



Women and SDG

Briefing notes for internal discussions



▲ Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)



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Briefing notes for internal discussions

January 2024



Human Rights Advocacy and Research Foundation

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SDGWatch Tamil Nadu Compendium 2023

Women and SDG - Briefing notes for internal discussions

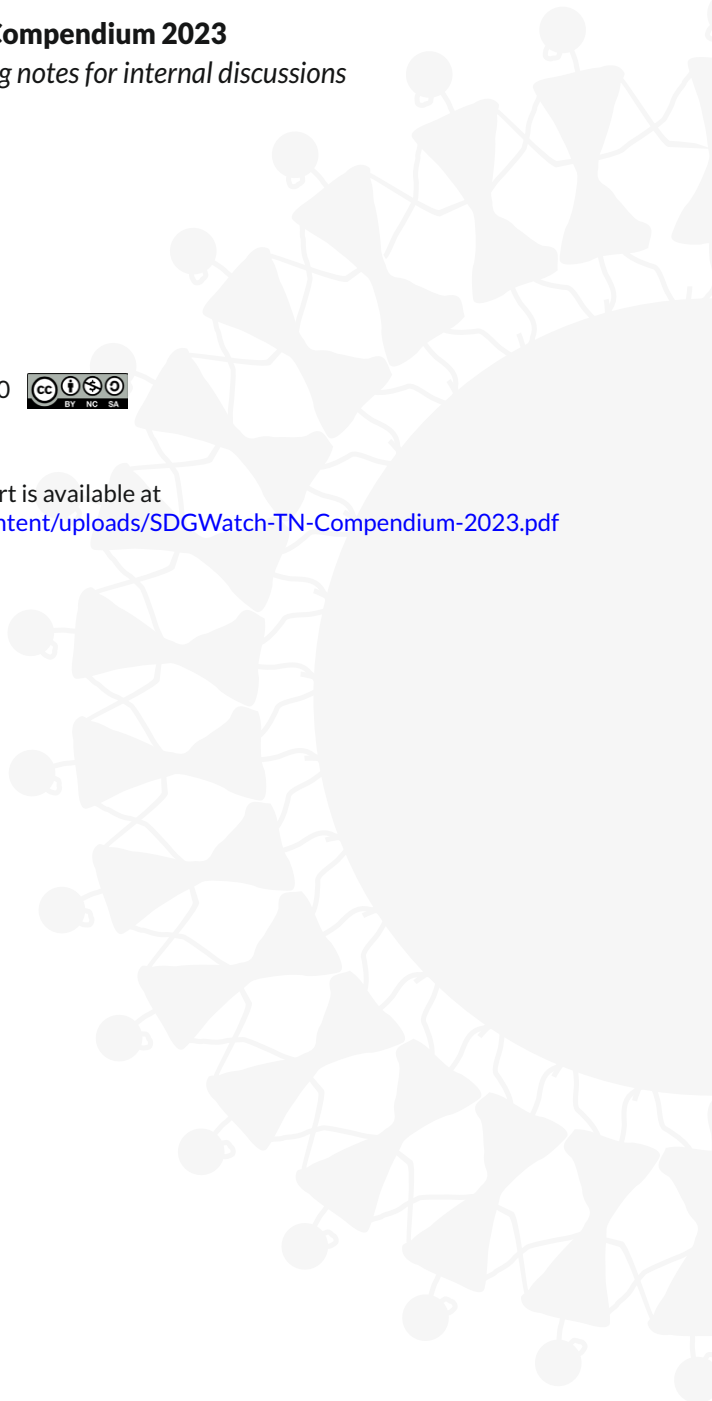
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Sustainable Development Goals



1

End poverty in all its forms everywhere.



2

End hunger, achieve food security and improved nutrition and promote sustainable agriculture.



3

Ensure healthy lives and promote well-being for all at all ages.



4

Ensure inclusive and equitable quality education and promote lifelong learning opportunities for all.



5

Achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls.



6

Ensure availability and sustainable management of water and sanitation for all.



7

Ensure access to affordable, reliable, sustainable and modern energy for all.



8

Promote sustained, inclusive and sustainable economic growth, full and productive employment and decent work for all.



9

Build resilient infrastructure, promote inclusive and sustainable industrialization and foster innovation.



10

Reduce inequality within and among countries.



11

Make cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable.



12

Ensure sustainable consumption and production patterns.



13

Take urgent action to combat climate change and its impacts.



14

Conserve and sustainably use the oceans, seas and marine resources for sustainable development.



15

Protect, restore and promote sustainable use of terrestrial ecosystems, sustainably manage forests, combat desertification, and halt and reverse land degradation and halt biodiversity loss.



16

Promote peaceful and inclusive societies for sustainable development, provide access to justice for all and build effective, accountable and inclusive institutions at all levels.



17

Strengthen the means of implementation and revitalize the Global Partnership for Sustainable Development.

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Preface

SDGWatch Tamil Nadu is a multi–sectoral platform initiated in 2017, that periodically reviews the progress of Tamil Nadu towards fulfilling the global goals – the Sustainable Development Goals – by 2030 in accordance with India’s commitment at the United Nations Organisation.

There has been a rather quiet, but tectonic, shift in the governance paradigm in Tamil Nadu that will propel it to fulfil the SDGs. Two flagship schemes of the government – Makkalai Thedi Maruthuvam (MTM) and Illam Thedi Kalvi schemes launched in 2021 – are game changers in governance. For the first time the government recognises that the truly needy – the absolute poor – cannot come to the government to access even flagship schemes that they are eligible for, and the government has made budgetary provisions to provide on a priority. It recognises that the absolute poor will need services to be delivered to them since they cannot reach the government. The name suggests a proactive government – one that *searches out* (thedi) those in need instead of waiting for them to come to it. It is an attitudinal shift from an imperial government to a government that serves. It is early days yet to assess its efficiency, but initial feedback has been positive. It is only this approach, where the government takes upon itself the onus of delivering the services, that will enable Tamil Nadu to attain the SDGs. The earlier approach has failed as is evident in the widespread child malnutrition and maternal anaemia despite almost half a century of free midday meals and antenatal care for expectant mothers. ‘Flagship schemes’ have failed because of the expectation of the eligible citizens to apply for them and the perception that the onus is on the poor to avail of the schemes rather than that of the government employees to ensure the delivery of services.

The Social Welfare and Women Empowerment Department, Government of Tamil Nadu, focuses on formulation and implementation of welfare schemes towards achieving holistic development and upliftment of women and achieving SDG targets and indicators 1 directly connected to women and girls. Towards the state indicator for Goals 1 and 2 No Poverty and Zero Hunger, the Chief Minister’s Breakfast Scheme has been launched to increase attendance and improve their nutritional status thereby benefitting 18 lakh children in all government primary schools. The nutritious meal programme is implemented in 43,094 schools catering to 44.72 lakhs school children in the age of 5–15 years through 13 types of variety meal and 5 eggs a week to ensure retention in schools and address malnutrition. The Department of Integrated Child Development Services (ICDS) is one of the departments that address Goals 2 and 4. ICDS runs anganwadi centres (AWC) to fulfil the nutritional needs of children in the age group 6 months to 6





years, adolescent girls in the age group of 11–14 years, pregnant and lactating mothers. Goal 2 aims to End hunger, achieve food security, improved nutrition and promote sustainable growth. The department strives to tackle all forms of malnutrition and its effects such as stunting and wasting in children under 6 years of age, and address the nutritional needs of adolescent girls, pregnant and lactating women and women in the age group of 14–49 years. Goal 4 aims to provide quality education to children. The department aims to provide early childhood care and education for the physical, language, cognitive and socio-emotional development of the children attending AWCs.

While there has been absolute and comparative progress, Tamil Nadu is not where it should be or *can be* with respect to inclusion of the kept behind sections of society. Though there are welcome initiatives, structural barriers – especially state mechanisms – hinder progress. There is a need for a whole of society approach rather than a statist approach if Tamil Nadu is to reach its potential. The preferred statist model with reluctant corporate mutualism where inevitable has reached the limits of its potential. New voices need to be brought in so that fresh solutions can be explored.

This report forefronts the women – since, as a class, they are the numerically largest 'forced behind' subsection of society. This report prioritises action over findings. So, the findings (and therefore the recommendations) are placed where the action is most required. For instance, though goal 1.5 is about resilience of the poor and reduce their exposure and vulnerability to climate-related extreme events, the finding (that there is no institutional mechanism for disaster relief beyond the district level) and the requirement (institutional mechanisms at the subdivisional and village levels) are put under goal 16 on effective, inclusive institutions. Violence against women and girls is in the chapter on goal 16 Access to justice and inclusive institutions. Similarly, the findings and recommendations for goal 1.a Ensure significant mobilisation of resources from a variety of sources are under goal 17 Global partnerships.

We trust that this compilation will help strengthen partnerships and provide a pathway to focussed intervention to attain the SDGs for the kept behind communities in Tamil Nadu. We trust that this compilation will help strengthen partnerships and provide a pathway to focussed intervention to attain the SDGs for the kept behind communities in Tamil Nadu.

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Introduction to the global goals

The UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) seek to ensure a world where all people are prosperous with peace and justice in harmony with the planet. The 17 SDGs and its targets were introduced by the UN as the successor of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs). The SDGs were accepted by 195 countries in 2015 as the primary developmental programme for 15 years till 2030, calling it Agenda 2030. The SDGs cover the entire gamut of human development in five integrated and indivisible themes—People (goals 1–7: no poverty; zero hunger; good health and well-being; quality education; gender equality; clean water and sanitation; affordable and clean energy), Prosperity (8–11: decent work and economic growth; industry, innovation, and infrastructure; reduced inequalities; sustainable cities and communities), Planet (12–14: responsible consumption and production; climate action; life below water; life on land), Peace (16: peace, justice, and strong institutions), and Partnerships (17: partnerships, data, means of verification).

From a bird's eye view, the SDGs can be said to be the Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR, 1948) in action – bringing together several covenants from the ICESCR and ICCPR (1966), to CAT, ICERD, CEDAW, UNCRC to the UNGPBHR (2011).

The people centric approach and principles of accountability, transparency and participation ensures that the SDGs are a model of holistic development. The integrated human rights framework provides incentive for collaboration. The integrated agenda and time frame provides a multi-faceted opportunity for long-term collaboration based on an integrated human rights approach and evidence-based engagement. India signed the declaration on the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development at the Sustainable Development Summit of the United Nations in September 2015.

The timeframe provides space for a generational change in society, sufficient to nurture a new leadership over 15 years that is mindful of the health of communities and the planet, with a planetary consciousness as required in the Anthropocene era i.e. post 16 July 1945 when the first atomic device was detonated, and humans literally acquired the capacity to destroy the planet.

The principles and the 'kept behind'

With all the positive signs of this paradigm shifting global development agenda, there were concerns right from inception as to its reach and impact on the traditionally marginalised and socially excluded communities (SEC). To be effective – and true to its spirit – the SDG process needs to identify who the 'left behind' are, engage with the

institutions and state mechanisms tasked with inclusion and work to reverse the processes of exclusion so that there truly is no one left behind – no poverty, no illiteracy, 100% secondary education, decent work for all etc.

As a first step, it is important to acknowledge the scale and extent of the issues. After acknowledgement bottlenecks can be identified and the issues can be addressed. The most important is a shift in perspective itself – that there is no one ‘left’ behind but that individuals and communities are *pushed* behind and *kept* behind through discrimination, marginalisation, exclusion, and furthermore, they are stigmatised.

It also entails a recognition that they are the multidimensionally poor and kept that way because they are the powerless due to the elite capture of institutions and imagination. It is not that they are lazy (it is the labour class that is poor) or that they do not have resources (the farmers produce the food, the tribals live in resource rich forest) but that they are kept poor due to power imbalance.

Poverty must therefore be recognised as factor of power, multidimensional, created and maintained by present institutions, and a structural – a multiorgan – ‘failure’ of market, government, religion, community. Therefore, the solutions are empowerment, multidimensional, and outside the present structures and imagination. They need an equitable redistribution of power, restructuring of society and reinvention of institutions.

Given the above context, based on the twin principles of ‘leave no one behind’ and ‘reaching the last first’, it follows that the SDGs are primarily meant for the excluded communities and sections of society i.e. those left behind such as the Dalits, Adivasis, LGBTQIA+, nomads, fishers, and minorities of various hues, with special focus on the vulnerable sections among them – the women, children, seniors, and those with special needs.

The cornerstone of SDGs: Sustained economic growth, productive employment, and decent work

Of the 17 goals, SDG 8 to *Promote sustained, inclusive, and sustainable economic growth, full and productive employment and decent work for all* directly deals with conditions of production, consumption, labour and its purpose. It is one of the cornerstones of the entire SDGs, being intimately intertwined with eradication of poverty (SDG 1–3), highly dependent on SDG 4 for the self and future generations, and to reduce inequality (SDG 10).

Being the one activity that occupies a major chunk of our waking life, work is a large part of our identity and, for many, it gives a purpose in life. Work that delivers fair income not only means that the basic needs such as food, clothing, housing, education, and health care

are met, but also ensures that subsidies are unnecessary, eliminating their resultant corruption (called ‘leakages’, ‘rent seeking’ and ‘patronage’). Without it, the time of the best brains in national governments legislate on toilets, and the best talent spend agonising hours on how much the ‘subsidy’ for each toilet should be (USD 200) and its dimensions (3’x4’). These decisions can be left to the end-user who is more knowledgeable and competent to make the decision and execute it.

Education (SDG 4) is the source in the supply chain for decent work and, therefore, social equity when institutions are just and partnerships are non-discriminatory. Ensuring education for all children at least up to 18 years helps prevent seven specific child rights violations viz (a) Child labour (b) Child marriage (c) Child sexual abuse (d) Child trafficking (e) Sex work (f) Conflict with the law and (g) Malnutrition all of which have lifelong and intergenerational consequences, including in decent labour and workforce participation. The protection afforded to young girls through the Right to Education Act, is withdrawn just in their most vulnerable age of 15 – when they are most vulnerable. Several studies have shown that parents are keen on good education for their children. Decent work and pay will ensure that the gaps in the legal ecosystem does not adversely affect the children and have intergenerational consequences.

Fair income – an essential component of SDG 10 – makes it possible to ensure health and wellbeing (SDGs 1 to 3), acquire knowledge and skills (SDG 4), to break free from the web of poverty (SDG 1), and to ensure that the succeeding generations too acquire such knowledge. Anti-poverty subsidies will not be required. It can be asserted with confidence that without *productive employment and decent work* any progress will be transitory, and subsidies, charity, and doles will be the norm – a terrible toll not only on the excluded but on society as a whole.

The lifecycle approach

The average life expectancy of an Indian at independence was 31.4 years. The concept, expectations, and aspirations of education, work, and a life with dignity were different. Now life expectancy is close to 70 years, more than double that, due to advances in health care and nutrition. The expectations from life, education and work were different. Advances in science and technology quickened and made several skillsets redundant. Productive lifespans are shrinking at a rapid pace. In several ‘sunrise sectors’, especially information technology and IT enabled services, there are few opportunities for the above 40s – this when ‘60 is the new 40’.

Society has yet to reconfigure itself to best benefit from the long childhood (formal education till 25 years of age) or the long sunset years (50–80). It is yet to discover or invent ways to

harness the energy of the young or the wisdom of the seniors. The challenge of a shortening working life that must support a long preparation (for the next generation) and a long retirement (for the previous generation) grows more acute by the day, exacerbated by automation. A world without work is a reality for increasing number in their ‘most productive years’. It is in this context that the SDGs and labour must be situated.

The government looks at the right to education as a cost head, and therefore restricts it to grade eight, despite civil society campaigns to increase it to at least grade 12. But that is insufficient for a decent job. There is a tectonic shift in job creation and job destruction. High skill jobs are being created and low skill jobs are being eliminated. Industry looks for mid- to high-skilled talent, which grade eight schooling is unlikely to provide. The government’s grand plans are based on export led industrial growth – which this system is unable to provide. The cost of job creation is increasing exponentially and those new work opportunities need higher skills. The lack of employability of even engineering graduates has been the public lament of captains of industry, despite increasing fees and because of reducing public investment. Working in tandem, industry, civil society, and the state can reverse this trend.

In the example above, a well-educated society will have a large enough talent pool and a broad enough leadership pipeline for its civic, political, and economic institutions. They will have less need of subsidies but be productive citizens. A rule-based society can move from a paternal state to a welfare state. And we may just about heal the planet in time for our survival.

SDGs Progress: Global

The early progress of the SDGs was swift. Easily verifiable goals and measurements – most of which were either 100% (schooling) or zero (poverty) – were set up, though consensus on the indicators were time consuming. There was, and is, scientific and political consensus that immediate action is required, and scientific and political consensus that they are achievable. The required international mechanisms for review and support were set up in record time, even considering they were repurposed from those for the Millennium Development Goals.

Consensus on the indicators was elusive, given that states had the freedom to add their own. This led to a loss of five years – before the pandemic! Recognising this the 2020s were declared the decade of action, implicitly recognising that half a decade, fully a third of the time frame, was spent on talk – unforgivable, given that this is a successor programme to the MDGs and not a greenfield start-up.

... and then came the pandemic which dramatically changed the rules of engagement. The global K shaped post-pandemic recovery has the international community scrambling to save the little hope that remains in reaching the SDGs in 2030 in what was touted as the 'decade of action'. Globally, the goals are more modest, with preventing regression being the priority, since several millions are estimated to have fallen back into extreme poverty.

Added to the pandemic aftereffects is the changing external environment since the SDG talks began in 2012. There is diminished and diminishing trust with a shift to authoritarian governments across the world from the largely liberal social democratic governments earlier of which the Russo-Ukraine war is an extreme manifestation. The world is yet to understand even the contours of the economic impact of the pandemic, with previous economic instruments being outdated, and new ones yet to be invented resulting in inflation and macroeconomic uncertainty across the globe. The increasing frequency and intensity of extreme weather events means that the effects of climate change now need to be factored into all plans.

This trust deficit has led to diminished political will, with political leaders struggling to retain their seats, let alone retain the gains of a generation. Climate change has meant that ever intensifying VUCA and vanishing countries are the norm. The earlier optimism and understanding of a common future has given way to elite capture of the discourse and pushback. Instead of ensuring that the human race survives, there has been backsliding and double speak even in survival specific sectors. There is greenwashing, especially in energy finance for fossil fuels, and frivolous quibbling in emissions measurement – should it be per capita or per country, should it include historical emission or only the future? – leading to avoidable delay in specific action.

SDGs Progress: Local

India did try to board the SDG train early with both civil society and state mechanisms getting into the Act. There is SDG based reporting at the union (NITI Ayog) and state levels (for instance the GoTN Policy Notes). Special SDG grama sabhas have been conducted (though collectors don't know SDGs) and working groups of principal secretary level bureaucrats have been set up in some states.

However, the country has state and community-wise disparity (therefore disconnect, denial) which makes it difficult to have a uniform approach. Some states have already surpassed the goals, while others lag sub-Saharan Africa, the unfortunate racist stereotype of poverty. Some 'goals' for some sections exceeded a long time ago, for others they are unrealistic even in 2030. Even within states there is considerable divergence on multiple axes – geographic, rural-urban, community, and religion to

mention a few. The growing disparities in the state are hidden by macro level data. The task is to unpack it using disaggregated data, identify the left behind, and then purposively address it with tailor-made interventions. For instance, the Infant Mortality Rate (IMR) of Tamil Nadu is 17, varies between 7 (urban) and 27 (rural). There is similar disparity between the average and each of the SECs. The IMR across the country ranges from single digit in Kerala to 150 in the north.

Perhaps to prevent the stark reality from being analysed, all governments have taken to the no data available (NDA) approach – conflicting with the commitments under SDG 17, and also good management practice which is 'measure what you treasure'. Data provides the evidence of scale and extent. Unfortunately, ignorance of the nuances of data science often incentivises under-recording, especially those related to poverty and crimes against SECs and other left behind sections severely undermining not only the particular goal, but also goals 16 and 17. Ironically, a higher incidence of crime recording is a positive, showing a higher awareness and lower threshold of tolerance and is directly proportionate to the level of confidence in the justice system and empowerment of citizens.

The challenge of partnerships

That the goals could be achieved only through partnerships is a given, and even integrated into the text itself. Partnerships have acquired greater urgency due to the flailing and failing economies, including persistent inflation, high youth unemployment, and militarisation.

However, insecure governments (both union and state) want everything done solely through them though they have failed, because they fear that the work of citizens among the SEC communities will only serve to starkly highlight the absence of the state mechanisms (both the political leaders and the government employees) in the process of inclusion. The state lacks the first mile and last mile connectivity to connect with the SECs and relies on civil society to do so. Little wonder then that civil society relief efforts were banned even during the pandemic and curtailed permanently across the board even in soft sectors such as children.

Even the fundamental question on partnerships – who the partners are – is unresolved. Is it the communities, civil society, civil service, corporations, government, nations? It is clear that there needs to be purposive collaborations (active networking) but there are increasing restrictions on citizen's action. Partnerships also become fraught when civil society demands that the entire value chain be SDG and human rights compliant, but industry and governments balk.

Changing the paradigm for a new partnership

Since poverty is constructed by caste, patriarchal, and phallocratic (cultural) prejudice, unless these are addressed upfront and clinically dismantled it is virtually impossible to attain the goals. It is suicidal to rely on the same frameworks and believe that they will magically transport us to utopia.

There must be fundamental change in to reimagine the world to a common vision of win-win. ‘Development and progress’ need to let go the old frames of thinking, of finance (quarterly profit, loss), to a longer time frame that considers intergenerational and planetary impact not quarterly ‘externalities’, from classifying people as liabilities to assets, so that health and education are better served. The more equitable doughnut economy needs to be adopted, so that the true costs are accounted for and become apparent.

The SDGs provide a framework and targets to move beyond blame to solutions with accountability at each stage. They make constructive discussions, critical collaboration, and creative solutions based on evidence and scientific principles possible. We can no longer afford the luxury of ‘guided missiles and misguided men’ as Martin Luther King Jr put it. We need to work together to find solutions for a planet on life-support. It is imperative that the state, communities, civil society, and the corporates work together. It is vital for survival – and a win-win. With 157 of the 200 largest economies being corporates, the responsibility is more on the corporate sector to make it work. Working in concert, each can work on their strengths to mutually reinforce the benefit to society.

Goal 01



NO POVERTY

End poverty in all its forms everywhere

Focus on

- + *Eradicate extreme poverty*
- + *Implement social protection systems*
- + *Equal rights to economic resources, access to basic services, property, inheritance, natural resources, technology and financial services.*
- + *Build the resilience of the poor*
- + *Ensure significant mobilisation of resources*
- + *Create sound policy frameworks at all levels*

Poverty is a multidimensional prison due to the collapse and the simultaneous implosion of several coping mechanisms. Escaping from its tentacles requires a concerted multisectoral approach that will lift a person out of the situation with sufficient support systems to be resilient enough to not to revert to poverty no matter what the circumstances.

This goal is more modest. It is just to ensure that each person has an income above USD 1.90 per day, about ₹150 per person per day. The rural minimum wage in Tamil Nadu is about ₹250 per day, which works out to ₹62 per person per day for a family of four, or about ₹1,860 per person per month. The official ‘poverty line’ is ₹1,059.42 (62 PPP USD) per month in rural areas and ₹1,286 (75 PPP USD) per month in urban areas. It is evidence that creative minds are at work to sanitise poverty count rather than eliminate poverty. The second edition of the National Multidimensional Poverty Index (MPI) – which claims a 9.89 percentage point decline (135 million people) in India’s multidimensionally poor from 24.85% in 2015–16 to 14.96% in 2019–2021, a period that covers demonetisation, the lockdown, and the pandemic – is another attempt at this sanitisation and has been widely dismissed by domain experts.

The state government addresses extreme poverty through pensions of about ₹1000 per month to different sections of society – old age pension, widow pension etc. Apart from the amount being too low, on ground, the pensions are quota based (not need based) and can be the only support received by the person (meaning they are denied to those who have got support for a house or any government scheme earlier). Women who have sons of working age are denied widow’s pension.





Key Departments and Schemes

Tamil Nadu

Rural Development & Panchayat Raj	◆	Tamil Nadu State Rural Livelihoods Mission (TNSRLM)
Revenue and Disaster Management	◆	National Rural Economic Transformation Project
Social Welfare and Women Empowerment	◆	Deen Dayal Upadhyaya Grameen Kaushalya Yojana (DDU-GKY)
Health and Family Welfare	◆	Tamil Nadu Urban Livelihoods Mission (TNULM)
Agriculture and Farmers Welfare	◆	Women Self Help Groups Loan Waiver Scheme 2021
Animal Husbandry, Dairying, Fisheries and Fishermen Welfare	◆	

Key Indicators	India 2021	Tamil Nadu baseline	TN vision 2023	Global Target
Poverty Rate	11.9% (2021)	12% ² (2012) 4.89% (2021)	Become poverty free by 2023 – there will be no starvation or destitution in the state.	Eradicate extreme poverty everywhere.
Human Development Index	0.633 (2021)	0.686 ³ (2021)	Highest Human Development Index (HDI) amongst all Indian states.	
Health Insurance Coverage	28.7%	64.1%		Implement social protection measures for all and substantial coverage of Poor and marginalised
House ownership	38.4% (women) Rural: 12.13% (Single women) 17.69% (Scheduled castes) 10.52% (Scheduled tribes) 5.8% (People with disability)	36.2% (2012) Rural ⁴ : 16.02% (Single women) 24.18% (Scheduled castes) 1.78% (Scheduled tribes) 3.83% (People with disability)	Housing for Economically weaker section –2.5 million houses over the next 11 years	By 2030, ensure that all men and women, in particular the poor and the vulnerable, have equal rights to economic resources, as well as access to basic services, ownership and control over land and other forms of property, inheritance, natural resources, appropriate new technology and financial services, including micro-finance.

² World Bank, India States briefs 2018 (<http://documents.worldbank.org/curated/en/510101504175978601/pdf/119262-BRI-P157572-Tamil-Nadu-atAGlance.pdf>)

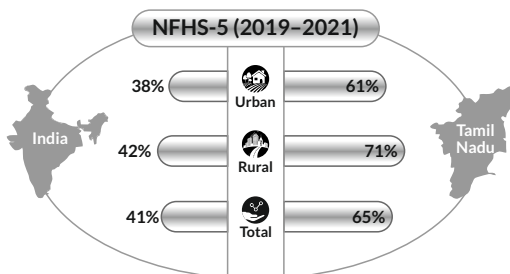
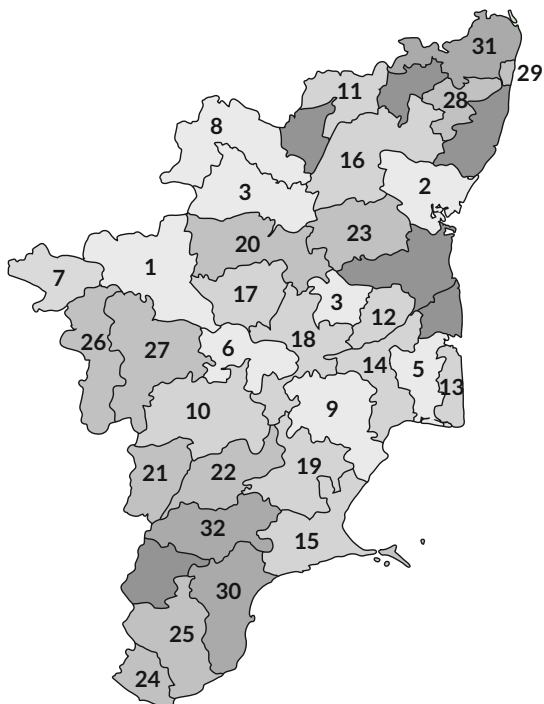
³ Tamil Nadu Human Development Index 2021

⁴ Socio Economic and Caste Census 2011



Rank	Districts	Value (%)
1	Erode	77.7
2	Viluppuram	77.6
3	Dharmapuri	75.5
3	Perambalur	75.5
5	Thiruvarur	75.2
6	Karur	74.6
7	Nilgiris	74.5
8	Krishnagiri	73.6
9	Pudukottai	72.9
10	Dindigul	71.9
11	Vellore	71.4
12	Ariyalur	71.1
13	Nagapattinam	70.9
14	Thanjavur	70.6
15	Ramanathapuram	69.7
16	Tiruvannamalai	69.6
17	Namakkal	68.8
18	Tiruchirappalli	67.8
19	Sivagangai	67.7
20	Salem	67.5
21	Theni	67.4
22	Madurai	66.3
23	Cuddalore	64.4
24	Kanyakumari	64.1
25	Thirunelveli	61.3
26	Coimbatore	61.0
27	Tiruppur	59.9
28	Kanchipuram	59.7
29	Chennai	58.2
30	Thoothukudi	57.8
31	Thiruvallur	57.4
32	Virudhunagar	51.3

Figure 1: Households with any usual member covered under a health insurance/financing scheme



Situation in Tamil Nadu

When comparing the Gross State Domestic Product (GSDP) of the districts from 2004-05 to 2009-10, the growth of the 18 backward districts was 10.9%, lower than the state growth of 12.9%. In contrast, the growth of the 14 developed districts was 13.3%. Low growth in backward districts and high growth in developed districts will widen the economic gap between the two.

Ariyalur, the most backward district, grew by 5.7%, and the most developed district, Kanyakumari, grew by 16%, clearly showing the geographical economic disparity.

There is inter-district disparity in per capita income. Of the 38 districts, 18 districts have a lower per capita income (H1,54,375 in 2015-16). The district with the highest per capita income has a per capita income 2.8 times larger than the poorest district. Poverty in Tamil Nadu is lower than in many other states in the country, but some parts of Tamil Nadu have high levels of poverty. The number of families below the poverty line is mostly in rural areas.

*Source: Central Bureau of Statistics and Programme Implementation
Press Note 24 July by PIB Chennai*

The Planning, Development, and Special Initiatives Department of the Government of Tamil Nadu are primarily responsible for the preparation of the State Annual Plans and Five-Year Plans, monitoring and reviewing expenditure in the State Plan, Twenty Point Plan, and Centrally Sponsored Schemes. The department lays utmost attention to the achievement of Sustainable Development Goals and indicators. Further, the primary role of the department is to bring about transformation based on long-term strategies for development-oriented programmes, to highlight the development-oriented programmes to be implemented in the intermediate period, and to ensure policy coordination in these initiatives. Therefore, proper planning, policy formulation, and adequate allocation of funds are essential for the integrated development of rural areas in the next budget.

Recommendations

Priority should be given to banking institutions, subsidised credit schemes, self-employment training programmes, etc., to create self-employment opportunities by utilising local resources for income generation.

The National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme (NREGS) should increase working days and minimum wages. The Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme (MGNREGA) can improve the quality of life of families in rural areas by providing livelihood security for a minimum of 150 days.

⁵ Director, Rose Trust, Ariyalur



The scheme should also be extended to the urban poor. Wage employment is guaranteed to every family through this poverty reduction strategy. Employment, income, asset creation, and thereby the substantial improvement of the standard of living of the rural poor, especially the farmers, are focused on in the impact of MGNREGA activities on rural employment opportunities.

Farm-based and agro-ancillary production of value-added products should be encouraged and the produce has to be procured by the state. Agri-food, fishing, and on-farm industries should be promoted simultaneously to improve living and working conditions in rural areas. It doubles the productivity and income, especially for women, tribal people, farmers, pastoralists, and fishers.

Production resources and inputs, knowledge, financial services, markets, and value addition, as well as non-farm employment opportunities, are considered essential for poverty reduction. The challenges in this need to be addressed.

To increase per capita income, a production zone for silk, handloom weaving, pottery, and handicrafts should be set up.

The government should help in the production and sale of palmyra produce, sugarcane, cashew, millets, and value-added products. The government should procure the produce through cooperative societies. Minimum support price should be fixed for small and marginal farmers.

Production, processing, by-products, and exports of herbal products should be encouraged. Special zones should be set up.

Poverty alleviation programmes like Integrated Rural Development Programme (IRDP) and Jawahar Rozgar Yojana (JRY) need to be restructured and implemented.

The Minimum Wages Act, 1948 is meant to prevent the exploitation of workers and ensure a decent life for a worker. The Act and rules need to be amended and systematically implemented to ensure the dignity and rights of the workers in the unorganised sector. The functions of the Rural Development and Panchayat Raj Department need to be linked to the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) to achieve the goals of inclusive and holistic development.

There is a need for coordination in Gram Sabha, Village Development Plan, people's planning and related action plans, government social security schemes, etc. A quarterly review of the monitoring system and growth indices and the capacity of the directory should be conducted.

Practical challenges in the functioning of TNCDW, banking, cooperatives, public sector financial institutions, consumer market, growing demand of the people, etc., have led to





the mobilisation of rural women towards micro finance institutions. Unfortunately, the social service institutions that provide interest-free loans as business investments on the basis of business projects have disappeared. Microfinance institutions have taken advantage of this and have spread all over the country and have grown exponentially in a very short span of time.

The women who have taken credit loans are forced to repay the previous loans by taking loans from different companies without sufficient income. It also contributes to various social and economic stagnation. Decent job access and decent self-employment have a huge negative impact, both directly and indirectly. Therefore, the government should regulate microfinance institutions, ensuring viable, easy bank credit connectivity for entrepreneurs.

Prepare a new fair, reliable Below Poverty Line (BPL) list and Poverty Index Profile (PIP) list and address all the above recommendations to the beneficiaries in the list for development. This objective should be incorporated as an important component of Mahalir Thittam and Village Poverty Alleviation Society projects.



Goal 02



ZERO HUNGER

Ensure availability and sustainable management of water and sanitation for all

Focus on

- ✦ End hunger and ensure access by all people
- ✦ End all forms of malnutrition
- ✦ Double the agricultural productivity and incomes of small-scale food producers
- ✦ Ensure sustainable food production systems and implement resilient agricultural practices
- ✦ Maintain the genetic diversity of seeds, equitable sharing of benefits
- ✦ Increase investment in rural infrastructure, agricultural research, technology development and plant and livestock gene banks
- ✦ Correct and prevent trade restrictions and distortions in world agricultural markets
- ✦ Ensure the proper functioning of food commodity markets

Key Departments and Schemes

Tamil Nadu

Agriculture and Farmers Welfare	✦	Kalaignarin All Village Integrated Agricultural
Social Welfare and Women Empowerment	✦	Development Programme (KAVIADP)
Integrated Child Development Services	✦	Tamil Nadu Millet Mission (Five year Programme)
Co-operation, Food and Consumer Protection	✦	National Food Security Mission (NFSM)
Animal Husbandry, Dairying, Fisheries and Fishermen Welfare	✦	Revamped Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana (RPMFBY)
	✦	Jewel Loan Waiver Scheme 2021

India has over 80 crore persons – about 60% of the population, dependent on free rations. Started as a response to the destruction of livelihoods due to the sudden pandemic related lockdown in 2020, it is now extended for five years till 2028. Hailed as a ‘perhaps the largest such scheme anywhere in the world’ by the highest constitutional functionaries, it is actually an admission of widespread hunger due to joblessness and therefore lack of purchasing power and wherewithal for about 60% of the population. Far from being a cause for celebration it is an admission of failure of policy interventions – from the promise of 20 million jobs per annum, to demonetisation, implementation of GST, and the abrupt pandemic lockdown which destroyed the coping mechanisms of the poor instead of strengthening them.



Tamil Nadu has a long legacy of addressing hunger through direct state intervention. The Chief Ministers Nutritious Midday Meal scheme for school children has been expanded to include breakfast as well. From covering only school going children, it now covers others such as senior citizens and persons with disability who are vulnerable. Despite the seemingly egalitarian socialisation, there have been instances when the midday meals have become an arena of caste discrimination poisoning young impressionable minds.

The ‘amma canteen’ is another anti-poverty programme, specifically to end hunger by making food available at affordable prices. Despite these long running programmes, unacceptably high levels of hunger and malnutrition persist as seen in the high levels of stunting, wasting, and maternal anaemia. The communities where such evidence manifest are known – the scheduled communities, fishers, the most backward and remote communities – and they are the ones to be reached to attain this goal. The government conducted a survey in 2021 to identify the needs of the communities, and focussed follow-up action to rectify the gaps in access to entitlements is needed.

Key Indicators	India 2021	Tamil Nadu baseline	TN vision 2023	Global Target
Children (under-five) who are stunted	35.5% (2019-2021) - NHFS 5	25% (2019-2021) - NHFS 5 32 (SCs) 25.7 (STs)		End hunger and ensure food security
Children (under-five) who are wasted	19.3% (2019-2021) - NHFS 5	14.6% (2019-2021) - NHFS 5 21.7(SCs) 26.1 (STs)		
Food Grain Productivity	315.6 million tonnes in an area of 30.8 million hectares (2021) ⁶	10.33 mn metric tonne in 2.18 million hectare ⁷	5% annual spending on Agriculture despite no increase in cultivable area.	
Irrigation Efficiency	66.3 ⁸ million hectare equipped for irrigation	58.7 ⁹	Irrigation availability for all cultivable land. Micro irrigation for 100% of crops under horticulture, vegetables and fruits and spices.	

⁶ https://www.livemint.com/cdn.ampproject.org/v/s/www.livemint.com/news/india-reports-record-food-grain-vegetable-output-in-2022-23-crop-year/amp-11697643450587.html?amp_gsa=1&_js_v=a9&usqp=mq331AQIUAKwASCAAgM%3D

⁷ Tamil Nadu Human Development Index 2017

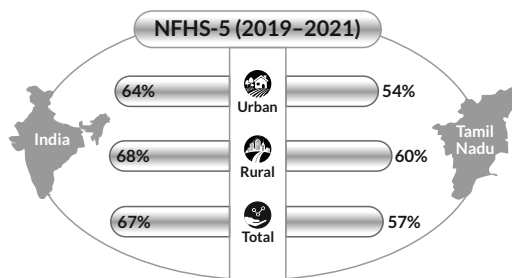
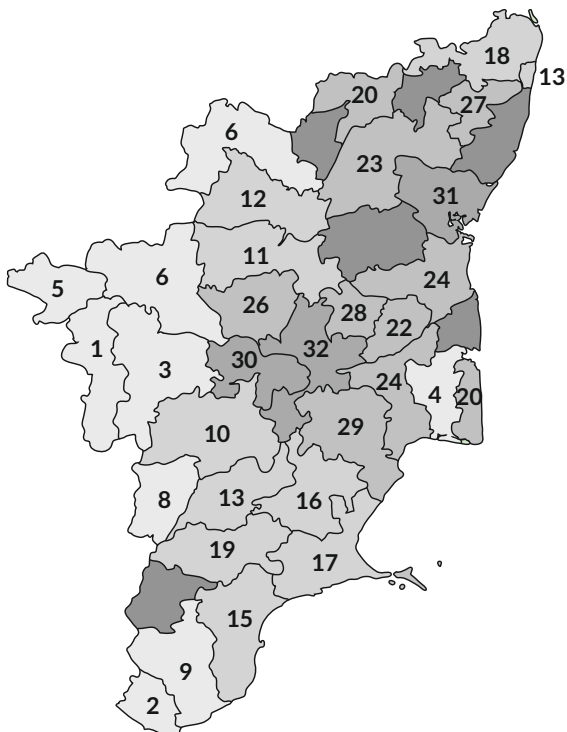
⁸ http://www.fao.org/nr/water/aquastat/countries_regions/IND/

⁹ http://agro.unom.ac.in/wp-content/uploads/2015/09/State_Agri_profie_TamilNadu.pdf



Rank	Districts	Value (%)
1	Coimbatore	37.8
2	Kanyakumari	39.1
3	Tiruppur	44.8
4	Thiruvarur	45.0
5	Nilgiris	45.9
6	Erode	46.5
6	Krishnagiri	46.5
8	Theni	46.8
9	Thirunelveli	49.9
10	Dindigul	50.2
11	Salem	51.3
12	Dharmapuri	54.2
13	Madurai	54.3
13	Chennai	55.3
15	Thoothukudi	55.6
16	Sivagangai	56.4
17	Ramanathapuram	57.2
18	Thiruvallur	58.4
19	Virudhunagar	58.9
20	Nagapattinam	60.9
20	Vellore	60.9
22	Ariyalur	62.0
23	Tiruvannamalai	64.7
24	Cuddalore	64.8
24	Thanjavur	64.8
26	Namakkal	67.9
27	Kanchipuram	68.8
28	Perambalur	69.2
29	Pudukottai	71.1
30	Karur	73.2
31	Viluppuram	73.4
32	Tiruchirappalli	82.3

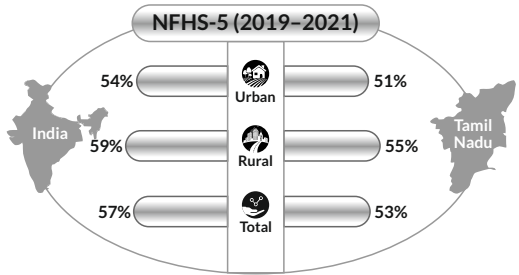
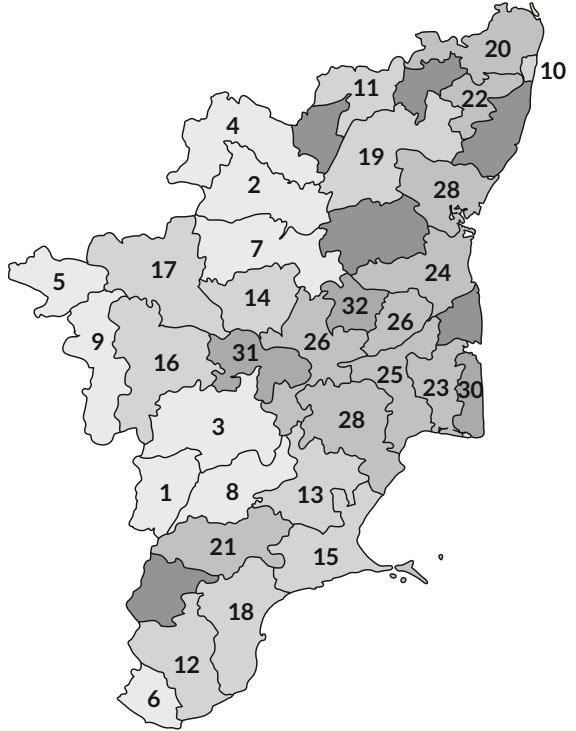
Figure 2: Children age 6-59 months who are anaemic (<11.0 g/dl) (%)





Rank	Districts	Value (%)
1	Theni	41.2
2	Dharmapuri	42.5
3	Dindigul	42.6
4	Krishnagiri	44.0
5	Nilgiris	44.2
6	Kanyakumari	45.6
7	Salem	46.3
8	Madurai	48.0
9	Coimbatore	48.9
10	Chennai	50.3
11	Vellore	50.6
12	Thirunelveli	51.0
13	Sivagangai	51.5
14	Namakkal	51.9
15	Ramanathapuram	53.6
16	Tiruppur	55.2
17	Erode	55.4
18	Thoothukudi	55.9
19	Tiruvannamalai	56.6
20	Thiruvallur	56.8
21	Virudhunagar	56.9
22	Kanchipuram	57.0
23	Thiruvarur	58.2
24	Cuddalore	58.6
25	Thanjavur	59.0
26	Ariyalur	62.4
26	Tiruchirappalli	62.4
28	Pudukottai	62.5
28	Viluppuram	62.5
30	Nagapattinam	62.6
31	Karur	65.0
32	Perambalur	66.1

Figure 3: All women age 15-49 years who are anaemic



Population and Household Profile (%)	India				Tamil Nadu			
	NFHS-5 (2019-21)			NFHS-4 (2015-16) Total	NFHS-5 (2019-21)			NFHS-4 (2015-16) Total
	Urban	Rural	Total		Urban	Rural	Total	
Children under 5 years who are stunted (height-for-age)	30	37	36	38	22	27	25	27
Children under 5 years who are wasted (weight-for-height)	19	20	19	21	14	15	15	20
Children under 5 years who are severely wasted (weight-for-height)	8	8	8	8	5	6	6	8
Children under 5 years who are underweight (weight-for-age)	27	34	32	36	20	24	22	24
Children under 5 years who are overweight (weight-for-height)	4	3	3	2	5	4	4	5
Nutritional Status of Adults (age 15-49 years)								
Women whose Body Mass Index (BMI) is below normal (BMI < 18.5 kg/m)	13	21	19	23	10	15	13	15
Men whose Body Mass Index (BMI) is below normal (BMI < 18.5 kg/m ²)	13	18	16	20	11	13	12	12
Women who are overweight or obese (BMI ≥ 25.0 kg/m ²)	33	20	24	21	46	35	40	31
Men who are overweight or obese (BMI ≥ 25.0 kg/m ²)	30	19	23	19	43	32	37	28
Women who have high risk waist-to-hip ratio (≥ 0.85)	60	55	57	NA	58	54	56	NA
Men who have high risk waist-to-hip ratio (≥ 0.90)	50	46	48	NA	56	57	56	NA
Anaemia among Children and Adults								
Children age 6-59 months who are anaemic (< 11.0 g/dl)	64	68	67	59	54	60	57	51
Non-pregnant women age 15-49 years who are anaemic (< 12.0 g/dl)	54	59	57	53	52	55	54	55
Pregnant women age 15-49 years who are anaemic (< 11.0 g/dl)	46	54	52	50	43	53	48	44
All women age 15-49 years who are anaemic	54	59	57	53	51	55	53	55
All women age 15-19 years who are anaemic	57	60	59	54	51	55	53	54
Men age 15-49 years who are anaemic (< 13.0 g/dl)	20	27	25	23	15	16	15	20
Men age 15-19 years who are anaemic (< 13.0 g/dl)	25	34	31	29	24	25	25	26



Tamil Nadu Situation

India now ranks 94th out of 107 countries in terms of the Hunger Index, and continues to be in the 'severe' hunger category as per the Global Hunger Index 2020. According to the study, 14% of India's population is undernourished. India ranks lower than its South Asian neighbours Pakistan (88), Nepal (73), Bangladesh (75), Sri Lanka (64) and Myanmar (78) — and only Afghanistan is ranked 99th. One positive aspect of the report on India is the reduction in mortality of children under five years of age. However, it cannot be assumed that the problem is over. However, there was an increase in infant mortality due to preterm births and low birth weight, especially in poorer states and rural areas. Early prevention and low birth weight have been identified as a key factor with the potential to reduce under-five deaths in India, through interventions such as antenatal care, education and nutrition, and reduction in anaemia and oral tobacco use.

Source: GHI 2020 Report

In July 2013, the National Food Security Act, 2013 (NFSA-2013) was enacted by the government with an aim to provide more subsidised food grains under the targeted public distribution system for up to 75% of the rural population and 50% of the urban population. One of the guiding principles of the law is its life cycle approach, in which special provisions have been made for supplementary nutrition for pregnant women and lactating mothers and children in the age group of 6 months to 14 years.

Accordingly every pregnant woman and lactating mother is entitled to free food during pregnancy and six months after the birth of the child through the local Anganwadi. Every child in the age group of six months to six years will be provided with free age-appropriate food through the local Anganwadi. Children up to VIII standard or in the age group of six to fourteen years are provided with one free noon meal every day except school holidays in all schools run by local bodies. The State Government identifies children suffering from malnutrition through Government and Government aided schools and local Anganwadis and provides free food to them.

According to the National Food and Nutrition Security Analysis Report, despite all the improvements in food security, malnutrition among children in India is projected to remain high even today. Over the past decade, child stunting has declined at a rate of 1% per year, a slower decline in emerging economies. At this rate, 31.4% of children will still be stunted by the 2022 timeframe, according to current trends.

¹⁰ Director, Rose Trust, Ariyalur



Recommendations

Nearly one in three Indian children under the age of five will be stunted by 2022. Food grain yields have increased by 33% in the last two decades. Consumers' access to rice, wheat and other grains did not increase at the same rate due to population. As a result of growth, inequality, food wastage and losses, and exports, the average per capita energy consumption among the poorest 30% of the population is 1811 kcal, much lower than the norm of 2155 kcal per day.

Despite positive trends and patterns in improving food security, malnutrition is high in India, with many people, especially women and children, suffering from micronutrient deficiency. The stunting rate was higher among children from the poorest (51.4%), Scheduled Tribes (43.6%) and Scheduled Castes (42.5%) and children born to illiterate mothers (51%).

India continues to have high levels of poverty, food insecurity, and malnutrition, the second most populous country in the world, with about 25 percent of the population living on less than USD 1.90 a day, and levels of inequality and social exclusion are very high. India is home to a quarter of all malnourished people globally, making the country a major hub for tackling hunger globally.

Source: The National Food and Nutrition Security Analysis Report was developed in collaboration with the World Food Programme (WFP) and the Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation, Government of India. According to the National Family Health Survey (NFHS), 46 percent of children under three are underweight; 33 percent of women and 28 percent of men have lower Body Mass Index (BMI) below normal; 56 percent of married women aged 15-49, 24 percent of married men in that age group, and 79 percent of children aged six to 35 months are anaemic; About 58 percent of pregnant women are anaemic. All these indicators are very poor in rural India. Moreover, these indicators have barely or very little changed from the previous NFHS in 1998-99.

Exclusion: Millions of beneficiaries were denied the right to food grains for more than a year due to the inability of state governments to quickly identify beneficiaries. There was a delay of more than a year in implementation from the time of implementation.

Absence of universal maternity benefits: NFSA forced the central government to provide hot meals and to grant a cash right of Rs. 6000 to all pregnant and lactating mothers at the nearest Anganwadi. Rs. 4000 was provided to pregnant women and lactating mothers in 53 pilot districts under Indira Gandhi Matritva Sahyog Yojana (IGMSY), however, according to NFSA Rs. 6000 has been updated and is not offered especially in Tamil Nadu. Necessary steps should be taken to make it universal.



In fact, women were not empowered. While women above the age of 18 are considered as heads of households under this scheme, the use of food grains is decided by adult males.

The distribution of food grains is largely dependent on the Public Distribution Scheme. Between 40% and 50% of irregularities are food grains being stolen and sent to the open market. Steps should be taken to monitor PDS more efficiently to prevent all irregularities.

The 'One Nation, One Ration Card' system is good in theory but there is no guarantee that it will work 100%. Implementing it is a big question. There are administrative problems, especially during periods of calamity and epidemics, when production of food grains is low. It cannot be denied that migrant workers need food grains, but it should be ensured that the state has the capacity to provide food grains to family ration card holders from other states.

Apart from mainly rice, wheat and dal, there is no emphasis on pulses and millets which have nutritional value. More pulses and millets should be distributed for nutritional security.

Anyodaya Anna Yojana is a Government of India sponsored scheme launched on 25 December 2000 to provide highly subsidised food to millions of poor families. After identifying the "poorest of the poor" (10,000,000 poor families below the poverty line) through a survey, it started providing them with 35 kilograms of rice and wheat at a highly subsidised rate of Rs 3. The scheme should be expanded to include persons earning their daily living in the informal sector such as landless agricultural labourers, marginal farmers, slum dwellers, rural artisans, and wage earners, the destitute and similar social groups in rural and urban areas. Also widows, seriously ill persons, differently abled persons above 60 years of age, families with no guarantee of livelihood or social support, single women and single men without family or social support or assured means of livelihood, all tribal families; Families of HIV positive persons, Below Poverty Line (BPL) list and Participatory Identification of Poor (PIP) list should be covered under the scheme.

Food and nutrition security can be ensured by improving the public distribution system. It is possible to stabilise food prices and maintain food stocks, balanced distribution, scarcity etc. Importantly, improved minimum support price (MSP) can be ensured to suit the productivity of farmers. This will increase the income of the farmers.

For PDS, the government has to get food grains from farmers. The government builds reserves of grains that are useful for price stability. In fact, the Minimum Support Price



(MSP) guarantee by the government for wheat and rice is the most important tool to safeguard farmers' incomes in India.

The recommendations are framed by the three pillars of food security: availability, access and utilisation. Farmers should be encouraged to diversify agriculture. To improve the sustainability of food production, innovative and low-cost agricultural technologies, increasing irrigation and improving farmers' knowledge in areas such as proper use of land and water should be encouraged.

The government needs to improve policy support to improve agricultural production of traditional crops in the country. Storage capacity should be improved to avoid post-harvest losses. The targeting capacity of all food safety nets needs to be improved, especially of the Targeted Public Distribution System (TPDS), to ensure that the poor are included. In addition, strengthening government-approved materials within social safety net programmes can improve nutritional outcomes.

Infant feeding practices need to be improved in the country, especially the introduction of solid foods in the diet. The quality of nutrition provided at Anganwadi Centres should be improved and the programme should be expedited to address micronutrient deficiencies.

Therefore, a Food Security Act can only be effective if it is based on a universal, non-targeted, food supply and ensures that the nutritional needs (grains and pulses) of every citizen are met. This right should not be household based but should be individual based. Without these aspects, the law cannot lay the foundation for real food security in the country. The quality of nutrition needs to be improved in the Integrated Development Services Scheme (ICDS).

The quality of rice, edible oil and tur dal needs to be improved.

Orange tur dal (Mysore dal), which has been banned in many countries, should be completely banned in schools, Anganwadi centres and public distribution systems.

The government should allocate adequate funds for setting up vegetable gardens in Anganwadi centres and government schools to avoid micronutrient deficiencies in children.

The quality of wheat and rice supplied under the Public Distribution Scheme is not fit for consumption. The term "Ration Rice" is popular at national level for rice supplied under Public Distribution Scheme based on its quality, moisture content, weight, taste, aroma and quality after cooking. The central and state governments should be held responsible for creating such a new variety of "Ration Rice" and irresponsibly distributing it to the citizens for many years. Over the years, procurement of grains has started, and defects at



all stages including processing, storage and distribution have to be removed to ensure quality. Also, you have to make sure that the weight is correct.

Millets should be provided under the public distribution system. Also, country jaggery, country sugar and palm food items should be provided.

The Public Distribution System has to be thoroughly reviewed by a third party. The scheme should be restructured on the basis of its recommendations.

New schemes should be implemented to prevent anaemia and malnutrition among adolescent girls. POSHAN Abhiyaan and SAPLA schemes should be extended to adolescent girls as well.

Adequate awareness education should be given to the general public to prevent anaemia and malnutrition and its consequences.

Goal 03



GOOD HEALTH AND WELL-BEING

Ensure healthy lives and promote well-being for all at all ages

Focus on

- + Reduce the maternal mortality ratio
- + End preventable deaths of newborns and children under 5 years of age
- + Reduce premature mortality
- + Strengthen the prevention and treatment of substance abuse
- + Halve the number of global deaths and injuries from road traffic accidents
- + Ensure universal access to sexual and reproductive health
- + Achieve universal health coverage
- + Substantially reduce the number of deaths and illnesses from hazardous chemicals
- + Strengthen the implementation of the WHO Convention on Tobacco Control
- + Support the research and development of vaccines and medicines
- + Substantially increase health financing and the recruitment
- + Strengthen the capacity of all countries, for early warning, risk reduction and management of national and global health risks

Key Departments and Schemes

Tamil Nadu

Social Welfare and Women Empowerment

Health and Family Welfare

Home, Prohibition and Excise

Kisan Credit Card scheme

Free distribution of Sheep / Goat scheme

Kalaigarin Varumun Kaappom Thittam

Makkalai Thedi Maruthuvam (MTM)

Chief Minister's Comprehensive Health Insurance Scheme (CMCHIS)

Tamil Nadu is rightly proud of its health coverage. It has one doctor per 600 persons, well above the WHO recommendation of one doctor per thousand persons. The Makkalai Thedi Maruthuvam (MTM) scheme launched in 2021 – explicitly because Tamil Nadu is yet to reach its Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) of reducing premature mortality from Non-Communicable Diseases (NCDs) through prevention and treatment by one-third by 2030, despite remarkable progress in other areas such as Maternal and Child Health and Trauma (G.O (Ms) No. 340 Health and Family Welfare (EAP|I-1) Department Dated: 03.08.2021) –recognises that the truly needy – the absolute poor – will need services to be delivered to them since they cannot reach the government.



The scheme aims to address the prevalence of NCDs by improving the early screening of hypertension, improve accessibility to health care services and reduce out-of-pocket expenditure by home-based screening and doorstep drug delivery. Over 80 lakh new cases have been diagnosed since inception, as per the Directorate of Public Health and Preventive Medicine.

A rather concerning development is a reversion to archaic faith-based practices, such as at the oath-taking at the white coat ceremony at Madurai Medical College on 30 April 2022, where the students were asked to take the Charak Shapath, part of Sanskrit's text on Ayurveda, instead of the Hippocratic Oath. Though the government immediately issued an order to all medical colleges to stick to the Hippocratic on the grounds that most students do not understand Sanskrit (thus framing it as an issue of language), the intrusion of faith (and the unthinking valorisation of the past) is worrisome. The oath indirectly sexualises both the doctor and patient with its regressive content – one of the Sanskrit oaths taken by students is that they will treat a woman only in the presence of their male family members. The Indian Ayurveda system also says treatment should not be given to people hated by the Emperor or those who hate the Emperor, nor should treatment be given to widows. It is possible to have modern, scientific Indian language oaths.

The decision of the National Medical Commission (NMC) to permit more medical colleges on the basis of a state's population the ratio of 100 MBBS seats per 10 lakh population in that state/union territory from the academic year 2025–26 will have a negative effect in the long term. This decision will particularly affect Tamil Nadu's plan to open at least one medical college in each district. This is yet another Damocles sword hanging over the state as a punishment for good performance in family planning and infrastructure development. The new delimitation for parliament, also due after the next census is another unforeseen side-effect detrimental to the state. Some good health outcomes are not politically benign.

Key Indicators	India 2021	Tamil Nadu baseline	TN vision 2023	Global Target
Infant Mortality Rate - NHFS 5 (2019-20)	35.2%	18.6%	<i>Vision 2023 envisages Tamil Nadu to become not only the numero uno State in India in terms of social indicators, but also reach the levels attained by developed countries in human development by ensuring universal access to health facilities. (HDI) amongst all Indian states.</i>	Reduce the global maternal mortality ratio to less than 70 per 100,000 live births.
Under 5 mortality rate (U5MR) - NHFS 5 (2019-20)	41.9%	22.3%		
Key Indicators	India 2021	Tamil Nadu baseline		
Maternal Mortality Rate (MMR) / 1000 births	97% (2018-2020) ¹¹	90% (2020-2021) ¹²	<i>Health for all Tamil Nadu will be India's leading state on social development and will have the highest Human Development Index (HDI) amongst all Indian states.</i>	
Crude Birth Rate (Births per 1000 Population)	16.42% (2021) ¹³	13.8% (2020) ¹⁴		
Crude Death Rate (Deaths per 1000 Population)	9.45% (2021) ¹⁵	6.1% (2020) ¹⁶		

¹¹ <https://pib.gov.in/PressReleaseframePage.aspx?PRID=1879912>

¹² <https://www.tnpsctherupettagam.com/currentaffairs-detail/mmr-in-tamil-nadu-2023/>

¹³ <https://www.statista.com/statistics/976945/crude-birth-rate-in-india/#:~:text=In%202021%2C%20the%20crude%20birth,population%2C%20expressed%20per%201%2C000%20people.>

¹⁴ https://knoema-com.cdn.ampproject.org/v/s/knoema.com/atlas/India/Tamil-Nadu/Birth-rate?mode=amp&js_v=a9&g_sa=1&usqp=mq331AQIUAkWASCAAgM=#amp_tf=From%20%251%24s&aoh=17060774960532&referrer=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.google.com

¹⁵ <https://www.statista.com/statistics/580178/death-rate-in-india/#:~:text=Death%20rate%20in%20India%202021&text=Therefore%2C%20the%20death%20rate%20in,population%2C%20expressed%20per%201%2C000%20people.>

¹⁶ Health Dossier 2021 - Tamil Nadu by NHSRC

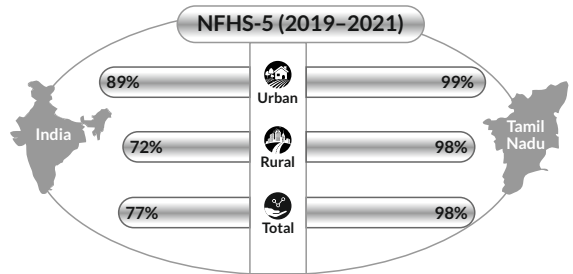
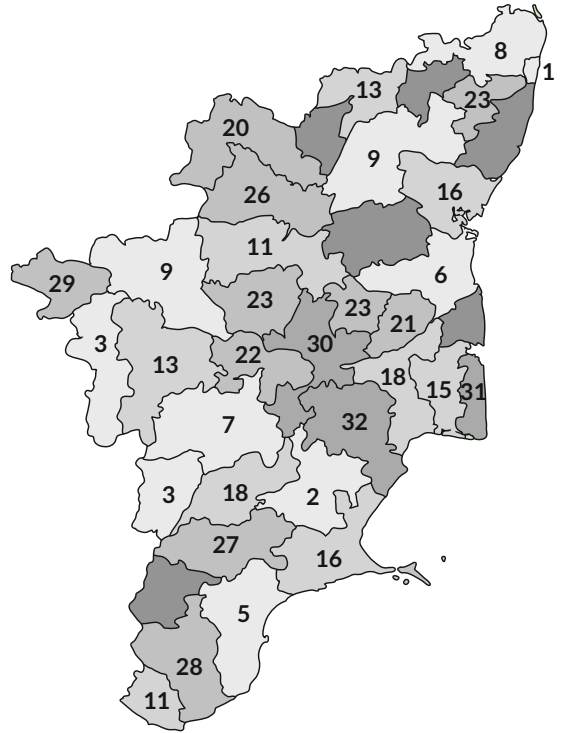


Population and Household Profile (%)	India				Tamil Nadu			
	NFHS-5 (2019-21)			NFHS-4 (2015-16) Total	NFHS-5 (2019-21)			NFHS-4 (2015-16) Total
	Urban	Rural	Total		Urban	Rural	Total	
Blood sugar level – high (141–160 mg/dl)	7	6	6	NA	8	7	8	NA
Blood sugar level – very high (>160 mg/dl)	8	6	6	NA	13	9	11	NA
Blood sugar level – high or very high (>140 mg/dl) or taking medicine to control blood sugar level)	16	12	14	NA	24	18	21	NA
Men								
Blood sugar level – high (141–160 mg/dl)	8	7	7	NA	9	8	8	NA
Blood sugar level – very high (>160 mg/dl)	9	7	7	NA	13	11	12	NA
Blood sugar level – high or very high (>140 mg/dl) or taking medicine to control blood sugar level)	18	15	16	NA	24	21	22	NA
Hypertension among Adults & blood sugar Level among Adults (age 15 years and above)								
Mildly elevated blood pressure (Systolic 140–159 mm of Hg and/or Diastolic 90–99 mm of Hg)	14	12	12	NA	15	14	14	NA
Moderately or severely elevated blood pressure (Systolic \geq 160 mm of Hg and/or Diastolic \geq 100 mm of Hg)	5	5	5	NA	7	6	6	NA
Elevated blood pressure (Systolic \geq 140 mm of Hg and/or Diastolic \geq 90 mm of Hg) or taking medicine to control blood pressure	24	20	21	NA	26	23	25	NA
Screening for Cancer among Adults (age 30–49)	2	2	2	NA	10	10	10	NA
Ever undergone a screening test for cervical cancer	1	1	1	NA	6	5	6	NA
Ever undergone a breast examination for breast cancer	1	1	1	NA	1	1	1	NA
Ever undergone an oral cavity examination for oral cancer	1	1	1	NA	0	1	1	NA
Ever undergone an oral cavity examination for oral cancer	29	18	22	21	25	23	24	16
Knowledge of HIV/AIDS among Adults (age 15–49 years)								
Women who have comprehensive knowledge of HIV/AIDS	38	27	31	33	31	22	27	11
Men who have comprehensive knowledge of HIV/AIDS	76	65	68	55	81	76	78	65
Women who know that consistent condom use can reduce the chance of getting HIV/AIDS Men who know that consistent condom use can reduce the chance of getting HIV/AIDS	86	80	82	77	90	90	90	80



Rank	Districts	Value (%)
1	Chennai	100.0
2	Sivagangai	99.9
3	Coimbatore	99.7
3	Theni	99.7
5	Thoothukudi	99.4
6	Cuddalore	99.1
7	Dindigul	98.9
8	Thiruvallur	98.8
9	Erode	98.7
9	Tiruvannamalai	98.7
11	Kanyakumari	98.6
11	Salem	98.6
13	Tiruppur	98.5
13	Vellore	98.5
15	Thiruvarur	98.4
16	Ramanathapuram	98.3
16	Viluppuram	98.3
18	Madurai	98.2
18	Thanjavur	98.2
20	Krishnagiri	98.1
21	Ariyalur	98.0
22	Karur	97.9
23	Kanchipuram	97.8
23	Namakkal	97.8
23	Perambalur	97.8
26	Dharmapuri	97.5
27	Virudhunagar	97.3
28	Thirunelveli	97.2
29	Nilgiris	96.7
30	Tiruchirappalli	96.5
31	Nagapattinam	96.2
32	Pudukottai	95.1

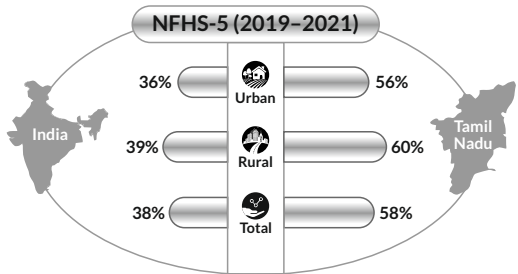
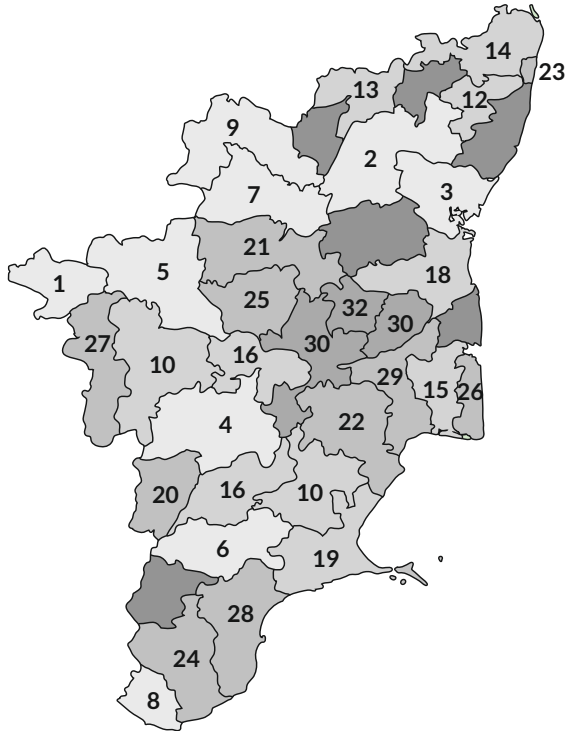
Figure 4: Women age 15-24 years who use hygienic methods of protection during their menstrual period (%)





Rank	Districts	Value (%)
1	Nilgiris	68.9
2	Tiruvannamalai	64.5
3	Viluppuram	62.6
4	Dindigul	62.2
5	Erode	61.3
6	Virudhunagar	61.2
7	Dharmapuri	61.1
8	Kanyakumari	60.8
9	Krishnagiri	60.7
10	Sivagangai	59.7
10	Tiruppur	59.7
12	Kanchipuram	59.6
13	Vellore	59.5
14	Thiruvallur	59.1
15	Thiruvarur	59.0
16	Karur	58.3
16	Madurai	58.3
18	Cuddalore	58.1
19	Ramanathapuram	56.6
20	Theni	56.1
21	Salem	56.0
22	Pudukottai	55.8
23	Chennai	55.7
24	Thirunelveli	55.4
25	Namakkal	55.3
26	Nagapattinam	53.9
27	Coimbatore	53.1
28	Thoothukudi	52.4
29	Thanjavur	51.7
30	Ariyalur	49.6
30	Tiruchirappalli	49.6
32	Perambalur	48.7

Figure 5: Female sterilisation (%)



Nutrition is the most important right for life and development, extending from children to adults. Among these, the well-being of women and children should be given due consideration.

A daily intake of 2400 calories is required for manual laborers, while other workers need 1200 calories for a nutritionally balanced diet. This should consist of 30% protein, 40% carbohydrates (with 25% fiber), and 30% fat. Every human needs 18 types of vitamins and minerals, including protein, fiber, mineral salt, iron, and calcium, in their daily diet to live healthily.

According to the United Nations, for a balanced diet a person should consume at least 400 grams of cereals, millets, nuts, fruits, vegetables, and greens per day.

Status of Today's Nutritional Diet

70% of people today do not have access to a balanced nutritious diet, which is the root cause of most of the increasing diseases, with 10% of them subject to severe disease and 3% being the cause of sudden death. World Health Organisation (WHO),

In 2023, five agencies reported to the UN General Assembly that 74.1% of the world's population did not have access to nutritious food.

According to the 2021 National Family Health Survey (NFHS), 70% of women and children in India are malnourished.

Approximately 50% of babies are born with low birth weight.

About 53% of children and women in the age group of 15-49 years have been found to have familial anemia.

It has been found that more than 40% of pregnant women do not have access to nutritious dairy and vegetable foods, and another 50% do not have access to vitamin A and C nutrients.

Presently, one in four people suffer from diabetes and high blood pressure. According to 2018-2019 statistics, 46% of the population is at risk of cancer, with women being the most affected.

In the Global Hunger Index, India is ranked 111 out of 125 countries. Three out of four Indians are unable to afford nutritious food, and 60% are forced to go to bed hungry at night due to rising commodity prices, unemployment, and low income to earn a healthy

¹⁷ Director, Success Trust

family income of ₹360 per day and ₹10,800 per month. Two-thirds of women and children are affected. Efforts of the union and state governments to address malnutrition are failing.

Collapsing Nutrient Food Chains and Rising Disease Disorders

With the advent of multinational companies, agriculture transformed into agri-business, focusing on export and import. The impact of the Green Revolution has led to the destruction of the nutritious natural food systems of our ancestors, including traditional paddy varieties, millets, new grains, greens, plants, and herbs, pushing them toward extinction. The use of chemical fertilizers, pesticides, toxic wastes, and plastics in contemporary agriculture poses a significant threat to biodiversity and the environment.

Today, global agricultural growth faces a major crisis due to climate change, increasing weather fluctuations, disappearing agricultural biodiversity, deteriorating soil fertility, depleting water bodies, and the vanishing of traditional seeds. The lack of consistent policies from the union and state governments results in the constant destruction of agricultural lands, forests, and natural resources, leading to an increase in individuals forced to abandon agriculture for other occupations. In this context, the government needs to make more effort to procure and promote endangered traditional varieties of paddy, millets, and nutritious crops.

The current trend of fast food culture and the consumption of poor-quality foods contribute to various health issues, including obesity, overweight, underweight, premature births, microbial deficiencies, lack of sleep, and stress.

It is the responsibility and duty of each one of us to protect our natural resources and our naturally occurring nutritious food chain and biodiversity.

Tamil Nadu Situation

Health for All Now! This is the moment when the union and state governments, which have accepted the Alma Ata Declaration for Universal Health Needs in 1978, should review their policies and activities. This includes a focus on other factors that can affect health, financial allocation, monitoring systems, and arrangements for the redressal of grievances by civil societies and welfare activists.

They are responsible for good governance and are accountable to the citizens, refraining from deviating from the policies, activities, and responsibilities of the government. The National Health Policy – 2017 has not been fully implemented. Goal 3 and its objectives are all underpinned by the Alma Ata Declaration and the National Health Policy. The National Health Mission (NHM), National Rural Health Mission (NRHM – 2005), State Rural Health Mission (SRHM), State Health Society (SHS), State/District/Village Health Assembly, Village Health, Water, Sanitation and Nutrition Committee (VHWSNC), Patient Welfare Society (PWS), and Accredited Social Health Activist (ASHA) workers, along with Special Health Programs to control, completely eradicate, and resolve every disease, are legally set up. However, there are numerous false reports, and the reports given by the Union Government to the UN also appear to be inaccurate. Statistics show that they are incorrect.

Under the National Health Mission (NHM) and THE National Rural Health Mission (NRHM) 2005, the State Rural Health Mission (SRHM) has been launched and guidelines have been formulated to ensure quality health services. Under this, a State Health Society (SHS) was formed and rules were framed to implement and monitor health services and programmes. As an extension of this, health councils were formed to understand the problems and needs at the grassroots level with people's participation in the requirements, recommendations, and practical challenges with powers like grama sabhas, involving direct participation of the people. The health councils were initiated with substantial funding to guarantee the demands of the people from the bottom to the top, i.e., the village, block, district, and state levels. In many districts, the general public, health activists, and civil society organisations participated and passed resolutions about their needs, which came into effect.

Unfortunately, during the last year and the current year, in many districts, due to a lack of interest and negativity on the part of departmental officials, district administration, and other liaison departments, welfare boards were conducted in name and on paper only. It is

¹⁸ Director, Rose Trust, Ariyalur

a matter of concern that a large number of people are not aware of the existence of such a structure, and the health department is careful not to make them aware of it. Therefore, the government should ensure that welfare councils are conducted properly at all levels and in all districts, and the government should promptly fulfil the demands outlined in that resolution.

Recommendations

To achieve the objectives of the State Rural Health Mission among the rural population and ensure the delivery of dispersed and high-quality health services, a notification was issued to legally establish Village Health Water Sanitation & Nutrition Committees (VHWS & NC) at Village Health Centres, and Patient Welfare Societies (PWS) at Primary Health Centres and Government Hospitals. These committees are operational in a few village panchayats and government hospitals. However, to a large extent, the composition and functioning of these committees exist primarily on paper. Most of the village council leaders lack understanding of this committee's roles. The government allocates an untied fund of Rs.10,000 per annum to each VHWS & NC group and Rs.1.00 lakh per annum to PWS to address the urgent needs of the public. Unfortunately, these funds are being misappropriated. The government should promptly restructure and regulate these committees. The activities of this committee thus far require a thorough review.

To extend the objectives of the State Rural Health Mission to the rural population and ensure the delivery of dispersed and quality health services, the contribution of ASHA workers in areas facing a shortage of health workers and where transport is inaccessible has been immense. However, they are currently contributing more on a contractual basis at low wages. The services of ASHA workers should be regularised as government employees.

Various special health programmes are being implemented to treat, control, eliminate, and cure various infectious and contagious diseases and pestilences. As ambassadors of these programmes, a special project worker should be appointed and trained to carry out the work of awareness education, implementation, and monitoring of the programmes at the village level. Workers in anganwadi centres, government schools, health sub-centres, and coordinators of medical and special programmes should be regularised.

The government should ensure that proper health councils are convened at all levels and in all districts. Furthermore, the government should promptly address and fulfil the demands outlined in the resolution.

Goal 04



QUALITY EDUCATION

Ensure inclusive and equitable quality education and promote lifelong learning opportunities for all.

Focus on

- + *Ensure that all girls and boys complete free, equitable and quality education*
- + *Access to quality early childhood development, care and pre-primary education*
- + *Ensure equal access of quality technical, vocational and tertiary education*
- + *Substantially increase employment, decent jobs and entrepreneurship for youths*
- + *Eliminate gender disparities in education*
- + *Ensure achieve literacy and numeracy to all youth and adults*

The ‘right to education’ for Indian citizens is only from 6 to 14 years of age (approximately grade 8). After this it has to be paid for, depending on the means of the family. Even within this narrow age band, girls are discriminated against due to patriarchal norms of being caregivers at a tender age and face additional hurdles even if they do manage to attend school. The Tamil Nadu vision 2023 document had 50% graduation as its goal and the gross enrolment ratio (though not graduation itself) has crossed that mark. However, the goal now should be 100% given the demands of the workplace.

Tamil Nadu is amongst the best states in India (just behind Kerala) in literacy and formal schooling. However, it is still hamstrung by a lack of imagination. The schools are subpar and seldom prepare the students for the high-quality jobs that are being created. Students from the government run schools are only prepared (if at all) for the low-skilled 8th grade passed jobs that they seldom want to take up and are therefore filled by migrant labour (which results in the surge of rabble-rousing populist demagogues). The new high value jobs – the product of the high investments from the global investment meets – cannot be filled by those from the kept behind communities who only have the low-quality government run schools to fall back on. Tamil Nadu needs to seriously rethink its investment in formal schooling and ensure it as a right at least up to graduation. The returns from better qualified workforce (from consumption and taxation) and savings (from less requirement for budgetary support for social security schemes and prisons) far outweigh the investment.

The recent acts of violence against the scheduled communities in schools – ranging from caste-based wrist bands, grievous injury for outshining dominant caste Hindu peers,



excreta related humiliation – provide ample proof that the schooling provided does not lead to education, let alone inclusive, equitable, quality education. Schooling seems to consolidate and provide justification for caste and gender-based prejudices in the tender minds. The products of this kind of schooling are seldom equipped to provide ‘inclusive, equitable, quality education’ as teachers who socialise the new generations in the same bigotry and prejudice. While Tamil Nadu may yet achieve a statistical goal in school enrolment, achievement of ‘education’ as a goal is unlikely unless caste and patriarchy are addressed frontally.

Key Departments and Schemes

Tamil Nadu

Rural Development & Panchayat Raj	◆	Child Friendly School Infrastructure Development Scheme
Higher Education	◆	Madras University Free Education Scheme
Labour Welfare and Skill Development	◆	Youth Skill Development Training Programme
Adi Dravidar and Tribal Welfare	◆	Post-Matric Scholarship Schemes
	◆	State Government’s Higher Education Special Scholarship Scheme
	◆	Special Care for Slow Learners scheme
	◆	Special Incentive Scheme for Girl Students

Key Indicators	India 2021	Tamil Nadu baseline	TN vision 2023	Global Target
Illiterates	53,585,98 (2018-2020) ¹⁹	41,19,91 (2021) ²⁰	Achieve universal secondary education, increase enrolment in colleges (including vocational education) to over 50%.	Ensure free, equitable, Quality access to primary and secondary education
Literates below primary (%)	23.32%	14.54%		
Primary (%)	33.9%	34.93%		
Middle (%)	29.38%	34.77%		
Secondary (%)	25.01%	31.59%		
Higher Secondary	15.9%	16.97%		
Graduate or Higher	17.1%	22.49%		

Source: Socio economic caste census 2011

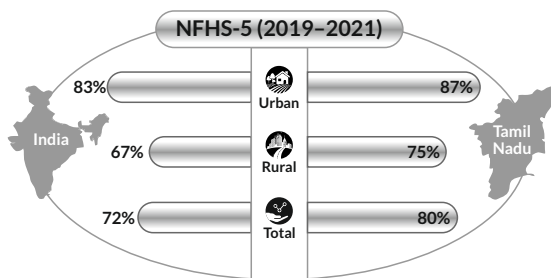
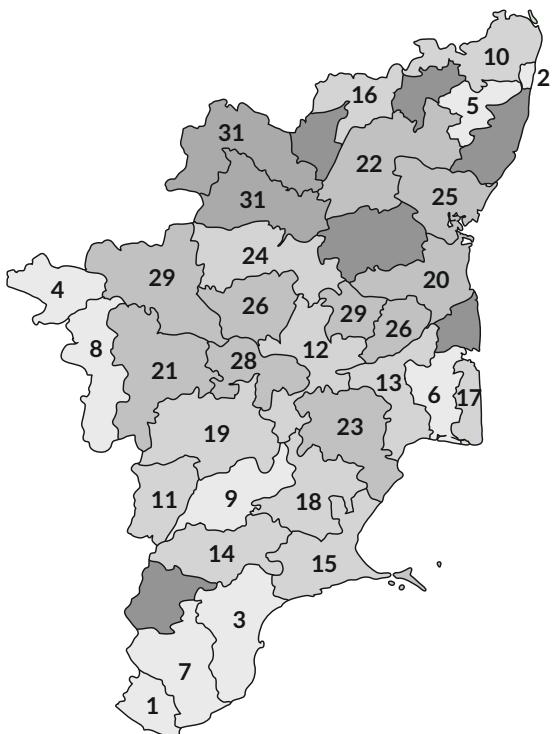
¹⁹ <https://www.globaldata.com/data-insights/macroeconomic/literacy-rate-in-india/>

²⁰ <https://www.census2011.co.in/census/state/tamil+nadu.html#:~:text=Literacy%20rate%20in%20Tamil%20Nadu,literacy%20is%20at%2073.44%20percent.>



Rank	Districts	Value (%)
1	Kanyakumari	92.9
2	Chennai	92.7
3	Thoothukudi	86.6
4	Nilgiris	85.2
5	Kanchipuram	85.0
6	Thiruvavur	84.9
7	Thirunelveli	84.4
8	Coimbatore	84.2
9	Madurai	83.9
10	Thiruvallur	83.5
11	Theni	80.9
12	Tiruchirappalli	80.7
13	Thanjavur	80.6
14	Virudhunagar	80.5
15	Ramanathapuram	80.3
16	Vellore	80.0
17	Nagapattinam	79.2
18	Sivagangai	78.8
19	Dindigul	77.8
20	Cuddalore	76.8
21	Tiruppur	75.8
22	Tiruvannamalai	75.5
23	Pudukottai	74.7
24	Salem	74.4
25	Viluppuram	73.6
26	Ariyalur	73.5
26	Namakkal	73.5
28	Karur	73.2
29	Erode	73.1
29	Perambalur	73.1
31	Dharmapuri	72.6
31	Krishnagiri	72.6

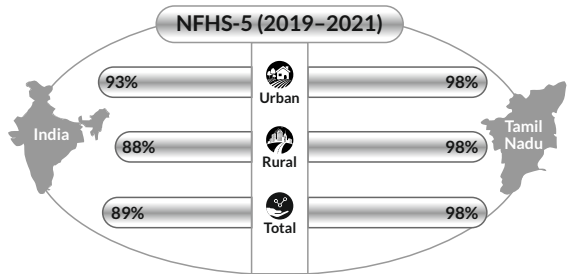
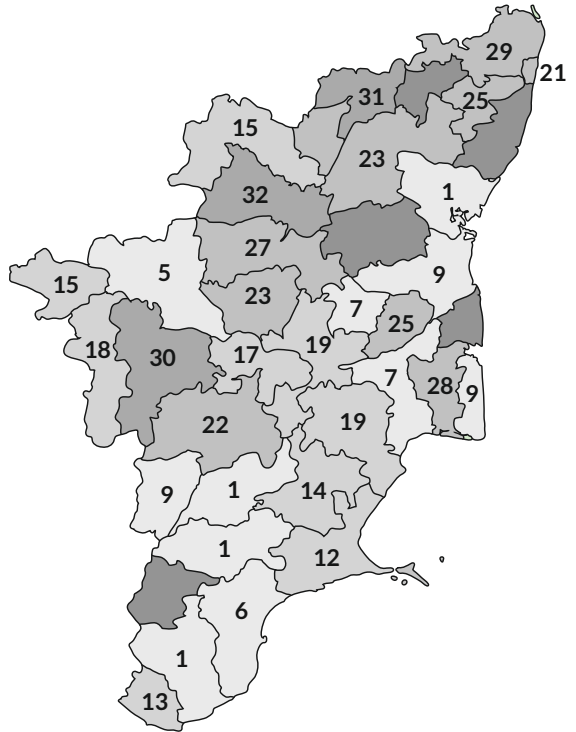
Figure 6: Female population age 6 years and above who ever attended school (%)





Rank	Districts	Value (%)
1	Madurai	100
1	Thirunelveli	100
1	Viluppuram	100
1	Virudhunagar	100
5	Erode	99.6
6	Thoothukudi	99.5
7	Perambalur	99.3
7	Thanjavur	99.3
9	Cuddalore	99.1
9	Nagapattinam	99.1
9	Theni	99.1
12	Ramanathapuram	99.0
13	Kanyakumari	98.9
14	Sivagangai	98.8
15	Krishnagiri	98.7
15	Nilgiris	98.7
17	Karur	98.6
18	Coimbatore	98.5
19	Pudukottai	98.4
19	Tiruchirappalli	98.4
21	Chennai	98.2
22	Dindigul	97.9
23	Namakkal	97.6
23	Tiruvannamalai	97.6
25	Ariyalur	97.5
25	Kanchipuram	97.5
27	Salem	97.4
28	Thiruvarur	97.2
29	Thiruvallur	97.0
30	Tiruppur	96.9
31	Vellore	96.5
32	Dharmapuri	93.0

Figure 7: Children under age 5 years whose birth was registered with the civil authority (%)



Addressing Hunger Eradication (Goal 2) and Improving Access to Education (Goal 4)

– Siju Mathew²¹

Tamil Nadu has made significant strides in its socio-economic development, showcasing positive achievements in women's empowerment, as indicated by the National Family Health Survey (NFHS-5, 2019–20). The reported sex ratio of 996 females per 1,000 males reflects a more balanced gender distribution. Despite these advancements, concerns persist regarding the overall well-being of women. In the context of ongoing improvements in Tamil Nadu's economic and social spheres, a close examination of women's status becomes imperative for achieving inclusive and holistic growth. It is crucial for designing targeted interventions and policies to effectively address gender-based disparities. Monitoring the status of women is essential for understanding their participation in the workforce, entrepreneurial activities, and their contributions to economic growth. Additionally, assessing women's educational status is vital for evaluating the success of educational policies and identifying existing barriers. This chapter focuses on various aspects of women's lives in Tamil Nadu, with a special emphasis on two critical Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs): ensuring access to adequate food (Goal 2) and promoting quality education for all (Goal 4). It underscores that monitoring the status of women is not just about gender equity but a fundamental aspect of promoting social justice, inclusive development, and achieving broader goals for sustainable and equitable societal progress.

Education

Tamil Nadu has made commendable progress in promoting women's education. According to the District Information System for Education (DISE), the state recorded a gross enrolment ratio of 97.28% at the primary level in the academic year 2020–21. The Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan (SSA) has played a crucial role in achieving near-universal enrolment at this level. However, the disparities in literacy rates highlighted by the Annual Status of Education Report (ASER) are notable, revealing a gender gap of 79.8% for females compared to 87.5% for males in the 15–16 age group. This emphasises a crucial need for specific and targeted initiatives aimed at bolstering educational opportunities for women, particularly those in higher age groups.

Tamil Nadu's commitment to Sustainable Development Goal 4 (SDG 4), which emphasises inclusive and quality education for all, is evident in the strides made in implementing the Samacheer Kalvi (Uniform System of School Education). The

²¹ *Monitoring and evaluation professional*



2020–21 Economic Survey of Tamil Nadu reports successful outcomes, contributing to the establishment of a standardised education system across the state. Despite these advancements, there remains a pressing necessity for focused interventions, especially in the realm of technical and professional education, where persistent gender gaps in enrolment continue to exist.

Hunger

Tamil Nadu has a robust Public Distribution System (PDS) that plays a vital role in ensuring food security. According to the National Family Health Survey (NFHS–5), conducted in 2019–20, the state has made significant progress in reducing malnutrition, with the prevalence of stunting among children under five reduced from 29.7% (NFHS–4) to 23.8%. Despite these improvements, challenges remain, especially in rural areas, where women face difficulties in accessing nutritious food.

The government of Tamil Nadu's commitment to SDG 2 is evident through initiatives like the Nutritious Noon Meal Program, targeting school-going children. The NFHS–5 data highlights the positive impact of such programmes on child nutrition. However, it is important to recognise that 20.7% of women are underweight and 54.7% of women in the age group 15–49 are anaemic. This data underscores the need for targeted interventions to improve the nutritional status of women and the need to expand and enhance these initiatives to address the nutritional needs of women, especially pregnant and lactating mothers.

Challenges

Gender Disparity

As per the National Sample Survey Office (NSSO) data for the year 2019–20, a stark contrast in labour force participation rates between men and women in Tamil Nadu highlights gender disparities in the employment sector. The female labour force participation rate is reported to be 27.4%, significantly lower than the 77.1% labour force participation rate for males. This glaring gap sheds light on the multifaceted challenges faced by women in the state when it comes to participating in the workforce. Balancing work and family responsibilities is often a significant challenge for women. Inadequate support systems, such as affordable childcare facilities and flexible working arrangements, can hinder women from fully engaging in the workforce. The substantial underrepresentation of women in the labour force suggests that a significant portion of the female population's skills and talents are underutilised. This underutilisation can impede overall economic growth and innovation. Persistent gender disparities in employment can have long-term consequences for women's financial independence, career progression,



and overall well-being. It can perpetuate cycles of inequality that affect not only the current generation but also future ones.

Cultural Norms

The 2021 Tamil Nadu Human Development Report delves into the intricate fabric of societal norms that underpin gender disparities, wielding a profound influence on women's mobility and constraining their access to education and employment opportunities. Cultural norms can perpetuate stereotypes dictating certain professions as more suitable for men, creating barriers for women aspiring to enter non-traditional fields. This occupational segregation contributes to the gender wage gap and limits women's career choices.

Economic constraints

The Annual Status of Education Report (ASER) indicates that economic constraints remain a significant barrier for many families. This is reflected in the dropout rates, particularly at higher education levels. High tuition fees, additional educational expenses, and the opportunity cost of education can prevent economically disadvantaged students from pursuing higher education.

Rural–Urban Disparities

NFHS–5 data highlight differences in education indicators between rural and urban areas. In many cases, rural areas face greater challenges in terms of infrastructure and access to quality education. Limited availability of schools, inadequate infrastructure, and a lack of qualified teachers in rural areas can hinder educational opportunities. 'Individuals in rural areas often face significant challenges in accessing quality education, leading to lower levels of academic achievement and a lack of opportunities for personal development. This, in turn, affects their prospects for employment and career advancement'.

Limited Awareness

The report also highlights limited awareness about government schemes and entitlements among women in certain communities, hindering their access to benefits.

Recommendations:

Targeted Education Initiatives

Implement targeted initiatives to bridge the gender gap in higher education, focusing on skill development and vocational training for women, as recommended by the Economic Survey of Tamil Nadu.

Empowerment Programmes

Develop and implement programmes to empower women in agriculture, ensuring their access to resources and knowledge, aligning with the NSSO findings.

Awareness Campaigns

Conduct awareness campaigns to educate women about their rights and entitlements, promoting greater participation in government schemes, as emphasised in the Tamil Nadu Human Development Report.

Collaborative efforts

The collaboration of government, civil society, and the private sector is paramount to creating an enabling environment that supports women's holistic development.

Conclusion

While Tamil Nadu has made commendable progress in various areas, incorporating data from reliable sources highlights specific challenges that persist for women. Addressing gender disparities in education, employment, and nutrition requires a nuanced approach, and aligning strategies with the SDGs on hunger and education is crucial for sustainable and inclusive development. True transformative change necessitates collaboration among the government, civil society, and the private sector. Government policies must be complemented by civil society initiatives that address community-specific needs, and private sector engagement can bring innovation and resources to accelerate progress. Partnerships between these sectors can amplify the impact of interventions and create a more holistic support system for women. In conclusion, addressing the multifaceted challenges faced by women in Tamil Nadu requires a comprehensive, data-driven, and collaborative approach. By aligning strategies with SDGs, the region can pave the way for sustainable and inclusive development, ensuring that women not only overcome existing barriers but thrive in an environment that fosters their holistic well-being.



Goal 05



GENDER EQUALITY

Achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls.

– Bimla Chandrashekar²²

Focus on

- ✦ End all forms of discrimination, violence, harmful practices
- ✦ Recognise and value unpaid care
- ✦ Ensure women's full and effective participation in leadership, decision-making in political, economic, and public life
- ✦ Ensure universal access to sexual and reproductive health
- ✦ Enhance the use of enabling technology
- ✦ Adopt and strengthen sound policies and enforceable legislation for gender equality

Key Departments and Schemes

Tamil Nadu

Social Welfare and Women Empowerment

- ◆ The Cradle Baby Scheme
- ◆ Chief Minister's Girl Child Protection Scheme
- ◆ Beti Bachao Beti Padhao scheme
- ◆ Pudhumai Penn scheme

Gender refers to the characteristics of women, men, girls, and boys that are socially constructed. Gender equality is a fundamental human right, and is also a necessary foundation for a peaceful, prosperous, and sustainable world.

Understanding of gender as a cross cutting issue and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) are complete only when the gender lens is applied to all the SDGs. This cross-cutting understanding is very important to take forward the analysis and discourse.

Empowerment of women has four key components a) women's sense of self-worth, b) their right to have access to information on opportunities and resources c) their right to have choices to make decisions and control their own lives, and d) their ability to influence the direction of social development process. All these components are included in the SDGs. There has been some progress but a lot more needs to be done to achieve gender equality and empowerment of women in the State.

Among the 17 goals of SDG, goal 5 is the most explicit for gender equality and empowerment of women and girls. It has 9 targets and 14 indicators (UN).

²² Director, Ekta Resource Centre for Women.



Tamil Nadu does have some very empowering women specific schemes. However, implementation could be improved, and they lack institutional support. For instance, the transgender welfare board – the first in the country – languished for 10 years with the change in government and had to wait for the initiating party to be re-elected in 2021. It bodes ill for inclusion and equality initiatives if there is no cross-party support for social justice and progress is held hostage to party rivalry. It is also an indicator of weak personality cult-based institutions.

Tamil Nadu introduced the pioneering free transport for women in government run public road transport. However, this has been sabotaged by making the service only in special buses with reduced frequency – in addition to erratic scheduling. This is despite the demonstrated fact in the neighbouring state of Karnataka that free transport for women in all non-premium buses actually increases economic activity in three major streams – work (since more women go to work), consumption (since they travel, with their children, for shopping), and leisure (again, travel with the children to temples and nearby tourist attractions during weekends). This is apart from virtually doubling the workforce and women's participation in the workforce at one go, and increasing women's presence in public spaces that, arguably, decrease crime. (The transition of bus stops from all male domains to women majority spaces in neighbouring Bengaluru has been noticed and commented upon by urban planners).

The amelioration of absolute destitution of senior women through the widow pension scheme is considerably handicapped by the quota system (only so many per grama panchayat), making it the sole entitlement (cannot get this if the woman has got any other entitlement), and dependent on the woman having no male relative (assuming that male relatives will 'look after' her).

Target 5.1, critically looks at the availability of an overarching legal frame work to promote women's public life participation, employment and economic benefits, equality in marriage and family and to address violence against women and girls.

The Cradle Baby Scheme, Chief Minister's Girl Child Protection Scheme and Beti Bachao Beti Padhao scheme are implemented through this department aiming to prevent female foeticide, female infanticide, ensure her protection, rights and provide economic assistance which addresses the Child Sex Ratio and Gender inequality. Pudhumai Penn scheme, an innovative initiative of the Government of Tamil Nadu has benefitted 2.09 lakh girl students to continue their higher education thereby improving female literacy rate and female workforce.²³

²³ The status is compiled from the Social Welfare and Women Empowerment Department, Government of Tamil Nadu, Policy Note 2023-2024.



In target 5.2, the focus is to eliminate all forms of violence against women and girls in the public and private spheres, including trafficking, sexual and other types of violence.

The state-run helplines for women (181) and children (1098), 38 one stop centres, 33 swadhar homes, ujjawala homes, and 7 service homes provide emergency response and rehabilitation services such as shelter, food clothing, counselling, legal aid and training to women and children affected by violence and abuse.

In target 5.3, the stress is on to eliminate all harmful practices, such as child, early marriage, and female genital mutilation.

The Prohibition of Child Marriage Act, 2006 and State Rules, 2009 is implemented by creating awareness among public and file FIRs against child marriages. Sensitisation Programmes and awareness generation activities are being undertaken with assistance from UNICEF and SBGF in High Incidence Districts.

Target 5.4 specifies to recognise and value unpaid care and domestic work through the provision of public services, infrastructure and social protection policies and the promotion of shared responsibility within the household and the family as nationally appropriate.

Women related social legislations such as Dowry prohibition Act, 1961, Protection of Women from Domestic Violence Act, 2005, Sexual Harassment of Women at Workplace, 2013 and Tamil Nadu Hostels and Homes for Women and Children Regulation Act, 2015 are implemented by the department to ensure dignity and respect of women and children. Tamil Nadu State Commission for Women deals with cases related to crimes against women and safeguarding their rights. Widow and Destitute Women Welfare Board has been constituted to formulate schemes for improving livelihood status of widows, deserted women, orphan and spinsters. Social Security pension schemes are also implemented to protect vulnerable section of the society.

In target 5.5, the emphasis is to ensure women's full and effective participation and equal opportunities for leadership at all levels of decision making in political, economic and public life.

Free bus travel facilities are provided to women which provides mobility thereby creating opportunities to be independent and economically empowered. Women Industrial Cooperative Societies are established to provide employment to women so as to complement their family income. Government Working Women Hostels run and regulated by the Department ensures safe, decent and affordable stay for women. 50% of seats in local bodies and 33% in employment have been reserved for women.

Target 5.6 Ensure universal access to sexual and reproductive health and reproductive rights as agreed in accordance with the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development and Beijing Platform for Action and outcome documents of their review conferences.

Various Health programmes as supply of Nutritious health kit and continuous health check-ups during pregnancy, Maternity benefit schemes to compensate wage loss, Health check-ups for adolescents and children are being undertaken to develop a healthy society.

Target 5.a Understand reforms to give women equal rights to economic resources as well as access to ownership and control over land and other forms of property, financial services, inheritance and natural resources, in accordance with national laws.

Tamil Nadu is the Pioneer State in enacting law way back in 1989 giving equal rights to daughters on parental properties which is ensured by Hon'ble Supreme Court in 2020. Tamil Nadu is also pioneer state in issuing orders in 1994, for putting the mother's name also as initials for their children during their admission to schools.

Target 5.b Enhance the use of enabling technology, in particular information and communications technology to promote the empowerment of women.

Tamil Nadu is the first state to set up All Women Police Station (AWPS) in early 1990s to ensure secured feeling to women to approach police stations. Various helplines and mobile apps as kavalan, kaval udhavi are implemented to ensure safety and empowering women in the field of education, employment, etc.

Target 5.c Adopt and strengthen sound policies and enforceable legislations for the promotion of gender equality and empowerment of all women and girls at all levels.

The State policy for Women is developed and has got the cabinet approval. This policy guarantees equal opportunities and representation of women for leadership at all levels. The Department implements various social legislations to ensure safety and protection and thereby ensuring gender equality and women empowerment.



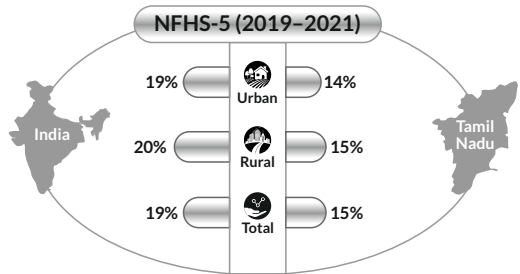
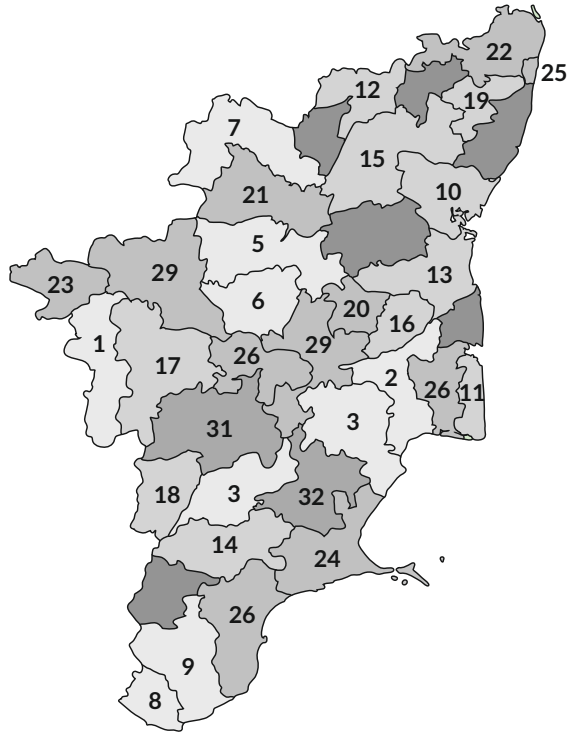
Key Indicators	India	Tamil Nadu baseline	Global Target
Women BMI (below normal)	22.99	14.6	End all forms of discrimination against all women and girls everywhere
Men BMI (below normal)	20.02	12.4	
Family violence – NFHS 5 (2019–21)	29.03 <i>Spousal violence</i> 1,13,403 <i>Violence faced from husband or his relatives</i> 7,634 <i>Dowry deaths</i>	38.1 <i>Spousal violence</i> 1,900 <i>Violence faced from husband or his relatives</i> 65 <i>Dowry deaths</i>	Eliminate all forms of violence against all women and girls in the public and private spheres
Violence from outside	3,405 <i>Immoral traffic against women</i> 34,651 <i>Rape cases</i> 24,041 <i>Sexual harassment of women</i>	3,405 <i>Immoral traffic against women</i> 34,651 <i>Rape cases</i> 24,041 <i>Sexual harassment of women</i>	
Violence against children – child labour, child trafficking, other physical, mental and sexual violence	24% <i>Crime against children 2016</i> 3,490 <i>Child trafficking cases reported</i>	2.4% or 2,84,232 <i>Children in age group 6–14 are in workforce</i> 13 <i>Child trafficking cases reported</i>	
Child marriages reported in the community	26.8% <i>Immoral traffic against women</i> 263 <i>Cases under Prevention of child marriages</i>	3,405 <i>Immoral traffic against women</i> 77 <i>Cases under Prevention of child marriage</i>	Eliminate all harmful practices, such as child, early and forced marriage and female genital mutilation
Women having mobile phone that they themselves use – NFHS 5 (2019–21)	54.0% (2019–2021)	74.6% (2019–2021)	
Women having a bank or savings account that they themselves use – NFHS 5 (2019–21)	78.6% (2019–2021)	92.2% (2019–2021)	Enhance the use of enabling technology, in particular information and communications technology, to promote the empowerment of women
No. of seats in the assembly		9% (20 women)	Ensure women's full and effective participation and equal opportunities for leadership at all levels of decision-making in political, economic and public life

NCRB 2015 and NFHS4; Children in workforce from Tamil Nadu Human Development Index 2017



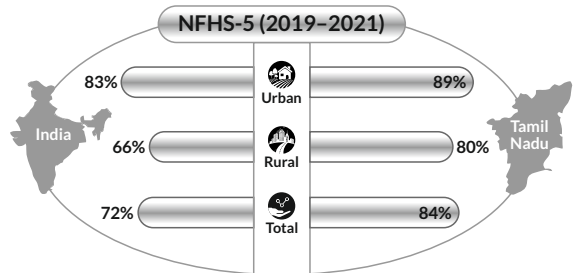
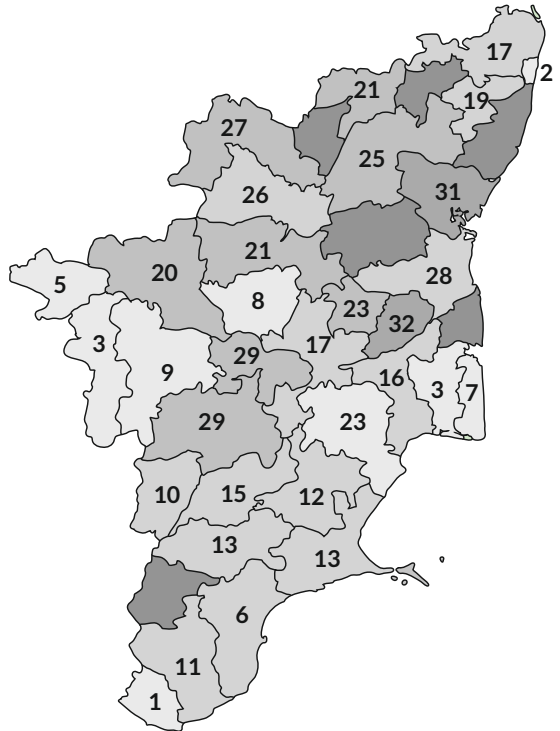
Rank	Districts	Value (%)
1	Coimbatore	07.0
2	Thanjavur	08.3
3	Madurai	09.5
3	Pudukottai	09.5
5	Salem	10.1
6	Namakkal	10.3
7	Krishnagiri	10.4
8	Kanyakumari	11.4
9	Thirunelveli	12.0
10	Viluppuram	12.4
11	Nagapattinam	12.5
12	Vellore	13.1
13	Cuddalore	13.9
14	Virudhunagar	14.4
15	Tiruvannamalai	14.8
16	Ariyalur	15.1
17	Tiruppur	15.3
18	Theni	15.5
19	Kanchipuram	15.7
20	Perambalur	15.9
21	Dharmapuri	16.9
22	Thiruvallur	17.0
23	Nilgiris	17.3
24	Ramanathapuram	17.7
25	Chennai	18.3
26	Karur	18.4
26	Thiruvarur	18.4
26	Thoothukudi	18.4
29	Erode	20.9
29	Tiruchirappalli	20.9
31	Dindigul	21.1
32	Sivagangai	22.8

Figure 8: Children under 5 years who are wasted (weight-for-height) (%)



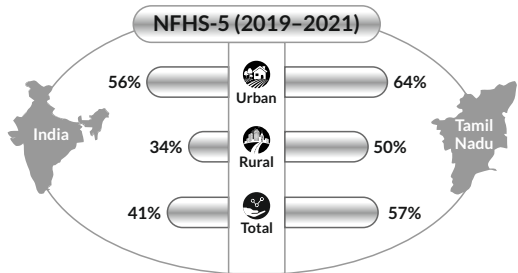
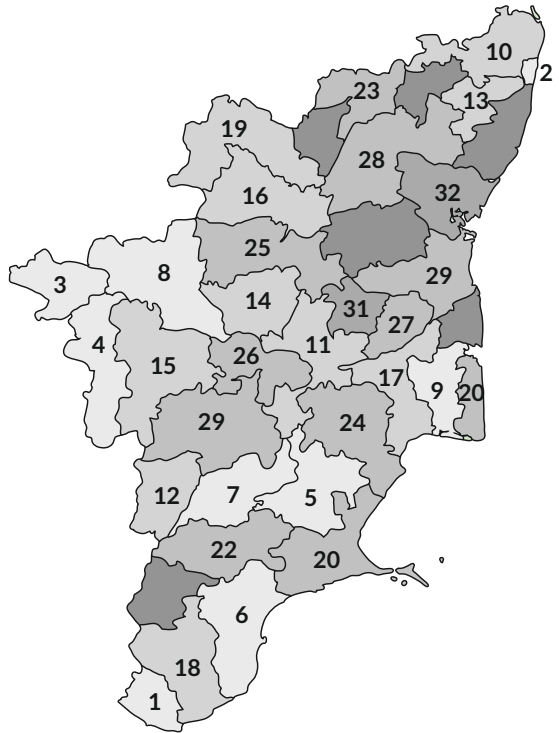
Rank	Districts	Value (%)
1	Kanyakumari	97.7
2	Chennai	94.8
3	Coimbatore	89.3
3	Thiruvarur	89.3
5	Nilgiris	89.1
6	Thoothukudi	88.5
7	Nagapattinam	87.8
8	Namakkal	87.7
9	Tiruppur	87.1
10	Theni	85.7
11	Thirunelveli	85.6
12	Sivagangai	85.3
13	Ramanathapuram	84.1
13	Virudhunagar	84.1
15	Madurai	83.9
16	Thanjavur	83.8
17	Thiruvallur	83.6
17	Tiruchirappalli	83.6
19	Kanchipuram	82.6
20	Erode	82.4
21	Salem	81.6
21	Vellore	81.6
23	Perambalur	81.1
23	Pudukottai	81.1
25	Tiruvannamalai	79.8
26	Dharmapuri	79.0
27	Krishnagiri	78.6
28	Cuddalore	78.3
29	Dindigul	78.2
29	Karur	78.2
31	Viluppuram	75.4
32	Ariyalur	74.6

Figure 9: Women who are literate



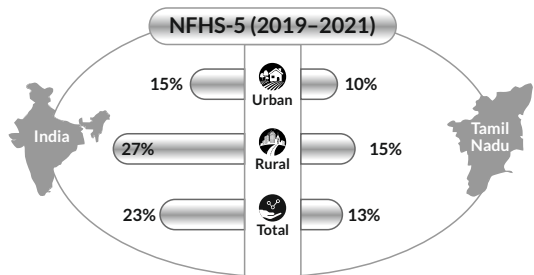
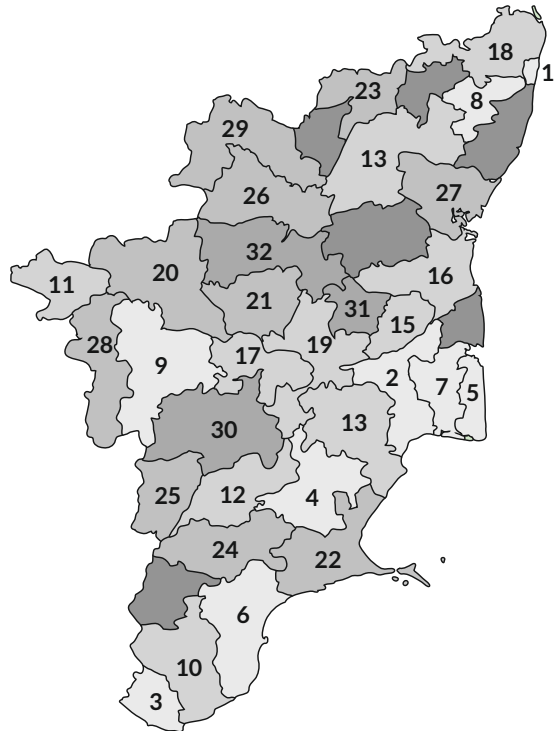
Rank	Districts	Value (%)
1	Kanyakumari	77.1
2	Chennai	76.7
3	Nilgiris	63.4
4	Coimbatore	62.8
5	Sivagangai	59.9
6	Thoothukudi	59.5
7	Madurai	58.6
8	Erode	57.8
9	Thiruvarur	57.5
10	Thiruvallur	57.2
11	Tiruchirappalli	57.1
12	Theni	56.9
13	Kanchipuram	56.8
14	Namakkal	55.7
15	Tiruppur	55.1
16	Dharmapuri	54.4
17	Thanjavur	54.3
18	Thirunelveli	54.2
19	Krishnagiri	53.9
20	Nagapattinam	53.7
20	Ramanathapuram	53.7
22	Virudhunagar	53.5
23	Vellore	52.5
24	Pudukottai	52.2
25	Salem	51.3
26	Karur	51.2
27	Ariyalur	50.7
28	Tiruvannamalai	50.2
29	Cuddalore	50.1
29	Dindigul	50.1
31	Perambalur	49.0
32	Viluppuram	45.7

Figure 10: Women with 10 or more years of schooling (%)



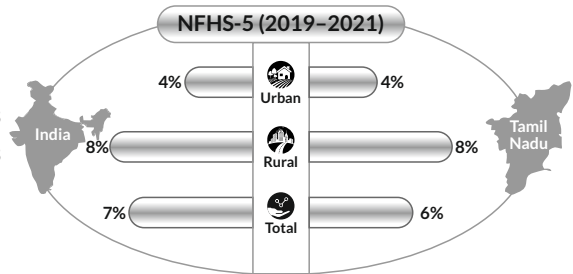
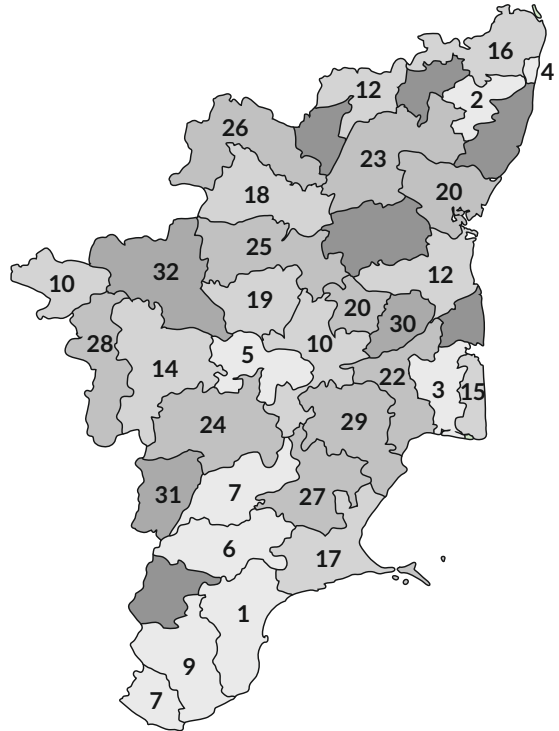
Rank	Districts	Value (%)
1	Chennai	1.9
2	Thanjavur	4.1
3	Kanyakumari	4.3
4	Sivagangai	4.5
5	Nagapattinam	6.3
6	Thoothukudi	8.9
7	Thiruvarur	9.1
8	Kanchipuram	10.0
9	Tiruppur	10.5
10	Thirunelveli	10.7
11	Nilgiris	11.1
12	Madurai	11.5
13	Pudukottai	11.6
13	Tiruvannamalai	11.6
15	Ariyalur	12.4
16	Cuddalore	12.6
17	Karur	13.3
18	Thiruvallur	13.4
19	Tiruchirappalli	13.5
20	Erode	13.7
21	Namakkal	14.2
22	Ramanathapuram	14.7
23	Vellore	14.9
24	Virudhunagar	15.5
25	Theni	16.0
26	Dharmapuri	16.7
27	Viluppuram	19.0
28	Coimbatore	19.8
29	Krishnagiri	20.3
30	Dindigul	20.5
31	Perambalur	21.4
32	Salem	23.7

Figure 11: Women age 20-24 years married before age 18 years (%)



Rank	Districts	Value (%)
1	Thoothukudi	0.9
2	Kanchipuram	2.5
3	Thiruvarur	2.7
4	Chennai	3.0
5	Karur	3.3
6	Virudhunagar	3.6
7	Kanyakumari	4.0
7	Madurai	4.0
9	Thirunelveli	4.3
10	Nilgiris	4.5
10	Tiruchirappalli	4.5
12	Cuddalore	4.9
12	Vellore	4.9
14	Tiruppur	5.1
15	Nagapattinam	5.2
16	Thiruvallur	5.8
17	Ramanathapuram	6.0
18	Dharmapuri	6.4
19	Namakkal	6.5
20	Perambalur	7.7
21	Viluppuram	7.9
22	Thanjavur	8.4
23	Tiruvannamalai	8.5
24	Dindigul	8.6
25	Salem	8.9
26	Krishnagiri	9.5
27	Sivagangai	9.6
28	Coimbatore	10.3
29	Pudukottai	11.3
30	Ariyalur	11.5
31	Theni	13.5
32	Erode	14.8

Figure 12: Women age 15-19 years who were already mothers or pregnant at the time of the survey (%)



Population and Household Profile (%)	India				Tamil Nadu			
	NFHS-5 (2019-21)			NFHS-4 (2015-16) Total	NFHS-5 (2019-21)			NFHS-4 (2015-16) Total
	Urban	Rural	Total		Urban	Rural	Total	
Currently married women who usually participate in three household decisions	91	88	89	84	92	94	93	84
Women who worked in the last 12 months and were paid in cash	25	26	25	25	35	46	41	31
Women owning a house and/or land (alone or jointly with others)	38	46	43	38	43	52	48	36
Women having a bank or savings account that they themselves use	81	77	79	53	93	92	92	77
Women having a mobile phone that they themselves use	69	47	54	46	81	69	75	62
Women age 15-24 years who use hygienic methods of protection during their menstrual period	89	72	77	58	99	98	98	91
Gender Based Violence (age 18-49 years) Ever-married women age 18-49 years who have ever experienced spousal violence	24	32	29	31	33	42	38	41
Marriage and Fertility Women age 20-24 years married before age 18	15	27	23	27	10	15	13	16
Men age 25-29 years married before age 21	11	21	18	20	6	3	5	9
Total fertility rate (children per woman)	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2
Women age 15-19 years who were already mothers or pregnant at the time of the survey	4	8	7	8	4	8	6	5
Adolescent fertility rate for women age 15-19	27	49	43	51	23	44	34	39

Goal 06



CLEAN WATER AND SANITATION

End hunger, achieve food security and improved nutrition and promote sustainable agriculture

Focus on

- ✦ *Adequate and equitable sanitation and hygiene*
- ✦ *Improve water quality by reducing pollution and increasing recycling and safe reuse*
- ✦ *Integrated water resources management at all levels*
- ✦ *Protect and restore water-related ecosystems, including mountains, forests, wetlands, rivers, aquifers and lakes*
- ✦ *Water harvesting, desalination, water efficiency, wastewater treatment, recycling and reuse technologies*
- ✦ *Strengthen the participation of local communities*

By 2030, achieve universal and equitable access to safe and affordable drinking water for all

Tamil Nadu should have piped drinking water to all houses. This was the promise of the Tamil Nadu Vision 2023. Therefore, the non-coverage of some households is inexplicable. In this report we have identified 17 households in 3 villege panchayat at Tiruppur, district which can be immediately covered.

The argument that the excluded households are in remote areas are against the government policy, since the policy exists precisely to cater to these commercially 'unviable' areas and unreached sections of society. The weak excuse that these kept behind communities are in the forests has been debunked earlier. The hurdles are all bureaucratic and therefore the solutions lie well within the capacity and competence of the state.

Tamil Nadu's record on sanitation is mixed. Manual scavenging is still practiced and is now recorded as going beyond the historically identified communities. Successive governments are in denial, but the continuing sewer deaths bears testimony to its prevalence. Tamil Nadu is the state with the highest number of recorded sewer deaths, probably due to better record keeping rather than an indicator of relative prevalence.





Key Departments and Schemes

Tamil Nadu

Rural Development & Panchayat Raj	◆	Rainwater Harvesting Campaign and Water Safety Week
Municipal Administration and Water Supply	◆	
Environment, Climate Change and Forests	◆	Modular Sewage Treatment Plants
Agriculture and Farmers Welfare Department	◆	Chennai Rivers Restoration Trust
Industries, Investment Promotion & Commerce	◆	

Key Indicators	India 2021	Tamil Nadu baseline	TN vision 2023	Global Target
Households with an improved drinking-water source -NFHS 5 (2019-20)	95.9%	98.6%	<i>Tamil Nadu shall provide piped and pressurised 24x7 water supply to 100% of its residents and ensure that all of them have access to safe sanitation including open defecation free and garbage free environment.</i>	<i>By 2030, achieve universal and equitable access to safe and affordable drinking water for all</i>
Households using improved sanitation facilities	70.2%	72.6%		<i>Achieve access to adequate and equitable sanitation and hygiene for all and end open defecation</i>
Functional toilet coverage	71.78% ²⁴	79% ²⁵ 52.5% (NFHS4)		
Sanitation and waste disposal in the community	48.4%	52.5% ²⁶		
Open defecation (% households)	44%	42 (in 2012)		

²⁴ <https://www.globaldata.com/data-insights/macroeconomic/literacy-rate-in-india/>

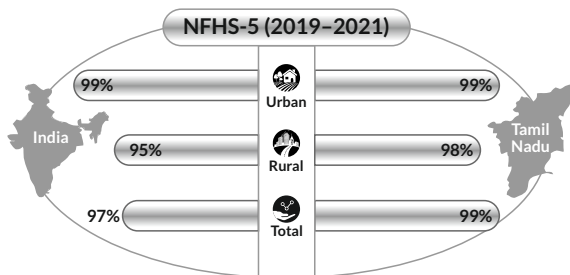
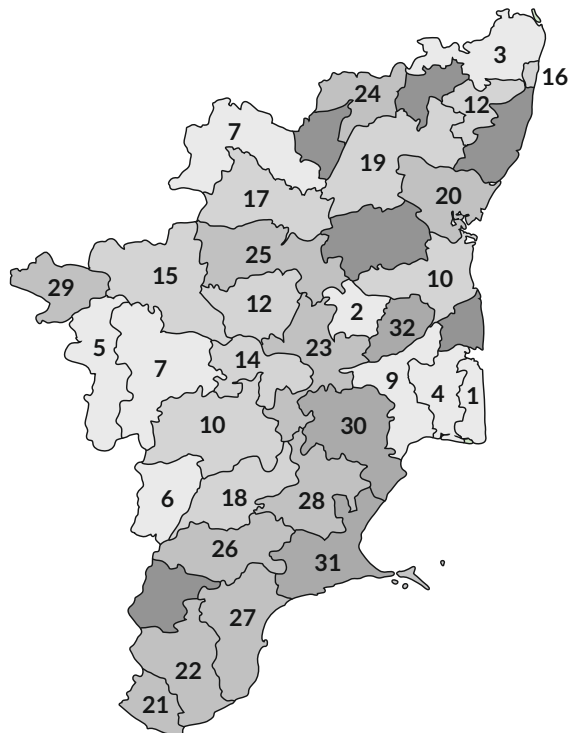
²⁵ <https://www.census2011.co.in/census/state/tamil+nadu.html#:~:text=Literacy%20rate%20in%20Tamil%20Nadu,literacy%20is%20at%2073.44%20percent.>

²⁶ (<http://documents.worldbank.org/curated/en/510101504175978601/pdf/119262-BRI-P157572-Tamil-Nadu-AtAGlance.pdf>)



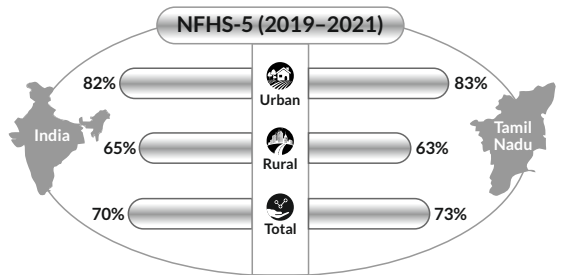
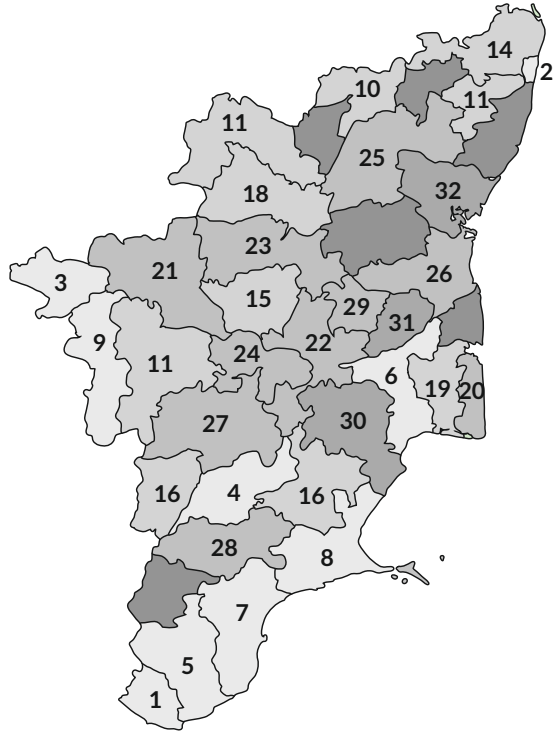
Rank	Districts	Value (%)
1	Nagapattinam	100
2	Perambalur	100
3	Thiruvallur	100
4	Thiruvarur	100
5	Coimbatore	99.9
6	Theni	99.9
7	Krishnagiri	99.8
7	Tiruppur	99.8
9	Thanjavur	99.7
10	Cuddalore	99.5
10	Dindigul	99.5
12	Namakkal	99.5
12	Kanchipuram	99.4
14	Karur	99.4
15	Erode	98.9
16	Chennai	98.7
17	Dharmapuri	98.7
18	Madurai	98.7
19	Tiruvannamalai	98.5
20	Viluppuram	98.4
21	Kanyakumari	98.2
22	Thirunelveli	98.1
23	Tiruchirappalli	98.1
24	Vellore	97.7
25	Salem	97.6
26	Virudhunagar	97.4
27	Thoothukudi	97.0
28	Sivagangai	96.5
29	Nilgiris	96.4
30	Pudukottai	95.7
31	Ramanathapuram	93.9
32	Ariyalur	93.2

Figure 13: Population living in households with an improved drinking-water source (%)



Rank	Districts	Value (%)
1	Kanyakumari	96.2
2	Chennai	90.4
3	Nilgiris	83.6
4	Madurai	80.1
5	Thirunelveli	79.8
6	Thanjavur	79.6
7	Thoothukudi	79.4
8	Ramanathapuram	78.6
9	Coimbatore	78.5
10	Vellore	76.2
11	Kanchipuram	75.9
11	Krishnagiri	75.9
11	Tiruppur	75.9
14	Thiruvallur	75.6
15	Namakkal	75.2
16	Sivagangai	74.4
16	Theni	74.4
18	Dharmapuri	72.4
19	Thiruvarur	71.0
20	Nagapattinam	69.6
21	Erode	67.6
22	Tiruchirappalli	67.1
23	Salem	64.5
24	Karur	63.6
25	Tiruvannamalai	61.7
26	Cuddalore	61.3
27	Dindigul	61.0
28	Virudhunagar	59.8
29	Perambalur	57.4
30	Pudukottai	55.2
31	Ariyalur	54.6
32	Viluppuram	53.8

Figure 14: Population living in households that use an improved sanitation facility (%)



Tamil Nadu Situation

Target 6 of the 2030 Agenda impacts other targets (1, 2, 3, 5, 11, 14, and 15). This target, aligned with goals 6.1, 6.2, 6.4, and 6.6, has been a focus since 2012. Assessing India's progress in achieving clean water and sanitation for all can be measured by conducting a national and state-wise analysis of the current status of access.

Clean water and sanitation are global public health issues. Water collected from sources such as piped water to households, household connections, public taps, bore wells, tube wells, protected bore wells, protected springs, rainwater harvesting, and bottled water are considered improved resources. India has progressed from 38% in 1981 to 85.5% of households with access to safe drinking water (tap/hand-pump/tube well).

In 1949, the Environmental Health Committee advised that clean water should be provided to 90% of India's population within a period of 40 years. The National Rural Drinking Water Supply Program was launched in 1969 with technical assistance from UNICEF, and during this phase, Rs 254.90 crore was spent on 1.2 million bore-wells and 17,000 piped water supply systems. In 1972-73, the Government of India launched the Accelerated Rural Water Supply Program (ARWSP) to help expand drinking water supply to states and union territories. The National Drinking Water Mission (NDWM) was established in 1986. The National Drinking Water Mission was renamed the Rajiv Gandhi National Drinking Water Mission (RGNDWM) in 1991. The 73rd Constitutional Amendment makes it mandatory for Panchayat Raj Institutions (PRIs) to provide potable water.

Swajal Tara, a national-level sectoral reform, was launched in 2002. All drinking water programmes were brought under the umbrella of RGNDWM in 2004. In 2005, the Government of India launched the Bharat Nirman project aimed at improving housing, roads, electricity, telephone, irrigation, and drinking water infrastructure in rural areas.

In 2009, the Union Government renamed the Accelerated Rural Water Supply Program (ARWSP) as the National Rural Drinking Water Programme (NRDWP). One of the goals is to enable all households, to the extent possible, to have access to and use safe and adequate potable water within their premises.

According to the 76th round of NSS in 2018, 2.8% of the population in Tamil Nadu did not use a toilet. Although households have toilet facilities, the non-usage is 3.5% higher in rural areas and 1.7% lower in urban areas. There are various reasons behind not using a toilet. Among them, 2.8% mention the upper structure not being proper, 8.2% cite unsanitary conditions and a lack of water, and 3% state the toilet is unusable.

²⁷ Director, Rose Trust, Ariyalur

Additionally, 0.5% of toilets are of poor quality, 1.3% cite insecurity, and 6.3% attribute it to personal preference and habits. Moreover, women use toilets more than men. Infrastructure in the rural sanitation sector is inadequate, and there is an urgent need to review the government schemes being implemented. Appropriate and adequate public toilet facilities should be created through government subsidies.

Tamil Nadu: Deficiencies in rural toilet infrastructure are undoubtedly a significant source of 'failure'. This has several reasons. Government-subsidised toilets in rural areas are often unsuitable for women. The main factors include poor quality of construction, roofs, doors, walls, waste water collection tank, and inadequate space, as well as a lack of adequate toilet facilities.

The 'Jal Jeevan Mission' project announced by the government, including rainwater harvesting projects, groundwater recharge projects, and meeting agricultural needs through sewage treatment, has been seriously affected. A target has been set to provide new water connections to 1.27 crore houses in villages and 21.85 lakh households in cities in Tamil Nadu.

Out of a total of 12,525 villages in Tamil Nadu, many villages have already been provided with individual household water connections. Out of 1,25,28,008 houses, 98,81,008 houses have been provided with household water connections under the Jal Jeevan Mission. Of these, 5,564 rural households have been provided with 100 percent tap water connections, according to the Jal Jeevan Mission website, adding that 78.87 percent of the Tamil Nadu project target has been achieved.

There are various practical challenges in the implementation of the Jal Jeevan Mission scheme. Only if these challenges are fully addressed can the strategic goals and the Sustainable Development Goals be achieved.

The Village Water Supply and Sanitation Committee (VWSC), which is responsible and empowered to plan, implement, monitor, and manage the programme at the village level, has not been properly constituted. Panel members were duly selected but not trained.

Recommendations

A new set of guidelines for the committee should be formulated, and the committee should be restructured. The members of the committee should be elected through simultaneous nationwide elections, as was the case with the School Management Committee. Selected team members should be given proper refresher training.

The scheme was not discussed in the People's Planning Movement, Village Development Programme, and Grama Sabha. There is no adequate public awareness about the scheme.



A special Grama Sabha meeting should be announced, and adequate awareness should be created among the public about the scheme.

All stakeholders, including local government representatives, employees, liaison officers, and contractors, do not have a proper understanding of the project. Therefore, delays and various problems continue in the project work.

All levels of stakeholders, including local government representatives, Panchayat Secretary, staff of the Rural Development Department, Liaison Department officials, and contractors, should be given innovative training according to their level regarding the implementation of the scheme.

The materials used to construct the basic structures of the project, and the project works are found to be substandard across the country.

The basic work of the project, like planning, selection of contractors, procurement of materials, monitoring of the project, is all the responsibility of the Village Water and Sanitation Committee (VPWSC). But in practice, the projects have been fully completed before the formation of this nominal committee.

The materials used to construct the infrastructure and the projects are found to be substandard throughout the country. Therefore, the projects that have taken place need to be reviewed. The contractor shall be responsible for the Annual Maintenance Contract through the Committee.

In Tamil Nadu, the districts of Ranipet, Kanchipuram, and Kanyakumari have been announced by the government as the districts that have achieved the hundred percent target. However, field inspections have revealed several procedural problems in the implementation of the project.

The explanations given by the Project Implementing Officers on the official websites of the Government, <https://jaljeevanmission.gov.in> and <https://jalshakti-ddws.gov.in>, and the guidelines and procedures are contradictory to each other, particularly:

The Village Water and Sanitation Committee has not been properly constituted. It is evident that the committee lacks clear functions or responsibilities under its control. For example, in Midalam village Panchayat of Killiyoor block in Kanyakumari district, which has achieved a 100 percent target, the committee comprises one Chairperson, one member, and eight member Secretaries. Eighteen water supply systems (Panchayat comprising fourteen hamlets) have been assigned only two staff for Operation and Maintenance. Of the 35 projects for the installation of water supply infrastructure in Midalam Panchayat, 11 are pending as of December 31, 2023. On the same page of the

website, it is reported that 2690 houses will be provided with a pipeline and drinking water supply. Also, Midalam Village has been certified as a Har Ghar Jal Village (Water piped to every house, self-sufficient village in water supply) on 15/08/2023 by Killiyur Panchayat Union Assistant Engineer.

One of the most important components of the scheme is the Functional Household Tap Connection - FHTC - to all households. However, the certification should be discussed, as the project is still incomplete even after six months. Importantly, the Central Committee has also accepted and confirmed that the study was certified. The resolution of the Midalam Panchayat Grama Sabha uploaded on the website does not mention that the project was discussed and approved by the public. Furthermore, in a larger Panchayat with a population of 10,981, 14 habitations, and 2690 habitations, the Gram Sabha has a meager strength of 90 women, and the number of Gram Sabha participants is below the quorum. A resolution regarding the scheme has to be passed in the special Gram Sabha called Har Ghar Jal Utsav. The government's declaration that the scheme is working successfully includes various contradictions.

Let's look at the second example. Vadakkupattu Village Panchayat in Kundrathur block of Kancheepuram district, another district that has achieved a 100 percent target, has 15 members, including a Chairman and fourteen members. There is no post of Member Secretary. Eight water supply systems (Panchayat comprising eight hamlets) have only one employee assigned for operation and maintenance. All eight projects for providing water supply infrastructure in Vadakkupattu Panchayat were completed in 2020. The website claims to have piped water supply to 507 households. Further, Vadakkupattu village has been certified as a Har Ghar Jal Village (every household has been provided with a tap water connection, self-sufficient in water supply) by an unnamed person, department, or designation. The central team has also confirmed that the village has been certified by the survey.

The resolution of the Vadakkupattu Panchayat Grama Sabha uploaded on the website does not mention that the project was discussed and approved by the public. Moreover, only the Panchayat Secretary and the Chairman of the committee have signed the letter of the Jal Jeevan Mission in the name of the Gram Sabha resolution. The Scheduled Castes constitute 1,004, and Scheduled Tribes 96, half of the population of 2028. The Gram Sabha held in a Panchayat with 4 hamlets and 659 habitations has a meager strength of four women and about fifteen males, with the Gram Sabha participants below the quorum. A resolution regarding the scheme has to be passed in the special Gram Sabha called Har Ghar Jal Utsav.



Let us look at a third example. In Athipattu Village Panchayat of Kaveripakkam block in Ranipet district, another district that has achieved a 100 percent target, the committee is functioning effectively without a Chairman and a member Secretary. For four water supply systems (Panchayat comprising two habitations), only one staff has been assigned for Operation and Maintenance. Out of the four projects for establishing water supply infrastructure in Athipattu Panchayat, three works are pending as of December 31, 2023. On the same page of the website, it is reported that 659 houses will be provided with piped connection and drinking water supply. Further, Vadakkupattu village has been certified as a Har Ghar Jal village (every house has been provided with a water pipeline and is self-sufficient in water supply) by uploading a water quality test report issued by the Junior Level Inspector of Kancheepuram District Water Quality Testing Laboratory without any date. Unfortunately, this village has also been inspected and certified by the Central Committee.

The Grama Sabha resolution to be uploaded on the website has been boldly uploaded by the Secretary of Athipattu Panchayat and the Chairman of the Committee on 22/03/2022, declaring Athipattu village as a Har Ghar Jal Village. Two hamlets with a population of 2401 and 659 habitations were held in the Grama Sabha with a ratio of 12:08 among men and women. Moreover, the resolution to be passed by a special Gram Sabha called Har Ghar Jal Utsav regarding the project has been fraudulently uploaded as the resolution passed on World Water Day on March 21.

The attitude of people's representatives, officials at all levels, and contractors without the basic understanding of a mega and self-reliant project for water supply is a matter of grave concern. In the public sphere of the Internet, which is monitored by the public, without respecting the law, rules, and guidelines, the rules have been blatantly violated at all levels. With such a weak structure, government machinery, and officials, it is not possible to implement the scheme continuously. Therefore, third-party intervention is necessary. Conduct project reviews and social audits immediately involving organisations with domain expertise, organisations working on sustainable development goals, water rights activists, civil society organisations, and people's organisations.

The challenges need to be addressed before the next phase of the Jal Jeevan Mission. The programme should be popularised, and strategies should be devised to make people stakeholders. Most importantly, to explore, plan, and implement the schemes with people's participation and involvement, the project review should be conducted at the block and district level across the country, similar to the village, block, and district welfare council meetings held in the health department, where public opinions and suggestions are heard and implemented.

The percentage of villages having a village-level drinking water and sanitation committee is lower than the national figure. Hence, proper formation and maintenance of the "Village Level Water and Sanitation Committee" is required for effective water management.

The preparation of a village-level action plan should be given priority to ensure long-term water supply systems by merging various schemes such as MGNREGS, 15th Finance Commission grants to Panchayati Raj institutions, District Mineral Development Fund, Afforestation Compensatory Fund, Management and Planning Commission, Corporate Social Responsibility Fund, and Local Area Development Fund.

Incomplete implementation of the Jal Jeevan Mission will affect the local community involved in planning, implementation, management, and maintenance of water bodies in the villages. It is also unacceptable that the monthly maintenance and water production cost will be collected from the beneficiaries. It is already a burden on the rural and urban poor, who live in poverty without permanent jobs and income.

All those who have already got water connections have already paid the connection charges many years ago. It is incorrect to say that the people who are currently connected to drinking water are improperly connected. The removal of all public water taps is not acceptable. There is widespread concern that the government may bring the water distribution system across the country through the Jal Jeevan Mission and then privatise the right to distribute water across the country. Therefore, the right to supply water should be under the control of the state governments. Abandon the trick of trying to privatise; Desalination Project, Cauvery Combined Water Supply Scheme, Hogenekkal Drinking Water Scheme should be implemented across Tamil Nadu, and water supply should be decentralised throughout the state. The system of charging water under the Jal Jeevan Mission should be abolished. The water problem should be solved by allocating adequate funds to every village panchayat, town panchayat, municipality, and corporation.



Goal 07



AFFORDABLE AND CLEAN ENERGY

Ensure access to affordable, reliable, sustainable and modern energy for all

Focus on

- ✦ *Ensure universal access to affordable, reliable and modern energy services*
- ✦ *Increase substantially the share of renewable energy in the global energy mix*
- ✦ *Double the global rate of improvement in energy efficiency*
- ✦ *Enhance international cooperation to facilitate access to clean energy research and technology*
- ✦ *Expand infrastructure and upgrade technology for supplying modern and sustainable energy services for all*

By 2030, ensure universal access to affordable, reliable and modern energy services

Tamil Nadu should have by now 100% electrification of all houses. The free electricity connection scheme, supplemented by the 100 units of free electricity bimonthly for all households below poverty line moves it beyond a statement of good intentions to a government policy with a budget supported scheme. Therefore, the non-coverage of some households is inexplicable. In this report we have identified 82 households in 13 village panchayats in Tirupur district which can be immediately covered.

The argument that the excluded households are in remote areas and therefore undoable is against the stated government policy since the policy exists precisely to cater to these commercially ‘unviable’ areas and unreached sections of society. The hurdles are all bureaucratic and therefore the solutions lie well within the capacity and competence of the state.

In any case, if these households are not covered, then Tamil Nadu will fail in this goal.





Key Departments and Schemes

Tamil Nadu

- Energy
- Co-operation, Food and Consumer Protection
- Green Energy Corridor
- Tamil Nadu Investment Promotion Programme
- Revamped distribution sector scheme

Key Indicators	India 2021	Tamil Nadu baseline	TN vision 2023	Global Target
Households with electricity (Population with electricity - NFHS 5 (2019-20))	88.2% 96.8%	98.6% 99.3%	The total investment in the energy sector is estimated at ₹4,50,000 crore for the energy production estimated to add 20,000 MW of capacity Selective thrust for green power by maximising investments in Wind Power to create incremental generation capacity of 5,000 MW and 5,000 MW in solar energy.	Universal access to affordable reliable and modern energy services
Households using clean fuel for cooking - NFHS 5 (2019-20)	58.6%	82.9%		Achieve access to adequate and equitable sanitation and hygiene for all and end open defecation
Share of Renewable Energy	Total ²⁸ 42849 MW renewable energy capacity 26,866.7 MW Wind 4273.5 MW Small hydro 4946.4MW Biomass 6762.9 MW Solar	Total ²⁹ 9448.68 MW renewable energy capacity 7613.86 MW Wind 123.05 MW Small hydro 649.95 MW Biomass 1061.82 MW Solar		

²⁸ Ministry of New and Renewable Energy, India http://www.cea.nic.in/reports/committee/nep/nep_dec.pdf

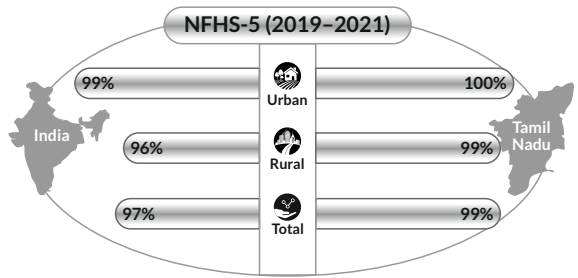
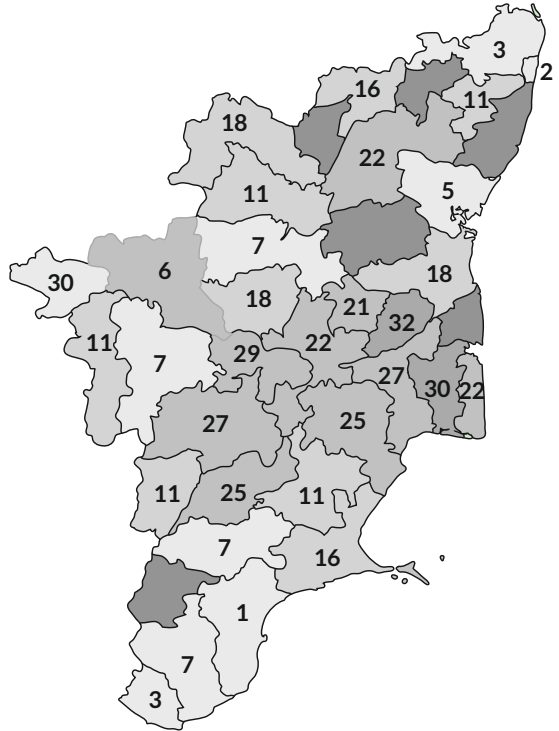
²⁹ *ibid*





Rank	Districts	Value (%)
1	Thoothukudi	100
2	Chennai	99.9
3	Kanyakumari	99.8
3	Thiruvallur	99.8
5	Viluppuram	99.7
6	Erode	99.6
7	Salem	99.5
7	Thirunelveli	99.5
7	Tiruppur	99.5
7	Virudhunagar	99.5
11	Coimbatore	99.4
11	Dharmapuri	99.4
11	Kanchipuram	99.4
11	Sivagangai	99.4
11	Theni	99.4
16	Ramanathapuram	99.3
16	Vellore	99.3
18	Cuddalore	99.2
18	Krishnagiri	99.2
18	Namakkal	99.2
21	Perambalur	99.1
22	Nagapattinam	99.0
22	Tiruchirappalli	99.0
22	Tiruvannamalai	99.0
25	Madurai	98.9
25	Pudukottai	98.9
27	Dindigul	98.8
27	Thanjavur	98.8
29	Karur	98.7
30	Nilgiris	98.6
30	Thiruvarur	98.6
32	Ariyalur	98.2

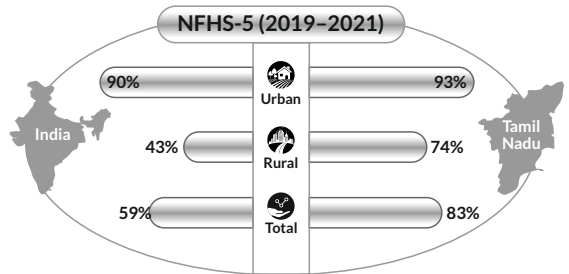
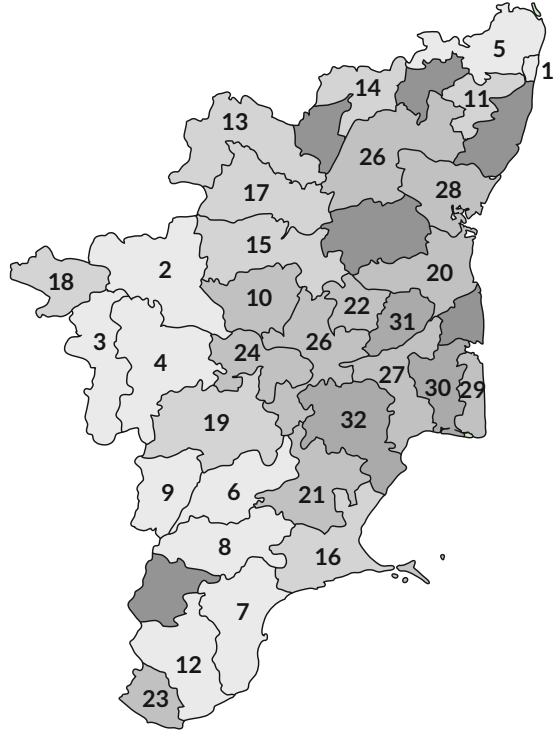
Figure 15: Population living in households with electricity (%)





Rank	Districts	Value (%)
1	Chennai	97.7
2	Erode	95.9
3	Coimbatore	95.5
4	Tiruppur	95.4
5	Thiruvallur	93.4
6	Madurai	91.2
7	Thoothukudi	90.7
8	Virudhunagar	90.5
9	Theni	89.9
10	Namakkal	89.7
11	Kanchipuram	88.1
12	Thirunelveli	87.9
13	Krishnagiri	86.0
14	Vellore	85.3
15	Salem	84.5
16	Ramanathapuram	82.7
17	Dharmapuri	82.5
18	Nilgiris	81.5
19	Dindigul	76.3
20	Cuddalore	75.6
21	Sivagangai	75.2
22	Perambalur	75.1
23	Kanyakumari	74.4
24	Karur	72.5
25	Tiruchirappalli	71.2
26	Tiruvannamalai	70.7
27	Thanjavur	69.4
28	Viluppuram	68.6
29	Nagapattinam	59.0
30	Thiruvarur	58.9
31	Ariyalur	46.7
32	Pudukottai	42.0

Figure 16: Households using clean fuel for cooking (%)



Goal 08



DECENT WORK AND ECONOMIC GROWTH

Promote sustained, inclusive and sustainable economic growth, full and productive employment and decent work for all

Focus on

- ✦ Sustain per capita economic growth
- ✦ Achieve higher levels of economic productivity
- ✦ Promote development-oriented policies
- ✦ Achieve full and productive employment and decent work
- ✦ Eradicate forced labour, end modern slavery and human trafficking, child labour
- ✦ Safe and secure working environments
- ✦ Sustainable tourism

India has a ‘right to education’ for its citizens only from 6 to 14 years of age (approximately grade 8). After this it has to be paid for, depending on the means of the family. Decent work is difficult to find with just grade 8. Most of the ‘decent’ work being created needs a bachelor’s degree at least. Therefore, structurally, the Indian state is not equipped to fulfil the goal of ‘full and productive employment and decent work for all’.

The participation of women in Tamil Nadu the labour market is higher (43%) than the national average (32.5%). Their representation in non-agricultural sectors is also better. But there is a higher wage gap, informality, and occupational segregation at workplaces, strongly suggesting the intrusion of patriarchal and caste norms even in ‘modern’ sectors. Women’s participation in the workforce has been on a consistent downward trend from its peak (54%) in 1993–94, to 51% in 2004–05 to its lowest (34%) in 2017–18. The increase to 43% in 2020–21 was mainly due to increase in participation in agriculture – an indicator of regression and pandemic induced distress. The long-term downward trend needs to be addressed as a stifling stranglehold of patriarchy which will continue to derail progress – even if measured solely in economic terms.

The minimum wages (an euphemism for *maximum* wages) in dozens of notified sectors have not been revised for over a decade. Those that have been revised have not keep pace with inflation – though the government has revised the dearness allowance upwards multiple times for its direct employees.



Key Departments and Schemes

Tamil Nadu

Labour Welfare and Skill Development	◆	Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme
Industries, Investment Promotion & Commerce	◆	
Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises	◆	Socio-Economic Development Programme
Commercial Taxes and Registration	◆	Fishermen Savings-cum-Relief Scheme
Municipal Administration and Water Supply	◆	Daily relief to the families of missing fishermen while fishing
Animal Husbandry, Dairying, Fisheries and Fishermen Welfare	◆	Livelihood assistance to marine fishermen families during Fishing Ban Period
Rural Development & Panchayat Raj	◆	

Key Indicators	India 2021	Tamil Nadu baseline	TN vision 2023	Global Target
Households with an improved drinking-water source -NFHS 5 (2019-20)	95.9%	98.6%	<i>Tamil Nadu shall provide piped and pressurised 24x7 water supply to 100% of its residents and ensure that all of them have access to safe sanitation including open defecation free and garbage free environment.</i>	<i>By 2030, achieve universal and equitable access to safe and affordable drinking water for all</i>
Households using improved sanitation facilities	70.2%	72.6%		
Functional toilet coverage	71.78% ³⁰	79% ³¹ 52.5% (NFHS4)		
Sanitation and waste disposal in the community	48.4%	52.5% ³²		
Open defecation (% households)	44%	42 (in 2012)		

³⁰ <https://www.globaldata.com/data-insights/macroeconomic/literacy-rate-in-india/>

³¹ <https://www.census2011.co.in/census/state/tamil+nadu.html#:~:text=Literacy%20in%20Tamil%20Nadu,literacy%20is%20at%2073.44%20percent.>

³² (<http://documents.worldbank.org/curated/en/510101504175978601/pdf/119262-BRI-P157572-Tamil-Nadu-AtAGlance.pdf>)



Tamil Nadu Situation

The unemployment rate in India has fluctuated over the last 10 years, influenced by various factors such as economic conditions, government policies, and demographic changes. Increasing population, lack of quality education and skill development, lack of employment opportunities, slow economic growth, and a lack of investment in specific sectors are major contributing factors.

The unemployment rate in India rose to 7.45% in February 2023, bringing the total number of unemployed in the country to 33 million. India must make dedicated efforts to reduce this number. India can significantly decrease the unemployment rate by adopting a comprehensive approach, emphasising people's skills, improving education, and focusing more on labour-intensive sectors.

Declining productivity hinders economic growth, increases the financial burden on the government, restricts investment and consumption, and contributes to poverty and income inequality, having a negative effect on the economy. It also impedes skill development of workers and reduces innovation and entrepreneurship.

More than 33% of the total population is still below the poverty line. The number of registered unemployed is quite shocking, and the number of job seekers is also increasing day by day.

There are three types of employment environments. Those who rely on farming in the villages do not have employment opportunities for four to five months in a year. During that period, they are practically unemployed.

The number of unemployed and underemployed people is also increasing due to the installation of big machines and automation in cities and factories.

There are different sections of society, such as unemployed graduates, uneducated individuals, and others, who are struggling to earn their livelihood.

According to a survey, 33 percent of India's educated youth are unemployed due to a lack of future skills. Even after leaving school, millions of students in our country are unemployed due to a lack of skills and solid practical expertise and training.

The Planning and Development Department has launched social media campaigns for the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) to showcase the government's efforts to achieve the SDGs in Tamil Nadu by 2030.

³³ Director, Rose Trust, Ariyalur

India's unemployment rate fell from 4.1 percent in the July-June 2021-22 period to a six-year low of 3.2 percent during July-June 2022-23, as shown in the survey. This is the lowest unemployment rate recorded in the country since the NSO survey began in April 2017.

But, in fact, the unemployment rate in India rose to 7.45% in February 2023, with the total number of unemployed in the country standing at 33 million. Therefore, the government should pay serious attention to the creation of new employment opportunities.

Recommendations

There should be an action plan to localise sustainable development, besides monitoring sustainable development not only at the state level but also at the urban and rural levels.

Outlining the initiatives taken by the Government of Tamil Nadu, keeping in mind the five basic principles of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs): People, Prosperity, Planet, Peace, and Partnership, the Special Department should provide necessary support to the policymakers of the government to monitor the outcomes of programmes and initiatives and to further develop them. Proper planning and monitoring are required.

Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme

The Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme (MGNREGA) can improve the quality of life for families in rural areas by providing livelihood security for a minimum of 150 days. The scheme should also be extended to the urban poor. Wage employment is guaranteed to every family through this poverty reduction strategy. Employment, income, asset creation, and thereby substantially improving the standard of living of the rural poor, especially the farming community.

New Special Projects

Poverty alleviation programmes like Integrated Rural Development Programs (IRDP) and Jawahar Rozgar Yojana (JRY) need to be restructured and implemented.

Special programmes for agricultural workers are needed

Government employment schemes based on the farming community help reduce rural poverty to some extent. Government schemes, no doubt, are important, but compared to the level of demand, the promises are very few.

Improving the socio-economic status of the rural poor, especially rural agricultural laborers, through poverty alleviation programmes should continue to be addressed by planners and policymakers. The fact is that the growth of the agricultural sector is linked to the growth of the non-agricultural sector, and reduced yields will impact agricultural production, directly influencing the overall economic growth trajectory.



The focus is on the impact of MGNREGA activities on rural employment opportunities.

1948 - Minimum Wages Act

The Minimum Wages Act, 1948, is meant to prevent the exploitation of workers and ensure a decent life for workers. The government fixes the minimum wage rate and revises it every five years. It appoints government advisory committees to consider the proposals. The Act should be systematically amended, and rules should be framed according to the prevailing situation to ensure the dignity and rights of unorganized workers.

Sustainable Economic Growth

Sustainable development is development that meets the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs. This is an approach that balances diverse needs against awareness of the environmental, social, and economic limitations we face as a society.

At all times, growth is driven by a specific need without fully considering broader or future impacts. The longer we continue unsustainable growth, the more frequent and severe consequences are likely to occur.

National Employment Policy Required

The formulation of national employment policies is central to the achievement of SDG 8, particularly its targets 8.3, 8.5, and 8.6. Furthermore, since job creation is considered a means of transitioning growth to poverty reduction, such policies are best suited to the fight against poverty (SDG 1) and inequality (SDG 10). Consensus should be forged through comprehensive dialogue and transparent and accountable decision-making processes at all levels to formulate proper employment policy measures and strategies.

These issues are addressed by SDG 16, i.e., goals 16.6 and 16.7. The complexity of labor markets requires coordination and policy coherence. Analyzing several policy areas, such as capacity building, sustainable enterprise development, sectoral development policies, and macroeconomic policies, addresses challenges simultaneously and develops a more coherent goal. We can ensure coordinated support for understandable interventions, coupled with trilateral inter-ministerial coordination mechanisms, national development frameworks, and key stakeholders' concerns and priorities.

Evaluation and Monitoring for Decent Work

Monitoring and assessing progress toward decent work at the national level have been longstanding concerns for the ILO and its members. The 2008 Declaration of Social Justice provides details for fair globalization, and if necessary, member states, with the

assistance of the International Labour Organization, should establish appropriate indicators or statistics to monitor and assess progress in the promotion of decent work. The Government of India should come forward to seize this opportunity.

Convergence of Skills Training

The Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship is responsible for coordinating all skill development activities in the country, bridging the demand and placement gap for skilled manpower, creating vocational and technical training infrastructure, upgrading skills, creating new skills, and fostering innovative thinking related not only to existing employment opportunities but also to new jobs that may be created.

The vision of the Ministry is to "Create an ecosystem of empowerment through skills on a large scale, very fast and high quality, and promote innovation-based entrepreneurship that provides assets and employment to ensure sustainable livelihood for all citizens of the country." To achieve this objective, the Ministry has been focusing on Focus, Scaling Scale, Capacity Satisfaction, and Improved Quality in 2019.

In particular, vocational education and skill development are provided through the National Skill Training Mission, Skill India, Vocational Training Centres, Prime Minister's Skill Development Scheme, Prime Minister's Skill Centre, SANKALP, Strive, Prime Minister-Youth Scheme, Skill Achievement Counselling Scheme, 500 Skill Centres in Government Schools, Vocational Linked Degree Courses, Indian Skill Institute. It also offers a number of advanced quality training programmes such as Dual Training Methodology, New Age Skills, Formation of District Skill Groups, Mahatma Gandhi National Fellowship, Training Program for Community Trainers (Business Shakti), and Training Program for Trainers, Jan Shikshan Sansthan, e-Skill India Platform. On its part, the State Government has taken various initiatives through various agencies.

Information about most of the schemes is not known to the people. Many of these schemes have not been availed of due to failures in implementation, monitoring, addressing challenges, and improving the program. Therefore, these schemes need to be converged and improved. They should be extended to all states without any discrimination.

Promoting Rural Economic Productivity

It is crucial not to compromise on promoting decent work in rural areas. This approach advocates a holistic and integrated strategy that places decent work at the center of national development frameworks and strategies. Simultaneous promotion of agri-food, fishing, and on-farm industries is essential to provide access to decent employment and improve living and working conditions in rural areas.



Doubling agricultural productivity and income, especially for women, tribal people, family farmers, cattle rearers, and fishermen, is a critical objective. Access to production resources and inputs, knowledge, financial services, markets, value addition, and non-farm employment opportunities is considered essential for poverty reduction. The challenges in achieving these objectives need to be addressed.

Agri-food, fisheries, and farm-based industries have tremendous potential to facilitate all-encompassing, green, and climate-resistant growth. Rural communities in developing countries are particularly vulnerable to the impacts of climate change and environmental degradation. Planning for these sectors should prioritize environmental sustainability, climate-resistant development, and the creation of green jobs as integral components of the rural economy.

Policies should be formulated to support the growth of Micro, Small, and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs). Addressing the causes of industrial recession can eliminate obstacles and encourage companies to generate decent employment opportunities.

Accelerating Sustainable and Inclusive Economic Growth

Collaborative action is needed, focusing on several key areas such as new strategies, innovative technologies, management methods, and practical challenges.

Global Access to Financial Services, Banking, Insurance

Financial components are crucial for improving the quality of life and livelihoods of the poor and marginalized sections of society, thereby contributing to sustainable global development.

The Reserve Bank of India's National Action Plan for Financial Inclusion 2019–2024 aims to enhance the national expansion and sustainability of the financial inclusion process through the broad integration of activities of all stakeholders operating in the financial sector and improving resource efficiency. Unfortunately, it has not adequately served all sections of the population. Therefore, this scheme needs to be enriched and expanded.

Equal pay with decent work

While setting different minimum wages, the principle of equal pay for work of equal value should be respected. Ensure the removal of all discrimination related to employment and occupation based on gender, race, colour, religion, and any other criteria as may be fixed.

Modern Slavery, Trafficking, and Child Labour System

Modern slavery is not defined in the statute and can mean 'circumstances of exploitation'. Threats, violence, coercion, deception, and abuse of power have a significant impact on



general society. The economy includes forced labour, child labour, state-imposed forced labor, and commercial trafficking of children.

The COVID-19 pandemic and the resulting economic and labour market shock have had a huge impact on people's lives and livelihoods. This is the worst global crisis since World War II, and the ILO estimates that nearly half of the world's workforce is at risk.

Workers in the unorganized sector are the worst affected. Various factors have increased the exploitation of the people. Migrant workers, children, and women are the most affected. Therefore, the cooperation of extensive multilateral stakeholders is needed to balance the impact.

Labour Rights and Promotion of a Safe Work Environment

Workers' rights are legal rights and human rights related to labour relations between workers and employers. These rights are codified in national and international labour and employment law. Generally, these rights affect working conditions in employment relationships. In order to protect the rights of workers in all industries and to promote a safe working environment, the government has to undertake a periodic review at the departmental level through third-party agencies.

Per capita income

Per capita income is also known as personal income or personal tax income. It is an economic indicator that reflects the standard of living of the people in a country. If the real per capita income increases, the standard of living of the people is considered high. Eight districts in Tamil Nadu have lower per capita income than the national level. This issue needs to be addressed immediately through appropriate measures to achieve inclusive growth.

Equal Work, Equal Pay

The natural law dictates simultaneous payment of wages to those who have worked together in the same place. When wages are paid in accordance with this natural law, unity and coordination among workers will lead to better work. On the other hand, if wages are paid earlier to one category and at a later rate for another, it will create bitterness among the employees and reduce the interest of those who get paid late. It is also against principles of social justice, laws, procedures, and dignity. Therefore, governments must ensure equal pay for all employees.

Commercial Zone for Street Vendors

Approximately 1.5 crore people in India are engaged in street vending. In Tamil Nadu, about seven lakh people are involved in this business on roadsides, weekly markets, temple festivals, tourist spots, bus stands, and as head-load and trolley vendors. The



National Policy on Street Petty Vendors – 2004 and 2009, along with the subsequent Street Vendors (Protection of Livelihood and Regulation of Street Vending) Act, 2014, were introduced to regulate and promote street vendors, enhance and improve the livelihoods of those engaged in it, and ensure decent employment and business practices. However, this Act has not been fully implemented in Tamil Nadu. So far, no infrastructure has been established for setting up commercial zones, identifying traders, providing bank credit linkage, etc. The government should immediately frame State Rules for this Act and ensure its full implementation.

Planning, Development, and Special Initiatives Department

The Planning, Development, and Special Initiatives Department are primarily responsible for preparing the Annual and Five-Year Plans of the State, monitoring and reviewing expenditure in the State Plan Outlay, Twenty Point Programme, and Centrally Sponsored Schemes.

The Department places utmost attention on achieving Sustainable Development Goals, goals, and indicators. Furthermore, the primary role of the department is to bring about transformation based on long-term strategies for development-oriented programmes, highlight the development-oriented programmes to be implemented in the intermediate period, and ensure policy coordination in these initiatives.

In order to achieve the overall development goals, this department has to scrutinize the files of development plans by being a member of a State Level Multidepartment Committee in coordination with various government departments.

This Department is the Nodal Department of the State Government in consultation with NITI Aayog. It also provides coordination for new initiatives of the Government and updates the status of receipts from the departments under PRAGATI (Pro-Active Governance and Timely Implementation). This department coordinates the activities of various line departments for the implementation of new initiatives of the Government.

The State Planning Commission also provides policy advice utilizing the expertise of experts in the Department of Economics and Statistics and Evaluation and Applied Research. Furthermore, Tamil Nadu has to implement evidence-based policies through the Innovation Initiative. The activities of this sector, which is set up with the prime objective of achieving the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), need to be given extra attention to achieve the target. At the field level, appropriate changes should be made from time to time in consultation with civil society organizations.

State Government Websites and Directory

The Planning and Development Department of the State Government and the State Planning Commission have developed websites (<https://tnsdg.tn.gov.in>) and (<https://tnsdg.tn.gov.in>) for the public to know the activities of the Government to achieve the Holistic Development Goals (SDGs). These websites need to be updated regularly with the latest data. It should be transformed into a comprehensive database for multilevel stakeholders.

Inclusion of aims and objectives in the Grama Sabha

The functions of the Rural Development and Panchayat Raj Department need to be linked to the Sustainable Development Goals and Indicators (SDGs) to achieve the goals of inclusive and holistic development. Compliance with Gram Sabha, Village Development Plan, and People's Planning Movement. The Action Plans will also require a quarterly review of the structure, development indicators, and achievement performance.

Government Grants

Review of Central and State Government subsidies and incentives for accessing opportunities and self-employment should be conducted promptly. Timely and appropriate solutions should be provided. In particular, Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes, fishing communities, economically marginalized communities, and minority ethnic groups need a planning and action plan focused on inclusive development.

Tamil Nadu Corporation for Development of Women

The Tamil Nadu Corporation for Development of Women (TNCDW), which includes Self-Help Groups (SHGs), Group Federations, Livelihood Mission, Joint Liability Groups, Mahalir Thittam, and Village Poverty Reduction Committees (VPRCs), aimed at providing decent employment to rural women and fostering self-reliant economic empowerment, has faced challenges. It has encountered shortcomings in terms of achieving a self-reliant economy, skill development, utilization of local resources, unionization, wealth creation, savings, and inclusive development.

The Tamil Nadu Corporation for Development of Women is currently undergoing a transformation for future initiatives. However, the intended beneficiaries of the project are still at the initial stages. The implementation of the scheme should undergo a thorough review by a third party comprising civil society organizations, people's organizations, and feminist activists. Based on the recommendations provided, new targets should be set. The emphasis must be on ensuring inclusive employment opportunities for both rural and urban women, promoting self-reliant economic development.



Microfinance institutions should be regulated

Practical challenges in the functioning of the Tamil Nadu Corporation for Development of Women (TNCDW), banking institutions, cooperatives, public sector financial institutions, etc., coupled with factors like the consumption market, increasing demand from the people, etc., have resulted in the mobilization of rural women towards Microfinance Institutions. Unfortunately, the social service institutions that used to provide interest-free loans as business capital to the target population based on a business plan have disappeared. Exploiting this gap, microfinance institutions have proliferated nationwide and have experienced exponential growth in a very short span of time.

The women who have taken credit loans are forced to repay the previous loans by taking loans from different companies without sufficient income. This also contributes to various social and economic challenges. Decent job access and decent self-employment have a significant negative impact, both directly and indirectly. Therefore, the government should regulate microfinance institutions and ensure viable, easy bank credit connectivity for decent self-entrepreneurs.

Bank Credit Linkages

Ensure viable, easy, and non-discriminatory bank credit connectivity for rural women and decent self-entrepreneurs.

Maximizing and coordinating self-employment opportunities

The Tamil Nadu Corporation for Development of Women (TNCDW) should harness the manpower of rural women, local resources, government department schemes, subsidies, and market opportunities to create self-employment opportunities. This will ensure decent employment opportunities for marginalized sections, including unskilled women and differently-abled persons.

Tamil Nadu Khadi and Village Industries Board

The Tamil Nadu Khadi and Village Industries Board are implementing a scheme to generate employment opportunities for rural artisans, produce marketable products for the rural poor, promote social consciousness, and encourage self-reliance among the rural poor. The goal is to bring together rural artisans to improve their productivity and profitability and provide employment to rural women to achieve sustainable development goals. The schemes should genuinely extend to rural women and not just in name.

The reduction of discriminatory gaps in rural and urban unemployment in India will contribute to increasing rural employment opportunities in the industrial and service sectors.

National Career Service Portal

The National Career Portal or National Career Service Portal (<https://www.ncs.gov.in>) is operated by the Ministry of Labour and Employment. The portal provides employment-related services such as job matching, career counseling, career guidance, information on skill development courses, internships, etc. All the services available on this portal are free for job seekers, job providers, training providers, and placement agencies. You can apply for government and private sector jobs by logging in to this portal. You can also participate in job fairs organized through this portal. Rectify any flaws in this website and ensure smoother access. Government job delivery and schemes should be linked to this website, and people should be educated about its benefits.

Deen Dayal Upadhyaya Grameen Kaushal Vikas Yojana (Rural skill development scheme)

The objective of this scheme, run by the Ministry of Rural Development, Government of India, is to provide rural youth with jobs that earn a regular monthly wage or wage above the minimum wage through skill development. People in the age group of 15 to 35 years can take advantage of the training programmes conducted under this scheme. The upper age limit has been fixed at 45 years for women and differently-abled sections.

Rectify any flaws in the website upload and ensure smoother access. People should be educated about this.

Pradhan Mantri Mudra Yojana

Another major scheme implemented by the Union Government is the Pradhan Mantri Mudra Yojana (PMMY). It aims to facilitate self-employment. Under this scheme, collateral-free loans (i.e., loans without any guarantee required) of up to Rs 10 lakh are provided to micro and small business enterprises and individuals to establish or expand their business operations, according to government data.

However, bankers are not readily providing credit linkage, and the government should ensure that the scheme is implemented by addressing practical difficulties.

Outsourcing should be abandoned

The central and state governments are discussing the filling of government jobs, but the target has not been achieved so far. Alternatively, the government and big businesses are procuring manpower at all levels based on outsourced/contract work/wages for work. Even permanent posts are being filled in this manner for an extended period without regard for human dignity or adherence to law, rules, policy, or principles.

This situation must be rectified. Governments must ensure decent employment without compromising in accordance with various policies, international treaties, and laws, abandoning the anti-people practice of outsourcing, contract work, and wages for work.



Skill Development Programs

Governments have been discussing skill development schemes from time to time. But have skill development training programmes made it easier to secure jobs? It is disappointing that schemes related to skill development have not been very successful in providing employment to people. Large sums of money are proving ineffective. The government should adopt an intensive manual labour strategy to increase jobs in the country. The pros and cons of the schemes should be reviewed and implemented.

Employment Subsidy

Instead of subsidizing capital, we should subsidize labour employment. For example, the government subsidizes capital under the Production Linked Incentive Scheme. This kind of scheme will not work if the goal is to increase employment.

To encourage domestic manufacturing and reduce import tariffs, the central government introduced the production-linked incentive scheme in 2020. It aims to incentivize companies to increase sales of products produced in domestic segments. Apart from inviting foreign companies to set up units in India, the objective of the scheme is also to encourage local companies to establish manufacturing units or expand existing units.

The government should focus on the MSME (Micro, Small, and Medium Enterprises) sector to create jobs. It needs to ensure that their development is facilitated. The government should identify the impediments to the progress of MSMEs and help remove them.

Increasing the production of small and micro-producers not only boosts employment but also enhances domestic and per capita income. Many people working in India do not earn enough. The government should formulate a strategy to help small businesses grow without neglecting them.

"In the last 7-8 years, production and profitability have favored big companies. However, the potential for employment generation in these companies is very low compared to MSMEs, which have lost their share of the market. This is one of the main reasons for the lack of employment opportunities. Therefore, the government should heed the recommendations of industry experts and come forward to implement them.

Various organizations have consistently recommended to the government that government schemes should be amended to utilize NREGS workers in all agricultural-related activities. By involving NREGS staff in all agricultural-related activities, all small and marginal farmers can benefit immensely. Permission should be given to use the project workers for horticulture crops, silkworm and animal husbandry works, agricultural crops including food grains such as paddy, maize, pulses, and for farm-based production industries.

Provision of dignified hours without compromise for differently-abled persons, pregnant women, and lactating mothers should align with the guidelines of the scheme. It should be ensured that full wages are paid on time. The working days should be revised from 100 days to 150 days.

Governments must step forward to implement the recommendations and methodologies of civil society organizations working on the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and recommendations of industrial, economic, and anthropological professionals.

Ongoing schemes related to this goal, including poverty alleviation programmes, skill and vocational training, bank credit linkages, subsidies, etc., through government schemes should be reviewed. Social audits should be conducted at the field level. The received recommendations should be implemented immediately. We must ensure inclusive and decent employment at all levels.



Goal 09



INDUSTRY, INNOVATION AND INFRASTRUCTURE

Build resilient infrastructure, promote inclusive and sustainable industrialization and foster innovation

FOCUS ON

- + Quality, reliable, sustainable and resilient infrastructure
- + Sustainable industrialisation
- + Increase the access of small-scale industrial and other enterprises
- + Upgrade infrastructure and retrofit industries
- + Enhance scientific research
- + Facilitate sustainable and resilient infrastructure

With extreme weather events becoming the norm, resilience and 'all weather capability' has new standards that need to be met. It could be as simple as increasing the capacity of stormwater drains and making spaces accessible to persons with disability to making infrastructure that enable first responders reach the disaster struck areas. New infrastructure such as metros and airport need to be accessible from the start, while older ones need to be retrofitted as soon as possible (disasters do not distinguish between the old and the new, and extreme weather events do not follow the SDG timelines). The built environment that has this capability is the new 'smart city'.

Tamil Nadu already has about 50% of its energy from renewable sources (mainly wind and solar) and aims to increase it to 75%. This gives it enough headroom for sustainable industrialisation.

Small and medium scale enterprises (SMSE) bore the brunt of all three disasters – demonetisation, GST introduction, and the pandemic lockdown. Some units are yet to get back on track leaving the small-scale entrepreneurs financially fragile and scores out of work. The Government of Tamil Nadu has specific schemes to foster entrepreneurship from the underserved communities, vulnerable sections, and first-time entrepreneurs. It includes concessional capital and interest subvention. The New Entrepreneur-Cum-Enterprise Development Scheme (NEEDS) assists educated youth to become first-generation entrepreneurs with training and mentorship. Capital can be availed from banks/Tamil Nadu Industrial Investment Corporation (TIIC) with capital subsidy at 25% of the project cost not exceeding 75 lakhs and soft loans with 3% interest subvention. Build Entrepreneurs in Adi Dravidars and Tribals (BEAT), one district one product, one shop in one railway station, and the mudra schemes also focus on MSMEs.





Innovation requires an ecosystem that fosters questioning, irreverence, creativity, and encourages non-conformity, fearless exploration of the new and unorthodox, embracing the future, and letting go of the old. The elite capture of victimhood and a forever 'hurt sentiment' are not conducive to fostering innovation which, by definition, starts with questioning (and often debunking) old shibboleths. Innovation is at home in a climate where dissent is welcome.

Key Departments and Schemes

Tamil Nadu

Rural Development & Panchayat Raj	◆ Anaithu Grama Anna Marumalarchi Thittam
Highways and Minor Ports	◆ Namakku Naame Thittam
Environment Climate Change and Forests	◆ Tamil Nadu Rural Roads Improvement Scheme
	◆ Comprehensive Road Infrastructure Development Programme (CRIDP)



Goal 10



REDUCED INEQUALITIES

Reduce inequality within and among countries

FOCUS ON

- + Achieve and sustain income
- + Empower and promote the social, economic and political inclusion of all
- + Equal opportunity and reduce inequalities of outcome, including by eliminating discriminatory laws, policies and practices and promoting appropriate legislation, policies and action in this regard
- + Adopt policies to achieve greater equality
- + Planed and well-managed migration policies

Key Departments and Schemes

Tamil Nadu

Social Welfare and Women Empowerment

Issuance of Free House Site Pattas to Adi Dravidar and Scheduled Tribes

Adi Dravidar and Tribal Welfare

Adi Dravidar Habitations Improvement Scheme

Public (Elections)

Scheme for Development of housing and improvement of basic amenities in tribal habitations.

Key Indicators	India	Tamil Nadu baseline	TN vision 2023	Global Target
Safe migration	191 million or 19% of Indian population are Migrants. ³⁴ The data not available for migration through documentation.	TN has 10.67 lakhs migrant workers but only 15,000 workers were registered in the state. ³⁵	Vision 2023 requires the State government to ensure that anyone in Tamil Nadu who requires support due to physical or financial challenges, or for some genuine reason is unable to take advantages of opportunities to improve his/her lot, the person's basic needs (housing, food, and healthcare) will be taken care of. Appropriate arrangements would be made to take care of destitute children differently abled and the elderly.	Facilitate orderly, safe, regular and responsible migration and mobility of people, including through the implementation of planned and well-managed migration policies
Gini coefficient ³⁶	0.3%	0.33%		

³⁴ Census 2001

³⁵ <https://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/city/chennai/Tamil-Nadu-now-home-to-1-million-migrant-workers-Study/articleshow/50861647.cms>

³⁶ <http://documents.worldbank.org/curated/en/510101504175978601/pdf/119262BRIP157572TamilNaduAtAGLance.pdf>



Goal 11



SUSTAINABLE CITIES AND COMMUNITIES

Make cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable

Focus on

- + Adequate, safe and affordable housing and basic services to all
- + Sustainable transport systems
- + Enhance inclusive and sustainable urbanisation
- + Reduce disasters, with a focus on protecting the poor and people in vulnerable situations
- + Inclusive and accessible, green and public spaces, in particular for women and children, older persons and persons with disabilities

Key Departments and Schemes

Tamil Nadu

Housing and Urban Development	◆	Integrated Urban development Mission
Municipal Administration and Water Supply	◆	Tamil Nadu Urban Road Infrastructure Development Programme
Transport	◆	Infrastructure Gap Filling Fund
	◆	Heritage Town Development Scheme
	◆	Tourism Development
	◆	Anganwadies improvements
	◆	Eradication of Open defecation
	◆	Special Area Development Programme
	◆	State Balance Growth Fund
	◆	State Disaster Relief Fund



Goal 12



SUSTAINABLE CONSUMPTION AND PRODUCTION

Ensure sustainable consumption and production patterns.

– Prof. Dr. P. Duraisingam³⁷

Focus on

- + Sustainable management and efficient use of natural resources
- + Substantially reduce waste generation through prevention, reduction, recycling and reuse
- + Promote public procurement practices
- + Awareness for sustainable development and lifestyles in harmony with nature
- + Develop and implement tools to monitor sustainable development impacts for sustainable tourism that creates jobs and promotes local culture and products

Key Departments and Schemes

Tamil Nadu

Rural Development & Panchayat Raj	◆	Nel Jeyaraman Traditional Paddy Varieties Conservation Mission
Agriculture and Farmers Welfare	◆	Making Youth into AgriEntrepreneurs
Animal Husbandry, Dairying, Fisheries and Fishermen Welfare	◆	Palmyrah Development Mission (PDM)
Energy	◆	
Municipal Administration and Water Supply	◆	

The context

It is important to understand that there is a shift in the culture of preparing and consuming food in India. While not so long ago, the culture of food was to prepare and consume local, seasonal and fresh food. The current lifestyle has also had its impact on the way we live, work, and eat. This includes the increase in obesity alongside malnutrition. India ranks the third most obese country in the world and today lifestyle related diseases are biggest reason for death in India. Non-communicable diseases today are reasons for 60% of mortality. Among the several reasons cited for the NCDs are the chemical laden foods – both the food produced with excessive use of chemical inputs in terms of fertilisers (in fact sterilisers) and pesticides (in fact biocides) as well as the chemical additives that go into preserving and extending the shelf life of majority of our food daily.

³⁷ Prof. Dr. P. Duraisingam, Chairman, CREATE, M: + 91 9443381816 E: createsorcampaing2021@gmail.com – W: www.create-saveourrice.org



Unfortunately, the entire food production has been crowded by the dietary pattern of a few and not the localised nutrition needs of the many. These were reduced to merely two "staple" cereals (Rice and Wheat) during the reductionist green revolution calculations. Even with these two staple crops, there was diversity of species which are indigenous to particular regions. The monoculture mindset led to the disappearance such diversity of crop varieties in production and dietary diversity in consumption. And subsequently, Indian food security has been largely reduced to cereals, pulses and some oils. The coarse grains like small and minor millets (nutri-millets) constitute the food for several communities across the country as well as the various forms of food (uncultivated foods) consumed by local and tribal communities.

The mainstream unsustainable food production model which assumes that supplying rice and wheat (Green Revolution) through a public distribution system (PDS) will address hunger issues of communities is weaning communities away from their local food system. Thus, the women, children and other socially excluded people are finding it difficult to have enough food for their families throughout the year that results in malnutrition among their children. It is estimated that 47% of children are malnourished and more than 70% of the women and children are anaemic. There is urgent need to be clear policy facilitating sustainable food production and consumption patterns in Tamil Nadu with emphasis on nutritional and dietary diversity such as traditional rice varieties and millets to be prioritised to combat the impact of climate change.

Goal 13



CLIMATE ACTION

Take urgent action to combat climate change and its impacts

Focus on

- + Resilience and adaptive capacity to climate-related hazards
- + Integrate climate change measures into national policies
- + Improve institutional capacity on climate change

The daily life of the poor is the epitome of VUCA – volatile, uncertain, complex, and ambiguous – used by the military to describe war. 'Extraordinary' disasters – whether the pandemic, extreme cyclones, or heavy rainfall – have become the norm, and we must prepare to face them. The pandemic has exposed, as never before, the need for the poor to have formal resilience mechanisms. For the poor, only proactive mitigation and sustenance measures that enhance their resilience, will help them survive these multiple recurrent disasters. The key link in this is their linkage, access, and benefit from the state social security mechanisms and welfare net before the disaster. It is fully within the capacity of the state to ensure this resilience.

The institutional mechanism of the state to respond to disasters stops at the district level. Strengthening local government in this task is an urgent necessity. This means empowering elected local government representatives way beyond the present levels of implementors. The role of communities (especially the fishers) as first responders, their knowledge of local terrain, needs, and vulnerabilities, has been overlooked in disaster mitigation and recovery. These are essentials in any sustainable action to combat climate change and its impacts.

Key Departments and Schemes

Tamil Nadu

Energy	Green Tamil Nadu Mission
Environment, Climate Change and Forests	Tamil Nadu Wetlands Mission
	Tamil Nadu Climate Change Mission
	Rehabilitation of Coastal Habitats for Climate Change Adaptation through Naturebased Solutions



Introduction

Tamil Nadu is a monsoon dependent agricultural state. Climate change impacts manifest differently throughout Tamil Nadu. Increases in temperature, decreases in rainfall, drought and water scarcity, floods, and sea level raising are the major impacts of climate change in Tamil Nadu. Tamil Nadu is blessed with long shorelines, mangroves, sand dunes, creeks, and coastal wetlands. Tamil Nadu is situated on the South–Eastern coast of India. It has a coastal length of approximately 1,076 km, which accounts for more than 13 percent of India’s total coastline. These are the basis of biodiversity and marine resources. SDG 7 intends to replace polluting energy with affordable clean and safe energy. A major factor behind the climate change effect is the way we produce power. The SDG 13 intended climate action which is complementary to SDG 7 and will encourage collaborative efforts towards climate change mitigation and adaptation.

Clean energy to prevent climate change

Sustainable power production with clean energy (wind, solar, hydro) can protect the climate from the effects caused by thermal and atomic power. A thermal power plant which uses coal emits huge volumes of carbon and other polluting gases and dust. Atomic power plants produce radioactive wastes which is a burden for thousands of years to come further they produce effluents and waste which cannot be recycled. The production of clean energy should be ensured by the state government and steps should be taken to shift to clean energy.

Save the mountains

Eastern and Western Ghats in Tamil Nadu are known for their biodiversity. The major hills of Tamil Nadu’s Eastern Ghats are Javadhu, Servarayan, Kalrayan, Kollimalai, and Pachaimalai, situated in the state’s northern districts. The Western Ghats extend from the Niligris in the north to Marunthuvazh Malai at Swamithope in Kanyakumari district in the south.

These are the basic sources of water resources. The Eastern and Western Ghats are getting destroyed in Tamil Nadu for monoculture, tourism, cultivation, quarries, and sand mining. Indigenous people who live in, and protect, the forests are forced to migrate due to forest policy.

³⁶ Annadurai, Managing Trustee, Child Voice.





Water resources

Water is a commodity according to the policy of the union and state governments. Private companies are entering into the water business. Most of the people still depend upon farming to make a living. If water is privatised farmers and people will suffer and the impact on the lives of people will be tremendous. Small and marginalised farmers are highly affected by insufficient water resources for agriculture. The financial condition of farmers was highly affected, and it led them to leave agriculture.

Power to local governments

The local governments are hailed as the grassroots democracy and close to the people. But they have very limited powers. In Tamil Nadu, they resemble 'elected NGOs' which implement government funded programmes. The local governments which are very close to people should have more powers to protect the environment. Resource mapping should be done in panchayats to protect them. MNRGEA is not implemented properly for nature resource restoration.

Community involvement to prevent climate change

The community must be involved to reduce or prevent the emission of greenhouse gases and other activities that contribute to climate change. Some of the ways it could be done are by promoting renewable energy sources such as solar, wind, and hydro to reduce reliance on fossil fuels, sustainable agriculture practices to reduce methane emissions and enhance carbon sequestration, developing climate-resilient infrastructure to withstand extreme weather events (floods, droughts), protecting and restoring ecosystems wetlands and mangroves that act as natural buffers against climate impacts. Improving soil structure and fertility by adding organic matter such as compost, manure, or cover crops enhances water retention and provides essential nutrients for plant growth. Water availability should be assessed to implement sustainable water management practices, such as rainwater harvesting, drip irrigation, and efficient irrigation systems for sustainable agriculture.

Unpredictable weather

Climate change can have significant impacts on rainfall patterns, leading to changes in precipitation levels and distribution. The monsoons have become unpredictable with very high rainfall in some areas and very low in others and the monsoon period and rainfall rate are changing due to climate change. During the North East Monsoon (NEM) of 2023, Tirunelveli, a coastal district in the southern part of Tamil Nadu witnessed record-breaking rainfall of 123.9 cm. This is 146% higher than the seasonal average of





50.3 cm according to data from the Regional Meteorological Centre (RMC). On 18 December 2023, a weather station in Kayalpattinam in Thoothukudi district, recorded 94.6 cm, the highest rainfall ever witnessed in 24 hours during North East Monsoon in Tamil Nadu. This new observation is equivalent to 90% of usual rainfall received by the entire district in a year.

On the other hand, in Thanjavur District (neighbouring Tirunelveli), prolonged and increased heat and the failure of monsoons have dried the groundwater in the region, even in fields that are just 100 metres from the Kollidam river. To make matters worse, increased salinity has made the groundwater unfit for use.

Human wildlife conflict

As elephant habitats are increasingly encroached upon by human activities, disrupting their passages can lead to more frequent encounters with human settlements in Tamil Nadu. This can result in conflicts, with elephants damaging crops or infrastructure, and humans retaliating, which can further disrupt the balance of local ecosystems. Elephants often have migratory routes that connect different ecosystems. While the direct link between the destruction of elephant passages and climate change may not be straightforward, the broader impact on ecosystems and biodiversity can have indirect effects on the overall health and functioning of the environment.

Recommendations

- a) Declare a carbon ban on import of wastes.
- b) Implement all the rules framed under the Environment Protection Act strictly.
- c) Make the water policy people-oriented and provide for greater participation of the community.
- d) Depend upon people and involve the community in the restoration of tanks and water harvesting systems. MNCs and international lending agencies should be avoided.
- e) Avoid projects like interlinking of rivers which are capital intensive.
- f) Agriculture based on chemicals must be avoided and Bio agriculture must be supported and promoted by the State. The government should support the subsidised production of good quality organic manure, natural land protection methods, sustainable mixed cropping patterns, indigenous seeds and associated knowledge systems and should stop monoculture farming.
- g) Focus on the implementation of solar, wind, hydro, and other renewable energy so that they reach all the people.



Goal 14



LIFE BELOW WATER

Conserve and sustainably use the oceans, seas and marine resources for sustainable development.

Focus on

- + Prevent and reduce marine pollution
- + Protect marine and coastal ecosystems
- + Minimise and address the impacts of ocean acidification
- + Regulate harvesting and end overfishing
- + Provide access for small-scale artisanal fishers to marine resources and markets

Key Departments and Schemes

Tamil Nadu

Environment, Climate Change and Forests

Animal Husbandry, Dairying,
Fisheries and Fishermen Welfare

Conservation of Sea Turtles

Providing 50% subsidy to procure new
Tuna Long liner-cum-Gill netter boats

WebGIS based Mobile app 'Thoondil'



Goal 15



LIFE ON LAND

Protect, restore and promote sustainable use of terrestrial ecosystems, sustainably forests, combat desertification, and halt and reverse land degradation and halt biodiversity loss.

Focus on

- + *Ensure the conservation, restoration, and sustainable use of terrestrial and inland freshwater ecosystems*
- + *Implementation of sustainable management of all types of forests and substantially increase afforestation*
- + *Combat desertification and achieve a land degradation-neutral world*
- + *Ensure the conservation of mountain ecosystems, including their biodiversity*
- + *Reduce the degradation of natural habitats and prevent the extinction of threatened species*
- + *Equitable access and sharing of the benefits arising from genetic resources*
- + *Integrate ecosystem and biodiversity values into planning, development, and poverty reduction*

Key Departments and Schemes

Tamil Nadu

Environment, Climate Change and Forests
Home, Prohibition and Excise

- ◆ District Climate Change Mission
- ◆ Hon'ble Chief Minister's Green Fellowship Programme (CMGFP)
- ◆ Green School programme
- ◆ Climate Studio
- ◆ Teak Plantations
- ◆ Sandal Plantations
- ◆ Elephant Conservation Scheme
- ◆ Payment for Compensation for the damages caused by wild animals



Introduction

The Scheduled Tribes and Other Traditional Forest Dwellers (Recognition of Rights) Act, 2006 (popularly referred to as the Forest Rights Act, FRA) is to address the historic injustice made out to forest dwellers. It significantly redefines gender and environmental justice by acknowledging adivasi women's capacities to nurture forest space and making them a mandatory part of the institutional mechanism for decision making. However, the implementation of FRA across the country reveals that it has turned into a bureaucratic exercise instead of an empowerment tool. The ingrained colonial, feudal, and patriarchal view of the state and its reluctance to recognise the claimants' rights – especially women's rights – pushes the scheduled tribes and other forest dwellers to becoming wage labourers carrying out government plantation programmes rather than exercising their traditional knowledge to nurture their forest and gain rightful livelihoods.

The several decades of struggle by tribal people for recognition of their rights over forest lands in India represents a fight for recognition of their right to live on ancestral lands in the forests and access forest resources to maintain their culture, identity, and livelihoods. Historically, women have ensured sustainable use of forests while safeguarding their own livelihoods and food security. Land transfer through family and kinship has traditionally not been even an option for tribal women. Hence, by conferring land titles jointly in the names of both spouses, both their ownership over the forest would be legally recognised.

The present-day struggle of the scheduled tribes for forest tenure rights can be traced back to India's colonial history. In general, tribal women are highly dependent on forest resources, with or without forest tenure rights. Yet, few studies have focused on women's forest access and tenure rights. Many tribal societies are traditionally matrilineal and conferred women more status, inheritance rights, and privileges than mainstream Hindu caste society. This situation has been changing with the trend towards adaptation to the mainstream patriarchal norms. In general, women's rights in forest tenure reform are not given priority, nor in state agrarian reforms. This has resulted in gendered discrimination within the family due to inheritance laws, alienation rights, and control of property (Agarwal 1994). The meaning of women's rights in forest tenure has changed with the FRA. The change is not simply about the meaning of women's rights in forest tenure, or simply about including women but changing their status and changing the fundamentals of forest tenure and management.

³⁸ Independent Researcher and Guest faculty at National Law School University Bangalore.



Gendered differences exist within right-based access, for example through access to knowledge, markets, technology, authority, and labour opportunities. Rocheleau and Edmund (1997:1354) explain that the analysis of gendered access rights to forestland and its resources is important because 'land titling often underplays the significance of women's existing resource use and ownership rights'.

Minimum Potential Women Forest Dwellers in India						
Category	1991	Comments	2001	2011	2021	2031
ST Population in India	67.76 million	8.08 percent of the total population of 1991. Population of the tribe has increased by 25.67% during the decade 1981-1991.	4.3 million	10,45,45,716	117.78 million (approx.)	124.32 million (approx.)
Total Female ST Population in India	3,33,95,109		44.1 million	5,19,98,501	63.1 million (approx.)	70.9 million (approx.)
Potential Women FRA Claimants in India	3,33,95,109				11.5 million (approx.)	13.25 million (approx.)
<p><i>Note: Numbers will decline after 2021 due to a steep decline in fertility rate and gradual increase in mortality rate.</i> Source: MoTASource: Census 1991, 2001, 2011 Source: Population Projections for India and States, National Commission on Population, MoHFW Source: Data based on Census Report & National Population Projection Report</p>						

Key issues

Representation and participation of women in Gram Sabha and FRCs:

The Scheduled Tribes and other Traditional Forest Dwellers (Recognition of Forest Rights) Act, 2006 does not contain any provision for constitution of Forest Rights Committees (FRC).

The rules notified by the Ministry of Tribal Affairs on 1 January 2008 for implementing the provisions of the Act provide for the constitution of Forest Rights Committee by the Gram Sabha for assisting it in its functions to –

- Gather the evidence in support of such claims;
- Prepare the record of claims and evidence including maps;
- Prepare a list of claimants on forest rights;
- Verify claims as provided in the Rules;
- Present their findings on the nature and extent of the claim before the Gram Sabha for its consideration;
- Acknowledge every claim received, in writing;



- g) Prepare the claims on behalf of Gram Sabha for community forest rights in the prescribed form.

The Rules also provide that the Forest Rights Committee shall, after due intimation to the concerned claimant and the Forest Department –

- a) Visit the site and physically verify the nature and extent of the claim and evidence on the site;
- b) Receive any further evidence or record from the claimant and witnesses;
- c) Ensure that the claim from pastoralists and nomadic tribes for determination of their rights, which may either be through individual members, the community or traditional community institution, are verified at a time when such individuals, communities or their representatives are present;
- d) Ensure that the claim from members of primitive tribal group or pre- agricultural community for determination of their rights to habitat, which may either be through their community or traditional community institution, are verified when such communities or their representatives are present;
- e) Prepare a map delineating the area of each claim indicating recognizable landmarks; and
- f) Record its findings on the claim and present the same to the Gram Sabha for its consideration.
- g) Receive, acknowledge and retain the claims in the specified form.

FRA 2006 extends to the whole of India. But its implementation and performance differs from state to state. Odisha leads the way in implementation of Forest Rights Act and it is the first state in the country to allocate separate budget for FRA, whereas states like Himachal, Assam, Bihar, Uttar Pradesh, Uttarakhand and Jharkhand failed to implement Forest Rights Act effectively. The recognition of women's participation in this landmark legislation created a legal space and opportunity to strengthen women leadership. It reserves a third of the seats for participation of women in FRCs, in Gram Sabha meetings as well as in the non-official members in the subdivisional level committee and district level committee.

The provisions mentioned in FRA are

S.2(g) + Rule 4(2): Gram Sabha defined as a village assembly of all adult members of the village, with full and unrestricted participation of women. Quorum requires at least one-third participation of women. Rule 3(1): At least one-third members of Forest Rights Committee (FRC) to be women.



- S.3: Vests CFR, Individual Forest Rights (IFR) and Common Resource (CR) rights in forest-dwelling communities, whether individually or collectively.
- S.4(4): Individual forest rights to be registered jointly in the name of both spouses in case of married persons. In case a woman is the single head of household, rights to be registered in her name.
- S.4(1): which vests forest rights notwithstanding any other law for the time being in force. Here the term 'law in force' will also include any personal law or customary law which may prohibit women from owning or inheriting property.
- S.5: Gram Sabhas and right holders are empowered with the authority to govern, manage and conserve forests.
- S.6(8)+ Rule 5(c), Rule 7(c): At least one woman member amongst the three non-official members in the Sub-Divisional Level Committee (SDLC), and in the District Level Committee (DLC).

Status in different areas

Women in PVTG Area: Only one title for habitat rights for PVTG community has been recognised in the country till date. PVTG communities are still struggling for habitat Rights and fighting against state funded plantation program over Podu land.

PVTG: Particularly vulnerable tribal groups have a declining or stagnant population, low level of literacy, pre-agricultural level of technology and are economically backward. Women in PVTG communities are even more vulnerable.

Women in Protected Areas: Relocation and eviction are major issues and false cases are foisted against them for fuel wood collection etc. . . . and is increasing. In case of death or injury due to conflicts with animals the forest dwellers often are unable to receive any compensation as the government views them as encroachers in protected areas.

India's first national park, established in 1936, is currently known as Jim Corbett National Park in Uttarakhand. Tiger reserves consist of areas under national parks and wildlife sanctuaries. There are 52 tiger reserves in India. As of May 2012, the protected areas of India cover 156,700 square kilometres (60,500 sq miles), roughly 4.95% of the total surface area.

Women in Mining Areas: Women suffers the most because of the different reasons. Lack of employment forced them to migrate to other states or nearby areas for food and livelihood. Rehabilitation from one place to another place take away all their traditional



agricultural practices in one particular terrain, belief system and sacred place. Women are always proactive in tribal belt to protect their sacred place, belief system, and food culture so whenever a new company tries to take over the land it is contested which leads to violence. In this process children are also affected.

As of 2015 India is the largest producer of sheet mica, the fourth largest producer of alumina and bauxite, and has the fifth largest reserves of coal and iron in the world. In 2019 she is the fourth largest producer of iron. Environmental degradation is caused by the 1.6 billion tons of waste and other minerals released to the environment each year. Mining in India is increasing at the rate of 11% per annum.

Women in Scheduled Areas: Though struggling for recognition of rights, lot of interesting initiatives have been taken to exercise their rights and to secure their livelihood, for example in Odisha, Chhattisgarh and Andhra Pradesh.



Goal 16



PEACE, JUSTICE AND STRONG INSTITUTIONS

Promote peaceful and inclusive societies for sustainable development, provide access to justice for all and build effective, accountable and inclusive institutions at all levels

FOCUS ON

- + Reduce all forms of violence
- + End abuse, exploitation, trafficking and all forms of violence against and torture of children
- + Promote the rule of law and ensure equal access to justice for all
- + Reduce corruption and bribery in all their forms
- + Effective, accountable and transparent institutions at all levels
- + Ensure responsive, inclusive, participatory and representative decision-making at all levels
- + Provide legal identity for all, including birth registration

Key Departments and Schemes

Tamil Nadu

Social welfare department	◆	State-run Helplines for Women (181)
Home, Prohibition and Excise	◆	One Stop Centres
Revenue and Disaster Management	◆	Swadhar homes, Ujjawala Homes
Information Technology and Digital Services	◆	

Institutional support is essential for the kept behind communities and vulnerable sections to break free from the shackles that hold them back. Even if they break the shackles, organised social backlash forces them back. Weak institutions bordering on personality cult-based functioning are detrimental to 'peaceful and inclusive societies' that can 'provide justice to all'. The case of the transgender welfare board languishing for 10 years with the change in government has already been mentioned. The flurry of inclusive, participatory, and consultative activity around the same agenda is welcome, but is weakened by the insecurity caused by the weak institutional mechanisms (will it survive a change in administration?).

Rule of law and equal access to justice for all

Government initiatives such as the single women's hostels in each district restore some confidence in institutions especially after the Special DGP Das and SP Kannan were convicted of sexual harassment of their colleague IPS officer of Superintendent of Police (SP) rank. The behaviour of the police – from interrogating victims in the Vengaiyaval caste





atrocities to the sadism of Assistant Superintendent of Police Balveer Singh who was only suspended briefly without accountability – does not inspire confidence in their impartiality. The prompt action announcements of the chief minister provide a temporary balm, but far deeper institutional change and accountability are required. Despite the change in party of governance, the ghosts of P. Jeyaraj and his son J. Beniks still stalk the land.

The Crime In India Report 2022 published by the National Crime Records Bureau, NCRB, points to some disturbing trends in recorded crime against women, children, the scheduled castes and the scheduled tribes – in addition to the increase in recorded crime (which could be due to a variety of reasons, including better recording by a more sensitive constabulary).

In crime recording the pattern should be an increase in crime with decreasing severity. However, that is not the case in Tamil Nadu which records more murders than grievous hurt. The trend for recorded crimes against women is even more stark with recorded attempt to commit rape being less than 5% of recorded rape.

Fully 3537 (38%) of the 9207 recorded crimes against women in Tamil Nadu are rape of little girls. This is probably because of the duty to report clause in the Protection of Children from Sexual Offences (POCSO) Act. In contrast, just 421 rapes are recorded – 416 of them women above the age of 18, and 5 below the age of 18 (possibly because the POCSO Act was not invoked). Distressingly, only 21 cases of attempt to commit rape (all of women above the age of 18), 1414 cases of assault on the modesty of women (4 of them children), and 58 attempt to outrage the modesty of women (2 of them children) are recorded. It is unlikely that a woman would come in to report rape and assault but not come in to report attempt to commit rape nor outrage. Women report but police record – under sections of their choice. Similarly, it is unlikely that the high incidence of child rape is not preceded multiple times by several crimes that lead to it.

The variation in trends is stark when compared to the crime data for the scheduled communities. The same pattern – but a lot more pronounced – is discernible in suppression and trivialisation. The conviction rate for atrocities against the scheduled castes is 34% in India, but just 21.1% in Tamil Nadu. For atrocities against the scheduled tribes it is 28% in India and 0% in Tamil Nadu. For context, the conviction rate for atrocities against the scheduled castes is 80% in Uttar Pradesh and 77% for atrocities against scheduled tribes in Chhattisgarh. A sign of hope is that the conviction rate in Tamil Nadu has been consistently increasing since 2017 when it was 6.25%, though the national average has slipped from 36% in 2021 to 34% in 2022.

While rape of minors (including POCSO) is 56% of the total, for inter-community rape it is 33% (India–SC) and 40% (India–ST). However, for Tamil Nadu it is 90% of the total, 70% for scheduled castes and 79% for scheduled tribes.





	Scheduled Castes		Scheduled Tribes	
	India	TN	India	TN
Recorded atrocities	57,582	1,761	10,064	67
Recorded rate	28.6%	12.2%	9.6%	8.4%
Charge sheeting rate	79.9%	84.1%	80.4%	86.8%
Conviction rate	34.0%	21.1%	28.1%	0.0%
Total cases disposed by police	57,329	1,542	10,024	68
Cases pending trial from prev. year	2,54,476	5,784	40,641	119
Cases for trial 2022	45,827	1,297	8,062	59
Total cases for trial	3,00,303	7,081	48,703	178
Cases convicted	5,629	138	902	0
% convicted	34%	21%	28%	0%
Cases discharged	695	4	223	0
Cases Acquitted	10,214	512	2,085	8
Total cases disposed by courts	16,714	671	3,234	8
% disposed	6%	9%	7%	4%
Pending trial end of year	2,83,589	6,410	45,469	170
Increase in pendency	111%	111%	112%	143%

Source: Crime In India 2022, National Crime Records Bureau

Tamil Nadu fares worse than the national average in almost all parameters regarding safety and security of the scheduled communities but for the recorded crime rate and in the charge sheeting rate. It fares subpar in the judicial system from cases disposed off (25% less than the national average at just 23 cases per annum per court in 17 exclusive special courts and 13 special courts in Tamil Nadu compared to 30 cases per annum per court nationally in 176 exclusive special courts and 487 special courts), conviction rate (SC21% and ST0% compared to 34% and 28% nationally) and increase in pendency (143% to 112% for STs nationally). There are over a thousand cases pending trial after the chargesheet has been filed for over 20 years, and one case from 1992 despite the law explicitly providing for trials to be completed within two months of filing the chargesheet. At this rate the cases will never be cleared.

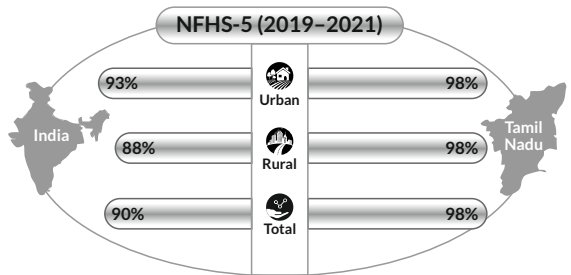
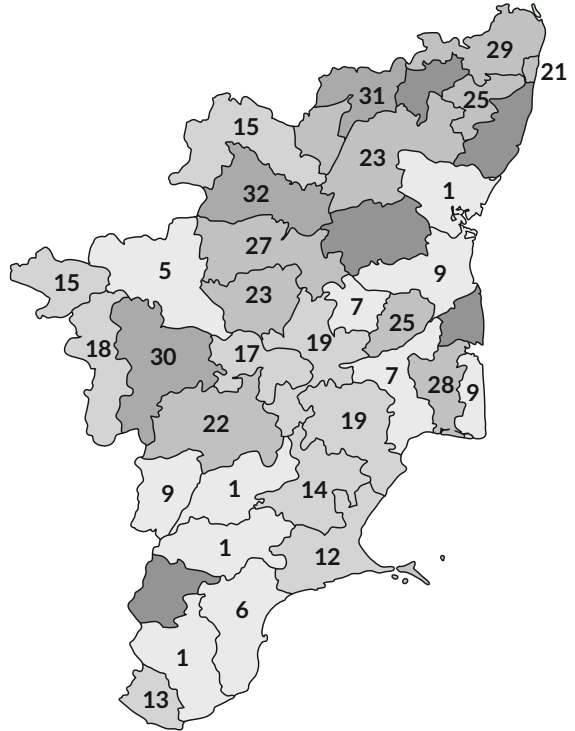
The government briefing notes indicate that it is subpar in fulfilment of socioeconomic rehabilitation (provision of house, pension, government job, and all expenses paid residential education up to graduation). For instance, only 6 applications were even sent for the 100% union government sponsored instant monetary relief to the Dr Ambedkar Foundation though over 340 victims were eligible in 2022 alone resulting in over ₹8.71 crore being forfeited (₹23 crore from 2020 to 2022). No maintenance expense (one day's minimum wage of rural agricultural labourer for attending to investigation and trial) is given in the state.





Rank	Districts	Value (%)
1	Madurai	100
1	Thirunelveli	100
1	Viluppuram	100
1	Virudhunagar	100
5	Erode	99.6
6	Thoothukudi	99.5
7	Perambalur	99.3
7	Thanjavur	99.3
9	Cuddalore	99.1
9	Nagapattinam	99.1
9	Theni	99.1
12	Ramanathapuram	99.0
13	Kanyakumari	98.9
14	Sivagangai	98.8
15	Krishnagiri	98.7
15	Nilgiris	98.7
17	Karur	98.6
18	Coimbatore	98.5
19	Pudukottai	98.4
19	Tiruchirappalli	98.4
21	Chennai	98.2
22	Dindigul	97.9
23	Namakkal	97.6
23	Tiruvannamalai	97.6
25	Ariyalur	97.5
25	Kanchipuram	97.5
27	Salem	97.4
28	Thiruvarur	97.2
29	Thiruvallur	97.0
30	Tiruppur	96.9
31	Vellore	96.5
32	Dharmapuri	93.0

Figure 17: Children under age 5 years whose birth was registered with the civil authority (%)



Goal 17



PARTNERSHIPS FOR THE GOALS

Strengthen the means of implementation and revitalize the Global Partnership for Sustainable Development

Focus on

- + *Developed countries to implement fully their official development assistance commitments*
- + *Enhance cooperation on and access to science, technology and innovation and enhance knowledge sharing*
- + *Enhance international support for effective and targeted capacity-building in developing countries*
- + *Enhance policy coherence for sustainable development*
- + *Enhance the global partnership for sustainable development*
- + *Encourage and promote effective public, public-private and civil society partnerships*
- + *Increase significantly the availability of high-quality, timely and reliable data disaggregated by income, gender, age, race, ethnicity, migratory status, disability, geographic location and other characteristics relevant in national contexts*
- + *Develop measurements of progress on sustainable development that complement gross domestic product, and support statistical capacity-building in developing countries*

Key Indicators	India	Tamil Nadu baseline	TN vision 2023	Global Target
Online Government Services		126 services	<i>Tamil Nadu will nurture a culture of responsive and transparent Governance that ensures progress, security, and equal opportunity to all stakeholders.</i>	<i>Significantly reduce all forms of violence and related death rates everywhere</i>
Provide access to justice for all and build effective, accountable and inclusive institutions at all levels	No. of Complaints received under IPC ³⁹ Oral- 70,04,582 Written- 96,34,098	No. of Complaints received under IPC ⁴⁰ Oral- 265853 Written-426782		

³⁹ NCRB 2022

⁴⁰ Ibid





Encourage and promote effective public, public–private and civil society partnerships

The shrinking of democratic space has real world consequences in shrinking of space for civil society and therefore for partnerships. There have been persistent efforts to restrict, if not ban, the role of civil society in human rights and to roles little better than low–cost service providers of government schemes – rather cynically exploiting the dedication, commitment, and selflessness of the grassroots social worker. The work of civil society in nation building outside this narrow framework has been delegitimised at the highest levels of government. The adversarial use of diverse legislation – from the Income Tax Act to the Prevention of Money Laundering Act to the Foreign Contribution (Regulation) Act to anti–terror laws such as Unlawful Activities Prevention Action – to restrict and cripple civil society organisations has become normalised. Advocacy – the interface of civil society and the state – has been made illegal.

The union government has moved some civil society led initiatives – such as the childline – back within its fold rather than continuing it as a collaborative effort. While it could result in better remuneration for those in the project – the centre leads were paid lower than the lowest pay to union government employees with none of the social security – the risk of the initiative becoming victim to a policing law–and–order mindset is real.

The present state administration started well with a meeting between the chief minister and a few representatives of civil society organisations, with a promise of institutional collaboration. Despite advances such as the collaboration for the transgender policy the institutional mechanism has not yet materialised and collaboration remains ad hoc, though it is better than the ban on civil society work during the pandemic by the previous administration that had to be overturned by the judiciary.

The state government is yet to financially support NGOs to run awareness centres and conduct workshops, as it is statutorily bound to do under the Scheduled Castes and the Scheduled Tribes (Prevention of Atrocities) Rule 3(ix), despite several requests and reminders from NGOs.

Data, monitoring, and accountability

No data means no accountability and, in the minds of the perpetrators, no evidence. Governments in India seem to have perfected gaslighting and distraction using 'alternative facts' to earn almost all governments the moniker NDA 'no data available'.

India has not conducted the decennial census of 2021 and played hide and seek with all kinds of data from employment to health, to poverty (which, according to the NITI Ayog's national multidimensional poverty index (NMPI) has been reduced to only 1% now).



After the abnormally long delay in publishing the Crime in India report 2022 by the NCRB – in December 2023 rather than the usual August, despite extensive computerisation and nationwide connectivity – the recorded crime data shows an inexorable march of violence consequent to the militarised religious polarisation of society based on sectarian ideologies.

As of 27 January 2024, the Government of Tamil Nadu has still not published *Crime Review Tamil Nadu 2022* the annual report of the state crime records bureau (SCRB) though NCRB report which is based on the SCR data is already in the public domain. Data harmonisation could be a possible reason for this abnormal delay.

The Government of India released its first Gender Budget Statement (GBS) in 2005–06. Every year the Ministries/Departments are requested through the Annual Budget Circular to highlight the quantum of public expenditure earmarked in budget for women. Based on the information furnished by the ministries/departments, the Gender Budget Statement is prepared. This statement indicates, in two parts, the budget provisions for schemes that are substantially meant for the benefit of women. Part A details schemes in which 100% provision is for women. Part B reflects schemes where the allocations for women constitute at least 30% of the provision.

The Government of Tamil Nadu released its first –Gender Budget Statement in 2018/19 under Appendix No: XXII of Budget Publication No: 65 – Appendices to Budget Memorandum. In the budget session of 2024–25, the seventh the GBS of Government of Tamil Nadu is to be presented. It depicts the probable outlay for women in the total budget outlay. The statement is classified into three parts. Part A includes schemes that are targeted at women and so 100% of the outlay is toward women. Part B includes schemes that are beneficiary oriented and depending upon the scheme, 40% to 99 % of outlay benefits women. Part C includes other schemes and other expenditure items of the government, which are not beneficiary oriented and are therefore form indivisible items of expenditure. In Part C, these indivisible items are grouped sector–wise and it is assumed that at least 30% of the outlay will benefit women.

Gender Budgeting shall be introduced at all the levels of government ministries, Departments and public sector units and thrust should be given to the private sector to adhere to the state women policy. A functional Gender Budget cell shall be constituted in every department and the gender–based situation analysis of the scheme shall be submitted to the Finance Department – Gender Cell for consolidation before the State budget. Evaluate or Review all a Plan/ Project/ Scheme/ Programmes both existing and proposed with a 'gender lens'/'Orange lens' before intervention or implementation.

– Draft Tamil Nadu State Women Policy, 2021

The Government of Tamil Nadu in its Order G.O (Ms) No.38, on ‘...Formulation of Gender Budget in all Departments...’ by the Department of Social Welfare and Women Empowerment; dated 08.07.2022; annexed the Guidelines and Terms of Reference on Gender Budget Cells.

⁴¹ Kamatchi S, Assistant Director, Social Watch – Tamil Nadu (www.swtn.org). This is an edited version of the paper *Wish list for Government of Tamil Nadu: Decentralised and intersectional gender budgeting, contextualised for SDG 17.1 Strengthen domestic resource mobilisation*,



Recommendations

To further strengthen the process of Gender Responsive Budgeting in Tamil Nadu, women activists and CSOs in Tamil Nadu propose the following suggestions for inclusion in Tamil Nadu Budget 2024–25:

Intersectional gender budgeting

- Adopt a framework of social equity to address multi-dimensional vulnerability faced by women in the gender responsive budget process in Tamil Nadu.
- Provide disaggregated information on allocation of resources in the budget based on vulnerability indicators such as:
 - Caste, class, religion
 - Women headed households
 - Women with disability
 - Women engaged in vulnerable occupation
 - Women facing residential vulnerabilities (women in homeless situations and informal settlements)
 - Sexual minorities
- Allocate at least 10% of its total annual 'Gender Budget Statement' exclusively for new innovative scheme for the most marginalised and vulnerable women in the state.

Decentralise gender budgeting

- Commence the gender budgeting process from the urban and rural local self-government.
- Initiate village/settlement level processes to ensure participation of women, especially from the most vulnerable sections.
- Engage in community level process to ensure participation of women in the gender budget exercises, till the area sabhas in the urban areas are formed.

Need-based gender budgeting

- Revamp Part C assumed outlay to specific outlay for empowering marginalised women in the state with a new set of innovative schemes.

Institutionalising governance of gender budget

- Evolve an exclusive 'Gender Budget Tracking Dashboard', so that the flow of funds across districts/ taluks and panchayats for each scheme mentioned in the Gender Budget Statement can be tracked.
- Connect the Gender Budget Cell and women in Tamil Nadu, especially the most vulnerable women, by strengthening synergy between government and civil society organisations.





- Build capacity of officials in the gender cell of the different departments.
- Constitute 'Gender Budget Committee' comprising of women elected representatives, experts from civil society groups working with different vulnerable groups to ensure social inclusion in the evaluation process of the gender budget.

Accountability and transparency

- Make available the status of expenditure for the previous budget year in the current budget session – higher allocation does not imply higher rate of expenditure.
- Evolve a 'Gender Budget Bill' to ensure accountability.
- Carry out a gender audit exclusively to assess the expenditure of the state. Present the findings in the state assembly.
- Present the 'Status Report of Marginalised Women' in the annual budget session to plan, allocate, analyse and evaluate the progress.
- Institutionalise a women-led access audit and social audit processes by appointing an ombudsperson to address grievances.



Goal 3: Ensure healthy lives and promote wellbeing for all at all ages

- The government should take necessary action to provide the basic needs such as quality drinking water, toilets, restrooms, first aid and accident benefits, sun protection goggles, slippers, hand gloves, and medical benefits to salt workers.
- Salt work should be considered and included in the occupational based diseases.
- Necessary action should be taken to do full and free medical checkup once in a year for salt workers.
- Salt workers should be provided with separate hospitals close to their residential areas.
- Unique Medical Identity card should be provided to salt workers to get free medical treatment at government and private hospitals.
- The government should take necessary action to include nutritious fish in the meals provided in government hospitals, anganwadis, Chief Minister's Nutritious Noon Meal Scheme and in Primary Health Centres (PHCs). The fish procurement for such schemes should also be done through fisherwoman's cooperatives.
- The union and state governments should take necessary action to provide ESI, medical benefits, sufficient pension, housing, creches, safety working conditions to all workers in the unorganised sector, in particular salt pan workers and fish workers.
- There should be Salt Workers Welfare Board promoted hospitals near salt production areas.
- Frequent medical camps should be conducted for salt workers.

Goal 4: Ensure inclusive and equitable quality education and promote lifelong learning opportunities for all

- The children of salt workers should be provided with education scholarships from primary to higher education through the Salt Workers Welfare Board.
- The government should take necessary action to provide creches near the workplace of salt workers.

Goal 5: Achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls.

- To uplift the livelihood of salt workers the government should form women salt workers cooperatives.
- The government should provide an opportunity on contract basis for women salt workers cooperatives to produce edible salt. This would enable women workers to possess the right to resources.

⁴² Director, Centre for Community Services (CCS), Thoothukudi

- The salt pans should be directly leased to salt working women by which their right to land and resources should be ensured.

Goal 6: Ensure availability and sustainable management of water and sanitation.

- The government should take necessary and speedy action to provide the basic need such as quality drinking water facility, toilets, and rest rooms to salt workers close to their work place and in their residence.

Goal 7: Promote sustained, inclusive and sustainable economic growth full and productive employment.

- The Salt Workers Welfare Board should be strengthened through a levy collected from salt producers, salt exports and allied salt work.
- Funds should be mobilised for Salt workers welfare board from the owners of salt production industries. (Similar to the 5Cr contribution received from the owners and manufacturers of the crackers and match industries for the Crackers and Match Industries Welfare Board).
- The current system of accessing rainy season relief to the family of salt worker should be changed and be provided to each salt worker.
- The union and state governments should lease the land directly to salt workers for production to ensure their right to land and resources.
- The state and union governments should ensure secure livelihood of fisheries and allied sector women workers during the off seasons.

Goal 8: Promote sustained, inclusive and sustainable economic growth, full and productive employment and decent work for all.

- Workers welfare and security laws and schemes should be implemented for salt workers.
- The government should take necessary action to ensure that minimum wages are paid to salt workers.

Goal 9: Build resilient infrastructure, promote inclusive and sustainable industrialization and foster innovation.

- The state and union government should provide loan with subsidy and interest subvention to fish, dry fish and allied fish workers to secure their livelihood.
- Fisher women should be trained so that they can modernise and upgrade their skills with new technologies.
- Provide free bus pass to transport fish and dry fish in all modes of transportation for fish vendors.





- The fish market should be made available at all districts and taluks and the overall administrative power of the market should be given to fisher women cooperatives.
- The National Policy on Street Vendors should be implemented in Tamil Nadu. Women fish and dry fish vendors should receive street vendor ID cards, loan cards, and subsidised bank loans.
- Support women fish workers and those in allied sectors to enhance their livelihood with freezer boxes and other modern equipment to process their goods and to market it.
- Cooperatives societies should be formed for salt workers.

Goal 10: Reduce disparity.

- Impose a levy on export-oriented sea foods to provide welfare schemes to fish and allied fishery workers through the fish workers welfare board.
- Impose a levy on export-oriented edible, rock, and chemical salt to provide welfare schemes to salt workers through the Salt Workers Welfare Board.

Goal 11: Make cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable.

- The Government of Tamil Nadu should take necessary steps to construct quality houses for all salt workers through the Salt Workers Welfare Board.
- The housing documents should be in the name of the woman head of the family.
- The given scheme should be beneficial for all salt workers including those with unsafe or unprotected houses.

Goal 14: Conserve and sustainably use the oceans, sea and marine resources for sustainable development.

- The right of fisher women and women in allied sectors to the coast and coastal resources should be formally recognised.

Goal 16: Promote peaceful and inclusive societies for sustainable development, provide access to justice for all and build effective, accountable and institutions at all levels.

- The retirement pension scheme should be provided to salt and fish workers.



Annexures

Offences affecting the Human Body									
#	District	Murder (Sec.30 2 IPC)	ACM (Sec.3 07 IPC)	GH (Total) (Col.2 7 to 33)	SH (Total) (Col.21 to Col.25)	Rape (Sec.376 IPC)	ACR (Sec.376/ 511 IPC)	Assault (Sec.354 IPC (Total) (Col.36+Col.3 7+Col.42 to 44)	Insult to the Modesty of Women (Sec.509 IPC)
1	Ariyalur	19	35	27	479	7	3	4	0
2	Chennai	101	246	110	2391	36	0	139	14
3	Coimbatore	39	34	11	762	13	0	21	0
4	Coimbatore City	31	54	13	1241	7	0	10	0
5	Cuddalore	43	89	6	2034	26	0	37	0
6	Dharmapuri	33	15	91	629	7	0	27	1
7	Dindigul	71	57	12	1362	6	0	40	1
8	Erode	25	30	27	762	6	0	28	0
9	Kanchipuram	18	53	8	189	3	0	2	0
10	Kanyakumari	36	58	89	1252	4	0	40	1
11	Karur	14	16	8	361	5	2	8	0
12	Krishnagiri	53	36	28	846	3	0	19	0
13	Madurai	65	85	6	850	20	2	50	2
14	Madurai City	35	96	12	474	13	0	37	1
15	Nagapattinam	41	66	2	686	8	1	58	1
16	Namakkal	29	32	4	523	6	0	37	0
17	Nilgiris	7	6	16	279	4	0	10	2
18	Perambalur	14	26	23	271	6	1	16	0
19	Pudukottai	34	72	2	1753	6	0	54	2
20	Ramnathapuram	38	61	20	1329	15	2	15	0
21	Railway Chennai	6	3	1	35	0	0	4	0
22	Railway Trichy	1	0	0	35	0	0	1	0
23	Salem	39	30	6	1619	5	0	70	0
24	Salem City	16	53	7	393	2	0	29	0
25	Sivagangai	39	62	29	1394	10	1	30	0
26	Thanjavur	68	126	124	2059	8	0	138	6
27	Theni	53	56	30	1284	10	0	43	0
28	Thirunelveli	46	170	22	2390	15	1	59	0
29	Thirunelveli City	18	44	5	259	1	0	18	0
30	Thiruvallur	19	52	18	535	11	2	14	0
31	Thiruvannamalai	42	69	75	754	8	1	22	0
32	Thiruvarur	21	32	4	557	9	0	13	3
33	Thoothukudi	84	130	53	1173	14	1	42	3
34	Tiruppur	36	19	6	467	8	0	18	0
35	Tiruppur City	23	20	0	509	2	0	2	1
36	Trichy	37	56	3	965	16	2	42	7
37	Trichy City	22	23	7	637	5	0	15	0
38	Vellore	24	32	11	382	2	0	13	1
39	Villupuram	23	65	30	1399	22	0	14	0
40	Virudhunagar	58	41	69	883	17	0	33	0

Offences affecting the Human Body									
#	District	Murder (Sec.30 2 IPC)	ACM (Sec.3 07 IPC)	GH (Total) (Col.2 7 to 33)	SH (Total) (Col.21 to Col.25)	Rape (Sec.376 IPC)	ACR (Sec.376/ 511 IPC)	Assault (Sec.354 IPC) (Total) (Col.36+Col.3 7+Col.42 to 44)	Insult to the Modesty of Women (Sec.509 IPC)
41	Cyber Cell	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
42	Other Units	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
43	Chengalpattu	32	29	2	397	8	0	3	2
44	Kallakurichi	24	44	0	776	8	0	38	0
45	Ranipet	25	14	19	231	0	0	13	0
46	Tiruppattur	22	15	27	435	4	0	15	4
47	Tenkasi	41	83	38	1297	8	2	59	1
48	Avadi	63	93	14	732	10	0	8	3
49	Tambaram	62	95	14	479	17	0	6	2
Total Districts		1690	2623	1129	40549	421	21	1414	58
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Murder = Murder (Sec.302 IPC) ◆ AtM = Attempt to Commit Murder (Sec.307 IPC) ◆ GH = Grievous Hurt (Total) (Col.27 to 33) ◆ SH = Simple Hurt (Total) (Col.21 to Col.25) ◆ Rape = Rape (Sec.376 IPC) ◆ ACR = Attempt to Commit Rape (Sec.376/511 IPC) ◆ Assault = Assault on Women with Intent to Outrage her Modesty (Sec.354 IPC) (Total) (Col.36+Col.37+Col.42 to 44) ◆ Insult = Insult to the Modesty of Women (Sec.509 IPC) 									

S. No		State/District		Recorded crimes against women 2022																			
				Rape (Sec. 376 IPC)			Attempt to Commit Rape (Sec. 376/511 IPC)			Assault on Women with Intent to Outrage her Modesty (Sec. 354 IPC)			Insult to the Modesty of Women (Sec. 509 IPC)			Dowry Prohibition Act, 1961		Protection of Women from Domestic Violence Act		Girl Child Rape (Sec. 4 & 6 of POCSO Act) / Sec. 376 IPC)		Total Crime against Women (IPC+SLL)	
		Rape (Col.24+Col.25)		Below 18 years		Attempt to Commit Rape (Col.27+Col.28)		Assault on Women with Intent to Outrage her Modesty		Women (18 Yrs. And above)		Girls (Below 18 yrs)		Insult to the Modesty of Women (Col.33+Col.34)		Dowry Prohibition Act, 1961		Protection of Women from Domestic Violence Act		Girl Child Rape (Sec. 4 & 6 of POCSO Act) / Sec. 376 IPC)		Total Crime against Women (IPC+SLL)	
		23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31	32	33	34	35	36	37	38	39	40	41	42	43	44
1	Anyalur	7	7	0	3	0	0	4	4	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
2	Chennai	36	36	0	0	0	0	139	139	0	14	14	0	8	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
3	Coimbatore	13	13	0	0	0	0	21	21	0	0	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
4	Coimbatore City	7	7	0	0	0	0	10	10	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
5	Cuddalore	26	26	0	0	0	0	37	37	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
6	Dharmapuri	7	7	0	0	0	0	27	27	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
7	Dindigul	6	6	0	0	0	0	40	40	0	1	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
8	Erode	6	6	0	0	0	0	28	28	0	0	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
9	Kanchipuram	3	3	0	0	0	0	2	2	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
10	Kanyakumari	4	4	0	0	0	0	40	40	0	1	1	0	37	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
11	Karur	5	5	0	2	2	0	8	8	0	0	0	0	4	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
12	Krishnagiri	3	3	0	0	0	0	19	19	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
13	Madurai	20	20	0	2	2	0	50	50	0	2	2	0	11	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
14	Madurai City	13	13	0	0	0	0	37	37	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
15	Nagapattinam	8	8	0	1	1	0	58	58	0	1	1	0	4	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
16	Namakkal	6	6	0	0	0	0	37	37	0	0	0	0	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
17	Niigiris	4	4	0	0	0	0	10	10	0	2	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
18	Perambalur	6	6	0	1	1	0	16	16	0	0	0	0	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
19	Pudukottai	6	6	0	0	0	0	54	54	0	2	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
20	Ramanthapuram	15	15	0	2	2	0	15	15	0	0	0	0	24	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

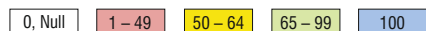
S. No	State/District	Recorded crimes against women 2022										Total Crime against Women (IPC+SLL)											
		Rape (Sec. 376 IPC)			Attempt to Commit Rape (Sec. 376/511 IPC)			Assault on Women with Intent to Outrage her Modesty (Sec. 354 IPC)			Insult to the Modesty of Women (Sec. 509 IPC)			Dowry Prohibition Act, 1961	Protection of Women from Domestic Violence Act	Girl Child Rape (Sec. 4 & 6 of POCSO Act) / Sec. 376 IPC							
		Below 18 years		18 Yrs. And above)		Rape (Col.24+Col.25)		Attempt to Commit Rape (Col.27+Col.28)		Women (18 Yrs. And above)		Girls (Below 18 yrs)					Assault on Women with Intent to Outrage her Modesty		Insult to the Modesty of Women (Col.33+Col.34)		Women (18 Yrs. And above)		Girls (Below 18 yrs)
21	Railway Chennai	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	10	
22	Railway Trichy	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
23	Salem	0	14	5	2	5	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	296
24	Salem City	0	11	2	2	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	169
25	Sivagangai	0	36	10	10	10	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	238
26	Thanjavur	1	0	8	8	8	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	384
27	Theni	1	65	10	10	10	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	329
28	Thirunelveli	0	22	15	10	5	1	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	216
29	Thirunelveli City	0	9	1	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	79
30	Thiruvallur	1	0	11	11	0	0	2	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	117
31	Thiruvannamalai	0	10	8	8	0	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	207
32	Thiruvarur	0	13	9	9	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	127
33	Thoothukudi	0	29	14	14	0	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	272
34	Tiruppur	0	13	8	8	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	171
35	Tiruppur City	0	0	2	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	100
36	Trichy	0	70	16	16	0	0	2	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	52
37	Trichy City	0	19	5	5	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	100
38	Vellore	0	19	2	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	255
39	Vilupuram	0	20	22	22	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	110
40	Virudhunagar	0	20	17	17	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	106
																							210
																							278

S. No		Recorded crimes against women 2022										Total Crime against Women (IPC+SLL)									
		Rape (Sec. 376 IPC)			Attempt to Commit Rape (Sec. 376/511 IPC)			Assault on Women with Intent to Outrage her Modesty (Sec. 354 IPC)			Insult to the Modesty of Women (Sec. 509 IPC)			Dowry Prohibition Act, 1961	Protection of Women from Domestic Violence Act	Girl Child Rape (Sec. 4 & 6 of POCSO Act) / Sec. 376 IPC					
State/District		Below 18 years		18 Yrs. And above		Rape (Col.24+Col.25)		Attempt to Commit Rape (Col.27+Col.28)		Women (18 Yrs. And above)		Girls (Below 18 yrs)		Insult to the Modesty of Women (Col.33+Col.34)		Women (18 Yrs. And above)		Girls (Below 18 yrs)			
		41	Cyber Cell	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
42	Other Units	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
43	Chengalpattu	0	2	8	8	0	0	0	0	3	0	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	64
44	Kallakurichi	0	18	8	8	0	0	0	0	38	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	170
45	Ranipet	0	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	13	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	50
46	Truppattur	1	4	4	4	0	0	0	0	15	0	0	0	4	0	0	0	0	0	0	110
47	Tenkasi	1	14	8	8	0	2	0	2	59	0	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	241
48	Avadi	0	3	18	10	0	0	0	0	8	7	1	3	1	2	15	0	0	0	0	229
49	Tambaram	0	0	22	17	0	0	0	0	6	6	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	127
Total Districts		6	104	421	416	5	21	21	0	1414	1410	4	58	56	2	220	5	3573	5	9207	

Table1: Performance of States/UTs on each SDG




States	SDG 1 End Poverty	SDG 2 End Hunger	SDG 3 Health	SDG 4 Education	SDG 5 Gender Equality	SDG 6 Water	SDG 7 Energy	SDG 8 Eco Growth	SDG 9 Infrastructure and Industrialization	SDG 10 Inequality	SDG 11 Resilient cities	SDG 15 Ecosystem and Biodiversity	SDG 16 Institutions
Andhra Pradesh	67	50	68	77	44	59	76	81	31	75	26	87	90
Arunachal Pradesh	52	58	38	44	32	64	44	72	16	47	44	73	77
Assam	53	53	30	54	36	42	18	61	35	75	32	100	53
Bihar	45	39	40	36	24	31	67	58	38	82	43	56	60
Chhattisgarh	50	46	42	53	49	98	36	56	30	73	54	100	65
Goa	62	80	65	71	35	65	61	90	0	50	71	100	87
Gujarat	48	49	52	67	31	100	67	80	65	79	52	71	73
Haryana	50	53	57	65	31	80	50	72	50	55	30	43	78
Himachal Pradesh	60	58	62	82	42	95	62	71	43	98	41	93	91
Jammu & Kashmir	61	60	53	51	39	52	58	43	35	71	23	74	69
Jharkhand	37	35	40	58	32	51	20	52	47	72	52	96	64
Karnataka	52	54	69	76	43	62	77	72	57	68	36	88	74
Kerala	66	72	92	87	50	62	60	61	68	72	46	75	82
Madhya Pradesh	44	41	38	49	33	63	58	57	27	75	39	91	59
Maharashtra	47	47	60	74	43	81	69	74	53	76	34	86	82
Manipur	44	74	67	65	25	44	39	33	72	98	31	100	70
Meghalaya	68	43	52	38	36	40	11	62	42	100	39	94	53
Mizoram	71	69	53	54	43	67	78	65	0	100	32	69	71
Nagaland	59	69	34	45	42	58	45	40	0	80	32	75	87
Odisha	59	46	54	46	43	46	23	53	32	78	34	100	55
Punjab	56	71	71	63	43	60	61	57	48	62	36	67	84
Rajasthan	59	45	49	73	37	43	63	57	62	79	45	68	81
Sikkim	64	67	52	47	50	78	47	57	1	67	56	98	66
Tamil Nadu	76	61	77	75	38	66	89	71	46	85	33	74	61
Telangana	52	53	73	66	43	55	63	75	16	100	44	83	66
Tripura	71	58	53	56	38	38	32	52	38	89	38	86	71
Uttar Pradesh	48	43	25	53	27	55	23	55	29	38	37	55	61
Uttarakhand	65	53	36	68	41	78	55	67	33	62	41	100	86
West Bengal	57	50	66	51	40	54	40	63	45	76	25	88	72
A & N Islands	57	38	60	69	58	71	56	60	0	69	64	84	72
Chandigarh	39	70	23	85	51	100	96	82	76	52	40	83	90
Daman & Diu	58	42	47	46	38	99	84	91	0	100	49	84	79
D&N Haveli	21	40	32	77	41	100	73	84	0	100	6	100	63
Delhi	30	72	47	58	37	62	51	86	100	80	39	77	68
Lakshadweep	43	47	64	62	35	100	60	60	0	100	Null	100	74
Puducherry	61	71	66	69	27	45	61	85	100	94	27	50	92
India	54	48	52	58	36	63	51	65	44	71	39	90	71

Source: NITI Aayog's SDG India Index Baseline Report, 2018, Economic Survey 2018-2019, Vol.2





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