting the details of work i.e. Name of

the work, sanctioned amount, duration of work etc., are installed in all the worksites.

18. A Toll free help line number (1299) has also been provided in each district as part of grievance redressal mechanism.

4.1.2. Funding Pattern

1. The Union Government bears 100% wage cost of unskilled manual labour. Material cost including wages of skilled and semi-skilled workers is borne by the Union Government and the State Government in the ratio of 75:25.
2. The wage and material components have to be maintained at 60:40 ratio for all the works undertaken by the Village Panchayat and other implementing agencies at District level.
3. In a financial year up to 6% of the total expenditure under MGNREGS can be utilized for administrative expenses.

4. Un-employment allowance is payable, in case the State Government cannot provide wage employment within 15 days of application.
5. Delay Compensation: The State Government shall pay the compensation upfront after due verification within the time limits and recover the compensation amount from the functionaries or agencies who are responsible for the delay in payment.

4.1.3. Payment of wages through Ne-FMS

The State Government switched over to National electronic Fund Management System (Ne-FMS) from 07.11.2016, wherein the wages are credited to the workers' bank accounts directly from Union Government of India.

Likewise, administrative and material expenditure under MGNREGS are made through e-FMS from 01.04.2017 onwards.

4.1.4. Category wise Payment of wages to SC/ST and Others

Ministry of Rural Development, Union Government of India have sent an Advisory for disbursement of wage payment to wage seekers under MGNREGS, according to the category SC, ST and others for the financial year 2021-22, ensuring the action in a time bound manner so that funds may be released accordingly.

From 01.04.2021, the Fund Transfer Order (FTO) generation, signing of FTO and crediting of wages to the MGNREGS workers are being made separately for Scheduled Caste, Scheduled Tribes and others.

4.1.5. Aadhaar seeding of bank accounts of all MGNREGS Workers

For crediting of wages directly to the bank account of MGNREGS workers by using Aadhaar Based Payment System (ABPS), the seeding of

Aadhaar numbers of all MGNREGS workers have been undertaken in MGNREGA website.

Out of the total number of 90.41 lakh active workers in the State, Aadhaar numbers have been seeded for 89.62 lakh (99.12%) workers for the year 2021-22. So far, Aadhaar based payment has been made to 66.91 lakh (74 %) beneficiaries.

4.1.6. Permissible Works

The Schedule - I of the MGNREG Act provides list of permissible works categorized into 4 parts. Based on the various works mentioned in the Schedule, the Management Information System (MIS) has listed 45 categories of works covering 263 types of works permissible under the Programme. Of these, 182 works are related to Natural Resource Management, of which 85 are water related works. 164 works are related to agriculture and allied activities.

4.1.7. Sustainable Development through MGNREGS

The Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme (MGNREGS) by its noble guidelines and objectives enable the achievement of four Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) viz., Zero Hunger, No Poverty, Climate Change and Gender Equality. Under MGNREGS, equal wages are being paid to men and women depending upon the value of work done by them.

It is the only livelihood and poverty alleviation programme by providing employment to all willing adult members of rural households to do unskilled manual work for a minimum of 100 days in a financial year, which is the first and foremost goal of sustainable Development viz., 'No Poverty'. In rural areas, MGNREG Scheme is feeding millions of rural poor by providing employment and thereby addressing the next SDG goal viz., 'zero hunger'.

Plantation of trees in community and individual land mitigate the issues on Climate Change. Trees are being planted in the premises of Government Schools, Colleges, poramboke lands, parks, public places and on either side of the roads which facilitates carbon credits. Further, on conservation of soil and moisture, rejuvenation of Tanks, Ooranies and Minor Irrigation Tanks, supply channels and other water bodies are being taken up under MGNREGS, towards sustainable retention of ground water which plays a vital role in the climate change.

This scheme is being implemented in rural areas with the allocation of minimum of 65% of works covering Natural Resource Management (NRM) under 'Category-A', for works like check dam, trench cutting, land development activities, renovation of traditional water bodies, etc.

4.1.8. Cluster Facilitation Project (CFP)

- Cluster Facilitation Project (CFP) is an initiative for addressing poverty in

aspirational Districts and backward areas with multi-pronged strategy. In Tamil Nadu, the CFP is implemented in 5 Blocks viz. two blocks each in 2 aspirational Districts (i.e) Ramanathapuram and Virudhunagar and one backward block from other District. This Project is implemented for a period of three years from 01.04.2020 to 31.03.2023.

4.1.9. Jal Shakti Abhiyan (JSA) Catch the Rain (CTR) Campaign- 2021

The Hon'ble Prime Minister has launched the campaign the "Jal Shakti Abhiyan- Catch the Rain(JSA-CTR) Campaign-2021" with the theme 'Catch the Rain, where it falls, when it falls', on 22nd March 2021 on the World Water Day through Video conferencing. This campaign is observed from 22.03.2021 to 30.11.2021, i.e., during the pre-monsoon and monsoon period of 2021.

The campaign is to be taken-up as a people's movement with active participation of people towards water conservation at grass-root

level with the following three objectives viz., (i) creating awareness on importance of rainwater harvesting, (ii) Undertaking works for water conservation and (iii) Undertaking measures for water use efficiency. During the campaign, construction of various water conservation works are being undertaken appropriate for climatic conditions and subsoil strata so that, proper storage, ground water recharge and efficient use of stored water are achieved.

All these activities are to be taken up before the onset of the monsoon, so that adequate space for decentralized storage of large quantity of rain water is created. Further, the Water Resources Organization (PWD), Tamil Nadu Water Supply and Drainage Board (TWAD), Forest Department, Agriculture Department, Agricultural Engineering Department may also be involved in the Campaign for undertaking various water related activities through Departmental convergence.

Out of the 263 permissible activities under MGNEGS, 182 works are related to Natural Resource Management (NRM). Under Jal Shakti Abhiyan, these 182 NRM activities were categorized under 5 indicators namely; water conservation and rain water harvesting, renovation of traditional and other water bodies/tanks, Re-use, bore well recharge structures, watershed development and intensive afforestation.

Though 182 works are covered under the above mentioned 5 indicators, the 42 works may be exclusively taken-up under MGNREGS, PMKSY and other schemes under Jal Shakti Abhiyan – ‘Catch the Rain Campaign 2021’.

4.1.10. SECURE Software

In all the Districts, Administrative and Technical Sanction under MGNREGS are being given using ‘SECURE’ software, through online mode only.

4.1.11. GIS based Village Panchayat level planning

From 2021-2022 GIS based planning is followed in all the Village Panchayats.

4.1.12. Geo-tagging of assets

The objective of Geo-MGNREGA is to create a Geographical Information System (GIS) solution to visualize, analyze and explore the data of assets created under the MGNREGS. It essentially enables to view the assets created under MGNREGS across India on a map. Geo- MGNREGS leverages 'Bhuvan', software platform developed by National Remote Sensing Centre (NRSC) of Indian Space Research Organization (ISRO) for this purpose. While the data of assets is taken from the NREGA Soft application of Ministry of Rural Development, the unique capabilities of NREGA Soft and Bhuvan are integrated into one Geo Spatial Asset Management & Planning tool and is named as 'Geo-MGNREGA'.

So far 30,89,399 (Phase-I & Phase- II Completed) assets have been geo-tagged since its inception.

4.1.13. Timely Payment

During the financial year 2021-22, 100% of wage payment to workers have been made within 15 days and the MoRD has changed the timely payment (Stage I) to T+8 and Stage II (T9+T15).

4.1.14. Good Governance Measures

As suggested by Union Government of India, Good Governance Initiatives viz., updation of Job Cards, Maintenance of 7 Mandatory Registers, Maintenance of Case Record / Work File and installation of Citizen Information Board are effectively implemented through Internal Monitoring Team at District level headed by the Project Director, DRDA and Executive Engineer (RD) along with all Assistant Directors / Zonal Officers as per the indicative frame work of MoRD, Union Government of India.

Likewise, State Level Monitoring Officers are appointed for the effective implementation of the above Good Governance Initiatives to monitor and supervise the implementation in the Districts.

4.1.15. Labour Budget for 2021-22

The Labour Budget was prepared through a 'bottom up' approach by each Village Panchayat. Cluster wise analysis was undertaken for the preparation of Labour Budget and finalization for the year 2021-22.

The Empowered Committee, Union Government of India (MoRD) have approved 25 crore persondays for the year 2021-22.

Social Audit

As per the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Audit of Schemes Rules, 2011, Section 3 (1) the State Government shall facilitate the conduct of Social Audit of the works taken up under the Act in every Gram Panchayat at least once in six months by the Gram Sabha.

Social Audit is a comprehensive audit done by the people with the guidance of the Social Audit staff. Apart from financial aspects, it looks at processes and Social, equity and performance aspects. It is an information, Education and Communication (IEC) tool, which enforces transparency and accountability and promotes participation of stakeholders in all stages (planning, design, implementation and evaluation) of development initiatives.

Area of Operation

The area of operation of the Social Audit of Tamil Nadu (SASTA) covers all rural areas of Tamil Nadu consisting of 37 Districts with 388 Panchayat Unions and 12,524 Village Panchayats (except Balamore Village Panchayat of Tiruvattar Block in Kanniyakumari District wherein MGNREGS work do not happen as it is covered with Rubber estates).

Social Audit Process

The Social Audit process consists of activities for 5 days as detailed below:-

Day 01	<p>a) Co-ordination meeting at Village Panchayat level with the Block officials, elected representatives and Self Help Group members for the smooth conduct of Social Audit.</p> <p>b) Verification of records received from the Village Panchayat office and Block Development Office by the Village Panchayat Resource Persons (VPRP) and Block Resource Person.</p> <p>c) Conduct of Habitation level awareness meeting on Social Audit in the evening.</p>
Days 02	<p>Door to door verification of Job Cards with e- Muster Roll, interaction with the beneficiaries and receipt of grievance petitions.</p>
Day 03	<p>Inspection of the worksite; field level measurements of the works.</p>

Day 04	Preparation of Social Audit Report.
Day 05	Conduct of Special Grama Sabha.

Social Audit Activities

During the year 2020-21, regular Social Audit was not conducted due to COVID 19 pandemic.

Impact of Social Audit

Social Audit is being conducted by the beneficiaries/ stakeholders themselves, as a result of which the impact of Social Audit is tremendous, both among the beneficiaries and the implementing agencies. Deliberations that take place during the Special Gram Sabhas convened to discuss the Social Audit report are akin to public hearings. The process of Social Audit also helps the workers become aware of their rights and entitlements. Rectifications on the findings of the Social Audit take place in the Special Gram Sabhas. As a result of Social Audit, the practice of

proper maintenance of records at Village and Block levels have also improved.

Social Audit activities for the year 2021-22

A detailed calendar for the conduct of Social Audit in all 12,524 Village Panchayats (except Balamore Village Panchayat in Kanniyakumari District) during the year 2021-22 for the financial year 2019-2020 has been prepared and the Audit has been commenced from 2.8.2021 covering all the Village Panchayats in 23 rounds.

Social Audit has been proposed to be extended to other Schemes like the National Social Assistance Programme (NSAP), Pradhan Mantri Awaas Yojana – Gramin (PMAY-G) and Dr. Puratchi Thalaivar M.G.R. Nutritious Noon Meal Programmes from the year 2021-22 onwards.

4.2. Pradhan Mantri Awaas Yojana - Gramin (PMAY-G)

The right to adequate housing is recognized as a basic human rights by United Nations. The United Nations Sustainable Development Goal No.1 is 'End Poverty in all its forms everywhere'.

Every rural household's dream is to own Pucca house. A roof over their head will give them a feeling of safety and confidence. This will indirectly help them to earn their livelihood and help them to come out of Poverty. Hence to achieve the Goal of 'No Poverty', Government of India a signatory in United Nations Development Programme for the Sustainable Development Goal, have introduced PMAY-'Housing for All' by 2022.

Pradhan Mantri Awaas Yojana - Gramin is a Union Government sponsored scheme being implemented from 2016-17. Erstwhile Indira Awaas Yojana scheme is restructured into PMAY-G to address the gaps in the Rural Housing programme to provide "Housing for All" by 2022.

PMAY-G aims at providing pucca houses with basic amenities to all poor houseless households and households living in huts and dilapidated houses in rural areas.

Socio-Economic Caste Census-2011(SECC-2011) data is used to identify the beneficiaries through Grama Sabha.

Out of the total target under PMAY-G, 60% is earmarked to SC/ST, 40% for others (including minorities). In both the categories, 5% of allocation is made for physically challenged persons. The plinth area of each house is 269 Sq.Ft.

The Government of India has fixed the unit cost for a house as Rs.1.20 lakh. The funding for the scheme is shared between Union and State Government in the ratio of 60:40 (Union share Rs.72,000 and State share Rs.48,000). The Government of Tamil Nadu provides Rs.50,000 for RCC roofing cost from the State fund which is in

addition to the unit cost. Hence, the total unit cost of a house in Tamil Nadu is Rs.1.70 lakh. Further a sum of Rs.70,000/- per house was provided to 2,57,925 beneficiaries recently to reduce the burden of beneficiaries in constructing the houses.

In addition to the unit cost, each beneficiary is paid the notified wage rate in force towards utilization of 90 persondays for the construction of the house under MGNREGS ($90 \times \text{Rs.}273 = \text{Rs.}24,570$) and a sum of Rs.12,000 is provided to the beneficiary for construction of Individual House Hold Latrine (IHHL) from MGNREGS/SBM(G).

Apart from these, cement is provided to the beneficiaries at subsidized rate steel, doors & windows are also provided based on the request from the beneficiaries. The proportionate cost for supply of materials is deducted from the payments due to the beneficiaries.

Payments to the beneficiaries are being credited directly to their bank account through Public Financial Management System (PFMS).

The Pradhan Mantri Awaas Yojana-Gramin, programme implementation and monitoring is carried out through Awaas Soft and Awaas App. These two IT applications provide effective monitoring mechanism for the stage wise implementation and monitoring of the scheme.

Socio-Economic Caste Census-2011 (SECC-2011) data is used to identify the beneficiaries through Grama Sabha under PMAY-G. But it was found that many eligible beneficiaries were left out in SECC-2011 data. Based on the instructions of Government of India, to include the left out eligible beneficiaries in SECC Data 2011, a detailed survey was conducted in all Districts and 9.11 lakh eligible households were identified and their names with details have been entered in the "Awaas plus" application.

Under PMAY-G, 5,27,552 houses are being constructed at a total cost of Rs.8968.38 crore during the years 2016-17 to 2019-20, with state share of Rs.5,170.01 crore. So far 2,91,727 houses are completed.

In respect of 2021-22, a target of 2,89,887 houses have been allotted by Government of India to Tamil Nadu. The cost per house works out to Rs.2,76,570 (Rs. 72,000 Union share + Rs. 48,000 State share + Rs. 50,000 for RCC roofing by State + Rs. 70,000 additional State fund + Rs. 24,570 for 90 days of labour from MGNREGS + Rs. 12,000 from SBM(G)/MGNREGS). The total cost of construction of 2,89,887 houses is Rs. 8,017.47 crore. The eligible beneficiaries are identified from the Awaas+ portal.

4.3. Jal Jeevan Mission

Water is the elixir of life. The inter-relationship of water, sanitation and health forms the pyramid of public health. In this context, Jal

Jeevan Mission (JJM) was launched which aims at providing water supply to every household in adequate quantity (55 lpcd) and prescribed quality on regular and long-term basis by March 2024. Community participation in planning and monitoring of water supply, ensuring sustainability of sources through source strengthening and water recharge and re-use are the other main objectives of the scheme.

Components of Jal Jeevan Mission

The following components are supported under JJM:

- i. Development of in-village piped water supply infrastructure to provide water through tap connections to every household;
- ii. Development of reliable drinking water sources and/ or augmentation of existing sources to provide long term sustainability of water supply system;

- iii. wherever necessary; in water stressed areas bulk water transfer like CWSS (Combined Water Supply Schemes), treatment plants and distribution network to cater to every rural household;
- iv. retrofitting of completed and ongoing single village / multi village schemes (Combined water supply schemes) to provide FHTCs at minimum service level of 55 lpcd;
- v. Technological interventions for removal of contaminants where water quality is an issue;
- vi. Grey water management – Treatment of Domestic Grey water (i.e. without fecal waste water) which typically accounts for nearly 80% of all domestic water for the purpose of irrigation;
- vii. Support activities i.e., Information Education Campaign, training service

providers at the village level, water quality laboratories, water quality testing & surveillance, R&D, establishing knowledge centres and capacity building of communities etc.,

Strategy

To achieve the objective of JJM, the following strategies are adopted:

- i. Village Action Plan (VAP) is to be prepared based on the actual requirement and felt needs of habitations. Habitation wise plans will be clubbed together to form a Village Action Plan. The VAP will be approved by the Village Panchayat Council and on approval shall be placed before the Grama sabha for approval. The VAPs of all the Village Panchayats of the District will be combined into a District Action Plan (DAP) and placed before the

District Water and Sanitation Committee (DWSC) for final approval.

- ii. The VAPs of all villages in a District and all DAPs of all Districts in the State will be aggregated along with regional water supply schemes / bulk water transfer and treatment plants based on the need, State Action Plan (SAP) will be formulated. Further, State will also prepare an Annual Action Plan detailing yearly targets commensurate with the annual allocation.
- iii. VAP will be the main document of the village for all water supply and related work, and on its approval by Gram Sabha, all funds from different sources will be dovetailed to implement various components of VAP from different sources of fund including JJM. No work outside VAP will be taken up under any other schemes where separate source

of funding is available. This will help in optimal utilization of resources for focused outputs.

- iv. Active participation of women at all levels of institutional arrangements with special emphasis at village level is to be ensured
- v. For effective implementation of JJM, Committees formed at Village, District and State Level will co-ordinate with various stakeholder Departments

State Nodal Department

The Principal Secretary to the Government, Rural Development and Panchayat Raj Department has been nominated as the State Nodal Officer and Rural Development and Panchayat Raj Department has been nominated as the Nodal Department for the implementation of Jal Jeevan Mission in Tamil Nadu.

The Government in Order (Ms) No: 65, Rural Development and Panchayat Raj (CGS.1)

Department, dated 17.3.2020 have issued orders appointing Mission Director and constituted various Committees under the State Water and Sanitation Mission (SWSM) to implement the programme. The three Committees formed under SWSM are:

- 1) Apex Committee
- 2) State Level Scheme Sanctioning Committee
- 3) Executive committee

1) Apex committee

As per the guidelines of the Ministry of Jal Sakthi, the State have constituted this Committee with the Chief Secretary as the Chairman, the Principal Secretary to Government, Rural Development and Panchayat Raj Department as Member Secretary, and 6 other senior Departmental Secretaries as members to provide policy guidance, planning, strategizing and finalization of the State Action Plan.

2) State Level Scheme Sanctioning Committee

The State Level Scheme Sanctioning Committee is responsible for providing technical sanctions to the projects approved by the Apex Committee and has the Principal Secretary to Government, Rural Development and Panchayat Raj Department as Chairman, Engineering Director from TWAD Board as Member-Secretary and other 9 technical members.

3) Executive Committee

The Executive Committee with the Managing Director, TWAD Board, Director, Rural Development and Panchayat Raj and Member of Finance Department extends support to the District Water and Sanitation Missions to prepare their Action Plans and is responsible for monitoring the implementation of the programme.

Funding

The fund sharing pattern for implementation of works to provide FHTC to rural household under

JJM project is 50% Union Government and 50% State Government. However, for support activities & WQM&S the sharing pattern is Union Government 60% and State Government 40%.

Implementation

The Jal Jeevan Mission is jointly implemented by TWAD Board and Rural Development and Panchayat Raj Department.

Tamil Nadu Water Supply and Drainage Board (TWAD)

- i. **Multi Village Scheme (MVS)** is a scheme to provide water supply to cover more than one local body i.e., more than one Village Panchayat with source located outside the Village. TWAD Board shall design and execute any Multi Village Scheme (MVS) which covers more than one Village Panchayat to provide 55 lpcd up to the Over Head Tank.

- ii. Retrofitting of existing Combined Water Supply Schemes is also undertaken by TWAD Board under this Scheme. Under retrofitting, TWAD Board will take up improvement works such augmentation of source, items of Electrical, Mechanical and instrumentation works, pipeline works to meet the demand for 55 lpcd, so as to provide FHTCs by Rural Development & Panchayat Raj Department, where ever possible.

Department of Rural Development and Panchayat Raj

The Rural Development and Panchayat Raj Department undertakes the design, estimate preparation and implementation of Single Village Schemes which may be a Single Habitation Scheme or a Single Village Scheme provided the source is within the concerned Village Panchayat. This includes source creation, pumping main, OHTs and other storage reservoirs, street distribution

system and FHTCs. Similarly, in Multi Village Schemes (MVS) undertaken by TWAD Board also, the design, estimate preparation and implementation of **In-Village** infrastructure including FHTC is under taken by the Rural Development & Panchayat Raj Department.

The other salient features of the scheme are:

- Third party Inspection to check the quality of works.
- Functionality Assessment based on Quality, Quantity and Regularity.
- Integrated Management Information System (IMIS) to capture the processes, operation and functionality.
- Ensuring water quality through Field Test Kits. The Water quality is ascertained as per the permissible limits of various parameters such as pH value, hardness, fluoride, chloride, sulphate and bacterial content.

Capacity Building and IEC Activities

IEC activities on judicious use of water, rain water harvesting, water conservation, maintenance of assets, grey water management and any other related to water supply.

Community Contribution towards capital cost

For in-village piped water supply infrastructure and related source development to be implemented in Village Panchayat, the JJM guidelines specify collection of Community Contribution from the households to the extent of 5% of the capital cost in cash/kind/labour in hilly/forest areas and 10% of the capital cost in other Village Panchayats.

Operation & Maintenance

Operation & Maintenance is important for ensuring sustainability and functionality of House Hold Tap connection, which involve the following recurring cost

- a) Current consumption charges

- b) Repair of pipe line break down
- c) Other maintenance
- d) Chlorination
- e) Remuneration for pump operators

The Village Panchayats will be responsible for the Operation and Maintenance of the Water Supply.

- i. User Charges with regards to water tariff, the amount mentioned as per G.O. 260 Rural Development & Panchayat Raj Department, dated: 09.12.1998 shall be followed.
- ii. The Bulk water quantity transfer charges, at the tariff rate fixed by the Government has to be paid by the respective Village Panchayats to TWAD Board.

Convergence of fund from other Schemes

The District Water and Sanitation Mission is responsible for the convergence of available fund at the District level for the successful implementation of the Mission. The water supply

works proposed under 15th Union Finance Commission grant, 5th State Finance Commission grants at District Panchayat, Block Panchayat and Village Panchayat shall be approved in the Annual Action Plan (AAP) of JJM by the DWSM.

Works taken up under JJM

1. Single Village Scheme(SVS)

- a) Allotment order was issued for an amount of Rs.2,006.06 crore to provide 19,74,985 FHTCs in 15,860 habitations of 35 Districts.
- b) 9,60,536 FHTCs have been provided as on 31.03.2021 and an expenditure of Rs. 804.39 crore was incurred.
- c) Balance 11,19,728 FHTCs to be taken up as spill over with an amount of Rs 1,201.67 crore during 2021-22.

2. Multi Village Scheme (MVS)

10 New Multi Village schemes have been sanctioned during 2020-21 under JJM to provide 2,55,723 FHTCs covering 3,068 habitations in 8 Districts (Erode, Karur, Thanjavur, Tiruppathur,

Tirunelveli Tenkasi, Villupuram and Salem Districts) for a total amount of Rs.2,878.16 crore.

In Tamil Nadu, there are 1,26,89,045 rural households out of which at present, 83.92 lakh rural households are without Tap Connections and the same will be provided with Functional Household Tap Connections by March 2024. Rs.2,000 crore has been allocated for the year 2021-2022.

4.4 Member of Parliament Local Area Development Scheme (MPLADS)

In the year 1993, the Member of Parliament Local Area Development Scheme (MPLADS) was launched by the Government of India which provides infrastructure facilities and bridging the gaps existing in the infrastructure facilities in rural and urban areas. The annual allocation under MPLADS is Rs.5 crore per constituency.

In Tamil Nadu, Rural Development and Panchayat Raj Department is the nodal

Department for implementation of the scheme. The District Collectors accord Administrative Sanction for the works proposed by the MPs. The guidelines contain an illustrative list of works that can be taken and a 'negative list of works' which are not permitted under this scheme. Maintenance works of any type, like desilting of ponds, rivers, tanks, canals etc., are not permitted under MPLADS.

The Government of India (Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation) has decided not to operate MPLAD Scheme for two years i.e. during the financial years 2020-21 & 2021-22 and placed these funds at the disposal of the Ministry of Finance for strengthening its efforts in managing the challenges of COVID-19 in the country.

4.5. Saansad Adarsh Gram Yojana (SAGY)

Saansad Adarsh Gram Yojana (SAGY) was launched by Government of India on 11.10.2014.

The guidelines of Saansad Adarsh Gram Yojana (SAGY) have been made available in the web-site www.saanjhi.gov.in

Saansad Adharsh Gram Yojana aims at holistic development of people of all walks of life through convergence. The Village Panchayat is the basic unit for implementation of the scheme. Each Member of Parliament should identify one Village Panchayat with a population of 3000-5000 in plain areas and 1000-3000 in hilly/tribal and difficult areas. However, in Districts, where this unit size is not available, Village Panchayats approximating the desirable population size can be chosen. The Member of Parliament is vested with liberty to identify a suitable Village Panchayat for being developed as model Village Panchayat (Adarsh Gram), other than his/her village or that of his/her spouse. The Lok Sabha MP has to choose a Village Panchayat from within his / her constituency and Rajya Sabha MP has to choose a Village Panchayat from the rural area of a District of his / her choice

in the state from which he / she is elected. Nominated MPs may choose a Village Panchayat from the rural area of any District in the country. In case of urban constituencies, (where there are no Village Panchayats), the Member of Parliament will identify a Village Panchayat from a nearby rural constituency. The MP will identify one Village Panchayat to be taken up immediately, two others to be taken up a little later. Primarily, the goal is to develop 3 model Village Panchayats by March 2019, of which one would be achieved by 2016. Thereafter, 5 such model Village Panchayats (one per year) will be selected and developed by 2024.

The Government have constituted the State Level Empowered Committee under the Chairmanship of the Chief Secretary to Government with members nominated vide G.O.(Ms) No.23, Rural Development & Panchayat Raj (CGS.II) Department, date:13.2.2015 for monitoring this programme.

The development of Village Panchayats identified under SAGY is based on convergence and implementation of existing Government schemes (both Union and State) and programmes without allocating additional funds or starting new infrastructure or construction schemes.

4.6. Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana (PMGSY)

PMGSY I

The objective of PMGSY I was to provide all weather road connectivity to unconnected habitations of population more than 500. The core network of roads which provide single connectivity to habitations was identified and based on this, all unconnected habitations of population more than 500 was provided connectivity. The Upgradation of existing damaged rural roads was also carried out under this scheme.

In Tamil Nadu, 1,986 unconnected Habitations of population more than 500 were provided

connectivity through PMGSY I.

For Tamil Nadu, PMGSY I was sanctioned under XI phases from 2000-01 to 2018-19. Totally, 7,678 rural roads for a length of 16,296 Km and 98 bridges were taken up at a cost of Rs.4,586 crore.

PMGSY II

The Union Government introduced PMGSY II in 2013 for upgrading rural roads leading to Growth Centers and Rural Hubs. Tamil Nadu got sanctions for 860 roads to a length of 2,940 Km and 34 bridges at a cost of Rs.1,434 crore.

PMGSY III

The Union Government introduced PMGSY III to upgrade existing Through Routes and Major Rural Links that connect habitations to Gramin Agricultural Market (GraMs), High/Higher secondary Schools and Hospitals. Government of India has allocated an overall target of 7,375 Km length of roads to Tamil Nadu under PMGSY-III.

Tamil Nadu has so far got sanctions for 3198 km at a cost of Rs.1817 crore.

Funding

PMGSY was initially introduced with 100% funding of Union Government. However, the Union Government revised the funding pattern as 60% Union Government and 40% State Government from 2015.

Maintenance of PMGSY roads

The PMGSY guidelines mandate that 5 year routine maintenance of PMGSY roads are taken up along with construction by the same contractor. The funds for 5 years routine maintenance are to be provided by the State Government. The maintenance of PMGSY roads is being monitored through a dedicated portal of Union Government called eMARG (Electronic Maintenance of Rural Roads under PMGSY). In addition to this the State also takes up periodic renewal of PMGSY roads which have completed 5 years through other State schemes.

Alternate Technologies

The Union Government issued a detailed guideline for the improvement of PMGSY roads by using alternate technologies. These guidelines mandate that 10% of the proposals should be taken up using materials and technologies covered by IRC codes. This includes Soil Stabilization, Waste Plastic roads, Cold Mix technology, Fly Ash, Roller Compacted Cement Concrete Pavement, Cell Filled Concrete. Similarly, 5% of roads have to be proposed using IRC accredited patented technologies and majority of which are Commercial Chemical Stabilizers. These alternate technologies provide various benefits including reduction in the use of conventional construction materials there by reducing carbon foot print.

4.7. Swachh Bharat Mission (Gramin)

The Government of India launched the Swachh Bharat Mission (Gramin)-[SBM (G)] on 2ndOctober 2014, with a focus on behavioural change among the people and the efforts were

taken up to achieve Universal Sanitation Coverage by 2019. The SBM (G) has been extended with the Phase II of the programme, with the key objective to sustain the Open Defecation Free status by ensuring that 'No one is left behind' and to improve the levels of cleanliness in rural areas through Solid and Liquid Waste Management activities, making the villages ODF Plus.

4.7.1. Objective of the Scheme

The key objectives of the Phase II of SBM (G) includes:

1. ODF Sustainability - All households in a village, as well as all the institutions/public places, have access to Safe Sanitation facilities and that continued Behaviour Change Communication is ensured in the villages.
2. Solid Waste Management - Effective management of Solid Waste by households and institutions, including Source

segregation and composting of bio-degradable waste and managing the plastic waste by ensuring an adequate segregation and collection system.

3. Liquid Waste Management - Effective management of Liquid Waste by establishing Grey Water Management facilities like construction of drainage, individual and community soak pits, etc.
4. Visual Cleanliness – A visually clean village where all the households and public places are observed to have minimal litter and water stagnation, and that there is no accumulation of plastic waste in the form of a dump in the village.

4.7.2. Components of Swachh Bharat Mission (Gramin)

Individual Household Latrine (IHHL), Community Sanitary Complex and Solid and Liquid Waste Management are the important components of SBM (G). As per the SBM (G) Operational

Guidelines for Phase II of the program, except for the IHHL component of the Scheme, all the other components are implemented in convergence with 15th Finance Commission grant and Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme.

(a) Individual Household Latrines

The Mission aims to ensure that all rural families have access to safe toilets. A duly completed IHHL shall consist of a sanitary substructure, a super structure and water storage facility to ensure that proper hygiene is maintained. Identified eligible households are provided with an incentive amount of Rs. 12,000 for the construction of IHHL.

(b) Community Sanitary Complexes (CSC)

An ODF Plus Village is expected to have at least one Community Sanitary Complex which may cater the needs of floating population. The CSCs

have separate facilities for men and women and consist of an appropriate number of toilet seats, bathing cubicles, wash basins, etc. It is to be set up in a place in the village that is acceptable and accessible to all.

(c) Solid and Liquid Waste Management

SLWM is one of the key components of SBM (G) programme. The total assistance for SLWM projects under SBM (G) Phase II is worked out on the per capita basis, as per the guidelines. Also, the works are taken up in convergence with 15th Finance Commission Grant and Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme.

4.8. Shyama Prasad Mukherji Rurban Mission (SPMRM)

Shyama Prasad Mukherji Rurban Mission (SPMRM) was launched by Government of India aimed at developing cluster of villages with facilities perceived to be essentially urban in nature, thus creating of "Rurban Villages". The

objective of Shyama Prasad Mukherji Rurban Mission (SPMRM) is to stimulate local economic development, enhance basic services and create well planned Rurban clusters.

4.8.1. Criteria for Selection of Rurban Cluster

As per National Rurban Mission Guidelines, a 'Rurban Cluster' would be a cluster of geographically contiguous villages with the population of about 25,000 to 50,000 in plain area.

In respect of Tamil Nadu, the MoRD, Government of India has identified top 50 sub-districts based on the parameters such as decadal growth in rural population, decadal growth in non farm work force participation, presence of economic cluster, tourism and pilgrimage significance and proximity to transport corridors. Out of the top 50 sub-districts, identified by the Ministry, the State Government identified the non-Tribal cluster, based on the following norms.

Criteria	Weightage
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Decadal growth in rural population • Rise in land values • Decadal increase in non-farm work force participation • % of enrollment of girls in secondary schools 	80%
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • % of Households with bank accounts under Pradhan Mantri Jan Dhan Yojana (PMJDY) • Performance in Swachh Bharat Mission (Gramin) 	20%

The Government of India has allocated 11 non-tribal clusters to Tamil Nadu in 3 phases and sanctioned one additional cluster in April 2021. Totally 12 clusters have been sanctioned to Tamil Nadu. Government of India has extended the timeline of the Mission until 2023.

4.8.2. Funding Pattern

Government of India has provided Critical Gap Fund to the clusters to supplement the short fall in funding available through various Government schemes in achieving the outcomes desired for the cluster. For plain areas, the CGF

will be capped at 30% of the Project Capital expenditure or Rs.30 crore, whichever is less. The Rurban Mission is executed with a financial sharing pattern of 60:40 (Union and State Government).

The CGF and convergence funds are being utilized for the works under the components such as skill development training linked to economic activities, agro processing, health, education, sanitation, water supply, solid and liquid waste management, village street and drains, street light, Inter village road connectivity, public transport, LPG gas, digital literacy and citizen service centre in each cluster.

RurbanSoft MIS Portal was developed by Government of India for monitoring of the scheme. The details of Integrated Cluster Action Plan (ICAPs), Detailed Project Report (DPRs) and Monthly Progress Report (MPRs) are being entered in RurbanSoft. Payment to vendor/agencies are being made by using expenditure module protocol

through Public Financial Management System (PFMS) in RurbanSoft.

4.9. New National Bio-Gas and Organic Manure Management Programme (NNBOMP)

The New National Bio-Gas and Organic Manure Management Programme (NNBOMP) is a Union Government sponsored scheme, which aims at effective use of organic waste and converting it into renewable energy in rural areas.

The Government of India had defined the objectives of the scheme as follows:-

- i. to provide clean gaseous fuel mainly for cooking purposes and organic manure to rural and semi urban households through family type bio-gas plants
- ii. to mitigate drudgery of rural women, reduce pressure on forests and accentuate social benefits
- iii. to improve sanitation in villages by linking sanitary toilets with biogas plants

- iv. to provide bio digested slurry (liquid / semi-solid and dried) as an upgraded source of enrichment for manure to reduce and / or supplement use of chemical fertilizers by linking biogas digested slurry with enrichment units such as vermi-composting plants
- v. to meet 'lifeline energy' needs for cooking as envisaged in "Integrated Energy Policy" report of the Planning Commission.

This scheme is 100 % funded by the Union Government.

Table 3.1
Details of Subsidy components

S.No	Description	Subsidy amount for Family Type Bio-Gas Plants under NNBOMP (in Rupees)				
		1 Cubic Metre	2-6 Cubic Metre	8-10 Cubic Metre	15 Cubic Metre	20-25 Cubic Metre
1	General Category	7,500	12,000	16,000	20,000	25,000
2	SC/ST Category	10,000	13,000	18,000	21,000	28,000
3	Addl. subsidy for cattle dung based bio-gas plants if linked with sanitary toilets, only for individual household fixed - Rs.1600/-				-Nil -	-Nil -
4	Turn Key Job fee	Rs. 2,500 per plant				

Under this scheme, target is yet to be received from Government of India for the year 2021-22.

5. Establishment of Department of Rural Development & Panchayat Raj

5.1. Gazetted Establishment

Rural Development and Panchayat Raj Department is a vital Department in which there is a steep increase in the outlay of State & Union funds through which works relating to provision of basic amenities, creation of rural infrastructure, sanitation, housing, livelihood in rural areas and local governance. State and District level officer posts are created to plan, execute and monitor the works related to the above activities.

Table 5.1
Category wise Staff Strength
Government Employees – Gazetted
Establishment

Sl. No.	Name of the Post	Sanctioned Strength	Scale of Pay
1.	Additional Director of Rural Development	22	Rs.123400 – 216300 (Level 29)
2.	Joint Director	97	Rs.61900 – 196700 (Level 26)
3.	Assistant Director	438	Rs.56100 – 177500 (Level 22)

Sl. No.	Name of the Post	Sanctioned Strength	Scale of Pay
4.	Block Development Officer	1117	Rs.37700 – 119500 (Level 20)
	Total	1674	

- In the cadre of Additional Director, 5 officers working in other Departments on deputation.
- In the cadre of Joint Director, 5 officers working in other Departments on deputation.

5.2. Engineering Establishment

The technical aspects of works relating to construction and maintenance of rural infrastructure and basic amenities in rural areas are looked after by the Engineering wing consisting of Technical Officers.

Table. 5.2
Category Wise Technical Officers Strength

Sl. No.	Name of the Post	Sanctioned Strength	Scale of Pay
1.	Chief Engineer	2	Rs.125200-219800 (Level 31)
2.	Superintending Engineer	3	Rs.123100-215900 (Level 28)
3.	Executive Engineer	46	Rs.61900-196700 (Level 26)
4.	Assistant Executive Engineer	195	Rs.59300-187700 (Level 25)
5.	Assistant Engineer	944	Rs.56100-177500 (Level 22)
6.	Senior Draughting Officer	37	Rs.37700-119500 (Level 20)
7.	Junior Engineer	314	Rs.35900 – 113500 (Level 13)
8.	Overseer/JDO	2622	Rs.35400 – 112400 (Level- 11)
9.	Road Inspector	1151	Rs.19500-62000 (Level 8)
Total		5314	

- There are 46 Executive Engineers working in this Department and among them 8 Executive

Engineers are on deputation to other Departments.

- Out of 195 Assistant Executive Engineers working in this Department, 14 of them are on deputation to other Departments.
- There are 944 Assistant Engineers, 314 Junior Engineers, 37 Senior Draughting Officers, 2,622 Overseers / Junior Draughting Officers and 1,151 Road Inspectors working in this Department. Out of 944 Assistant Engineers working in this Department, 18 of them are on deputation to other Departments.

Deputation of Senior Officers to other Departments

The Senior Officers of this department in the cadre of Additional Director, Joint Director, Executive Engineer, Assistant Director and Assistant Executive Engineer have also been deputed to other Departments / Agencies such as Special Programme Implementation Department, State Development Policy Council, Animal

Husbandry, Dairying and Fisheries Department, Tamil Nadu Generation and Distribution Corporation Limited (TANGEDCO), Tamil Nadu Watershed Development Agency, Entrepreneurship Development Institute, Social Welfare and Noon Meals Programme Department, Tamil Nadu Adi-dravidar Housing & Development Corporation Limited (TAHDCO), Tamil Nadu Co-operative Milk Producers Federation Limited (Aavin), Chennai Metropolitan Development Agency (CMDA), State Industries Promotion Corporation of Tamil Nadu (SIPCOT) Directorate of Town Panchayat, National Rural Health Mission (NRHM), National Rural Infrastructure Development Agency (NRIDA), Tamil Nadu Coastal Sustainable Livelihoods Programme (TNCCLS), Hindu Religious & Charitable Endowments Board, Tamil Nadu Text Books and Educational Services Corporation, Tamil Nadu Cable TV Corporation, etc. The exposure to schemes and experience gained by the officers in

other departments helps them to improve their skills and knowledge in public service.

5.3. Non-Gazetted Establishment

All subjects relating to Basic Service Rules, Tamilnadu Ministerial Service Rules and Panchayat Development Subordinate Service Rules and other Service matters are being dealt in Non-Gazetted Establishment Unit. Along with that, the welfare of the employees of the Local Bodies i.e., Panchayat Unions and Village Panchayats are also taken care under this wing. The details of sanctioned strength of various categories of staff under Non-Gazetted Establishment and their present level of pay is tabulated below:

Table. 5.3
Details of the Employees under Non
Gazetted Establishment

Sl. No.	Designation of the Post	Sanctioned Strength	Level of Pay
Government Employees			
i)	Dy. Block Development Officer	3977	Rs.36900-135100
ii)	Assistant	5668	Rs.20600-75900
iii)	Junior Assistant	3194	Rs.19500-71900
iv)	Steno Typist	198	Rs.20600-75900

Sl. No.	Designation of the Post	Sanctioned Strength	Level of Pay
v)	Typist	1073	Rs.19500-71900
vi)	Driver	935	Rs.19500-71900
vii)	Record Clerk	152	Rs.15900-58500
viii)	Office Assistant	709	Rs.15700-58100
ix)	Night Watchman	134	Rs.15700-58100
x)	Masalji	14	Rs.15700-58100
Category of Local body Employees			
a) Panchayat Union Employees			
i)	Driver	776	Rs.19500-71900
ii)	Record Clerk	390	Rs.15900-58500
iii)	Office Assistant	1533	Rs.15700-58100
iv)	Night Watchman	380	Rs.15700-58100
v)	Masalji	9	Rs.15700-58100
b) Village Panchayat Employees			
i)	Panchayat Secretary	12525	Rs.15900-58500
ii)	Thooimai Paniyalargal	26404	Rs.4100-12500
iii)	OHT Operator	40419	Rs.4,000/-Consolidated Pay

5.4 Creation of posts for the New District & Creation of New Engineering Sub division with Posts in Nagapattinam District

The Nagapattinam District is bifurcated and Mayiladuthurai District is formed as a new district. The following posts have been sanctioned to the newly formed Mayiladuthurai District.

Table. 5.4**Details of the Posts created for the newly formed Mayiladuthurai District**

Sl. No.	Designation of the Post	Sanctioned Strength	Level of Pay
1	Joint Director	2	Rs.61900-228100
2	Executive Engineer	1	Rs.61900-196700
3	Assistant Executive Engineer	3	Rs.59300-187700
4	Assistant Director (Including Accounts Officer)	8	Rs.56100-205700
5	Block Development Officer	6	Rs.37700-138500
6	Assistant Engineer	4	Rs.56100-177500
7	Senior Draughting Officer	1	Rs.37700-138500
8	Dy. Block Development Officer	6	Rs.36900-135100
9	Junior Draughting Officer	4	Rs.35400-130400
10	Assistant	22	Rs.20600-75900
11	Junior Assistant	14	Rs.19500-71900
12	Steno Typist	4	Rs.20600-75900
13	Typist	7	Rs.19500-71900
14	Driver	9	Rs.19500-71900
15	Record Clerk	4	Rs.15900-58500
16	Office Assistant	13	Rs.15700-58100
17	Night Watchman	2	Rs.15700-58100
	Total	110	

The following posts have been sanctioned to the newly formed Engineering Subdivision at Vedaranyam in Nagapattinam District.

Table. 5.5

Details of the Posts created for the new Subdivision at Vedaranyam in Nagapattinam District

Sl. No.	Designation of the Post	Sanctioned Strength	Level of Pay
i)	Assistant Executive Engineer	1	Rs.59300-187700
ii)	Assistant Engineer	1	Rs.56100-177500
iii)	Junior Draughting Officer	1	Rs.35400-130400
vi)	Assistant	1	Rs.20600-75900
v)	Junior Assistant	1	Rs.19500-71900
vi)	Driver	1	Rs.19500-71900
vii)	Office Assistant	2	Rs.15700-58100
viii)	Night Watchman	1	Rs.15700-58100
	Total	9	

The creation of new posts will facilitate effective implementation of public welfare schemes in these Districts.

6. LIVELIHOOD PROMOTION ACTIVITIES

6. Livelihood Promotion Activities

The success of any economic growth and development is meaningful only if the growth is inclusive. This means that the benefit of growth should permeate and percolate to the bottom most rung of the society, i.e., the poor, vulnerable, differently abled, elders, members of tribal and other marginalised communities and so on. The sure and direct approach to achieve inclusive growth is through meaningful and sustainable livelihood activities to be taken up by the target group.

It is upon the Government to guide, facilitate and promote livelihood activities of the people who are in the base of the income pyramid. This mandate of the Government is handled in a big way by the livelihood support arms of the RD&PR department viz:

I. Tamil Nadu Corporation for Development of Women (TNCDW)

- i. Tamil Nadu State Rural Livelihood Mission (TNSRLM)
 - ii. Tamil Nadu Urban Livelihood Mission (TNULM)
 - iii. National Rural Economic Transformation Project (NRETP)
 - iv. Deen Dayal Upadhyaya Grameen Kaushalya Yojana (DDU-GKY)
- II. Tamil Nadu Rural Transformation Project (TNRTP)
- III. Tamil Nadu Coastal Sustainable Livelihoods Society (TNCCLS)

Developing 2-3 livelihood activities per poor family towards ensuring certain and regular income is a main objective of the livelihood projects. Expanding choices of the livelihood activities for the poor families is done through skilling, training support and entrepreneurship promotion in farm and non-farm sector. Ensuring stable and regular income and thereby lifting the poor households above poverty is the aim of livelihood promotion.

6.1. Tamil Nadu Corporation for Development of Women

The Tamil Nadu Corporation for Development of Women (TNCDW) was established in 1983 by the Government of Tamil Nadu with an aim to enhance the status of women through education, employment, economic development and self-reliance.

TNCDW spearheads the Self Help Group (SHG) movement in Tamil Nadu and is dedicated to the empowerment of women through series of training and capacity building activities, forming Community Based Organisations (CBOs) in the form of Panchayat Level Federations (PLFs), Block Level Federations (BLFs), etc., facilitating financial linkages, creating employment opportunities and enterprise promotion through various poverty alleviation programmes.

TNCDW is implementing the following four important projects:

i. Tamil Nadu State Rural Livelihoods Mission (TNSRLM):

It is a scheme for poverty reduction and livelihood promotion in rural areas. It is funded by Union and State in the ratio of 60:40 under Deendayal Antyodaya Yojana National Rural Livelihood Mission. This project covers all the blocks in the State.

ii. Tamil Nadu Urban Livelihoods Mission (TNULM):

It is a scheme for the upliftment of urban poor. It is funded by Union and State in the ratio of 60:40.

iii. National Rural Economic Transformation Project (NRETP):

This project provides additional pro-poor investments along with provision for skilled technical assistance towards accelerating and scaling up economic transformation. This project is implemented from 2019 covering 20 rural blocks in 5 districts and is funded by Union and State in the ratio of 60:40.

iv. Deen Dayal Upadhyaya Grameen Kaushalya Yojana (DDU-GKY) - Skill and Placement Programme:

It is a placement linked skill development scheme for the rural poor youth implemented by Union and State in the ratio of 60:40.

6.1.1. Institutional arrangements

TNCDW is registered as a Corporation with the Principal Secretary RD & PR as the Chairperson. The Managing Director steers the organization towards successful implementation of both rural and urban livelihood projects and is assisted by the Executive Director, Additional Directors as thematic specialists, Joint Directors and other officers at state level.

In the districts, the projects are implemented by a team of dedicated staff under the Chairmanship of the District Collector. The Project Directors assisted by thematic Assistant Project Officers are in charge of all field activities in the districts both in rural and urban areas.

The Block Management Unit at the block is headed by the Block Mission Manager who is assisted by Block Co-ordinators in rural areas.

Community Organizers (COs) at city and other ULB level monitor the implementation of the TNULM project in scheme area covering 3,000 poor families each.

6.2. Mahalir Thittam – From pilot project to a game changer in women empowerment

The Government of Tamil Nadu, under the able leadership of Dr. Kalaignar M. Karunanidhi, pioneered the Self Help Group movement in 1989 and kick started what would eventually become a strong and vibrant concept for economic transformation, social empowerment and better living standard for one and all especially for the women, the poor, vulnerable and all those who require special attention and intervention. The SHG movement was launched in Dharmapuri district on pilot basis with the assistance of International Fund for Agricultural Development

(IFAD) and was subsequently extended to Salem, Ramanathapuram, Villupuram and Madurai districts. On its resounding success, it was named as Mahalir Thittam (MaThi) and was implemented in all districts. TNCDW facilitates the SHGs in financial empowerment and social emancipation. MaThi has now become a powerful movement in the state and the SHG members are very active and play a vibrant role in all walks of life.

The novel concept launched by the far sighted vision of the Government way back in 1989 for the first time in India has later on become a shining example and a model to be emulated by several states across the whole nation for modeling livelihood programs.

TNCDW plays a pivotal role in organizing women into SHGs, providing capacity building, federating them and facilitating credit linkage for income generating activities.

SHGs are formed with women members, provided with systematic training, networked

through federations and provided bank linkages for taking up income generating activities for their socio-economic empowerment. In recent times special SHGs like Elderly SHGs, SHGs of differently abled etc., are also formed to cater to the vulnerable section of the society.

The projects/programmes related to poverty alleviation implemented presently by TNCDW are the improved versions of Mahalir Thittam.

6.2.1. Self Help Groups (SHGs) – Unity is strength

Unity helps to surmount challenges and accomplish goals. Going by this principle, a group of 12 to 20 poor women in the age group of 18 to 60 years residing in the same area are organised into a Self Help Group (SHG). The SHGs are mandated to conduct regular meetings, promote savings and practise internal lending among its members and inculcate the practice of collective and democratic decision making. To ensure the economic and social empowerment of women, the SHGs are trained to effectively follow the pancha

stras namely regular meetings, regular savings, regular internal lending, regular repayment and regular maintenance of books of accounts.

**Table 6.2.1
Details of Self Help Groups**

1	No. of SHGs	7.22 lakhs
	No. of SHG Members	106.68 lakhs
2	No. of Rural SHGs	4.80 lakhs
	No. of Members	70.97 lakhs
3	No. of Urban SHGs	2.42 lakhs
	No. of Members	35.71 lakhs
4	Total Savings of SHGs	Rs.8,921 crores
5	Revolving Fund (RF) @ the rate of Rs.15,000/- per SHG	
	No. of SHGs	6.33 lakhs
	RF Amount	Rs.664.09 crores
6	Community Investment Fund (CIF) @ the rate of Rs.50,000/- per SHG	
	No. of SHGs	1,01,211
	Amount	Rs.492.57 crores
7	Vulnerability Reduction Fund (VRF) @ rate of Rs.10,000 to Rs.25,000/- per SHG	
	No. of individuals	1,53,081
	Amount	Rs. 157.80 crores
8	Cumulative credit availed by SHGs	Rs.96,419 crores

9	Community Based Organisations – Rural		
	No. of Panchayat Level Federation (PLFs)		12,524
	No. of Block Level Federations		386
10	Community Based Organisations – Urban		
	No. of Area Level Federation		1,644
	No. of City Level Federation		300

6.3. Tamil Nadu State Rural Livelihood Mission (TNSRLM)

Tamil Nadu State Rural Livelihood Mission is implemented by the Government of Tamil Nadu from the year 2012-13. The objectives of TNSRLM are to build strong and vibrant institutional platforms for the poor in rural areas which enable them to increase their household income through livelihood enhancements and access to financial and other services. Under this scheme, the target group comprises of poor, very poor, vulnerable women. Also under this scheme special groups comprising of elders and differently abled of all genders are formed.

Implementation of TNSRLM in the current year 2021-22 will be at a cost of Rs.809.79 crores

and shall entail a host of activities across components. This shall benefit more than 12 lakh SHG members across the state covering more than 1 lakh SHGs.

6.3.1. Important features of TNSRLM

- Focus is on the very poor, poor, vulnerable and differently abled.
- Identification and mobilization of the left out poor into the SHG network.
- Establishing and strengthening community organisations for the development of rural poor.
- Social empowerment of the rural poor through capacity building.
- Facilitating SHGs to make quality products and expanding their marketing avenues.
- Providing financial assistance to SHGs for lending to their members for taking up economic activities.
- Employment linked skill training for rural youth.

- Convergence with the welfare measures of various Government departments to leverage their financial and non-financial services and utilizing them in an effective manner.
- Enabling the rural poor to access basic facilities and to train them in conserving the environment.

6.3.2. Area of operation

In Tamil Nadu, TNSRLM is implemented in 37 districts, except Chennai, covering all 388 rural blocks.

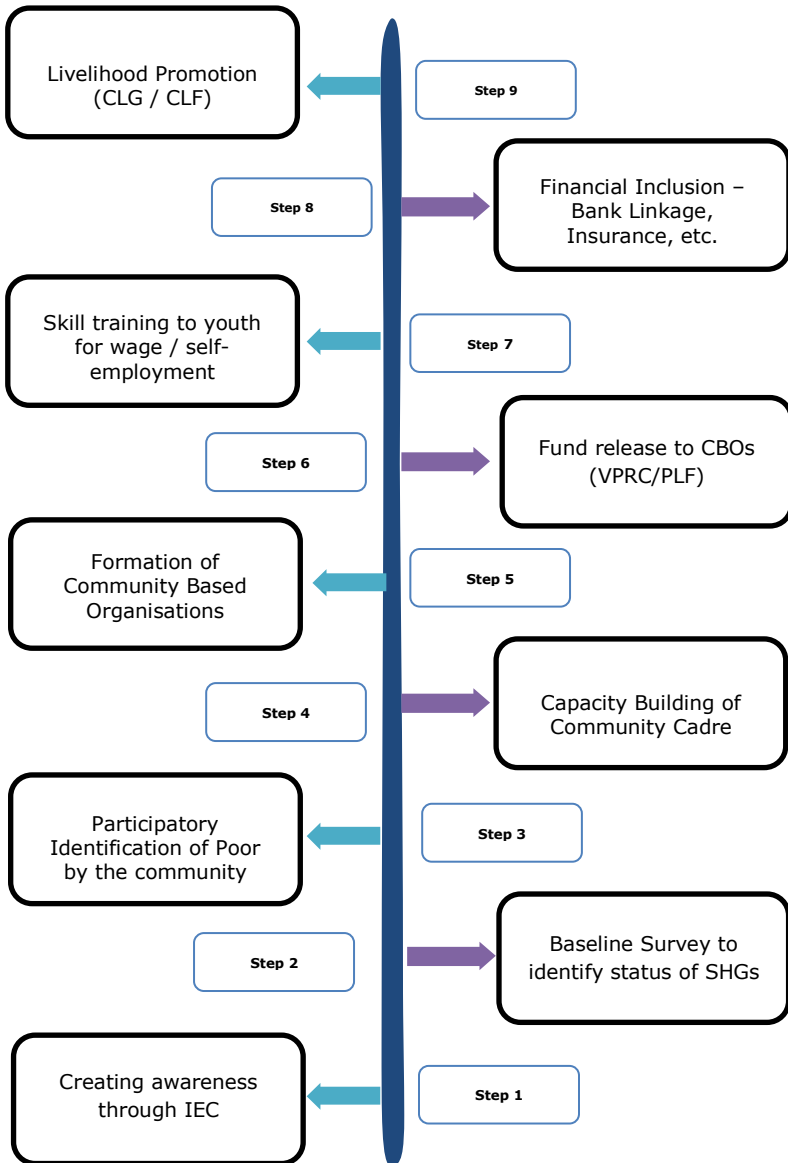
Table 6.3.2
Phase Wise Distribution of Blocks

Sl. No	Phase	Districts	Blocks	Village Panchayats
1	TNSRLM - Phase I	20	60	2250
2	TNSRLM - Phase II	32	110	3391
3	TNSRLM - Phase III	27	98	2472
4	TNSRLM- Phase IV (Erstwhile TNPVP)	32	120	4174
Sub Total		37	388	12,287
5	PTSLP(IFAD)	(12)	(60)	238
Total		37	388	12,525

6.3.3. High Level Empowered Committee

TNCDW has been designated by the State Government as the nodal agency and State Mission Management Unit (SMMU) to implement TNSRLM. Under the chairmanship of Honourable Minister for Rural Development, a High Level Empowered Committee (HLEC), has been constituted to provide policy level guidance and to review and monitor the implementation of TNSRLM activities. The Principal Secretary to Government, Rural Development and Panchayat Raj Department is the Mission Director and the Managing Director, TNCDW is the Chief Executive Officer of the Mission. The TNSRLM activities are being implemented through a dedicated staff structure at state, district and block levels.

6.3.4. Sequence of Activities



6.3.5. Project Activities

The project activities are implemented in all village panchayats as follows:

Awareness Campaign

TNSRLM creates awareness about the objectives and activities of the project among the public by conducting folk arts, street plays, rallies and through other tools such as wall paintings, posters, stickers, pamphlets and information boards.

Baseline Survey on the status of SHGs

Baseline survey is conducted by Community Resource Persons (CRPs) of TNSRLM in all the Village Panchayats to identify active, defunct and disintegrated SHGs. The details are used to revive the identified defunct SHGs through capacity building.

Participatory Identification of Poor (PIP)

TNSRLM conducted the PIP exercise from 2013 to 2016 in various phases to identify very poor, poor, differently abled, vulnerable, tribal and

other marginalized communities in all the village panchayats as a collective exercise in which the entire community was involved. In order to ensure that no poor family is left out, TNSRLM adopts the Participatory Rural Appraisal (PRA) tool and techniques such as transect walk, social mapping, wealth ranking and triangulation.

The PIP list is displayed in prominent places in all the habitations to receive claims and objections, if any, and the PIP list is approved by the Grama Sabha.

PIP process has been completed in three phases of TNSRLM and forms the basis for all further interventions under this project. PIP process has been already completed in 120 blocks of Tamil Nadu Pudhu Vazhvu Project (TNPVP) and taken up under TNSRLM in the fourth phase for implementation.

Formation of Village Poverty Reduction Committee (VPRC)

VPRC is a committee comprising of representatives of target people such as very poor,

poor, differently abled, vulnerable and tribal people. As a committee having 11 to 19 members, it helps to identify the target poor, provide individual loans to redeem them from poverty and to reduce their vulnerabilities.

So far, 12,734 VPRCs (including 472 tribal VPRCs) have been formed in the project area covering 388 blocks.

Formation of Social Audit Committee (SAC)

SAC has been constituted in all the Village Panchayats where VPRCs have been formed. The SAC is a monitoring committee consisting of 5 to 7 members constituted in the VPRC areas to monitor the activities of VPRC & PLFs and submit its report to the grama sabha.

Formation of new Self Help Groups (SHGs)

The left-out poor are identified by the PIP process in which members of very poor & poor are targeted and are mobilized into SHGs.

Training is imparted to animators & representatives and members of SHGs on

functioning of groups, following the pancha sutras namely regular meetings, regular savings, regular internal lending, regular repayment and regular maintenance of books of accounts. For the year 2021-22 the target of 12000 SHGs formation has been fixed.

The SHGs are provided with financial support such as Revolving Fund (RF), Community Investment Fund (CIF) and Vulnerability Reduction Fund (VRF) after grading and assessment.

Panchayat Level Federation (PLF)

All the SHG members at the village level are federated into Panchayat Level Federation. In order to accord legal status to the PLFs and facilitate them to access bank credit, Government have ordered to register all PLFs under Tamil Nadu Societies Registration Act, 1975. However, G.O.Ms.No.111 Commercial Taxes and Registration (M1) Department, dated 17.11.2008 has exempted the PLFs from the purview of section 25 and 42 of Tamil Nadu Societies Registration Act

1975 to provide an institutional framework for PLFs to take up income generating activities and benefit from them.

PLF is the most important link between the project and the village community.

Roles & Responsibilities of PLFs:

- To mobilize all eligible women identified in the PIP process into Self Help Groups.
- To provide financial intervention to SHGs
- To disseminate information
- Support SHGs in maintaining accounts, conducting audit and arranging for grading and credit rating, financial intermediary to facilitate low cost loans to SHGs by directly borrowing from Banks
- Collaborating with various Government departments to take up activities like social issues, health, nutrition and gender issues related to women development and empowerment.

Sub-Committees

The sub committees of PLF help in discharging various responsibilities for the betterment of its members and the community. There are 4 subcommittees for the following purposes.

- SHG formation and strengthening
- Credit linkage and monitoring
- Livelihood Promotion
- Addressing social issues

12,524 PLFs have been formed in all 388 blocks. (except Palamoor panchayat from Thiruvattar block, Kanniyakumari district)

Table 6.3
Details of PLFs

Sl. No.	Projects	Blocks	Village Pts	PLFs Formed
1	TNSRLM	388	12,287	12,286
2	PTSLP(IFAD)	-	238	238
Total		388	12,525	12,524

Block Level Federations (BLFs)

Block Level Federations have been formed and registered in 386 blocks (except Eriyur and Kadathur block from Dharmapuri district) primarily from the representatives of the PLFs and VPRCs from all panchayats in that block.

The functions of BLFs are;

- a) enhancing the capacity of the SHGs in accessing bank credit linkages.
- b) ensuring the repayment of loans.
- c) identifying viable and sustainable income generating activities for the community.
- d) ensuring social inclusion and to address social issues including gender, rights and entitlements, FNHW etc.
- e) also acts as block level training centre to conduct all capacity building training using the services of Community Resource Persons (CRPs).

Financial Support to SHGs

a. Revolving Fund to SHGs

Revolving fund is provided to all SHGs, on completion of 3 months from the date of formation and after grading. An amount of Rs.15,000 is given to the SHGs to supplement their internal savings, augment their corpus and to enable members to avail internal loans.

b. Community Investment Fund (CIF)

Community Investment Fund is a project fund given to SHGs as a loan for their economic activities. PLF is the custodian of CIF amount. CIF is released to SHGs through PLF, as a loan to undertake economic activities, ranging from Rs.50,000/- to Rs.1,10,000 per SHG at 9% interest per annum. This amount is given to PLFs in one or more doses based on their livelihood activities so as to cover at least 50% of SHGs. PLF will ensure 100% repayment, utilization and rotation of CIF.

c. Vulnerability Reduction Fund (VRF)

The Vulnerability Reduction Fund is provided to differently abled and vulnerable individuals identified through PIP process. Individual assistance of Rs.10,000/- to Rs.25,000/- is provided for consumption purpose or taking up production activities. The loan amount is used to address issues such as food security, unexpected illness or hospitalization expenses, rehabilitation expenses following natural calamities etc., and livelihood activities. The amount is released to individuals through VPRCs.

6.3.6. Capacity Building

Training of TNSRLM machinery

Tamil Nadu State Rural Livelihood Mission, as a mandate ensures intensive training on various components to its project staff.

- Induction training - I (Institution Building)
- Induction training - II

- Thematic trainings given to staff to enable them understand the project principles and concepts.

Capacity Building of Community Based Organizations (CBOs)

Community based organizations are the bedrock entities for the successful implementation of the TNSRLM project. Governance and financial management are the two focus areas in training CBOs. These pro-poor organizations such as SHGs, PLFs, VPRCs, BLFs, MaKaMai (Makkal Kattral Maiyam) etc., are regularly provided with necessary training to ensure best services to their members.

- Animator & representative training members training to newly formed SHGs
- SHG Basic training to newly formed Elderly SHG members.
- Training on governance and financial management to the office bearers of PLFs.

- Executive committee members training to PLF Members.
- Community Operation Manual (COM) training to VPRC members.
- Training to sub-committee members of PLFs and SAC.
- Training to members and office bearers of BLFs.

Master Trainers & Community Resource Persons

Social capital is one of the biggest assets for any community development project. TNSRLM creates a pool of resource persons on various project themes in order to ensure community driven development. These resource persons are identified through stringent empanelment procedures. The best performing resource persons are selected and trained as master trainers. These master trainers train the other Resource Persons on various themes and in turn these resource persons train the community.

By creating a pool of such trainers, TNSRLM ensures that the project based training reach all the beneficiaries through them. The master trainers and resource persons will conduct training at State, Districts and Block levels in their domain of specialisation.

The community cadres developed under TNSRLM are as follows:

- **Community SHG Trainers (CSTs)** –CSTs are basically SHG members and they are identified from the active and experienced members of the vibrant rural SHGs. They are provided necessary training and capacity buildings to monitor the SHGs and assist them. They also continuously monitor the functional efficacy of SHGs and ensure that the pancha sutra principles are followed. Each CST monitors 10 to 15 SHGs at the village level.
- **Community Differently- abled Facilitators (CDFs)** – CDFs are the para-professionals selected by VPRC. They are trained and

deployed for community based rehabilitation management. They mainly identify the needs of differently-abled persons, arrange necessary institution based rehabilitation training for them and link them with various Government schemes to ensure their coverage through convergence.

- **Community Resource Persons – Jobs (CRP-Jobs)**–TNSRLM acts as a pioneer in providing youth skill training and implements various training programme to the youth. CRP-Jobs are deployed in order to mobilize youth from villages and to monitor their progress. These CRP-Jobs maintain the database of youth at the village level and enable skilling for wage employment in the desired trades.

Activities under Capacity Building 2021-22

- 5,234 new SHGs have been given SHG Animator & Representative (A&R) training and SHG members training in 2,617 batches (30 members in each batch)

- 2,820 members of new elderly SHGs have been given basic member training.

6.3.7. Financial Inclusion and Micro Credit Bank linkage to SHGs

SHG bank linkage programme is an intervention which ensures the "*Right to credit*" for the poor by enabling access to formal banking and financial services. Right to credit has to be ensured by providing ensuring not just *access*, but also *adequate* and *timely* credit at *affordable* interest rates. SHG-BLP has brought innumerable households out of debt trap and enabled subsequent access to finance for commencing income generating activities towards diversifying and augmenting their family income thereby enabling a better quality of life and a way out of the vicious cycle of poverty.

SHG-BLP enables women to avail loans at lower rate of interest and build a strong relationship with bankers for up-scaling their economic activities by availing higher quantum of loans whenever

required. Timely and adequate credit delivery at a reasonable rate of interest through SHG bank linkage programme and the provision of interest subvention has enabled economic empowerment of women in the state.

The endeavour of TNCDW is that the SHG members should utilise maximum amount of the loan received to undertake income generating activities for augmenting their house-hold income.

Signing of MoUs with Banks

In order to ensure more credit from banks continuously, at lower rate of interest with higher quantum of loans to SHGs, Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) is being signed with banks.

So far, 6 MoUs are signed with the following banks viz.

Table 6.4

S.No	Name of the Bank
1	IDBI Bank
2	ICICI Bank
3	Bank of Baroda
4	State Bank of India
5	UCO Bank
6	Tamil Nadu Grama Bank

The MoU covers the following;

- Sanctioning of adequate loan without delay with increased quantum of loans for repeat linkages at lower rate of interest, as per RBI guidelines.
- Engagement of SHG members trained under Indian Institute of Banking and Finance (IIBF), Pune as Business Correspondent agent (BC-Sakhi) either directly by the bank or through the banks' corporate banking correspondent.
- Engaging SHG members as Business Facilitators (BF) for sourcing of banking

business for banks and also as Debt Recovery Agents (DRA) for recovery of NPA loans.

In the current year, steps have been taken to sign MoUs with Indian Overseas bank and Indian Bank.

RBI guidelines for SHG Loan amount

The SHGs can avail either Term Loan (TL) or Cash Credit Limit (CCL) loan or both based on need.

Term Loan

In case of Term loan, banks are advised to sanction loan amount in doses as mentioned below:

- First dose: 6 times of existing corpus or minimum of Rs.1 lakh, whichever is higher.
- Second dose: 8 times of existing corpus or minimum of Rs.2 lakhs, whichever is higher.
- Third dose: Minimum of Rs.6 lakhs based on the micro credit plan prepared by the SHGs and appraised by the federations /

support agency and the previous credit history.

- Fourth dose onwards: Above Rs.6 lakhs, based on micro credit plan prepared by the SHGs and appraised by the federations / support agency and the previous credit history.

Banks are advised to take necessary measures to ensure that eligible SHGs are provided with repeat loans.

Cash Credit Limit (CCL): In case of CCL, banks are advised to sanction minimum loan of Rs.6 lakhs to each eligible SHG for a period of 3 years with a yearly Drawing Power (DP). The drawing power may be enhanced annually based on the repayment performance of the SHG.

Community Based Repayment Mechanism (CBRM)

Community based repayment mechanism is a system to enable the community to participate in the banking process and to help both SHGs and

banks for availing adequate loan by SHGs, effective monitoring and recovery of Non-Performing Assets (NPA), if any CBRM is being formed in all the SHG lending bank branches. The CBRM meeting is held on monthly basis and issues related to SHG bank linkage will be discussed and sorted out. CBRM is formed in 7,019 branches.

Interest Subvention to SHGs

In order to help the poor SHG women to come out of poverty as envisaged in the financial inclusion committee report, National Rural Livelihoods Mission (NRLM), GoI has introduced interest subvention scheme to women SHGs who have availed loans up to Rs.3 lakhs.

Interest subvention scheme is introduced in 2 ways.

1. Category- 1:

Interest subvention scheme to SHGs is directly implemented by the GoI in 250 districts in the country of which 9 districts namely are from Tamil Nadu Dharmapuri, Vellore, Villupuram,

Thiruvannamalai, Cuddalore, Nagapattinam, Thanjavur, Thrichirapalli and Dindigul. In the category - 1 Districts, Banks have to lend to women SHGs @ 7% up to an aggregate loan amount of Rs.3 lakhs. The SHGs will also get additional interest subvention of 3% on prompt repayment, reducing the effective rate of interest to 4%. Banks have to claim the sub-vented amount from Union Government through the nodal bank.

The banks will charge interest at normal lending rate the loan amount exceeding Rs.3.00 lakhs.

Category- 2:

In the remaining 28 districts, the scheme is being implemented by the State Government through TNSRLM in the ratio 60:40. The SHGs with TNSRLM are eligible for interest subvention to the extent of difference between the normal bank lending rate of each bank and 7% with a maximum of 5.5% for the loan up to Rs.3 lakhs

subject to prompt repayment. The net interest amount payable by the SHGs is 7% for the loan amount up to Rs.3 lakhs. The SHGs have to pay normal lending rate for loan amount exceeding Rs.3 lakhs.

The interest subvention is calculated on quarterly basis on the loan outstanding amount for the SHGs who have repaid the monthly instalments without default. The SHGs will not get interest subvention during the defaulted period even though they repay subsequently.

A recent achievement is that, all the District Central Cooperative Banks (DCCBs including PACCS) are on boarded in the NRLM SHG bank linkage portal. The share of loan granted by DCCB & PACCS is 10% out of total loans granted in the State. Arrangements have been made for release of interest subvention to the SHGs with DCCB & PACCS.

In the current year (2021-22) it is estimated that a sum of Rs.40.00 crores will be released under interest subvention.

Bulk Loan to Panchayat Level Federations

As SHGs are not adequately financed by banks and to avoid the SHGs falling prey to private money lenders or other institutions PLF bulk loan scheme is introduced.

PLFs obtain bulk loan from the banks ranging from Rs.10 lakhs to Rs.1.50 crores to ensure adequate credit flow to SHGs with them. During 2021-22, Rs.23.89 crores has been provided as bulk loan so far.

Credit Guarantee Fund for Micro Units (CGFMU)

The Department of Financial Services, Ministry of Finance has notified that the loans granted to the SHGs from Rs.10.00 to Rs.20.00 lakhs will be covered under the Credit Guarantee Fund for Micro Units (CGFMU) in case of default.

The salient features of the scheme are:

- To encourage the matured SHGs, to avail higher quantum of credit from banks from the present maximum limit of Rs.10 lakhs under SHG BLP.
- The quantum of loan shall be more than Rs.10 lakhs and up to Rs.20 lakhs.
- To scale up the SHG activities from small economic activities to enterprise activities.
- To cover defaults in repayment, Credit Guarantee Fund for Micro Credit Units (CGFMU) for SHG is introduced.

6.3.8. Livelihoods Promotion under TNSRLM

TNSRLM recognizes that the poor need to have multiple livelihood activities. One of the key interventions of TNSRLM is to enhance and expand the existing livelihood activities of the poor. More than 70% of the poor are dependent on agriculture either as cultivators or as agriculture labour. Besides, livestock rearing is also a key livelihood activity of the poor.

Key objectives of farm based livelihood promotion activities are.

- Every poor household is supported with at least 2 farm sector livelihoods
- Assured annual incremental income of more than Rs.50,000 per family per year after 2 years of intervention
- Year-long food & nutritional security for the households
- Income streams throughout the year
- Separate community resource persons are provided for agriculture, forestry and livestock for handholding SHG members to become entrepreneurs.

TNSRLM has been working strongly towards achieving the above objectives.

State level credit guarantee scheme to enable more MSMEs, particularly micro enterprises to access credit is under way. A digital data driven credit rating system at the block level will be established.

The Government will handhold MSMEs which want to raise equity capital from stock exchanges and the cost of listing, up to Rs.30 lakhs will be borne by the Government.

The cluster development scheme for textiles will be effectively implemented.

In the year 2021-22, it is proposed to take livelihood promotion activities covering 4,20,000 women farmers in 49 blocks.

Strategies for Implementation of Livelihood activities

Under farm livelihoods interventions, the core focus would be to promote sustainable agriculture, where the inputs are localized, risks are mitigated, productivity is enhanced, and food-nutritional security is ensured and thereby, net income of family is increased. In sustainable agriculture, TNSRLM is focusing on agro-ecology by promoting low cost sustainable practices such as organic farming, Integrated Farming Models (IFM), inclusion of cultural practices, climate

resilient practices, soil health improvement / management, in-situ water conservation, diversified poly-crop model and promoting traditional varieties of seeds.

TNSRLM has recognized the importance of livestock, especially small ruminants and poultry in the livelihood of the poorest. TNSRLM would be engaged in aligning livestock activity as an integral part of farm sector livelihood by promoting Integrated Farming Models.

The following are some of the interventions at household level and village level:

a. Household Level

- Nutri garden promotion for household's nutritional security and regular income.
- Preparation and usage of panchakavya, jeevamrutham, five leaves extract for organic cultivation.

b. Village Panchayat Level

- Integrated Farming Models
- Organic Cluster

- Producer Group

The entire livelihood promotion will be executed by promoting Community Resource Persons (CRP) will provide support in agriculture and livestock activities in every village.

Livelihood interventions in the project blocks should be started in a systematic manner with the following guiding principles:

- Identify small and marginal farmers (SHG members by giving priority to vulnerable, deprived and women headed households).
- Mobilize them into institutions such as Producer's Groups and Farmer Producer Organizations.
- Focus on capacity building and handholding support.
- Build social capital – create a cadre of Community Resource Person (CRPs) for scaling up in new areas.

- Address the needs of entire livelihood basket and integrate agriculture and livestock.

Primary Producer Groups

To overcome the difficulties faced by individual farmers and to improve their bargaining power, collective approach is being promoted by TNSRLM by forming 'Producer Groups'. A group women farmers involved in agriculture and livestock having marketable surplus will be aggregated to form such Producer Group.

Based on the primary crop cultivated by the Producer Group, capacity building to the members will be provided for sustainable farming activities viz., micro irrigation, organic farming, integrated farming system, integrated plant protection management, integrated nutrient management and marketing. Training and necessary demonstration will also be converged with Departments of Agriculture and Animal Husbandry.

So far, 4,700 Farmer Producer Groups have been formed with 1,01,019 women farmers. The members of the producer groups will be motivated to take up collective activities such as collective procurement of raw materials other inputs and aggregation of their produce for marketing and value addition.

In 2021-22, it is proposed to extend farm activity in 1,663 Village Panchayats to cover 4.20 lakh beneficiaries and additionally it is proposed to form 5,700 Producer Groups from 6,535 Village Panchayats of 194 blocks. Each producer group will be provided with a revolving fund of Rs.2 lakhs as subsidy towards working capital and infrastructure for collective procurement of raw material, aggregation and marketing.

Farmer Producer Organizations

In order to compete with the market situation and to strengthen the value chain services, producer members are aligned together to form a producer enterprise. The producer

enterprises may be registered under the Companies Act or Cooperatives Act or any other appropriate Act. They are expected to take up higher order activities such as processing and value addition post-harvest management, market linkages and extending inputs and services to its member constituents apart from accessing financial institutions for capital requirements. Over a period of time, it is proposed to establish 60 Farmer Producer Organizations (FPO) by TNSRLM.

Promotion of Organic Village Cluster

TNSRLM has been strengthening livelihoods by interventions in agro-ecological practices, improved livestock rearing, and sustainable Non-Timber Forest Produce (NTFP) collection and value addition. Organic farming is the next logical progression as it moves towards organic certification and marketing to enable farmers to get better market access.

The activities to be taken up under organic village cluster are

- Identification of organic village clusters (selection of village clusters)
- Identification of interested mahila kisans
- Initiating organic certification process by tie – up with Tamil Nadu Organic Certification Department (TNOCD)
- Training and capacity building of project staff, CRPs and mahila kisans.

During the year 2021-22, 50 organic clusters covering 5,000 women farmers are proposed to be formed.

Nutri Garden

As a special initiative to address the food and nutrition needs and for the promotion of health and well-being among the rural people nutri garden is being promoted under TNSRLM. Under the scheme awareness is created about food and nutrition, training is given to set up nutri gardens and required seeds and seedlings are distributed to the selected SHG members. The beneficiaries have to establish nutri garden in their backyards

or roof tops or any other place available to them. Papaya, moringa, lemon, curry leaf, manathakkali keerai, mango, guava, banana are some of the vegetables and fruits promoted under nutri gardens.

For the year 2021-22, it is proposed to extend the scheme to additional 2 lakhs SHG members.

Integrated Farming Clusters

To help women farmers to get stable income from agricultural activities, they are motivated to adopt integrated farming system by taking up allied animal husbandry activities along with agricultural activities. One integrated farming system will be set up under each Integrated Farming Cluster (IFC) scheme. For this year 2021-22, 185 integrated farming clusters will be formed @ Rs.20 lakhs per IFC under NRLM AAP.

Each IFC will consist of various sub components such as custom hiring centre, organic inputs shop, integrated farming system comprising

of dairy unit, goat rearing unit, poultry unit, fishery unit, etc. and farm lab to analyse plant and soil samples for pesticide residues and nutrient contents of plant and soil sample respectively.

Non-Farm enterprises promotion through NRLM

Non-Farm enterprises promotion is taken up through NRETP and NRLM in selected blocks. Individual and group enterprises are proposed to be promoted through One Stop Facility (OSF) and Block Business Resource Centre (BBRC) which comprises of group of CRP-EPs and other professionals capable of supporting interested SHG member entrepreneurs. OSF & BBRC will help entrepreneurs to identify possible enterprises, preparation of business plan, accessing community enterprises fund or bank loan etc.

To develop women led 150 enterprises in manufacturing and service sectors into formal enterprises an agency will be selected. Centre for Entrepreneurship Development and Incubation (CEDI) is an independent company promoted by

National Institute of Technology (NIT), Trichy. It has been selected as incubator for guiding the 150 selected enterprises all over the state for three years. The outcome of engaging the incubator is to increase the income level of each enterprise to 15% in 3 years from the base year.

During the year 2021-22, it is proposed to develop 8,250 non-farm enterprises through OSF & BBRC, 150 macro enterprises through incubator and 144 mini clusters to be developed in 36 districts (garments mini cluster and other mini clusters).

Start-Up Village Entrepreneurship Programme (SVEP)

Start-Up Village Entrepreneurship
Programme (SVEP) under National Rural
Livelihoods Mission, Ministry of Rural
Development, Union Government is for the
promotion of non-farm livelihoods.

The 1st phase of the scheme is implemented in 2 blocks namely Thiruporur (Chengalpattu

district), Ulundurpet (Kallakurichi district), with a budget outlay of Rs.10.18 crores to assist 3,096 micro enterprises. The 2nd phase of the scheme covers 2 additional blocks namely Thirumangalam (Madurai district) and Rasipuram (Namakkal district). Detailed Project Report (DPR) is under preparation for both projects.

Enterprises in manufacturing, trading and service sectors that have the potential to be profitable and generate employment in villages will be identified by CRP-EPs. Based on the interest and basic knowledge on the selected enterprise by the SHGs / SHG member, support for business plan preparation would be rendered by the CRP-EPs. TNSRLM will also provide mentoring and handholding support for the beneficiaries.

On approval of the business plan, the financial support will be provided to SHG member entrepreneurs through Community Investment Fund (CIF), Community Enterprise Fund (CEF) and Mudra Loan.

2,788 enterprises have been formulated and 1,035 entrepreneurs have received credit support from either community enterprise fund or mudra loan in the 1st phase SVEP blocks of Tirupporur (Chengalpattu district) and Ulundurpet (Kallakurichi district).

Marketing Support to SHG products

a. Exhibitions

TNSRLM supports SHGs for marketing their products through exhibitions, bazaars and through marketing complexes. These exhibitions create avenues for improving marketability of SHG products and marketing skills of SHG members.

TNCDW organizes 3 state level exhibitions every year on the eve of pongal, chithirai and navarathiri festivals under the banner **“Suya Uthavi Kulu Virpanai Vizha”** to popularize and promote the sales of SHG products like handicrafts, artificial jewellery, jute products, leather goods, millet products etc.,

In addition, district level exhibitions are also held during important local festivals and other occasions.

SARAS Fair

Sale of Articles of Rural Artisans Society (SARAS) exhibitions are a regular annual national-level event and are able to elicit wide participation of Self Help Groups from all over the country. The participants bring an impressive range of rural products.

b. Strengthening of weak (District Supply and Marketing Society)

The proposal aims to take effective measures to support economically weaker District Supply and Marketing Societies to enhance the income and assist them to maintain the society.

About 4,300 PGs were formed under NRLM and about 4,000 CLGs are functioning which were developed during the erstwhile PVP project. With this in view and in the present circumstance of forming more and more producer groups under

NRLM AAP and NRETP AAP it is proposed to support the DSMS with a gap funding of Rs.5.00 lakhs to select DSMS for establishing commodity market by FPOs.

Under AAP 2021-22 Rs.50 lakhs is earmarked for strengthening of weak DSMS.

While exploring the opportunities, where the volume of commodity is more in farm sector than the non-farm there is an urgent need to address the business prospects in the marketing of the agricultural commodities. Hence the commodity marketing will gain importance in the rural areas.

The DSMS will use the fund for commodity market and earn a minimum of 20% every year by multiple rotations. The interest earned is to be utilized for administrative cost of DSMS. DSMS in these districts are also to explore other linkages for market and earn their own income by suitable business model.

c. Mathi Kiosk

Mathi Kiosk is an exclusive sales outlet to promote the sale of SHG products. 137 kiosks have so far been established in prominent tourist locations, bus stands, temples, Government offices and other institutions across the state. Products like herbal products, handicrafts, stylish jute products, artificial jewellery, minor millets and handmade toys etc., are sold through the kiosks.

During the year 2021-22, it is proposed to establish another 500 kiosks at a cost of Rs.350 lakhs for the enhancement of access of SHGs products in the rural and urban areas like Panchayat and Town Panchayat office premises, bus stands, temples and tourist places.

d. Establish Incubation Centre for product promotion and branding

There are nearly 4,000 SHGs involved in manufacturing, trade and service activity.

Among these, 20 products per district are identified and selected based on the uniqueness

and demand base. These will be supported by authorised incubation centre at state level.

During the year 2021-22, it is proposed to establish reputed state level incubation centre at the cost of Rs.50 lakhs.

The incubation centre will have facilities for integration of the SHG products, packaging and branding for expansion of the marketing the SHG products.

e. Training to SHGs for Marketing Promotion

SHGs are producing a number of products, both traditional and modern like terracotta, handloom, jute and garments. In this regard it is proposed to conduct training to upgrade the products quality and productivity by using latest technologies and machineries. It is proposed to train 1,000 producers from Self Help Group on technology intervention by the technical support agencies / incubator for cluster development.

f. Exposure visit to other state for knowledge sharing and learning

To promote the marketing of SHGs products TNCDW will arrange exposure visits to other states for knowledge sharing and learning.

6.3.9. Convergence - Social Inclusion and Social Development

TNSRLM integrates activities of various Social Inclusion and Social Development (SI&SD) related interventions. Special efforts are being taken to identify and mobilize vulnerable and marginalized households, particularly those belonging to scheduled castes, scheduled tribes, minorities, differently abled, women headed households, landless, migrant labour & vulnerable tribal group households located in isolated and remote villages in hilly terrains.

a. Special convergence for Differently Abled & Elderly

Social inclusion strategies and interventions for extending community-based support to differently abled and vulnerable persons will be

carried out in 5 districts covering 1,020 village panchayats of 24 blocks with a budget outlay of Rs.8.30 crores under TNSRLM and 5 districts covering 80 village panchayats of 5 blocks with a budget outlay of Rs.99.30 lakhs under NRETP for the year 2021-22

Skilled persons by name of Community Differently abled Facilitators (CDFs). will be engaged under a technically qualified agency BDMRFA (Block Disability Mitigation and Rehabilitation Facilitating Agency) for each block so as to effectively address the needs of the differently abled and vulnerable.

As part of this programme, identification of persons with disability, their entitlements and rehabilitation wherever applicable will be done as Special Self Help Groups for the PwDs, Elders and other vulnerable persons have has been formed and their requirements will be addressed through this strategy.

b. Community Based Mental Health Programme – Manam Inithu

World Health Organization (WHO), defined mental health as a state of well-being in which the individual realizes his or her own abilities, can cope with the normal stresses of life, can work productively and fruitfully, and is able to make a contribution to his or her community. Based on this, TNSLRLM is implementing the Manam Inithu programme for mental health and well being

The objective of this programme is to develop community level mental health counsellors in the proposed village panchayats to provide counselling, assisting and mentoring community members for the well-being of their family members in convergence with the health department, IMH (Institute of Mental Health), NGOs etc.

To facilitate the technical support for implementation of the Manam inithu programme, a knowledge partner namely Schizophrenia Research Foundation (SCARF) Chennai has been engaged.

An amount of Rs.352.55 lakhs is earmarked during 2021-22 to carry out the following activities:

- Community Resource Person's as community mental health counsellors / Bare Foot Counsellors (BFCs) in village panchayats are developed.
- Conducting community camps and House hold survey to identify the mentally affected persons and referral services.
- Remuneration for the services rendered by community mental health counsellor.
- Orientation on positive mental health practices to PRIs, VPRCs, SHGs and PLFs.

The program is proposed to be implemented in 15 districts covering 17 Blocks and 594 village Panchayats.

Follow up activities

On completion of the above process, the trained CRPs will undertake follow up activities like family counselling, coping support, medical follow-up and community peer support. The CBOs shall

act as community institution for first level approachable institution for mentoring, referrals etc.

c. Food, Nutrition, Health & WASH (FNHW)

Good nutrition is fundamental for a productive life. TNSRLM gives top priority to Food, Nutrition, Health, Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (FNHW). It is proposed to support the empowerment of CBOs by integrating community based FNHW convergence interventions. FNHW is converged with Health, ICDS and Education Departments as a collective initiative to find progressive solution and empowering the CBO in the Project area.

The programme will be demonstrated besides creation of awareness to the SHGs in the targeted Blocks. A Block Nutrition Centre (BNC) will be created through trained CRPs, by which reduction in the proportion of women and children affected by anemia, stunting, wasting and underweight shall be addressed.

The proposed interventions will be implemented 10 blocks across 10 districts under TNSRLM covering 166 village panchayats; and in 3 blocks across 3 districts under NRETP covering 90 village panchayats at an estimated cost of Rs.346.82 lakhs.

d. Gender Interventions

The Gender interventions are implemented and integrated with the TNSRLM activities from the year 2020-21 onwards. During these days of increasing economic growth, there is a need to get away with gender biased treatments persisting in the society. This component intervenes in matters of child marriage, domestic violence and sexual abuse to safeguard women and children, keeping social concerns in mind.

Gender intervention will be implemented for the year 2021-22 in 10 blocks across 10 districts covering 129 village panchayats under TNSRLM and in 2 blocks in 2 districts covering 38 village

panchayats under NRETP at an estimated amount of Rs.2 crores.

e. PRI - CBO Convergence

As the SHGs are nurtured by the CBOs, convergence between the gram panchayat and the Community Based Organisations (VPRC/PLF) is very much essential in the development of a village. The following initiatives are proposed to be implemented in selected village panchayats.

- Expansion of PRI-CBO convergence projects.
- Preparation of VRP (Vulnerability Reduction Plan) and converging into Village Poverty Reduction Plan.
- Participation of VPRCs/PLFs in VPDP (Village Panchayat Development Plan) preparation.
- Enhanced participation of SHGs in Gram Sabhas.
- Convergence with flagship schemes programmes.

An amount of Rs.4.80 crores has been budgeted for the implementation in 37 districts covering 12,525 village panchayats during 2021-22.

6.3.10. Management Information System (MIS)

Information and communication technologies have been used extensively in social and economic development as a tool for sustainable development in view of its impact on socio economic development.

As Information Technology (IT) has become extremely important and effectively useful, a full-fledged ICT application is being built in TNSRLM to facilitate learning, sharing and continuous improvement and support to decision making at all levels. TNSRLM has also taken various steps to strengthen the MIS at various levels for successful implementation of Mission.

TNSRLM manages a large amount of socio-economic data regarding SHGs, other CBOs and in

particular, their transactions and governance details through Management Information System (MIS) for project planning and decision making.

E-Mathi is a portal which enables transactional accounting & governance developed to enable the CBOs to manage their books of accounts. It helps to manage and monitor the activities of the CBOs by acting as a Decision Support System (DSS). The database of TNSRLM has been upgraded to capture and provide real time information of SHGs and CBOs like VPRCs and PLFs by capturing the details of savings, loans, repayment, maintenance of books of accounts etc.,

6.4. Tamil Nadu Urban Livelihoods Mission (TNULM)

Tamil Nadu Urban Livelihoods Mission (TNULM) is a mission that intends to reduce poverty and vulnerability of the urban poor households by building strong community-based organisations of the urban poor and enabling them

to access gainful **self-employment and skilled wage employment** opportunities, resulting in an appreciable improvement in their livelihoods on a sustainable basis.

TNULM is being implemented in the funding ratio of 60:40 by the Union Government and Government of Tamil Nadu.

The Mission also specifically targets the needs of the **urban homeless** by providing shelters equipped with essential services and the livelihood concerns of the **street vending community** by facilitating access to suitable vending spaces, institutional credit, social security and skills for accessing emerging market opportunities.

The components of TNULM scheme are:

1. Social Mobilization and Institution Development (SMID)
2. Self-Employment Programme (SEP)
3. Employment through Skill Training and Placement (ESTP)

4. Capacity Building and Training (CBT)
5. Shelter for Urban Homeless (SUH)
6. Support to Urban Street Vendors (SUSV)
7. Innovative and Special Projects (I&SP).

TNULM was initially implemented by the Commissionerate of Municipal Administration, Government of Tamilnadu and has subsequently been transferred to Tamil Nadu Corporation for Development of Women (TNCDW).

6.4.1. Social Mobilization and Institution Development (SMID)

TNULM envisages universal social mobilization of urban poor and vulnerable sections into Self Help Groups (SHGs) and their federations. Generally, women from the poor and vulnerable households are mobilised as Self Help groups with a membership between 10 and 20.

TNULM lays particular emphasis on the mobilization of vulnerable sections of the urban poor population, such as SCs, STs, minorities,

women-headed households, differently-abled, destitute, migrant labourers, and vulnerable occupational groups such as street vendors, rag pickers, domestic workers, beggars, construction workers etc., The SHGs follow five non-negotiable principles, namely, a) regular meetings, b) regular savings, c) regular internal lending, d) regular repayment and e) up-to-date books of accounts.

a. Self Help Group Formation and Revolving Fund to SHGs

The SHGs formed under TNULM, which have completed their mandatory trainings and have completed 3 months functioning period are graded and provided with Revolving Fund to enhance their corpus and increase internal lending among the members.

In the year 2021-22, 20,000 groups will be formed and supported with Revolving Fund of Rs.20.00 crores. Between 1st April 2021 and 31st July 2021, 5,948 SHGs have been formed and

have been assisted with Revolving Fund to the tune of Rs.4.43 crores.

b. Formation of Area Level Federations and Revolving Fund to ALFs

SHGs are federated with a minimum of 10 SHGs as an Area Level Federation (ALF) at the Slum / Ward level. ALFs will facilitate the SHGs, a) to avail timely institutional credit at an affordable rate of interest, b) in economic activities of SHGs, c) in solid waste management activities and d) participation in Swachh Bharat Mission.

In the year 2021-22, 300 Area Level Federations will be formed and supported by Revolving Fund of Rs.1.50 crores. Between 1st April 2021 and 31st July 2021, 31 Area Level Federations have been formed and assisted with Revolving Fund to the tune of Rs.0.15 crores.

c. Formation of City Level Federations

The Area Level Federations are further federated into a City Level Federation at the town / city level to take care of the higher-level requirements of ALFs and its member SHGs.

In the year 2021-22, 20 City Level Federations will be formed. Between 1st April 2021 and 31st July 2021, 02 City Level Federations have been formed.

d. City Livelihood Centres (CLCs)

The objective of a City Livelihood Centre (CLC) is to provide a platform where the urban poor can market their services and access information and other benefits. CLCs act as a “one-stop shop” for all citizens seeking services from the informal sector as well as for the urban poor to promote their products and services.

CLCs will also be positioned as a resource centre for those seeking information relating to employment and skill training opportunities.

In the year 2021-22, 25 City Livelihood Centres will be established. Between 1st April 2021 and 31st July 2021, 11 City Livelihood Centres have been established.

e. Training Self Help Groups and Federations

Under this component SHGs and their federations will be given training and capacity building on various activities like bank linkage, book keeping and accounts, micro-planning, micro-investment process, roles and responsibilities of members etc,.

The various modules under this component are:

a)	Animator & Representatives training to SHGs	3 modules	3 days
b)	SHG Member training	4 modules	2 days
c)	Governance and financial management training to ALFs / CLFs	2 modules	4 days

6.4.2. Employment through Skill Training and Placement

This component focuses on providing assistance for development / upgradation of the

skills of the urban poor so as to enhance their capacity for self-employment and salaried employment. ESTP will target the urban poor subject to occupational vulnerability.

Under ESTP, the percentage of women beneficiaries shall not be less than 30 percent. SCs and STs are benefited to the extent of the proportion of their strength in the city/town population of poor. A special provision of 3 percent reservation has been made for the differently abled under this programme. 15 percent of the physical and financial targets under this component has been earmarked for the minority communities. Apart from that, special attention is paid to the skill upgradation of vulnerable groups like beggars, rag pickers, construction workers, destitutes etc.,

In the year 2021-22, 15,000 candidates will be trained under the ESTP component of TNULM.

6.4.3. Self-Employment Programme

This component focuses on financial assistance to individuals / groups of urban poor for setting up gainful self-employment ventures/ micro enterprises, suited to their skills, training, aptitude and local conditions. The under-employed and unemployed urban poor will be encouraged to set up small enterprises relating to manufacturing, servicing and petty business for which there is considerable local demand.

a. Self-Employment Programme for Individuals (SEP- I)

An urban poor individual beneficiary desirous of setting up an individual micro-enterprise for self-employment can avail benefit of loan with interest subsidy under this component from any bank.

In the year 2021-22, Rs.60 crore financial assistance will be provided to 8,000 individuals through various banks. Between 1st April 2021 and 31st July 2021, financial assistance has been

provided to 2071 individuals to the tune of Rs.8.52 crore.

b. Self-Employment Programme for Groups (SEP-G)

Members of SHGs constituted under TNULM or a group of urban poor desirous of setting up a group enterprise for self-employment can avail benefit of loan with interest subsidy under this component from any bank.

In the year 2021-22, 7,500 groups, including 1,500 Common Interest Group of Street Vendors will be supported with bank loans of Rs.127.50 crores. Between 1st April 2021 and 31st July 2021, financial assistance has been provided to 899 groups, including 46 Common Interest Groups, to the tune of Rs.32.32 crore.

c. Self-Employment Programme (Bank Linkage) [SEP-BL]

Under this component, the SHGs formed under TNULM can avail credit linkage from any

bank with interest subsidy covered under RBI norms of SHG-Bank Linkage programme.

In the year 2021-22, 21,000 Self Help Groups, including 1,000 Special Self Help Groups will be supported with bank loans of Rs.610 crores. Between 1st April 2021 and 31st July 2021, financial assistance has been provided to 2082 SHGs, including 97 Special Groups, to the tune of Rs.85.05 crore.

d. Portal for Affordable credit and interest Subvention Access (PAiSA Portal)

With a view to provide access to credit at affordable rate of interest to the urban poor, TNULM is providing interest subsidy for SHGs accessing bank loan, through PAiSA portal. The interest subsidy is the difference between the prevailing rate of interest charged by the bank and 7 percent per annum and the difference amount is reimbursed to the beneficiaries on a monthly basis. An additional 3 percent interest subvention is provided to all SHGs who repay their loan in

time. The Interest subsidy is subject to timely repayment of the loan (as per the loan repayment schedule) and suitable certification is obtained from banks by the District Mission Management Unit.

In the year 2021-22, a target of Rs 32 crores has been estimated to be released for interest subvention under Self Employment Programme beneficiaries. Between 1st April 2021 and 31st July 2021, an interest subvention amount of Rs.4.48 crores has been released to the Self Employment Programme beneficiaries.

6.4.4. Capacity Building and Training (CBT)

Key objective of Capacity Building & Training component of TNULM is to provide technical assistance in the fields of urban livelihoods promotion and urban poverty alleviation.

- A State Mission Management Unit (SMMU) is headed by the State Mission Director and assisted by 6 Thematic Specialists.

- Each District unit has a District Mission Management Unit headed by the Project Director and supported by Assistant Project Officer and Community Organizers.
- Basic orientation about TNULM and Thematic training are given to the Thematic Specialists of SMMU, APOs and COs of DMMU through designated training partners at the state and district level.

In year of 2021-22, an amount of Rs.25 crore is allocated for this component.

The following schemes are implemented by the Directorate of Municipal Administration. TNCDW acts as the convening and coordinating organisation for the below schemes.

1. Shelter for Urban Homeless (SUH).
2. Support to Urban Street Vendors (SUSV)
3. PM-Street Vendor's AtmaNirbhar Nidhi (PM-SVANidhi).

6.5. National Rural Economic Transformation Project (NRETP)

The Ministry of Rural Development, Government of India has introduced a new scheme by name National Rural Economic Transformation Project (NRETP) with funding by Government of India and Government of Tamil Nadu in the ratio of 60:40. The Project aims to provide additional pro-poor investments along with the provision of skilled technical assistance in the implementation of livelihood schemes.

The NRETP focus on implementing higher order activities such as strengthening of Block/Cluster level federations, promotion of value chain development, individual and collective enterprises in Farm and non-farm sectors, skill development and scaling up of alternate models for delivery of financial services. The farm livelihood interventions will focus on the promotion of producer groups, producer enterprises, organic village clusters and value chain interventions. Apart from the livelihood related interventions, the

social development interventions like FNHW (Food, Nutrition, Health & WASH), Gender etc., are being integrated with activities of model CLF/PLF.

Organic link between the model cluster level federation and financial inclusion strategies, insurance and pension schemes, producer groups and organizations, product marketing and enterprise development is envisaged in the project design.

This project is implemented in 20 blocks, covering 4 blocks each in 5 districts namely Cuddalore, Erode, Salem, Thanjavur and Trichy districts on a pilot basis. The blocks have been chosen for implementation based on

- Presence of more than 2 years old SHG federation.
- Atleast 50% of SHGs federated and provided with Community Investment Fund (CIF).
- Farm and non-farm livelihoods interventions have been grounded.

- Adequate social capital involved in various thematic areas.

A budget of Rs.30.00 crore has been proposed for the year 2021-22 for our state which includes a union share (60%) of Rs.18.00 crore and state share (40%) of Rs.12.00 crore.

6.5.1. Model Panchayat Level Federation (PLF)

Under National Rural Economic Transformation Project (NRETP) 20 Blocks have been identified in 5 NRETP districts, in which 729 Panchayats are existing out of which 50% of the Panchayats i.e 365 have been selected to develop Model PLF / CLF in 3 phases as given below:

Table 6.6

Phase	No. of Blocks	No. of Pts	Period
I	5	80	April 2019 to March 2020
II	7	122	April 2020 to March 2021
III	8	163	April 2021 to March 2022

In order to create the PLF as model PLF/ CLF, the following measures are being taken.

a. Provision of Infrastructure Fund

A sum of Rs.1.50 lakh to each Model PLF/CLF is provided to create basic infrastructure like own/rented office building, office furniture and fixtures, electronic equipment, etc., For the year 2021–22, a sum of Rs.2.05 crore has been allotted to 163 Model PLFs /CLFs for creating infrastructure facility.

b. Viability Gap Fund for Model PLF / CLF

In the year 2021–22, 50% of VGF amount i.e Rs.1.50 lakh per model PLF has been released as the 1st tranche to 365 PLFs amounting to Rs.5.48 crore. The Model PLF/CLF should release the VGF to its member SHGs at the rate of Rs.50,000/- per SHG as loan @ interest of 9% to generate more income to meet its operational expenditure.

The VGF of Rs.3.00 lakh shall be released in 3 years based on the performance of PLFs in three tranches in the ratio of 50:30:20 to fill up the gap

between the operational income and expenditure of Model PLFs.

c. Community Managed Training Centers (CMTCs)

Model PLFs / CLFs will manage Training Centre for imparting multiple training and capacity building events for its members and other stakeholders. The building for the establishment of CMTCs has been identified. Based on the success, an amount of Rs.48.00 lakh @ Rs.8.00 lakh per CMTC/ Block Level Training Centre (BLTC) per district has been allotted for the establishment of training centers in 6 districts of NRLM area during the year 2021-22.

d. Digital Finance

SHGs and CBO have to be encouraged to do their banking transactions at Business Correspondent (BC) points / locations by mapping their joint accounts under dual authentication system. This will not only help time, travel cost, safety and wage loss in going to the bank branch at

far off places but also to avoid cash transactions among the SHGs and CBOs and its members. The digital transaction in BC points or at banks will reflect in the bank's books of accounts. This creates transaction history and will be helpful for banks to grant higher quantum of loans.

6.6. Skill Training and Placement

As the world is witnessing labour shortage, it is a great opportunity for Tamil Nadu to transform demographic surplus to demographic dividend through skill development. The great industrial boom in the recent years has created a heavy demand for skilled manpower in the industrial sector particularly in manufacturing and service sectors offering vast employment opportunities.

Skill training is a prerequisite for exploring the opportunities offered by the growing economy and to make the unskilled and semi-skilled youth employable.

Deen Dayal Upadhyaya Grameen Kaushalya Yojana (DDU-GKY)

Deen Dayal Upadhyaya Grameen Kaushalya Yojana (DDU-GKY) is a placement linked skill development scheme for the rural poor youth implemented by Ministry of Rural Development, Government of India through the State Government with a funding pattern of 60:40 ratio. The vision of DDU-GKY is to "transform rural poor youth into an economically independent and globally relevant workforce". This scheme aims to skill rural youth aged between 18-35 who are poor and provide them with jobs having regular monthly wages.

Salient features of DDU-GKY

- Rural youth from poor households in the age group of 18 to 35 years are eligible beneficiaries, both male / female (upper age limit is 45 years in case of vulnerable such as tribal, widows deserted women, freed bonded labours & trans genders)

- Training institutions/industries with Permanent Registration Number (PRN) and having expertise in skill training and placement with a proven track record are eligible to apply and impart training as a PIA (Project Implementing Agency).
- Social inclusion through mandatory coverage of socially disadvantaged groups (SC – 62%, ST – 3%, minorities – 16%, Persons with Disability (PWD) – 3% and women (combining all categories) – 33%) is one of the pivotal inclusive aspects.
- Mandatory assured placement of minimum 70% of trained candidates.
- Course duration varies from 3 to 12 months according to the job role and skill requirement in the job market.
- Both residential and non-residential trainings are available.
- Facilitation by the field level functionaries (CRP-Jobs, BC-Skills) for mobilizing the

candidates and community based monitoring.

- Training modules include domain curriculum and mandatory skilling in non-domain areas such as spoken english, basics in computer, soft skills and On-the-Job Training (OJT) to enhance employability.
- Candidates on completion of training and assessment are awarded with certificates issued by the Government agencies namely National Council for Vocational Training (NCVT) and Sector Skill Councils (SSC).
- Minimum remuneration of Rs. 6,000/- per month or the minimum wages mandated by the State for the semi-skilled person, whichever is higher will be ensured for the trained candidates on placement. However, our state has stressed Rs.8,000/- as minimum wage per month for DDU-GKY trained candidates.

- The scheme is inbuilt with post-placement support, career progression and facilitation through migration support centers across the State.
- The scheme facilitates both domestic and foreign placements.
- One year monitoring and facilitation after placement.
- Counseling for parents during mobilization.

Projects for training and placing the candidates are being sanctioned to the Project Implementing Agencies (PIA) as three year projects through a Project Approval Committee (PAC) headed by the Principal Secretary to Government, Rural Development and Panchayat Raj Department.

A target of 84,000 candidates to be trained with an outlay of Rs.1,026.50 crore has been sanctioned by MoRD under this scheme. Due to COVID-19, AAP, the period of implementation has

been extended up to 2023 instead of completion by 2022.

Out of the target of 84,000 candidates, 17,493 candidates have completed training and 6,561 candidates have been placed so far. The sector wise trained candidate details are given below:

Table – 6.6

Sl. No.	Sector Name	Candidates Trained
1	Agriculture	91
2	Apparel	176
3	Automotive	1,037
4	Banking, Financial services and Insurance (BFSI)	507
5	Beauty & Wellness	534
6	Capital Goods	231
7	Electrical	291
8	Healthcare	2,795
9	IT-ITES	3,834
10	Retail	1,256
11	Tourism & Hospitality	1,798
12	Apparel, Made-Ups & Home Furnishing	1,992

Sl. No.	Sector Name	Candidates Trained
13	Electronics & Hardware	546
14	Instrumentation, Automation, Surveillance and Communication	99
15	Logistics	2,057
17	Textiles & Handlooms	249
Total		17,493

Kaushal Panjee Portal along with Mobile App

The Ministry of Rural Development, GoI has initiated the Kaushal Panjee skill registry to capture and upgrade skills of rural youth aged between 18-35 years. The Project Implementation Agencies (PIAs) can also contribute by registering trainees registering in the Kaushal Panjee portal / Mobile App.

The candidates can either register by using the existing details of SECC data or by entering the details as a fresh candidate.

Tamil Nadu ranks 1st in the national level for enrolment of 5.71 lakhs candidates through this App.

Rural Self Employment Training Institutes (RSETIs)

Initially, Rural Development and Self Employment Training Institute (RUDSETI) were formed by Canara Bank and Syndicate Bank for mitigating the unemployment among the youth. These institutions were initially started in cities such as Bengaluru and Madurai. Following the success of this model, Rural Self Employment Training Institutes (RSETIs) have been established by various Banks in districts and have engaged in training rural youth for taking up self-employment opportunities, thus promoting rural entrepreneurship.

RSETIs strive to achieve high loan allotment rate for all the trained candidates and facilitate bank credit linkage for the candidates.

Ministry of Rural Development (MoRD) is providing funding support for creation of infrastructure and also reimbursing training cost of BPL candidates. State Governments, DRDAs, TNSRLMs, NABARD and other development

organizations are also extending the support to the training programmes of RSETIs. There are 30 RSETIs functioning in the State.

Tamil Nadu State Rural Livelihoods Mission (TNSRLM) plays a very crucial role in the functioning of RSETIs by way of mobilization of candidates for training, monitoring and reimbursement of claims to RSETIs.

6.7. Tamil Nadu State Non-Governmental Organizations and Volunteers Resource Centre (TNVRC)

Tamil Nadu State Non-Governmental Organizations and Volunteers Resource Centre (TNVRC) was established in the year 2001. It is a society registered under Tamil Nadu Societies Registration Act, 1975. It is functioning under the auspices of Tamil Nadu Corporation for Development of Women (TNCDW). The objective of the society is to provide capacity building to project staff, Community Based Organizations (CBOs) and master trainers at state/district/block

levels, preparation of training materials / manuals, and training guide books for the projects, undertaking of community oriented projects related to socio economic development and act as a knowledge repository for better initiatives, strategies, learnings and outcomes of various interventions activities implemented by TNCDW.

A Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) was entered between TNCDW and National Health Mission (NHM) for implementation of population based screening of Non Communicable Diseases (NCD) programme in association with TNVRC. It is implemented in 91 blocks and 2 corporations (Coimbatore and Thirunelveli) covering 35 districts through 1,902 Community Resource Persons (Health). The programme is implemented with remarkable potential due to the social capital TNCDW wields through its SHG movement and it is an outcome of the sustained investment that TNCDW has made in Community Resource Persons (CRPs).

TNVRC has been a channel to extend the benefits of TNSRLM/TNULM to people relocated from various River Restoration Project of the Tamil Nadu Slum Clearance Board (TNSCB) resettlement areas in Semmancherri, Kannagi Nagar, and Ezhil Nagar (Tsunami Nagar) in Chennai district and aims to bring the lives of the displaced people to normality, to make them resilient from the pains of displacement.

National Rural Livelihoods Mission (NRLM), MoRD, GoI, New Delhi has recognised TNVRC as National Resource Organization (NRO). The objective of TNVRC-NRO is to provide technical support services in the key areas on disability & vulnerability interventions, support for elders, farm and non-farm livelihoods, institutional convergence and support to formation and strengthening of higher level federations to other SRLMs.

6.8. Mutram Monthly Magazine

A monthly magazine was found essential to act as an information, education and

communication tool for the various women activities and schemes being implemented through Tamil Nadu Corporation for Development of Women. Consequently, the Mutram society was founded and registered under the Tamil Nadu Societies Registration Act, 1975 (Tamil Nadu Act No 27 of 1975). From the 1998 onwards, the Mutram Society monthly magazine is published every month. The first edition of Mutram magazine was published with 10,000 copies. Now, around 80,000 copies of Mutram magazine are being sent to the subscribed SHGs having 18 lakh members throughout Tamil Nadu. Tamil Nadu Women Development Mutram is to spread news awareness about the booming activities of women's Self Help Groups, Village Poverty Reduction Committees and Panchayat Level Federations working in all districts of Tamil Nadu.

The main objective is to collect and disseminate information about women related developmental activities and updates in all

schemes regularly. Mutram monthly magazine brings out the success stories of SHGs, achievement of Panchayat Level Federations and Village Poverty Reduction Committees and Women Development projects being implemented by the Government of Tamil Nadu, consumer protection and rights of women, women education, women protection laws, poverty alleviation programmes, the importance of saving, women entrepreneurship, development programmes, group activities, natural farming methods, health awareness, activities of differently abled persons mental health awareness and several other pertinent issues to provide necessary information to all the SHGs formed under Mahalir Thittam, TNSRLM and NULM. Mutram magazine enlightens the lives of SHG Women.

6.9. Award to best SHGs, PLFs, VPRCs & ALFs and Bankers Award

Awards are given to encourage the SHGs, PLFs, VPRCs and ALFs to recognise and appreciate

their participation in the development activities. At state level, awards are given to 10 Self Help Groups of Rs.1 lakh each, 5 Panchayat Level Federations of Rs.3 lakh each, 5 Village Poverty Reduction Committees of Rs.1 lakh each in rural areas and best 10 Self Help Groups of Rs.1 lakh each, 5 Area Level Federations of Rs.3 lakh each in urban areas.

At District level awards including citation are given to 3 best Self Help Groups of Rs.25,000 each, 1 Panchayat Level Federation of Rs.1 lakh, 1 Village Poverty Reduction Committee of Rs.50,000 in rural areas and best 3 Self Help Groups an amount of Rs.25,000 each, 1 Area Level Federation of Rs.1 lakh in urban areas.

Awards including citation are also given to appreciate the services of the banks which has extended bank linkage support to SHGs and PLFs in their functioning to motivate them.

MinMathi – A Mobile App for e-Learning and Community Digital Radio

To benefit nearly 1 crore members of SHGs in Tamil Nadu, a mobile App based e-learning platform has been developed with SHG relevant content such as SHG success stories, guidance, advisories, experiences, sharing of ideas and important information to facilitate the SHG members to watch, understand and learn through their mobile phone. This online learning platform with its customised content will initially enhance the existing capacity building programmes and subsequently become the main training strategy when combined with e-certification programme in the future, resulting in enormous savings of time and budget combined with latest media approach quickly reachable to the SHGs.

e-learning modules were developed for SHG governance, financial inclusion, livelihood, skill training, enterprise promotion, marketing, PRI-CBO convergence. This App has also hosted a Community Digital Radio with curated best

contents targeting the holistic development of SHG women.

Tamil Nadu Integrated Poverty Portal Services (TIPPS)

Tamil Nadu Corporation for Development of Women (TNCDW) has taken special initiative to develop an exclusive portal called Tamil Nadu Integrated Poverty Portal Services (TIPPS).

The main objective of this portal is

- To maintain and manage the integrated poverty data (BPL records) and
- To facilitate the beneficiaries to receive the benefits and services offered by the State Government.

The BPL-Poverty data for the entire state is maintained in the TIPPS portal.

6.10. Tamil Nadu Rural Transformation Project (TNRTP)

It is a project implemented with an objective of transforming the rural communities by creating sustainable development and prosperity

through enterprise promotion, access to finance and employment opportunities. It is funded by the World Bank and Government of Tamil Nadu in the ratio of 70:30.

The Tamil Nadu Rural Transformation Project will be revitalised and implemented at a total outlay of Rs.212.69 crore during 2021-22.

Project Development Objective

The Project Development Objective (PDO) of TNRTP is “to promote rural enterprises, access to finance, and create employment opportunities” in selected blocks of Tamil Nadu.

Area of Operation

The Project is implemented in 3,994 village panchayats across 120 Blocks of 31 districts (except Chennai, Thanjavur, Ariyalur, Perambalur, Dharmapuri, Kanyakumari, Thirupathur) over a period of 6 years from 2017 to 2023.

Funding

The World Bank and the Government of Tamil Nadu are funding this Project in the ratio of 70:30 at an estimated cost of Rs.919.73 crores (142.8 million US\$). The loan assistance from World Bank will be Rs.643.81 crores (100 million US\$) and the assistance by Government of Tamil Nadu (GoTN) will be Rs.275.92 crores (42.8 million US\$).

Organisational Structure

The Tamil Nadu Rural Transformation Society (TNRTS) has been formed and registered under the Tamil Nadu Societies Registration Act 1975. The Project management and implementation is governed and guided by the TNRTS, formed under the Department of Rural Development and Panchayat Raj, Government of Tamil Nadu. At the district level, the District Rural Transformation Societies (District Society) were formed under the Chairmanship of District Collector, to guide and facilitate the

implementation of the project. The Governing Body (GB) and Executive Committee (EC) of the TNRTS will provide guidance on policy level decisions, coordination and direction to the State Project Management Unit team. The Project is being implemented through the state, district and block level Project Management Units.

- The SPMU is headed by the Chief Executive Officer (CEO), an IAS officer on deputation who directly monitors the implementation of the project, supported by the team of officers to implement, monitor and supervise the project.
- There are 24 DPMUs functioning as implementation units at present. The District Executive Officer (DEO), heading the unit is supported by 4 Executive Officers for monitoring the progress of the Project.
- The Block Management Unit has been established in 120 blocks across 31 districts headed by a block team leader supported by a team of 3 Project Executives.

Beneficiaries of the Project

The Project focuses on target population of SHG women, SHG households, scheduled tribes, scheduled castes, youth and differently abled persons. The beneficiaries will be producer households across farm and non-farm sectors in selected project blocks (producer groups, producer collectives and entrepreneurs in the project area).

The Project intends to create nano, micro and small entrepreneurs both individually and groups in the project area and to form Producer Groups (PGs), Enterprise groups (EGs) and Producer Collectives (PCs) to nurture and promote rural enterprises. The project will also support skilling through Community Skill Schools (CSS) and Community Farm Schools (CFS).

Major Components of the Project

This Project comprises of the following four major components:

1. Rural Enterprise Ecosystem Development
2. Enterprise Business Plan Financing

3. Skills and Job Opportunities
4. Project Management, Results Monitoring & Evaluation

Environment and Social Management Framework (ESMF), Gender Parity, Information, Communication & Technology, Partnership and Convergence are the cross cuttings of the entire project.

6.10.1. Rural Enterprise Ecosystem Development

The prime objective of this component is to create an enabling environment for promotion and strengthening of new and existing enterprises and to generate employment. This includes District Diagnostic Study (DDS), Value Chain Analysis (VCA), Participatory Growth Plan (PGP) and One Stop Facility Centers (OSF) etc.,

Identification of potential enterprises through participatory methods for promotion of rural enterprises (group and individuals), strengthening of existing rural enterprises,

identifying markets and value chain development opportunities, providing business development support services and informed pathways to develop sustainable business are important activities in this component. The focus is on promoting women-led enterprises and green enterprises.

Inclusive Strategic Investment Analytics and Planning

i. District Diagnostic Study (DDS)

The objective of the District Diagnostic Study (DDS) is to identify and prioritize major sectors/sub sectors and commodities for enterprise promotion in the local context. DDS is the first level of analytics based on stakeholder consultations and analysis of secondary information. This includes in-depth evaluation of the district for identifying the opportunities and challenges in specific sectors, sub sectors and commodities for next level of analytics through value chain approach.

This DDS reports have been prepared and approved by the District Committee headed by the District Collectors of the respective districts.

ii. Value Chain Analysis (VCA)

Value Chain Analysis is done to deep dive into prioritized commodities/ sub sectors (identified through DDS) and obtain better understanding on the opportunities, challenges and risks in order to develop strategies for enterprise promotion with specific focus on women, persons from tribal communities and differently abled. This study helps to provide an analytical insight into market opportunities, constraints and thereby helps to arrive at appropriate interventions and investments for enterprise promotion.

iii. Participatory Growth Plan (PGP)

Participatory Growth Plan is a method to develop inclusive investment plans at village, block and district levels for enterprise promotion and for the development of rural communities through

focused group discussion with the community members, producers, youth, and entrepreneurs. The Participatory Growth Plan exercise was facilitated by Village Poverty Reduction Committees.

Field survey has been undertaken in all 3,994 Village Panchayats by a team of 6 members comprising of 2 Community Professionals, 1 Self Help Group member, 1 Village Poverty Reduction Committee member, 1 Panchayat Level Federation member and 1 village entrepreneur. Survey data have been logged into an exclusively developed Mobile App. The result of the survey conducted as a part of Participatory Growth Plan exercise have led to drafting of Village Investment Plans (VIP). These Village Investment Plans have been compiled to form Block Investment Plan (BIP) and in turn the District Investment Plans have been developed by integrating these BIPs.

Enterprise Development Support Services

i. Service Delivery through Panchayat Level Federation (PLF)

Self Help Group members who are experienced in community mobilization and have developed service delivery skills will be identified and retained as "Community Professionals (CP)" in various themes such as Jobs, Enterprises. The major objective of the CPs is to mobilize, promote and build individual and collective enterprises and skilling.

Identification, onboarding and monitoring of Enterprise Community Professionals (ECP) will be done through Panchayat Level Federation.

ii. One Stop Facility centers (OSF)

One Stop Facility center is a single point facility which provides business development support services viz., business plan preparation and appraisal, support services to initiate the business, such as finance, technology, skills, regulation & compliances, market information,

linkages etc., to rural entrepreneurs. One OSF will be established for every 3 contiguous blocks.

Enterprise Promotion, Value Chain Strengthening and Partnerships

i. Individual Enterprises

Individual Enterprise is an enterprise owned by an individual or more than one individual in partnership. Individual enterprises are classified as nano, micro and small enterprises. The enterprises whose investments upto 5 lakhs are called nano enterprises, and investments 5 to 15 lakhs are called micro enterprises and investments 15 to 30 lakhs are called small enterprises.

The project aims to identify 6000 nano, 500 micro, 120 small individual enterprises and provide them technical guidance, training, financial services and other such services required by the entrepreneurs.

ii. Group Enterprises

Through this project, Producer Groups, Enterprise Groups and Producer Collectives will be formed.

a) Producer Groups (PG)

Producer Group is a group of producers engaged in a particular commodity/ subsector in a village who come together for aggregation, productivity enhancement, and other collective actions leading to increased income profit to the members. These groups have a membership range of 30 to 150. For this current year 2021-22, the target of 2,000 Producer Groups will be formed.

b) Enterprise Groups (EG)

An Enterprise Group is a group of members having joint ownership and control over the business activities with shared profit and loss. These groups will have a membership range of 10 to 30 as a legally registered body (under MSME Registration/ Partnership Firm /Limited Liability Firm).

The purpose of an enterprise group is to reduce production costs, improve quality and increase the revenue and margin through joint venture. For this current year 2021-22, a target of 500 enterprise groups will be formed.

c) Producer Collective (PC)

Producer Collective (PC) is a formal higher-level collective of producers for aggregation, value addition, marketing and service provisioning for economies of scale. The membership is usually ranging between 300 – 3,000 producers. The producer groups which are formed at the village level will be federated in the form of producer collective at block/district levels. The producer collectives will be legally registered bodies. The producer collectives will leverage scale of economy such as engage in aggregation, quality input supply, higher order value addition like primary & secondary processing, branding and marketing. For the current year 2021-22, a target of 25 Producer collectives will be formed.

6.10.2. Enterprise Business Plan financing

Access to finance for business plans of individual and group enterprises through Matching Grant Program (MGP) and other financial services by formal financial institutions is an important aspect of TNRTP.

Matching Grant Program

Matching Grant Program (MGP) intends to incentivize the repayment of borrowers and generate momentum amongst the financial institutions to lend to the individual and collective. Matching Grant will be available to the borrowers together with the loans sanctioned by the PFI (Partnering Financial Institutions). On prompt repayment of 70% of the loan amount, the borrower is eligible for 30% waiver. This facilitates the entrepreneurs/groups to fully concentrate in their enterprise to run it profitably and to repay the loan promptly.

Matching grants would be intended for first time entrepreneurs, women led businesses,

enterprise groups, producer collectives, Differently abled led enterprises and other types of enterprises perceived as a challenge by the financial sector.

Innovative Pilot Projects – TNRTP will pilot certain innovative projects like

- i. Creative industries in the fields of weaving, pottery, and other creative enterprises to support rural artisans.
- ii. Agri food hub facility - especially native and traditional food to promote culinary sector.
- iii. Green enterprises such as solar power based activities and bio-degradable products towards environment protection and energy conservation.

Nano Enterprising Financing Fund (NEFF):

Project has implemented Covid-19 Assistance Package (CAP) through which 88,349 enterprises were given loan assistance to tune of Rs. 259.78 crores through VPRCs and PLFs. The loan given to individual enterprises under CAP

initiative is being repaid and this fund will be channelized as a Nano Enterprise Financing Fund. It is to create an inclusive business environment for supporting new and existing enterprises operated by the SHG member / SHG households, Differently abled and Vulnerable. The Proposed Nano Enterprise Financing Fund (NEFF) will follow the principles of the lending pathways of the existing Community Based Organizations (CBOs) like PLFs and VPRCs mechanisms in selection of entrepreneurs, assessment, documentation and release of funds.

6.10.3. Skills and Jobs

TNRTP aims to create sustainable wage and self-employment opportunities, promote relevant skills for higher value agriculture and allied activities and enable entrepreneurship through market responsive skills and entrepreneurship development.

Pre and Post Training Services to Enhance Employment Outcomes

Activities such as identification of target youth, mobilisation for skill training, counselling and other pre and post training services shall be provided to aspiring youth.

Migration Support Centre

Skilled rural youth often have to migrate to fulfil their career aspirations, earn more income and for better career growth. Often they find it difficult to cope with the high cost of living, socio-economic demands of the city, resulting in poor job retention, unfulfilled aspirations and inability to integrate with the mainstream labour market.

Migration Support Centre (MSC) is a novel concept with objective of providing a host of services to migrants from targeted 120 blocks. Migration Support Centre (MSC) facilitates the migrants in accessing better services, monitors post placement progress of youth, provide key

information on health, education and remittance services.

TNRTTP proposes to setup MSCs in collaboration with stakeholders which are implementing skill training programmes, Community Based Organisations, industries, industrial associations, etc. This collaboration will not only be helpful in setting up the MSCs but also ensure sustainability in long run.

Project has planned to set up Migration Support Centres in five Districts which has high potential for job and employment opportunities.

Community Based training and Skilling Provision

i. Community Skill Schools (CSS)

Among rural communities there is a high demand for certain traditional and highly remunerative skills such as weaving, metal works, paintings, pottery, basket, mat making etc.,

Expert practitioners available in the locality who are proficient in the practising trade and keen

to impart knowledge to the community will be identified as trainers. These trainers will be facilitated to set up community skill schools with simple and minimum required infrastructure to train the interested local people so as to revive these ancient arts and ensure creation of job opportunities and enterprise promotion.

Apart from traditional skill trainers, experts in certain high demand services including two / four wheeler mechanic service, home appliance service, masonry, plumbing, welding, electrician, mobile repair, IT enabled (computer) services etc., will also be identified and they will be facilitated to train the communities under Community Skill Schools to create more job opportunities and rural enterprises. For the current year 2021-22, 18,000 rural youth will be trained in the Community Skill Schools (CSS).

ii. Community Farm Schools (CFS)

The Project seeks to develop a cadre of technical service providers Skilful Personal ability

Attitude Resourceful and Knowledgeable (SPARKs) in agriculture and allied sub sectors who will, in turn build skills among the community members through setting up of Community Farm Schools (CFS).

SPARK is a community expert practitioner who has knowledge, skills, attitude and rich experience in a particular farm activity. They possess interest and keenness to share their expertise and train community members on required technical skills at village or block level.

Project will identify such individuals and engage them as SPARKs to mentor, teach, train, guide and handhold other individual practitioners of similar activity in community farm schools.

The CFS will identify specific skill gaps in farm and off-farm related occupation and bring in required technical expertise for solutions and identify and train SPARKS to deliver these suitable technological support to the community. The CFS will work with the individual and group enterprises

promoted by the project for better synergy. For the current year 2021-22, 60,000 Producer Group members will be given training in Farm and Animal husbandry activities under Community Farm Schools (CFS).

6.10.4. Project Management, Results Monitoring & Evaluation

For effective implementation of TNRTP, there has to be a robust management and monitoring systems, create delivery processes for Financial Management, Procurement Management, Human Resource Management, Social, Environmental and Tribal safeguards and Information Communication Technology (ICT).

Monitoring and Evaluation

Monitoring and Evaluation (M&E) is a continuous activity to generate feedback on the performance of the project activities and support project managers to take timely corrective measures to address any shortcomings and deviations. M&E system will provide realistic, real

time and easily understandable information on various aspects of project implementation.

Creation of Digital Platform

Information, Communication and Technology (ICT) is an inevitable part of the Project to establish a digital platform for the real time monitoring of the project activities and their efficient functioning. TNRTP is in the process of developing, designing and implementing the software application for this project.

This application will stabilize and strengthen the Management Information System (MIS) of the Project and serve as a ready reckoner for all the data related to the TNRTP Project.

Expenditure

A sum of Rs.372.12 crores has been incurred as expenditure up to 31st July 2021.

6.11. Post Tsunami Sustainable Livelihoods Programme (PTSLP)

Post Tsunami Sustainable Livelihood Programme (PTSLP) was conceived by

Government of Tamil Nadu to rebuild the livelihoods of the population affected by the Tsunami of 2004 with the assistance of International Fund for Agriculture Development (IFAD). The project was initially implemented in 6 coastal districts viz., Thiruvallur, Chengalpattu, Villupuram, Cuddalore, Nagapattinam, Kanyakumari as Phase - I districts during the period of January 2008 to September 2019 then implemented in other 6 coastal districts viz., Thiruvarur, Thanjavur, Pudukottai, Ramanathapuram, Thoothukudi and Tirunelveli as Phase - II districts during the period of April 2017 to December 2020 at a total cost of Rs.563.18 crores. The project was implemented in 238 coastal Panchayats covering 12 lakhs coastal population. The project was closed on 31.12.2020 and all deliverables enunciated in the design have been achieved.

Interventions of PTSLP is done under four major components

Component–I: Coastal Area Resource Management

- a. Community Support
- b. Fisheries Resource Management (FRM)
- c. Community Infrastructure

Component–II: Rural Finance and Risk Transfer Instruments

- a. Vulnerability Reduction Fund (VRF)
- b. Insurance Education and Training
- c. Micro Credit to SHGs
- d. Establishment of Patient Capital Fund and enterprise financing

Component–III: Employment Generation and Skill Training

- a. Support to SHGs
- b. Strengthening of Federations
- c. Income Generation Activities (IGA)
- d. Income Generation Activities Fund
- e. Formation of Fish Marketing Societies (FMS)

- f. Financial inclusion programme for women
Fish vending / processing/ seaweed gatherers / cultivators.
- g. Mango / Vegetables / Medicinal plants sub sector projects.
- h. Dairy sub-sector project.
- i. Jasmine cultivation and marketing project.
- j. Paddy and Millet cultivation and marketing.
- k. Moringa cultivation and Value addition and marketing.

6.11.1. Tamil Nadu Coastal Sustainable Livelihoods Society – TNCSLS

Considering the success of the PTSLP activities, the Government has established a new society with the name “Tamil Nadu Coastal Sustainable Livelihoods Society – TNCSLS” on 01.01.2021 to provide continuous support and to strengthen the Community Based Organizations and institutions created under PTSLP with an aim

to minimise the pressure on usage of marine resources by diversifying livelihoods option of the coastal rural people. An amount of Rs.966.36 lakhs was sanctioned by the State Government for the formation of the society. The society is functioning with effect from 01.01.2021 and it is providing handholding support to the Community Based Organizations and also arranging credit linkage to SHGs and JLGs through banks in the project areas.

1. Scope and Objective of the Society:

The society shall facilitate the sustainable livelihood programme for the vulnerable sections of society of coastal areas in Tamil Nadu and also reduce their vulnerability to the natural and manmade disasters. It will also facilitate eco-friendly activities and the objective of the Society is to provide continuous support to the coastal community and households for improving the livelihoods in a sustainable manner.

2. Target Groups:

Coastal dwellers.

- i. Wage labourers employed in the fisheries and agriculture sectors
- ii. Coastal fishermen using beach launched crafts
- iii. Small-scale women fish vendors and processors
- iv. Marginalized occupation groups (eg. seashell workers)
- v. Small and marginal farmers
- vi. Very Poor and Poor identified through Participatory Rural Appraisal (PRA) exercise etc.,

3. Strategy:

The proposed strategy for livelihood development has four complementary thrusts:

- (i) building and supporting community organizations
- (ii) ensuring access to micro-finance and other financial services

- (iii) developing the skills and knowledge of target group households
- (iv) fostering the development of sustainable larger enterprises and access to more distant markets.

The Society lays special emphasis on women – helping them to improve existing fisheries-related livelihoods or diversify into new activities such as livestock and agriculture and allied activities. As most members of Self Help Groups (SHGs)/Joint Liability Groups (JLGs) are women, they become owners of the larger micro-enterprises supported by the Society i.e., job-seekers become job givers.

4. Organisation Structure:

The Additional Director, PTSLP works under the Member Secretary. At the State level, there are four thematic Managers and support staff in the project. At the district level there are 10 Monitoring and Evaluation officers and 32 cluster coordinators to monitor and supervise the

Community Based Organisations like JLG, PLF, FMS and DLFSF in 13 districts where the scheme is being implemented.

5. Society Components:

The Society will undertake the following activities under each component in the year 2021-22:

Component 1: Coastal Area Resource Management (Strengthening of Community Based Organizations and Renovation works of infrastructure developed by PTSLP)

a) Infrastructure Works: 215 livelihood infrastructures will be renovated at a cost of Rs.190.15 lakhs.

b) Fisheries Resource Management:

- i. 1,500 fish vending / processing / seaweed gatherers will be mobilised and provided working capital loan to the tune of Rs.45.00 lakhs.
- ii. Three FPOs will be promoted with a financial assistance of Rs. 45.00 lakhs.

- iii. Totally 1,500 office bearers of Community based institutions will be trained to the tune of Rs. 54.00 lakhs.
- c) SHGs and JLGs** – 1,500 entrepreneurs will be mobilized as JLGs and the society will arrange for the institutional credit of Rs.3000.00 lakhs and 1000 SHGs will be facilitated to get Bank Credit linkage to the tune of Rs.3500.00 lakhs

Component 2: Livelihood activities (Capacity Building, Marketing, formation of Producer Groups and Training etc.,)

- a) IGA Sub – Sector Training:** The IGA training will be imparted to 1000 beneficiaries at a tune of Rs.100.00 lakhs and 6000 beneficiaries of existing sub-sector activities will get the benefit of hand holding supports like Training, Value Addition and Marketing to the tune of Rs.93.00 lakhs.
- b) Sub Sector Activities:** The new sub-sector activities will be identified for the benefit of 1000 members at an estimated cost of

Rs.50.00 lakhs. It is proposed to support the Farmer producer companies / Federation to the tune of Rs.50.00 lakhs.

Component 3: Climate Resilience Activities

a) Seaweed Cultivation and cage culture:

Seaweed cultivation, cage culture activities will be implemented to the tune of Rs.86.64 lakhs

The Society is providing continuous handholding and support for enterprises, Farmer Producer Organisations (FPOs), Producer Collectives and Community Based Organisations (CBOs) by mobilizing further investments to take them to the next level of growth and building resilience of coastal communities in the face of climate change with appropriate technology and risk transfer mechanism. Moreover, moving women beyond household-level income generation and helping them to become entrepreneurs at scale using innovative financial products and partnerships.

6.12. Roadmap for Sustainable Livelihood in rural areas

The sustainable livelihood initiatives by the Government of Tamil Nadu includes social mobilization, institution building, capacity building, community funding, financial inclusion, consolidation of livelihood activities, enterprises development, facilitating branding and marketing of the goods produced by the Self Help Groups. This endeavor is undertaken by TNSRLM, TNULM, DDU-GKY, TNRTP and TNCOLS (PTSLP).

The goal is to increase the number of livelihood activities of every SHG household and to increase the income level offering sustainable livelihood solutions, empowering women at the bottom of the pyramid and the poor and vulnerable section of the population by effective implementation of the various schemes and utilizing the convergence opportunities in association with other departments.

Government of Tamil Nadu would look at the entire portfolio of livelihood of each poor household, and work towards stabilizing and enhancing the existing livelihood and subsequently diversifying the livelihood activity.

Institutional Building

- 32,000 SHGs will be formed during the year 2021-22 in both rural and urban areas.

Community Credit

- The Community Based Organizations are strengthened by providing funds from the project. 12,000 SHGs will be provided revolving fund amounting to Rs.18.00 crores in rural areas and 20,000 SHGs will be provided Revolving Fund of Rs.20.00 crores for the year 2021-22 in urban areas. 15,000 SHGs will be provided with Community Investment Fund to Panchayat Level Federations (PLFs) at the rate of Rs.50,000/- per SHG amounting to Rs.75.00 crore in rural area and 300 Area Level Federations

(ALFs) will be provided revolving fund amounting to Rs.1.50 crore.

Skill Training

- Under TNULM placement linked skill training is provided to urban youth with Union and State share of 60:40. The training is provided in 57 trades covering 24 sectors. For FY 2021-22, Rs.16.50 crores have been allocated to train 5,000 urban poor youth.
- Under Deen Dayal Upadhyaya Grameen Kaushalya Yojana, 10,000 rural youth will be trained and placed. Similarly, 10,000 youth will be trained and provided with self-employment by engaging Rural Self Employment Training Institutes. In partnership with industries 130 job melas will be organised at the cost of Rs.1.30 crores across the State covering all Districts at a cost of Rs.1 lakh per job mela.
- Pre and post training assistant to the 12000 youth shall be undertaken by TNRTP. Also

localised skill training shall be imparted to 18,000 youth with a view to engage them in self/wage employment.

Financial Inclusion

- Credit linkage to the tune of Rs.20,000 crore will be sought to be achieved during the current financial year.

Enterprise Promotion & Livelihood

- For each Producer Group revolving fund of Rs.2 lakhs will be given towards working capital fund and infrastructure fund for taking up economic activity. This year 5,800 producer groups will be formed and an amount of Rs.11,600 lakhs will be provided to them.
- To promote organic farming and help mahila kisans to get organic certification organic clusters are developed. For each organic cluster Rs.6.00 lakhs fund will be provided for training, registration, certification, and exposure visit. This year 52 organic cluster

will be formed. For this an amount of Rs.312 lakhs is provided.

- To eradicate malnutrition and nutrition deficiency among rural SHG members and children nutri-garden scheme is implemented. Each beneficiary will be provided with seeds and seedlings worth Rs.50/-. This year 2 lakh SHG member will be benefited through this scheme. For this an amount of Rs.1 crore is provided.
- To minimize risk in agriculture, the women farmers are motivated to take up allied animal husbandry activities along with crop cultivation. This year 185 Integrated Farming Clusters (IFCs) will be developed at Rs.20 lakhs per IFC. For this an amount of Rs.37 crore is provided.
- To strengthen existing and developing individual and group enterprises, BBRC is established in each block. This year BBRC will be established in 55 blocks. Each BBRC

will be provided with Rs.50 lakhs to promote 150 enterprises this year. For this an amount of Rs.27.50 crore is provided.

- Towards developing up to 20 individual enterprises per block, one mini cluster will be formed in each block. This year 4 mini clusters will be formed per district. Totally 144 mini cluster will be formed with a funding of Rs.2.5 lakh per mini cluster. For this an amount of Rs.360 lakhs is provided.
- 8,000 individuals to be given loans under Self-Employment Programme (Individual) to the tune of Rs.60.00 crore.
- 6,000 groups to be given loans under Self-Employment Programme (Group) to the tune of Rs.120 crore. 1,500 CIGs to be given loans under Self-Employment Programme (CIG) to the tune of Rs.7.50 crores.
- Under TNRTP, 2,525 collectives will be formed and a sum of Rs.26.25 crores will be

sanctioned as start-up grant in the project area during the FY 2021-22

- 1,860 individual enterprises will be formed and a sum of Rs.20.50 crores will be sanctioned as matching grant in the TNRTP project area this year also,
- 192 collective enterprises will be graded and a sum of Rs.4.50 crores will be sanctioned as matching grant.

Marketing

Marketing support for SHG products shall be rendered through exhibitions at state, district level, 1,000 Mathi kiosks shall be established in prominent places across the State. A vibrant and user friendly online marketing port and mobile app shall be created to enable SHG products to reach far and wide and especially target the youth clientele.

7. Training and Capacity Building

Capacity Building

The success of any Government Programme, Scheme or Project depends to a great extent on the effective Capacity Building and then on its efficient implementation. The capacity building and training enables an employee to acquire new skills, sharpen existing ones, perform better, increase productivity which in turn will ensure larger public welfare through efficient implementation of various Government welfare programmes. It takes them to a higher level of performance and presents a prime opportunity to expand the knowledge and skill base. It benefits the trainees, departments and community at large.

The office of Director General, Training, Rural Development and Panchayat Raj Department under takes various Capacity Building and training activities. The State Institute of Rural Development and Panchayat Raj (SIRD & PR), Maraimalainagar, Chengalpattu District at the State level, 5 Regional Institutes of Rural

Development and Panchayat Raj (RIRD & PR) @
1.Sathiya Vijaya Nagaram in Tiruvannamalai district, 2.Krishnagiri in Krishnagiri district, 3.Pattukottai in Thanjavur district, 4.Bhavanisagar in Erode district and 5.T.Kallupatti in Madurai district and 36 District Resource Centre for Panchayats are entrusted with the responsibility of capacity building of staff of the department, Elected representatives of the local self-government administration (PRIs) and other stakeholders.

The training programmes include various topics viz., Training on preparation of Village Panchayat Development Plan, Block Panchayat Development Plan, District Panchayat Development Plan, Convergence of Sustainable Development Goals with Village Panchayat Development Plans, Tamil Nadu Panchayats Act 1994, Panchayat Administration, Maintenance of Accounts, Audit, Social Audit various Schemes of Rural Development and Panchayat Raj

Department, Livelihood promotion, PRI/SHG Convergence, Certificate course on Panchayat Raj and Voluntary Social Services, e-Gramswaraj, IT enabled services, Geo Spatial Technology, Construction technology, Quality Control.

Emphasis is also now being given to Thematic/special/ sector enabled training programmes such as Social Security, Health, Nutrition, Water, Bio Diversity, Sanitation, Waste Management, Gender Equality, Child Friendly Panchayats, Disaster, Education, Personality Development, etc.,

Resources for Training

The Training Institutes receive financial support for conducting training programmes from the State and Union Government schemes like Rashtriya Gram Swaraj Abhiyan, Jal Jeevan Mission and State Finance Commission etc.,

The Ministry of Rural Development also provides 100% Non-Recurring Grant on need basis

to improve the infrastructure and training equipments every year.

7.1. Activities of State Institute of Rural Development and Panchayat Raj (SIRD & PR)

The Government of Tamil Nadu have constituted State Institute of Rural Development and Panchayat Raj as a State apex institution to undertake various capacity building and training programmes. SIRD&PR has been registered as a Society under Tamil Nadu Societies Registration Act of 1975. Presently the Institute is functioning in a 25 acre campus at Maraimalai Nagar near Chennai.

The prime objective of SIRD &PR is to impart training in updating knowledge, upgrading skills and bring in positive attitude towards 'citizen centric' schemes. It also develops necessary training curriculum for the participants of various training programmes.

As an apex institution, SIRD&PR organises training and capacity building for the elected representatives of the three tiers of Panchayat Raj Institutions, and for the different level of officials of RD &PR Department and of other line Departments both through in-house and off campus mode.

7.1.1 Training Methodology

The participatory training methodologies like case study presentation, experience sharing, exposure visits, group discussions etc are being handled in this Institute. The 'Cascading model' is adopted by creating Master Resource Persons, who in turn build the capacity of the target participants at District, Block and Community levels. This Apex Institute conducts residential programmes in its campus and off-campus programmes at District, Block and Village Panchayat levels through District Administration and Regional Institutes of Rural Development and Panchayat Raj.

7.1.2 Resources for Training

State Institute of Rural Development and Panchayat Raj receives financial support for conducting training programmes from the State and Union Government, as follows :-

1. SIRD & PR receives grants-in-aid to meet the salary and non-salary expenditure from the recurring grant of Union Government and State Government on 50:50 basis.
2. The Ministry of Rural Development provides 100% assistance to upgrade the infrastructure facilities like construction of hostels, training halls and for the purchase of teaching equipment's etc., every year on need basis.
3. Under the Union Government sponsored programme of Rashtriya Gram Swaraj Abhiyan (RGSA), the Ministry of Panchayat Raj and Government of Tamil Nadu provides

financial assistance every year to organize training and capacity building for PRI Representatives and also for the officials and functionaries in different thematic subjects.

7.1.3 Centres of Excellence under SIRD&PR

To strengthen the capacity building activities of the Department, initiatives have been taken to promote Centers of Excellence in SIRD & PR and all the RIRDs & PR. The following 7 Centers have been established at State Institute of Rural Development and Panchayat Raj.

1. Centre for Panchayat Raj/State Panchayat Resource Centre
2. Centre for Programme Implementation and Training Co ordination
3. Centre for Livelihood, Women Empowerment and Enterprises promotion.
4. Centre for Engineering and Technology

5. Centre for Information,
Communication and Technology
6. Centre for Climate Change and Natural
Resource Management
7. Centre for Networking, Communication
and New Initiatives

7.1.4 Research Activities

A joint research project on the “impact of extreme climate changes affecting rural communities living in coastal Panchayats of Tamil Nadu’ have been taken up in coordination with the Centre for Climate Change of Anna University, Chennai. In addition to the above, the following research studies have also been taken up by SIRD & PR.

- a) Case studies on the process and procedures of Village Panchayat Audit.

- b) An exploratory study on the challenges in collection of House Tax/Property Tax in peri-urban Village Panchayats.

7.1.5 Net-working with other Academic Institutions

Memorandum of Understanding have been signed with Indian Institute of Technology - Madras, Gandhi Gram Rural Institute, Institute of Rural Management, Anand, Gujarat, Madras School of Social Works, National Institute of Technical Teachers Training and Research (NITTTR), Avinashi Lingam University etc. have been inked to undertake joint training programme. This networking is aimed at bringing in expertise in the areas such as Faculty Development, Research, Exposure visit, Skill Development, Field placements, Publications etc., Similarly, the Organizations may benefit through Internship, Orientation, Training for Students, Joint Research and Evaluation Projects, Faculty Support, Documentation of best practices etc.

7.1.6 Technical Officers training:

Technical Training Cell (TTC) is functioning at State Institute of Rural Development and Panchayat Raj (SIRD &PR) to impart Training and capacity building to the technical officials of Rural Development and Panchayat Raj Department. Further, so far 155 Assistant Executive Engineers/Assistant Engineers have been trained at Central Road Research Institute, New Delhi.

7.1.7 Other Training Activities undertaken by SIRD & PR

(a). Capacity Building towards Public Financial Management System

SIRD&PR has conducted PFMS training to the officials of RD&PR Department covering 20,339 participants in 514 batches at a cost of Rs.3.80 crore.

(b) PRI Training Initiatives

A massive 'Capacity Building Plan' for the newly elected representatives of Panchayat Raj Institutions, was designed which included induction training, orientation training and basic training. To conduct these training programs, four categories of trainers i.e. State level Master trainers, Regional level Resource persons, District Resource persons and Sub-Divisional Resource persons were identified and trained. These trainers would handle the training programmes for six categories of elected representatives. To facilitate the PRI Representatives to give an effective functioning and rule-bound administration, 15 books have been prepared on various topics including Panchayat Administration, Schemes implementation, Financial Administration, e-Governance etc. Further, more special training Programmes will also be organised exclusively for the women PRI Representatives, SC & ST

Representatives so as to empower them to function effectively.

7.2. Regional Institute of Rural Development and Panchayat Raj (RIRD & PR)

7.2.1. Establishment

Regional Institutes of Rural Development and Panchayat Raj are headed by Principals in the cadre of Additional Director/Joint Director of Rural Development and Panchayat Raj Department

**Table 7.1.
Basic details of 5 Regional Institutes of Rural Development and Panchayat Raj**

Sl. No.	Name of the Institution	Name of the Headquarter District	Name of Districts Covered	Year of Establishment
1.	S.V. Nagaram	Tiruvannamalai	Kancheepuram, Villupuram, Tiruvallur, Cuddalore, Tiruvannamalai, Chengalpattu, Kallakurichi (7 districts)	1956
2.	Krishnagiri Dam	Krishnagiri	Krishnagiri, Namakkal,	1958

Sl. No.	Name of the Institution	Name of the Headquarter District	Name of Districts Covered	Year of Establishment
			Salem, Dharmapuri, Vellore, Ranipet, Tirupattur (7 districts)	
3.	Pattukottai	Thanjavur	Thanjavur, Tiruvarur, Nagapattinam, Mayiladuthurai Tiruchirappalli, Pudukottai, Sivagangai (7 districts)	1954
4.	Bhavani sagar	Erode	Erode, Coimbatore, Dindigul, The Nilgiris, Karur, Perambalur, Ariyalur, Tiruppur (8 districts)	1972
5.	T. Kallupatti	Madurai	Madurai, Theni, Virudhunagar, Ramanatha puram, Tirunelveli, Thoothukudi, Kanniyakumari, Tenkasi (8 districts)	1948

7.2.2. Activities of Regional Institutes of Rural Development and Panchayat Raj

Impart training to the officials and functionaries of the Rural Development and Panchayat Raj Department, elected representatives of Panchayat Raj Institution such as Ward Members of Village Panchayats and Block Panchayats, Village Panchayat Presidents, Panchayat Secretaries and government functionaries, Self Help Group Members, CBOs, line Department Officials and to other stakeholders.

The training programmes of the Regional Institutes include various topics viz., Tamil Nadu Panchayats Act 1994, Panchayat Administration, maintenance of Accounts, Audit, various Schemes of Rural Development and Panchayat Raj Department, Sanitation, Solid Waste Management, Non-Conventional Energy, Stress Management, Personality Development, Social Auditing, Village Panchayat Development Plan (VPDP), Sustainable

Development Goals (SDG), localizing SDGs with VPDP, e-Governance, Right to Information, cashless transaction, livelihood training, Computer Training, etc. Apart from these, emphasis is also given for the training on technical aspects, so that all infrastructure facilities of good quality are constructed. Each Regional Institutes of Rural Development and Panchayat Raj has got capacity to train a minimum of 5,000 persons (in campus) and to a maximum of 25,000 (including off campus) during a year.

7.2.3. Fund

State Government is providing Rs.7 crore every year for the five Regional Institutes of Rural Development and Panchayat Raj. The Government of India provides Rs.20 lakh every year to each Regional Institute of Rural Development and Panchayat Raj as recurring grant for the training programmes. It also provides 100% non-recurring grant on need basis to improve the infrastructure facilities and training equipments.

7.2.4 Training programme to Tribals of Nilgiris District

A special training programme for 187 Tribals has been conducted in Nilgiris District on Health, Sanitation, Sustainable Development of Agriculture / Horticulture, Animal Husbandry by RIRD & PR, Bhavanisagar.

7.2.5 Orientation Training to women Rural Welfare Officers of Social Welfare Department

Orientation training to women Rural Welfare Officers of Social Welfare Department has been conducted by all the 5 RIRDs & PR covering the topics like children welfare, women welfare, laws for women, elders and senior citizen welfare, transgender welfare, etc.

7.3. District Resource Centre for Panchayats (DRCPs):

District Resource Centres for Panchayats (DRCPs) have been established under Rashtriya Gram Swaraj Abhiyan to focus exclusively on

Panchayat Raj training and capacity building at District level. The District Resource Centres for Panchayats functions under the administrative control of the District Collector. The Principal, Regional Institute of Rural Development and Panchayat Raj will co-ordinate and monitor the training activities of DRCPs. The District Resource Centres for Panchayats will train Village Panchayat Ward Members, Panchayat Secretaries, Village Panchayat staff including OHT operators, Thooimai Paniyaalargal, Community based Organizations and Village Panchayat level Committees.

7.4. Rashtriya Gram Swaraj Abhiyan (RGSA)

Government of India introduced the restructured Rashtriya Gram Swaraj Abhiyan scheme in 2018, which aims to strengthen capacities of institutions for rural local good governance to become more responsive towards local development needs. It also aims to facilitate people's participatory plans, leveraging

technologies for effectively utilizing available resources for realizing sustainable solutions to local problems linked to Sustainable Development Goals. The Panchayats have therefore been designated as a key player for implementation of the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals to be achieved by 2030.

Objectives of RGSA

- Develop governance capabilities of Panchayat Raj Institutions to deliver on the Sustainable Development Goals.
- Enhance capabilities of Panchayats for inclusive local governance with focus on optimum utilization of available resources and convergence with other schemes to address issues of national importance.
- Enhance capabilities of Panchayats to raise their own sources of revenue.
- Strengthen Gram Sabhas to function effectively as the basic forum of people's

participation, transparency and accountability within the Panchayat system.

- Develop a network of institutions of excellence to support capacity building and handholding for Panchayat Raj Institutions.
- Strengthen institutions for capacity enhancement of Panchayat Raj Institutions at various levels.
- Promote e-governance and other technology driven solutions to enable good governance in Panchayats for administrative efficiency and improved service delivery.
- Recognize and incentivize Panchayat Raj Institutions based on performance.

Funding Pattern

Rashtriya Gram Swaraj Abhiyan is executed with a financial sharing pattern of 60:40 (Union and State Government). The Government of India provides fund for Training, Training Infrastructure and Human Resources, Distance learning, Innovative activities, Technical support to

Panchayat Raj Institution, Administrative and Financial Data Analysis and Planning Cell, Panchayat Building, E-enablement of Panchayats, Project based support for Economic Development and Income enhancement, IEC (2%) and Programme Management (5%).

During the year 2021-22, the Government of India, Ministry of Panchayat Raj has approved Annual Action Plan for a sum of Rs.307.371 crore under Rashtriya Gram Swaraj Abhiyan for conducting various training programmes and also creation of infrastructure facilities and Human Resources.

8. Budget

8. Budget Estimate for 2021-2022

A sum of Rs.22,737.765 crore is provided in the Budget Estimate for the year 2021-22. Out of which, the Revenue Expenditure is Rs.18,954.140 crore, and Capital Expenditure is Rs.3,783.625 crore.

9. Conclusion

Conclusion

The Rural Development and Panchayat Raj Department is the department with the closest connect with people at the grass root level. The Department strives to fulfil the evolving aspirations of the people through a concerted effort by both the departmental machinery and through the elected public offices.

There will be a reorientation of priorities under MGNREGS with livelihood promotion and poverty alleviation as goals in addition to Natural Resource Management, asset creation and agriculture development. The approach to Natural Resource Management will be on a saturation mode with GIS based planning. The impact of each intervention will be maximised through convergence.

The additional financial support provided by the State Government for the construction of houses under Pradhan Mantri Awaas Yojana

(Gramin) will help the beneficiaries to complete their houses in time. Schemes like Jal Jeevan Mission and Swachh Bharat Mission (Gramin) which ensures potable drinking water and sanitation will reduce the drudgery, improve personal health and productivity and lead to overall improvement in quality of life in rural areas.

Roads are the nerves of rural economy and road infrastructure development schemes implemented by this department contributes to the improved rural connectivity, agricultural development and marketing of rural products.

SHG movement has clearly played a crucial role in transforming the lives of poor people. The Department of Rural Development, through its livelihood support arms, endeavours to provide enhanced support in the form of adequate, affordable and timely fund flow, skill training to tune-up youth employment opportunities, facilitating efficiency in economic activities and

acquiring market intelligence and assistance for SHG products thereby paving the way for sustainable livelihood for one and all.

This Government under the able guidance of the dynamic and hardworking **Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu** will leave no stone unturned for the infrastructure and socio-economic development of the Rural areas in Tamil Nadu.

KR. PERIAKARUPPAN

Minister for Rural Development
Government of India



Inauguration of Kalaingar Housing Scheme



Providing Bank loan to Panchayat Level Federation



Appreciation by the Honourable Chief Minister for excellent performance under Ungal Thoguthiyil Mudhalamaichar Scheme.



Household water supply connection under Jal Jeevan Mission



Inauguration of modern fish retail stall run by SHGs



Providing uniforms to Thooimaikavalars

