



**PLANNING, DEVELOPMENT
AND SPECIAL INITIATIVES
DEPARTMENT**

**POLICY NOTE
2024-2025**

DEMAND No.36

**THANGAM THENARASU
MINISTER FOR FINANCE AND
HUMAN RESOURCES MANAGEMENT**



**Government of Tamil Nadu
2024**

INDEX

Sl. No.	Subject	Page
1.	Introduction	1
2.	Main Activities	4
3.	Notes on Activities	9
4.	Sustainable Development Goals	9
5.	Evidence Based Policy Making	22
6.	Special Initiatives	29
7.	Twenty Point Programme 2006	29
8.	Major Infrastructure Projects	30
9.	Heads of Department	32
10.	State Planning Commission	33
11.	Department of Economics and Statistics	77
12.	Department of Evaluation and Applied Research	125
13.	Special Area Development Programme	132
14.	Chennai Metro Rail Limited	135

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POLICY NOTE

INTRODUCTION

"செய்வாணை நாடி விணைநாடிக் காலத்தோடு
எய்த உணர்ந்து செயல்"

"Assign a task after assessing the person,
the task and the most suited time"

(Thirukkural 516)

Preparation of the Annual and Five-Year Plans for the State, monitoring and review of expenditure on State Plan Schemes, Twenty Point Programme and Centrally Sponsored Schemes were initially assigned to Planning and Development Department. The role of the Department has been redefined in the context of the abolition of the Union Planning Commission and the merger of the Plan and Non-Plan portions

of the Budget and now the role of this Department has been redefined to focus on longer term strategic goal setting and medium-term operational sequencing of development projects and programmes in Tamil Nadu and securing greater policy co-ordination in such initiatives.

Towards achieving overall development goals, this Department co-ordinates with various Government Departments and draws on the expertise of the State Planning Commission (SPC), the Department of Economics & Statistics (DoES) and the Department of Evaluation & Applied Research (DEAR) in providing policy advice.

This Department is also the Nodal Department of the State Government which interacts with the NITI Aayog, the successor institution of the Union Planning Commission and the co-ordinating Department of the Government of Tamil Nadu for various interactions with the Government of India. The Union Planning Commission has been replaced by NITI Aayog, with the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) as its primary objective. Accordingly, the function

of preparation and monitoring of plans and expenditure has been replaced by drawing of focus to the SDGs based on outcomes and outputs of policies and schemes. Further, the activities of this Department have been restructured to focus on the universal expression at a global level that works towards the 'Future we want' covering social, economic and environmental aspects. This Department co-ordinates with all Departments in their envisioning and monitoring of progress towards achieving SDG targets.

The Department also functions as Nodal Department of the State Government in co-ordination and interaction with NITI Aayog and the Union Government through PRAGATI (Pro Active Governance and Timely Implementation) / e-Samiksha Portals. The Hon'ble Prime Minister directly interacts with Government of India Ministries and State Governments on the issues related to high priority schemes and flagship programmes under PRAGATI Portal. This department is regularly uploading the present status of the issues received from the various Departments regarding issues raised in the

PRAGATI Portal. Innovation and Initiatives are encouraged through the TANII.

Further, through the Special Initiatives Wing, the Chennai Metro Rail Project is being implemented by this department.

The Department's website www.tn.gov.in/department/23 documents these activities in greater detail.

1.0 MAIN ACTIVITIES

- i. Co-ordinates and functions as a Nodal Department for the State by facilitating interaction with the Union Government and the NITI Aayog, the successor institution of the Union Planning Commission;
- ii. Provides administrative support and facilitates the operations of the State Planning Commission, Special Area Development Programme, Department of Economics & Statistics and Department of Evaluation & Applied Research;

- iii. Reviews the progress of Major Infrastructure Projects costing more than Rs.100.00 Crore;
- iv. Entrusted with the preparation of Memorandum to Union Government relating to State's various key issues and follow up on the same, including correspondence with concerned line Ministries by the respective State Departments;
- v. Collection and compilation of performance of various monitorable items and schemes implemented by Departments and Organisations under Twenty Point Programme;
- vi. Co-ordinates with all Departments for efforts of the State Government to achieve the "Sustainable Development Goals" by 2030 and monitor the Sustainable Development Goals;
- vii. Measuring, integrating, monitoring and evaluating major projects linked to the Sustainable Development Goals Index;

- viii. Preparation of Policy drafts for various sectors like Wellbeing Policy to ensure access to medical services for all; Welfare Policy; Employment Policy; Water Policy; Tamil Nadu Waste Management Policy; Industrialization Policy etc., through the State Planning Commission;
- ix. Preparation of long term strategic and medium-term operational plans through the State Planning Commission;
- x. Select and recommend innovation projects through the State Planning Commission to the Government under the Tamil Nadu Innovation Initiative (TANII) and provide guidelines for implementation of the Projects;
- xi. Stewarding studies on the formulation and implementation of specific programmes relating to land and water use and impact of changing environmental factors like pollution, global warming etc., through Tamil Nadu State Land Use Research Board of the State Planning Commission;

- xii. Ensuring balanced growth and development among regions based on economic and social indicators by implementing the State Balanced Growth Fund (SBSGF) Programme through the State Planning Commission;
- xiii. Conducting field surveys and Evaluation of flagship schemes of the State Government like Vidiyal Payanam Thittam, Illam Thedi Kalvi, etc. through the State Planning Commission;
- xiv. Implementing the Focus Blocks Development Programme through the State Planning Commission by identifying areas that need additional Government assistance to consolidate existing sectoral programs to improve public utilities and the livelihoods of poor families;
- xv. Overseeing the preparation of District Development Plans through District Planning Cells which function as supporting arm of the District Planning Committees;

- xvi. Entrusted with State level co-ordination and monitoring of the Aspirational Districts and Aspirational Blocks Programmes through the State Planning Commission;
- xvii. Implementation of Special Area Development Programme in Western Ghats covering 11 Districts;
- xviii. Promotion of Evidence Based Policy Making in Government;
- xix. Collection, compilation and dissemination of statistical data from public and private data sources including State Income Estimates, Economic Census, Agricultural Census, Socio-Economic Surveys, Special Surveys, Elderly Panel Survey and monthly reports on the State's Economy through the Department of Economics and Statistics;
- xx. Conducting surveys such as Tamil Nadu Household Panel Survey on Socio-Economic Development (TNHPS), Panel Survey on Socio-Economic Status of Elderly Population in Tamil Nadu (TNEPS),

Survey on Knowledge, Attitude and Practices (KAP) through Data Analytics Unit of the Department of Economics and Statistics;

- xxi. Evaluation of schemes sponsored by Union / State Governments and External Agencies through the Department of Evaluation and Applied Research;
- xxii. Implementation of Metro Rail Project under the Special Initiatives Wing of the Department.

2.0 NOTES ON ACTIVITIES

2.1 Sustainable Development Goals

The Sustainable Development Goals journey has crossed halfway in 2023 and in the Global summit, the Secretary-General, António Guterres, United Nations mentioned that the Goals are not just a list - they carry the hopes, dreams, aspirations, and expectations of people everywhere. To ensure targets are on track, there is a need to turn commitments into action.

2.1.1 Core Principles of SDGs

Sustainable Development Goals in the State are based on People-centric approaches that focus on inclusive growth leading to Prosperity with the Planet at its centre allowing for the functioning of a healthy ecosystem in a peaceful manner with strategic partnerships. Some key principles are:

- A development that encompasses the social, economic, environmental and governance dimensions is also resilient.
- Universality: applicable to all and creating space & scope for everyone's interests and contributions.
- Everything for everyone - Leave No One Behind (LNOB): Ensuring the last mile connects to ensure that the needs of the most vulnerable and those farthest behind are part of inclusive development.
- Non-discrimination & Equality with accountability: Addressing rights, opportunities and access to benefits and

services of all justly and fairly with mutual trust and self-respect.

Tamil Nadu scored 66 in the baseline SDG India Index brought out by NITI Aayog and stood third. In the second edition released in 2019, it moved up slightly by one point to 67 and retained the third position. The third edition of the Index 2020-21, which is a broadened version, placed the State in the second position with a score of 74. The release of the next edition 4.0 circulated for comments, is awaited.

2.1.2 SDG Co-ordination Centre

An SDG Co-ordination Centre has been established with the support of United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) with five (5) vertical pillars of Policy Analysis and Capacity Building, Knowledge Management, Communication, Partnership, Data Analytics with Monitoring and Evaluation.

2.1.3 Capacity Building

The Department is taking several initiatives to sensitise and create awareness of the Agenda 2030. Training programmes for Panchayat

Leaders on Panchayat Development Index, Child and Women-friendly Panchayats with the support of the State Institute of Rural Development were taken up. As part of 'SHE' a change-maker training programme, organised by the Tamil Nadu Institute of Urban Studies 4 batches of training were held for Town Panchayat Presidents and Ward Councillors where orientation was provided on gender Budgeting and Child & Women-friendly Panchayats.

The Department supported the Welfare of the Differently Abled to conduct the Multi-sectoral framework Workshop for inclusive Skilling and Employment and Transport and Mobility. Sustainable Development Goals Co-ordination Centre (SDGCC) Team was the Knowledge Partner for the Workshop and supported with Resource Persons.

Training was provided to IFS, IAS probationers and IES Officers on the role of Planning and Development Department and the State's implementation and progress in SDGs.

A 60-member delegation that included Panchayat Presidents, Representatives from the

Sustainable Development Co-ordination Centre and officials from different Departments visited the Kerala Institute of Local Administration to understand the implementation of the SDGs at the Panchayat Level and gain insights into the various Best Practices.

Sustainable Development Goals Co-ordination Centre Team along with officials from Planning and Development Department, Finance Department, Department of Economics and Statistics and the State Planning Commission, participated in a two day learning cum exposure visit to the SDGCC, Haryana.

SDGCC Team along with the Senior SDG Consultant participated in the Workshop on Political and Economic Analysis organised by the UNICEF with the objective to sensitise the stakeholders working on programmes related to Child Development and various interventions that are focused on alleviation of Child Poverty and fostering collaborations among stakeholders.

Representatives from the SDGCC participated in the 9th National Award function organised by the Council of State Industrial

Development and Investment Corporation of India and presented concept note on enablement of Environmental, Social and Governance (ESG) and Green transitions.

A 15-member Team from the State participated in the write-shop for the Panchayat Development Index organised by the Ministry of Panchayat Raj, Government of India.

SDG Training was also provided to the Block Statistical Inspectors on the importance of monitoring SDGs and how to ensure data collection at different levels.

Planning and Development Department provided resource support for the Training held by the Arun Jaitley Institute of Fiscal Management for the training programme on Gender Responsive Budgeting held in Anna University.

The SDGCC Team visited two villages Kovalam and Padur to study the best practices and understand the various efforts towards localisation of SDGs.

2.1.4 Monitoring and Evaluation

High Power Committee of the SDGs with Chief Secretary as Chairman and Vice Chairman of the State Planning Commission as Co-Chairman decided to come up with the State Indicator Framework 2.0 with additional indicators that were relevant to the State and were part of the flagship programmes.

SDG analytical Report has been prepared and shared with Departments to assess the department level performance in SDGs.

The first baseline report of District Good Governance Index (DGGI) has been prepared and shared with Secretaries of Departments and District Collectors and Government of India. Next version of DGGI document is under preparation. The DGGI measures the performance across 10 parameters and ranks the Districts on these parameters. The TNeGA has developed a programme to upload data online for the next edition of the DGGI.

Several indicators of SDGs have been taken up in the monitoring framework across Focus

Blocks, Aspirational Blocks and Panchayat Development Indicators.

Preparation of the SDG fact sheet for 2022 has been completed by the Department of Economics and Statistics and to be released shortly.

District level SDG Executive Committee is now periodically convened, and the performance of the indicators discussed.

2.1.5 SDG New Initiatives

Planning and Development Department supported the Department of Social Welfare and Women Empowerment in taking forward the Gender Responsive Budgeting agenda which is one of the targets of SDG 5. The training was co-ordinated by the Senior SDG Consultant. Revised new methodology for Gender Responsive Budgeting moving towards ex ante budgeting has been initiated.

UNICEF supported a workshop on Political Economy Analysis of Child Poverty with Stakeholder departments with an object of finding how child outcomes can be improved within the

SDG framework and the Department schemes and sensitise the stakeholders working on programmes related to Child Development and various interventions that are focused on alleviation of child poverty and fostering collaborations among stakeholders.

2.1.6 Partnerships

Dr. Sultan Ismail, Member, State Planning Commission and Senior SDG Consultant participated in a panel discussion on the topic: Roar to Restore SDG, inaugurated by the Hon'ble Minister for School Education informing the Programmatic approach of the State to achieve SDGs and discussed on several State initiatives highlighting the broad basing of participation by Civil Society Organisations and Corporates for achieving the SDGs.

The Social innovations by the Government of Tamil Nadu were presented highlighting Tamil Nadu's unique model of social inclusion and justice in the 10th edition of India and Sustainability Standards organised by the Centre for Responsible Business.

Academic institutions like Sai Ram Engineering College, Hindustan College of Engineering and SRM Institute of Public Health organised Seminars and Workshops to spread awareness on the SDGs.

A Round Table was organised by the Women's Safety Accelerator Fund to discuss about enabling safe and empowering spaces for women and girls in Tea Estates in Tamil Nadu and optimising connections with the tea sector to ensure alignment of schemes and policies of the Government.

An interaction between the Nobel Laureate and Member Economic Advisory Council to the Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu, Prof. Esther Duflo, JPAL-South Asia Researchers and the SDGCC Team was organised for working together towards evidence creation for programmatic inputs.

SDGCC is exploring opportunities to collaborate with other organisations namely M.S. Swaminathan Research Foundation (MSSRF), Guidance Tamil Nadu, Chennai Unified Metropolitan Transport Corporation (CUMTA),

Startup TN, International Council for Local Environmental Initiatives (ICLEI), Ola Mobility Institute (OMI) Foundation etc., to help improve SDGs implementation and performance in the State.

2.1.7 Multidimensional Poverty Index (MPI)

India's national Multidimensional Poverty Index modelled as per the Global Multidimensional Poverty Index has three equally weighted dimensions – Health, Education and Standard of living – which are represented by 12 indicators. The target to reduce Poverty in all its dimensions has been measured with this index using the National Family Health Survey data. The baseline MPI report was prepared and released in November 2021 using the NFHS 4 data and the second report has been published in 2023 using the NFHS 5 data.

Tamil Nadu has halved the Headcount ratio from 4.76% to 2.2% in the Multidimensional Poverty Index. Even the intensity of Poverty has reduced from 39.97% to 38.7% and nearly 19.58 Lakh persons have escaped Multidimensional Poverty as per the United

Nations Development Programme-NITI Aayog Report. Among the large States, Tamil Nadu stands second with a low MPI.

2.1.8 Whole of Government approach

As part of the efforts to converge the Departments to work towards the localisation of SDGs, meetings with different stakeholders were held to discuss the Panchayat Development Index and also finalizing indicators for the Focus Block Development Programme where the flagship programmes were linked to the relevant SDG indicators. Efforts to integrate the State Indicator Framework 2.0 with the Hon'ble Chief Minister's Dashboard is being initiated.

2.1.9 Awareness creation and Communication Outreach

The SDG Calendar of important observance days and days of national and international importance with messages in the social media to create awareness on critical SDG ideas was released.

A quarterly newsletter to inform stakeholders about the various activities that

have been taken up to strengthen implementing mechanism of SDGs and improving the performance of the State in SDGs is prepared regularly by the SDGCC.

Social media accounts with the hash tag **#tnsdggoalkeepers** and a logo has been created. Further the following social media accounts have been created:-

Facebook presence at: <https://www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=100089661429180&sk=about>

Instagram presence at: <https://instagram.com/tamilnadusdg?igshid=MWI4MTIyMDE=>

X(Twitter) presence at: <https://twitter.com/tamilnadusdg?s=11&t=mkPi9vbm4sE4x1Syi9Yg>

LinkedIn presence at: <https://www.linkedin.com/company/tamilnadusdg/>

The exposure visit of the Additional Chief Secretary, Planning and Development Department with the SDG Team to the Aspiration

Block – Thogaimalai helped in identifying best practices for reducing anaemia through therapeutic dosage of Iron Folic Acid (IFA) with its *Uthiramuyarthu* programme and *Pokkisham* to provide additional supplementary food for the malnourished children. These have been documented and shared with the Department for scaling up and replication.

Tamil Nadu has ensured that with the current budget's focus on the theme 'Crossing obstacles and marching towards growth' the achievement of SDGs will be accelerated. New schemes like TN-Shore – *Neithel Meetchi Iyakkam*, providing transgenders with full educational scholarship and residential facilities are some of the new schemes that will ensure that the State achieves the mandate of the Agenda 2030.

2.2 Evidence Based Policy Making

In G.O.(Ms.) No.81, Planning, Development and Special Initiatives (ST2&E) Department, dated 02.09.2014, orders were issued to institutionalise the evidence-based approach to policy making, in order to maximize the impact of the anti-poverty programmes. The Government

of Tamil Nadu has entered into a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the Abdul Latif Jameel Poverty Action Lab, South Asia (JPAL-SA). JPAL based out of the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, USA is a network of some of the best Development Economists and Social Scientists located at different Universities and Institutions across the World, who do focused research on the formulation and evaluation of various policy initiatives on the most cost effective and efficient ways of reducing poverty. JPAL South Asia (JPAL-SA), based at the Institute for Financial Management and Research in India, leads JPAL's work in the South Asia Region.

Government of Tamil Nadu is being assisted by JPAL-SA in building a culture of rigorous research-based policy making through four main activities:

- (i) Engaging in Policy Research Dialogues to apply insights from existing research to local challenges;
- (ii) Designing and Testing new innovations with the potential for scale;

- (iii) Strengthening Government capacity to generate and consume evidence; and
- (iv) Leveraging use of administrative data in decision making.

The work has spanned across thirteen Government Departments and involved over 60 Researchers, including more than 20 from JPAL's network. A total of 27 studies and one pilot for scale-up have been approved since 2014, through Eight Steering Committee meetings. Of these, fifteen pilot and scoping studies, and three full-scale impact evaluations addressing a range of topics - understanding the challenges around improving child nutrition and reducing malnutrition, improving child development and school readiness, reducing the burden of non-communicable diseases to strengthening early childhood care and education through ICDS and one pilot for introducing innovative game-based math curriculum for pre-primary children have been completed.

The first wave of a panel survey to understand the challenges faced by the elderly in Tamil Nadu has been completed last year. The

second wave of the elderly panel survey is to be initiated in the upcoming year. Currently, under the partnership, two randomized evaluations around providing community-based interventions to improve the mental health of the elderly and improving property tax collection, and two pilot / scoping studies around identifying and nurturing math talent in Government School students and enhancing high school student retention are being undertaken.

JPAL has been engaging with seven departments through Policy Dialogues for sharing evidence, co-designing and testing new interventions around the key priorities for the State. In addition to the collaborative Policy Dialogues and evaluation, JPAL has supported the State Government with drafting the State Policy for Senior Citizens with the Social Welfare and Women Empowerment Department and the State Data Policy, in association with the Information Technology and Digital Services Department. JPAL has supported TNeGA with unlocking the potential of administrative data for decision making.

The work also involved supporting building internal capacity to generate, analyse and use evidence from internal evaluations by conducting 15 customized workshops and training courses for staff members, including personnel in the Departments of Evaluation and Applied Research (DEAR), Economics and Statistics (DoES) and Social Welfare as well as Trainees of the Indian Administrative Service, besides additional advisory support.

Results and recommendations have been presented to the Steering Committee and given to the collaborating Departments, on innovations and improvements based on the findings. Departments engaged in these Policy Research studies include Health and Family Welfare, Social Welfare and Women Empowerment, Co-operation, Food and Consumer Protection, School Education, Special Program Implementation and Rural Development and Panchayat Raj Departments.

2.2.1 Key achievements

The Government of Tamil Nadu's Policy Research partnership with JPAL has provided a

formal structure for many Departments to integrate the use of evaluations to inform key policy questions. The Government now has a stronger culture with an active demand for data and evidence to inform decision-making. Notably, the Departments of Health and Family Welfare, Social Welfare and Women Empowerment and School Education have taken up multiple studies and used the research insights to understand the underlying problems better and make improvements in policy making. For example, the findings from the baseline and first wave of the elderly panel survey have informed State Policy for Senior Citizens especially around improving the health and nutritional status of the elderly and for reforming the social security schemes targeted at the elderly. Consistent with the findings from the elderly panel survey that specifically shows that the elderly living alone are worse off across all aspects including physical and mental health and financial status, the Government has also increased its focus on the elderly living alone through various schemes such as '*Thayumanavar scheme*'. Findings from the completed study on understanding the impact of the '*Makkalai Thedi Maruthuvam*' Scheme on the

well-being of elderly have also been incorporated into strengthening the implementation of the MTM scheme by the Directorate of Public Health.

In order to strengthen and institutionalise the use of evaluations and data in policy making, “Guidelines for Programme Evaluations” have been issued to create a common framework to use evaluations in policy making and a Data Analytics Unit to support advanced analysis and use of administrative data for effective decision making has been formed.

The Departments of Evaluation and Applied Research (DEAR) and Economics and Statistics (DoES) have adopted digital data collection platforms and integrated new quality assurance mechanisms to improve the usability of their generated data. JPAL-SA and the Government of Tamil Nadu, in close co-ordination with key line departments, will identify top policy priorities of the State Government, co-design interventions that can be field tested before a State-wide scale up, and identify policy innovations tested elsewhere in India and globally that would be contextually adapted in Tamil Nadu.

2.3 Special Initiatives

The subject "Special Initiatives" was included in the First Schedule of the Business Rules under "Concurrent Subjects" as per the orders issued in G.O.Ms.No.146, Planning, Development and Special Initiatives Department, dated 02.11.2006. The objective of the Special Initiatives wing was to process innovative schemes that emanate from different sources and constitute a priority area for Government action. Instructions were issued detailing the process by which an Initiative may become a Special Initiative and may be coordinated towards implementation by the Planning, Development and Special Initiatives Department. On this basis, in G.O.Ms.No.10, Planning, Development and Special Initiatives Department, dated 18.01.2007, the Chennai Metro Rail Project has been declared as a 'Special Initiative' under the Department and is under implementation ever since.

2.4 Twenty Point Programme-2006

The Twenty Point Programme (TPP) was formulated as a composite poverty alleviation

project in 1975 and was restructured in 1982, 1986 and 2006. Now it is renamed as “Twenty Point Programme 2006”.

The main objective of the Programme is to eradicate poverty and improve the quality of life of the poor and under-privileged population. The programme components span specific issues of reduction in poverty, employment generation, education, housing, health, agriculture, land reforms, irrigation, drinking water, protection and empowerment of weaker sections and consumer protection.

The performance details of various monitorable items and schemes implemented by the Departments and organisations under TPP-2006 are collected and compiled every quarter by this department, and quarterly progress reports sent to the Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation, Government of India.

2.5 Major Infrastructure Projects

Major Infrastructure Projects costing more than Rs.100.00 Crore are being implemented by

the following Departments of Secretariat: Adi Dravidar and Tribal Welfare, Agriculture and Farmers Welfare, Animal Husbandry, Dairying, Fisheries and Fishermen Welfare, Energy, Environment, Climate Change and Forests, Health and Family Welfare, Highways and Minor Ports, Housing and Urban Development, Industries, Investment Promotion & Commerce, Information Technology and Digital Services, Labour Welfare and Skill Development, Municipal Administration and Water Supply, Public Works, Transport and Water Resource Departments. Data on the progress of Major Infrastructure Projects is updated by the above fifteen Secretariat Departments and their respective Heads of Departments through web portal, "e-Munnetram". The meetings of the High Level Official Committee on the Major Infrastructure Projects under the Chairmanship of Hon'ble Minister for Finance and HRM to review the Major Infrastructure Projects are being conducted. The Planning and Development Department is the nodal Department for facilitating review and monitor the progress of Major Infrastructure Projects.

3.0 Heads of Department

The Departments / Organisations under the administrative control of the Planning, Development and Special Initiatives Department are:

- i. State Planning Commission (SPC)
- ii. Department of Economics and Statistics (DoES)
- iii. Department of Evaluation and Applied Research (DEAR)
- iv. Special Area Development Programme (SADP)
- v. The Chennai Metro Rail Limited (CMRL), a Joint Sector Company.

The activities of these departments are briefly described below:

3.1 STATE PLANNING COMMISSION

The State Planning Commission (SPC) functions as an advisory body and makes its recommendations to the Government on various aspects pertaining to the development of the State guided by principles of social justice.

The State Planning Commission is headed by the Hon'ble Chief Minister as ex-officio Chairman and the present State Planning Commission was reconstituted in June 2021 with the Vice Chairman and 9 Members comprising two Full Time Members and seven Part Time Members. The Additional Chief Secretary to Government, Planning and Development Department and the Principal Secretary to Government, Finance Department are Ex-Officio Members of the State Planning Commission. The Member Secretary is in-charge of the administration of the State Planning Commission.

The State Planning Commission gives its input in an advisory capacity to the Government to strengthen its policies and to formulate special programmes for the development of the State.

3.1.1 Major Functions of State Planning Commission envisaged are as follows:

- (i) Monitor macro-economic growth parameters like economic growth, employment, poverty etc. and give advice to the Government on restructuring existing schemes / programmes or formulate new projects / schemes / programmes.
- (ii) Monitor the Tamil Nadu Economy and send Reports to the Government for improvement as and when necessary.
- (iii) Assist the State Government in formulating long term, medium term and short-term goals to guide overall development and also in achieving the targets set by the Sustainable Development Goals Agenda 2030.
- (iv) Evolve Sector wise Strategic Plans and Documents, in consonance with Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) adopted by the United Nations General Assembly to be achieved by 2025 and

2030, in conformity with the milestones of the Finance Commissions.

- (v) Systematically address “Policy Coherence issues” and offer a platform for resolution of inter-sectoral and inter-departmental issues in order to appropriately devise policies, programmes and schemes and accelerate their implementation.
- (vi) Encourage partnerships between Government stakeholders and National and International Policy Advisory Bodies, as well as Educational and Policy Research Institutions.
- (vii) Provide access to measuring the progress and performance through different Indices such as Human Development Index, Gender Development Index and other Sectoral Indices of relevance to State and advise the Government on appropriate interventions.
- (viii) Conduct periodic studies on various sectors and provide inputs to

Government based on the study findings and to co-ordinate with leading State, National and International Institutions.

- (ix) Help create a knowledge, innovation and entrepreneurial support system through a collaborative community of National and International Experts, Practitioners and other Partners.
- (x) Study and advise on uniform Policy adoption covering inter-sectoral, inter-departmental issues and allocations and other regulatory / mandatory frameworks in achieving goals.
- (xi) Similarly, advise the Government on plans for Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes, inclusive growth coverage i.e., Leave No One Behind (LNOB).
- (xii) Advise on the effectiveness of implementation of mandated systems under the Decentralized Planning concept for good local governance.

(xiii) Apart from the above, the State Planning Commission implements the following programmes:

1. Reformulated State Balanced Growth Fund (SBGF-(Phase-II))
2. Focus Blocks Development Programme (FBDP)
3. Tamil Nadu Innovation Initiatives (TANII)
4. Programmes of Tamil Nadu State Land Use Research Board (TNSLURB)

3.1.2 Reformulated State Balanced Growth Fund (SBGF-(Phase-II))

The State Balanced Growth Fund (SBGF) scheme was reformulated as per the G.O.(Ms.) No.108, Planning, Development & Special Initiatives (SPC) Department, dated 15.09.2022.

3.1.2.1 Objectives

The major objective of the State Balanced Growth Fund is to reduce regional disparities in

development parameters that impede the balanced development of the State.

3.1.2.2 Scheme Details

The following parameters have been selected for the first two years (2022-23 and 2023-24) to design interventions for reducing regional imbalances:-

1. Improving the nutritional status of children in the first 1000 days that includes the improving nutritional status of pregnant and lactating women.
2. Improving the reading and writing capabilities in Tamil, English and Mathematical skills of primary school children.

On the basis of the District level report of National Family Health Survey-5 and data on total enrolment and per capita income, the following Districts and Blocks are selected for implementation of projects with regard to the parameters such as Education, Health and Nutrition respectively.

The following 23 blocks across 14 Districts have been selected for developing the Health parameter:-

Sl. No	District	Blocks
1	Perambalur	1. Alathur 2. Perambalur
2	Karur	3. Krishanarayapuram 4. Thogaimalai
3	Tiruchirappalli	5. Thuraiyur 6. Manachanallur
4	Ariyalur	7. Andimadam 8. Tirumanur
5	Sivagangai	9. S.Pudur 10. Tirupattur
6	Kallakurichi	11. Kalarayan Hills
7	Villupuram	12. Tiruvennainallur
8	Pudukkottai	13. Annavasal 14. Tiruvarankulam
9	Tiruvannamalai	15. Javadhu Hills 16. Kalasapakkam
10	Vellore	17. K.V.Kuppam
11	Ranipet	18. Timiri
12	Tirunelveli	19. Ambasmaudram 20. Nanguneri
13	Tenkasi	21. SankaranKoil 22. Melaneelithanallur
14	The Nilgiris	23. Kothagiri

The following 16 blocks across 6 Districts have been selected for developing the Education parameter:

Sl. No	District	Blocks
1	Ariyalur	1. Andimadam 2. Ariyalur
2	Cuddalore	3. Kattumannarkoil 4. Mangalur 5. Nallur 6. Panruti
3	Nagapattinam	7. Vedaranyam
4	Salem	8. Kolathur, 9. Nangavalli 10. Pethanayakanpalayam, 11. Tharamangalam 12. Yercaud
5	Tiruvarur	13. Muthupettai
6	Villupuram	14. Marakkanam 15. Melmalayanur 16. Tiruvennainallur

The 2757 Anganwadi Centres across the State have been selected for developing the Nutrition parameter.

3.1.2.3 State Level Empowered Committee

The State Level Empowered Committee constituted for the State Balanced Growth Fund, headed by the Vice Chairman, State Planning

Commission approves the Action Plans, considers specific proposals and accords sanction. At the District level, the District Collectors monitor the programme by involving the line Department Officials.

3.1.2.4 Approval of Projects

The State Level Empowered Committee constituted for this programme has sanctioned the following three Projects for which a sum of Rs.47.55 Crore has been released during the Financial Year 2022-23.

- Provision of Growth Monitoring Devices to 2757 Anganwadi centres (Nutrition). This Project was sanctioned at a cost of Rs.2.75 crore and an amount of Rs.2.75 crore was released during the year 2022-23. Growth monitoring devices have been procured and distributed to 2757 Anganwadi Centres. The Project has been completed.
- Improving the reading and writing capabilities in Tamil, English and mathematical skills of primary school children (Education). This Project was

sanctioned at a cost of Rs.50.57 crore and an amount of Rs.25.49 crore was released during the Financial Year 2022-23. Out of the proposed target of 971 schools, smart boards have been installed in 493 schools and work in the remaining schools are under progress. 62,769 students are benefited under this scheme.

- Improving the nutritional status of children in the first 1000 days that includes improving nutritional status of pregnant and lactating women (Health). This project was sanctioned at a cost of Rs.38.20 crore and an amount of Rs.19.29 crore was released during the Financial Year 2022-23. Out of the proposed target of 37,200 beneficiaries 35,300 Antenatal mothers have been provided with cash incentives in first, second and third instalments.

3.1.3 Focus Blocks Development Programme (FBDP)

3.1.3.1 Introduction

In the Budget Speech 2023-24, the Hon'ble Minister for Finance and HRM announced on the floor of the Legislative Assembly that the Government would launch the new "Focus Blocks Programme (Priority Blocks including Hill area regions)" scheme for backward blocks in the State with a focus on improving the socio-economic parameters in order to ensure growth and development in a time bound and targeted manner through convergence of schemes in these blocks. In pursuance of the above announcement, the Government has issued guidelines governing the implementation of FBDP vide G.O.(Ms.) No.27, Planning, Development and Special Initiatives (SPC) Department, dated 16.02.2024.

A sum of Rs.100.00 crore was provided in BE 2023-24. Subsequently, the fund has been restricted to Rs.2.50 crore in RE / FMA 2023-24 and the amount has been sanctioned and released for implementation of the programme in the first year vide G.O.(Ms.) No.28, Planning,

Development and Special Initiatives (SPC) Department, dated 16.02.2024.

The State Planning Commission is the Nodal organisation to implement the Focus Blocks Development Programme (FBDP).

3.1.3.2 Objectives

- The primary objective of the scheme is to identify 50 blocks that require additional Government assistance while converging the existing departmental schemes to improve public utilities and lives of poorer households.
- The secondary objective is to create capacity at the block level administrative machinery to strive for augmenting development resources and deploy them effectively to achieve faster development in relation to other regions in the State.

3.1.3.3 Methodology adopted for the selection of Focus Blocks

Data of the 9 indicators at the Block level for 388 blocks in the State which reflects the need for development works in the blocks have been used

to identify the 50 focus blocks for implementation of the FBDP. Final list of Selected Blocks for implementation of FBDP is as follows:-

Sl. No.	District	Selected blocks list 1 (1 to 37)	Selected blocks list 2 (38 to 50)
1	Ariyalur	Jayamkondam (1)	Andimadam (38)
2	Chengalpattu	Lathur (2)	
3	Coimbatore	Anaimalai (3)	
4	Cuddalore	Nallur (4)	Mel Bhuvanagiri (39)
5	Dharmapuri	Karimangalam (5)	Harur (40)
6	Dindigul	Natham (6)	
7	Erode	Nambiyur (7)	
8	Kallakurichi	Kalrayan Hills (8)	Thiagadurgam (41)
9	Kancheepuram	Uthiramerur (9)	
10	Kanniyakumari	Thovalai (10)	
11	Karur	Thogaimalai (11)	
12	Krishnagiri	Uthangarai (12)	
13	Madurai	Sedapatti (13)	
14	Mayiladuthurai	Kuthalam (14)	
15	Nagapattinam	Kilvelur(15)	Keelaiyur (42)
16	Namakkal	Kollihills (16)	
17	Perambalur	Veppanthattai (17)	Alathur (43)
18	Pudukkottai	Karambakkudi (18)	Tiruvarankulam (44)

Sl. No.	District	Selected blocks list 1 (1 to 37)	Selected blocks list 2 (38 to 50)
19	Ramanathapuram	Tiruvadanai (19)	Mudukulathur (45)
20	Ranipet	Timiri (20)	
21	Salem	Pethanaickenpalayam (21)	
22	Sivagangai	Tirupuvanam (22)	Tirupathur (46)
23	Tenkasi	Kuruvikulam (23)	
24	Thanjavur	Tiruvonam (24)	
25	The Nilgiris	Gudalur (25)	
26	Theni	Kadamalaikundru-Myladumparai (26)	
27	Tiruppur	Kundadam (27)	
28	Tiruvallur	Poondi (28)	
29	Tiruvannamalai	Kalaspakkam (29)	Javadhu Hills (47)
30	Tiruvarur	Kottur (30)	Tiruthurai-poondi (48)
31	Thoothukudi	Ottapidaram (31)	
32	Tirunelveli	Nanguneri (32)	
33	Tirupathur	Alangayam (33)	
34	Tiruchirapalli	Marungapuri (34)	
35	Vellore	K.V.Kuppam (35)	
36	Villupuram	Tiruvennainallur (36)	Melmalaiyanur (49)
37	Virudhunagar	Narikudi (37)	Tiruchuli (50)

3.1.3.4 Strategy for implementation

The 50 Focus Blocks selected are the focus of implementation of all the Government programmes / schemes with an objective of improving the development indicators in each of these blocks over the next 3 years. Action Plan are being drawn to converge the programmes on to the blocks with aggregation of funds under various schemes and reorient the administration to co-ordinate the developmental works to meet the development demands of the blocks.

3.1.3.5 Key Development Indicators

The Key Developmental Indicators (KDIs) under the Focus Blocks Development Programme (FBDP) are categorized into the 7 themes such as Health & Nutrition, Social Welfare, Education, Skill Development & Employment, Agriculture & Allied activities, Economic Development and Infrastructure.

3.1.3.6 Block Development Strategy Paper (BDSP)

The Block Development Strategy Paper gives an account of development facilities in the block

such as schools, hospitals, roads, drainage system, housing and access to drinking water, followed by the list of development / process indicators of base line values for 2023-24 and the target values by the frequency up to financial year 2026-27.

The District Administration is preparing the Block Development Strategy Paper. The district administration is preparing the BDSP based on the inputs received from the line departments / block officials with assistance of support institution identified for the scheme. The same will be placed before SLEC headed by the Chief Secretary through the State Planning Commission.

3.1.3.7 Block Annual Plans (BAPs)

The Block Development Strategy Paper is the background to prepare three Block Annual Plans (BAPs), one for each year of the scheme period. The first BAP for 2024-25 contains,

- a. the baseline values for 2023-24 and target values of KDIs.

- b. the list of schemes to be implemented by respective departments specific to KDIs with allocation for 2024-25.

Similarly, Block Annual Plans will be prepared for upcoming two years. The BAPs would be placed before the State Level Empowered Committee (SLEC) for review and approval.

3.1.3.8 Monitoring and Evaluation

A dedicated dashboard is being developed to track the performance of the indicators along with project tracker facility to monitor the physical and financial progress of the projects at the block level.

3.1.3.9 District Level Committee

A District Level Project Committee is constituted under the Chairmanship of the District Collector in each District. The Project Director, DRDA as Secretary, District Planning Officer of District Planning Cell, concerned Block Development Officers, District level Officials of the concerned line departments as the members. The District Planning Cell (DPC) is assisting the

District Collector in preparation of Block Development Strategy Paper and Block Annual Plans.

The Project Director, DRDA and District Planning Officer of DPC assists the District Collector for effective implementation and monitoring the progress of FBDP.

DPC is responsible for administration of the programme, for reporting and maintaining data.

3.1.3.10 State Level Committees

Monitoring and evaluation of this scheme would be done at two levels.

a. State Level Monitoring Committee

This Committee is to check the physical and financial progress of the sanctioned activities. The Member Secretary, State Planning Commission is the Chairperson of the Committee with Nominated Officials of line departments such as Health and Family Welfare, School Education, Labour Welfare and Skill Development, Special Programme Implementation, Rural Development and Panchayat Raj, Agriculture and Farmers

Welfare and Social Welfare and Women Empowerment etc., as the members. The Head of Division [RD&DP], State Planning Commission is the Member Convenor.

This Committee collates the BAP from each of the implementing block and conducts the preliminary screening of the proposed activities for obtaining approval of the State Level Empowered Committee.

b. State Level Empowered Committee

A State Level Empowered Committee (SLEC) is constituted with the Chief Secretary to Government as the Chairperson and the Vice Chairman, SPC as the Co-Chair. The Secretaries to Government of concerned departments, Full-Time Member and Additional Full Time Member of SPC are members of the Committee. The Member Secretary, State Planning Commission is the Member Convenor. The Committee shall approve the Block Development Strategy Paper and BAP, accord approval for individual works received from the Districts, oversee the progress of the sanctioned projects and assess the performance

of the Key Development Indicators (KDIs) at the State level.

3.1.3.11 Project Management Unit (PMU)

A dedicated Project Management Unit (PMU) has been established at State Planning Commission with key resource personnel. The PMU shall work under Member Secretary, State Planning Commission along with the assistance of the designated RD&DP division staff of State Planning Commission. The PMU assists in the preparation of Block Development Strategy Paper, Block Annual Plans, follow up on the projects implemented, carrying out inspections along with the officials of State Planning Commission, documentation, conducting studies / surveys / assessments and assist in monitoring the progress using FBDMS etc.

3.1.4 Tamil Nadu Innovation Initiatives (TANII)

To encourage culture of innovation in the Government Departments and Government Agencies, Tamil Nadu Innovation Initiatives (TANII) scheme was formulated in State Planning Commission to herald an era of innovation in the

State of Tamil Nadu during September 2014. Tamil Nadu Innovation Initiatives addresses this issue to foster innovation through funding support for innovative schemes and programmes. Accordingly, the State Innovation Fund, has been created with an outlay of Rs.150.00 crore or as determined by the Government every year.

Since the inception year 2015-16, 363 projects worth Rs.827.86 crore were recommended upto 2022-23, under the Tamil Nadu Innovation Initiatives scheme. During the year 2023-24 an outlay of Rs.100.00 crore was provided in the Budget Estimate 2023-24. The State Planning Commission has conducted meetings with departments to identify problems, innovative solutions and has recommended 30 Projects worth Rs.100.00 crore in 2023-24 under TANII.

Modified guidelines for implementation of TANII were issued vide G.O.(Ms.)No.69, Planning, Development and Special Initiatives Department, dated 12.05.2023. As per the modified guidelines TANII proposals can be received throughout the year and the Planning,

Development and Special Initiatives Department will be the authority to issue sanction orders for all the projects under the scheme irrespective of the departments, for centralised and close monitoring.

Accordingly, the Planning, Development and Special Initiatives Planning, Development and Special Initiatives Department has issued administrative sanction for 27 Projects recommended under the TANII scheme for the year 2023-24. The Government has also issued revised accounting procedure for implementation of TANII scheme from the year 2023-24 vide G.O.(Ms.) No.164, Planning, Development and Special Initiatives (TC-I) Department, dated 18.11.2023. As per revised accounting procedure, the State Planning Commission shall adopt Single Nodal Account for implementing TANII scheme under Tamil Nadu Public Fund Tracking System.

3.1.4.1 Centre for Innovation in Governance under TANII

The Government during the budget session 2023-24 made an announcement for establishment of Centre for Innovation in Governance in State Planning Commission under Tamil Nadu Innovation Initiatives (TANII) to work with cutting edge institutions to bring innovation in Governance which is futuristic, climate friendly and sustainable.

Accordingly, the Government vide G.O.(Ms.) No.25, Planning, Development and Special Initiatives Department, dated 16.02.2024 has accorded administrative sanction for establishment of Centre for Innovation in Governance with the following vision and mission.

3.1.4.2 Vision

- To bridge the gap between problems of public service delivery and the process of identifying and implementing innovative solutions which improve public governance;

- To work with the departments to identify the issues of public service delivery which require innovative solutions;
- To create a challenge statement / problem statement and call for solutions from public / private / not-for-profit institutions and organisations;
- To promote sustainable innovation by engaging the cutting-edge institutions established by the Government such as i-TNT Centre; TANSIM, TNeGA etc., and to foster innovative solutions from private sector as well;
- To foster grass root innovation by actively engaging the district administration; and
- To periodically conduct hackathons and seminars to exchange thoughts and ideas.

3.1.4.3 Mission

- Grass root innovation with specific focus on Districts;
- Sectoral innovations with special focus on departments and sectors;

- 'Challenge Tamil Nadu' – engaging public and private experts to come out with innovative ideas to support governance; and
- Hackathons to augment young minds.

The Centre for innovation in Governance will act as an enabler between departments, district administration and cutting-edge institutions to identify innovative solutions which would transform governance.

3.1.5 Tamil Nadu State Land Use Research Board

The Tamil Nadu State Land Use Research Board (TNSLURB) was constituted as a permanent body in State Planning Commission to take up activities for the conservation of land and water resources and their sustained use to the best possible advantage of the people in the State.

To ensure the integrated land use planning, sustainable land management and optimal utilization of land resources of the State, the Board has been calling for research study

proposals in the following 6 focus areas from 2023-24:-

- ❖ Sustainable Urban & Industrial Development
- ❖ Agriculture & Rural Development
- ❖ Water & Land Resources Management
- ❖ Tourism & Heritage
- ❖ Energy Infrastructure
- ❖ Environment, Climate Resilience & Natural Landscape

A total of 81 Research Studies have been sanctioned so far, at a cost of Rs.939.78 Lakh in the above focus areas. 15 Workshops and Seminars on various related themes have been conducted in co-ordination with various reputed institutions at a cost of Rs.83.47 lakh. Three workshops were conducted recently aiming to give solutions to the disruptive threats of Forest Invasive Species and *Prosopis juliflora*, and for sustainable seaweed cultivation in the State. These findings have proven instrumental in guiding various Government Departments in

assisting them in formulating schemes and programs to assess and enhance outcomes based on the research insights.

3.1.6 Collaboration with International Agencies

The State Planning Commission has been collaborating with international agencies on theme specific and sectoral specific analyses such as:

- a) UK-British High Commission extended its technical support to the development of "TN Heat Mitigation Strategy and Action Plan". Collaboration letters between State Planning Commission and British Deputy High Commission, Chennai were exchanged in the presence of UK Minister of State Common Wealth and Development Affairs at TNGIM 2024. This strategic report aims to help address the impact of increasing global warming and to enhance the State's heat resilience capacities, protect the built and natural environment and vulnerable population groups. A stakeholder workshop was conducted with

the concerned departments and institutions.

- b) GIZ (German Agency for International Cooperation), an organization funded by the German Government has provided the Toolkit for Open and Sustainable City planning and Analysis (TOSCA) tool to the State Land Use Research Board. This tool is designed to facilitate research for urban planning and analysis. This tool was inaugurated by the Hon'ble Minister for Finance and HRM on 28.08.2023.
- c) In collaboration with GIZ, the project on "Framework for Nature-Based Solutions (NbS) for Enhancing Urban Resilience in Tamil Nadu" is undertaken by the State Planning Commission with the main objectives to identify the opportunities and challenges for integrating NbS at various governance levels. This results in holistically contributing integrated disaster mitigation, climate resilient strategies, sustainable economic growth and

development in accordance with the UN Sustainable Development Goals.

- d) With the support from UNEP, the study on “Identifying Urban Heat Island Hotspots and mitigation strategies to reduce the Urban Heat Island Effect (UHIE) impact in Tamil Nadu” is done by the State Planning Commission. This will enable preparation of an appropriate Urban Heat Island Effect mitigation plan.
- e) Partnership of State Planning Commission with the British Deputy High Commission supports the State and Chennai City authorities to introduce clear, consistent guidelines and policy changes to implement their ambitions relating to Low Emission Zones (LEZs), contributing to India’s Net Zero goal by reducing pollution caused by tailpipe emissions. The toolkit framework will enable authorities to have access to best practices, guidelines and shared knowledge thereby creating a ‘Repository of best practices’, and encouraging learning and collaboration

across the country. A skill share workshop was conducted with the stakeholder departments and institutions.

3.1.7 Transformation of Aspirational Districts Programme

'Transformation of Aspirational Districts' programme was introduced by the Government of India in the year 2017. The Programme is implemented on the principles of Cooperative Federalism, Convergence (of Union & State Schemes), Collaboration (of Union & State Level Officers and District Collectors) and Competition among Districts driven by a mass movement with the strong commitment to raise the living standards of all citizens and ensuring inclusive growth for all.

Ramanathapuram and Virudhunagar are the Districts which have been included from Tamil Nadu in the list of 115 Aspirational Districts identified based on a composite index. The selection of Districts is based on certain criteria relating to the challenges faced by the Districts in terms of Poverty, Health and Nutrition, Education and Infrastructure.

3.1.7.1 Focus Areas

The Core focus areas of the programme are Health & Nutrition, Education, Agriculture & Water Resources, Financial Inclusion & Skill Development and Basic Infrastructure.

3.1.7.2 Real Time Monitoring and Ranking

Districts are encouraged to first catch-up with the best District within their State, and subsequently aspire to become one of the best in the Country by competing with and learning from others in the spirit of competitive federalism.

NITI Aayog has established an online Monitoring portal for capturing the progress made by the Districts in the 49 key performance indicators on a monthly basis.

Based on the progress made by the Districts against their Targets, they are ranked on overall progress and sectoral performance. Ranking is done to create competition among the Districts.

3.1.7.3 Funding Support

The Central Public Sector Enterprises (CPSEs) are directed to support the Aspirational

Districts through their Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) funding.

In addition, the NITI Aayog also provides incentive funding through Externally Aided Project (EAP) and the Japan International Co-operation Agency (JICA) for the Districts, based on performance in the Key Performance Indicators.

3.1.7.4 Performance of Districts

Progressing steadily since the inception, Virudhunagar and Ramanathapuram have reached a composite index score of 65.3 and 65.2 respectively in January 2024 from their baseline value of 45.6 and 46.8 respectively in April 2018.

3.1.7.5 Aspirational Blocks Programme

Based on the significant progress made by the Aspirational Districts, the template of the Aspirational Districts Programme has been extended to the Block Level.

The Aspirational Blocks Programme (ABP) was launched by NITI Aayog in January 2023.

500 underdeveloped blocks have been identified across the Country under this Programme to ensure speedy development of the most backward blocks and to improve socio-economic conditions.

In Tamil Nadu, the following 16 Aspirational Blocks (including one block from each Aspirational District) have been selected for implementation of the programme. The Member Secretary, State Planning Commission has been nominated as the State Nodal Officer for the above programme.

Sl. No	District	Block
1	Ariyalur	Andimadam
2	Kallakurichi	Kalvarayan Hills
3	Karur	Thogaimalai
4	Perambalur	Alathur
5	Pudukkottai	Tiruvarankulam
6	Ramanathapuram (AD) *	Tiruvadanai
7	Ranipet	Timiri
8	Sivagangai	Tirupattur
9	The Nilgiris	Kothagiri
10	Tenkasi	Melaneelithanallur
11	Tiruvannamalai	Javadhu Hills
12	Tiruchirappalli	Thuraiyur
13	Tirunelveli	Nanguneri
14	Vellore	K.V.Kuppam
15	Villupuram	Tiruvonnainallur
16	Virudhunagar (AD) *	Tiruchuli

* Aspirational District

3.1.7.6 Objective

The Aspirational Block Programme aims to achieve saturation of essential Government services in the selected 500 Blocks across the Country in five thematic areas i.e., Health & Nutrition, Education, Drinking Water, Agriculture & Allied Services and Basic Infrastructure.

3.1.7.7 Activities completed at the Block level

A State Level Meeting for Block Level Officers under the Aspirational Block Programme was organised by the State Planning Commission in co-ordination with NIRD-PR, Hyderabad for preparing Block Development Strategy and uploading on the web portal with the approval of District Collectors.

Block Level officials from Tamil Nadu participated in the Sectoral Training across five themes i.e., Health & Nutrition, Education, Agriculture & Allied Sectors, Basic Infrastructure & Social Development organized by NITI Aayog.

3.1.8 Sustainable Development Goals

The State Planning Commission in association with the Department of Economics and Statistics and Sustainable Development Goals Co-ordination Centre is working for the implementation of Sustainable Development Goals in the State in co-ordination with Line Departments for various activities as per the directions of Planning and Development Department.

3.1.8.1 Mechanisms to review the progress of SDGs

- A State Level High Power Committee has been constituted under the Chairmanship of Chief Secretary to Government, Vice Chairman, State Planning Commission as Co-Chair, Member Secretary, State Planning Commission as Member with Secretaries of Line Departments as its Members to oversee the implementation of SDGs in the State.
- With an emphasis to closely monitor the achievement of 169 targets and 17 goals, Eight Thematic Working Groups covering all

the goals have been constituted under the Chairmanship of Secretaries of Nodal Departments.

- The Members of State Planning Commission have been included in the relevant Working Groups in order to utilize their expertise to achieve the Goals.
- All related departments have been included in the Working Groups as Members. The Heads of Divisions, State Planning Commission are the Member-Conveners of the Working Groups.
- The Terms of Reference for the Working Groups (ToR) have been revised recently.

3.1.8.2 Document on Tamil Nadu's Vision for SDGs

Preparation of SDG Vision Document for each goal is the key responsibility of the Working Groups, which inter-alia covers other activities mentioned in the Terms of Reference. The purpose of the Vision Document is to provide a broad outline of the State's position in terms of the indicators under SDGs and also to provide

appropriate strategies and action plans to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals in Tamil Nadu. The State Planning Commission has compiled a comprehensive Document which will be released shortly.

3.1.8.3 State / District / Block Indicator Framework

The task of development of monitorable indicators for each target and goal has been assigned to the Working Groups. Based on the National Indicator Framework (NIF) of the Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation (MoSPI) and through a series of consultative meetings which were attended by Secretaries / Heads of Departments and Senior Level Officers, the State finalized the State Indicator Framework (SIF).

Accordingly, TN State Indicator Framework with 314 indicators was published by the Department of Economics and Statistics in association with State Planning Commission.

Further, the District Indicator Framework (DIF) with 104 indicators and the Block Indicator

Framework (BIF) with 93 indicators have been finalised.

3.1.8.4 State Indicator Framework 2.0

The State Indicator Framework (SIF) 2.0 is being evolved with additions, deletions and modifications of indicators across all goals, as per the requirements.

3.1.8.5 SDG Unit in Departments

SDG Unit has been formed in each administrative Department, which are relevant to the SDGs, with a view to set up systems and mechanisms for enabling focus to be brought in the Departments for the achievement of SDGs. These Units comprise of Officials from respective Head of Department and Administrative Department.

The SDG Unit assists the department and strengthens the work of the Department in relation to SDGs. The SDG Unit of the Department also works in close co-ordination with the Planning and Development Department, the Working Groups, State, District and field offices

and other institutions working on SDGs in furtherance of achieving the SDGs for the State.

3.1.8.6 SDG District Level High Power Committee, SDG District Level Executive Committee and SDG Cells in Districts

The State performance is the reflection of performance of Districts. Localization of SDGs at District Level, Block Level, Village Level and City / Municipality / Town Panchayat levels is important for achieving SDGs for the State. To facilitate Localization of SDGs in the State, SDG District Level High Power Committee, SDG District Level Executive Committee and SDG Cells in Districts have been formed.

- a) The Hon'ble Minister of the respective District is the Chairman of SDG District Level High Power Committee, where the District Collector is the Member-Secretary and Project Director (DRDA) is the Convenor. The Members of Parliament, Members of Legislative Assembly and the Heads of District Offices of the related departments are the Members of the Committee.

- b) The District Collector is the Chairman of the SDG District Level Executive Committee, where the District Planning Officer is the Member Convenor and Deputy Director of Statistics is the Data Co-ordinator of the Committee. The Terms of Reference of the SDG District Level Executive Committee cover all the goals, targets and indicators applicable to the District and Sub-District Levels.
- c) The District Level SDG Cell is the monitoring and support Unit in the District. The Deputy Director of Statistics is the Data Manager and the District Planning Officer is the Convenor of the SDG Cell.

The District Level SDG Cell is responsible for ensuring all data updation on the Dashboard and carry out the directions of the District Level Committee in enabling the District to achieve the SDGs.

3.1.8.7 SDG India Index – Ranking of States / UTs

The NITI Aayog, Government of India being the Nodal Agency for the Country to oversee the

progress on the SDG 2030 Agenda has been releasing SDG India Index since 2018. It has released its third edition - SDG India Index 3.0 (2020-21) in June, 2021, in which all States / UTs are ranked based on their performance across the identified SDG indicators. Tamil Nadu has been ranked second with a composite index score of 74 along with Himachal Pradesh, next to Kerala (75). The objective of the Index is to promote healthy competition among the States / UTs in their journey towards achieving the Global Goals, support the States / UTs in identifying priority areas requiring higher attention. It highlights data gaps in the statistical system of the States / UTs and identifies the sectors in which robust and more frequent data needs to be collected.

The next iteration of SDG India Index 4.0 by NITI Aayog is awaited.

3.1.9 Preparation of Policy Documents

The State Planning Commission has undertaken the task of preparing nine Policy Documents in areas impacting Socio-economic development of Tamil Nadu. The Policies related to Housing, Land Use, Employment & Skilling,

Water Resources, Waste Management, Community Dog Management are in the final stages and will be submitted to Government in due course.

Three Policies viz., Tamil Nadu Right to Health Policy, LGBTQIA+ Policy, Industrialisation Policy for a Transitioning Economy were submitted to Honourable Chief Minister and have also been communicated to Departments concerned. The Industrialisation Policy for a Transitioning Economy comprises of six Policy papers viz., MSME; Electric Vehicles; Industry 4.0; Handlooms; Textiles; and Tourism.

The sectoral departments are releasing Policies that align with the guidance and recommendations outlined in the Policy papers prepared by the State Planning Commission. The Policies / Schemes so far released are listed below:

- ✓ Tamil Nadu Electric Vehicles Policy 2023 (IIPC dept).
- ✓ Tamil Nadu Startup and Innovation Policy 2023 (MSME dept).

- ✓ Special Scheme for Technical Textiles, MMF (Man Made Fibre) yarn for Recycled Products, MMF Fabric and Apparel Manufacturing (IIPC dept).
- ✓ TN Tourism Policy 2023 (TC&RE dept).

3.1.10 Impact Assessment Studies

State Planning Commission undertakes Impact Assessment studies for the flagship programmes of the Government to address the gaps and to improve the scheme performance for better public service delivery. State Planning Commission has conducted Impact Assessment Studies for the following Schemes:

1. Vidiyal Payanam Scheme in two phases.
2. Ilam Thedi Kalvi (ITK).
3. Makkalai Thedi Maruthuvam.
4. Study on implementation of Government Schemes in the Tribal Villages of Tamil Nadu.
5. Rapid assessment on the performance of Tamil Nadu Urban Employment Scheme (TNUES).

6. Evaluation of Semester-end question papers of the State Universities in Tamil Nadu (Arts, Science & Engineering Courses).
7. Baseline survey for Chief Minister's Breakfast Scheme.

3.2 DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMICS AND STATISTICS

The Department of Economics and Statistics (DoES) is the apex Statistical Agency that coordinates the overall statistical activities of the State, giving considerable importance to the coverage and quality aspects of Statistics. The Department furnishes adequate and timely information on various socio-economic variables to facilitate Government to formulate and to take informed policy decisions that are imperative to the State and Union Governments.

3.2.1 Functions of the Department

The main functions of the Department are to collect, compile and analyse the data and release reports on Agriculture Statistics, Industrial Statistics, Housing Statistics, Price Statistics and State Income. The Socio Economic Surveys conducted by the State are based on scientific sampling methods. Data is collected through dedicated field staff ensuring quality Statistics. The Key functions of the department include the preparation of estimates for various socio-economic parameters like State Income, District

Income, Index of Industrial Production, Consumer Price Index and Wholesale Price Index apart from conducting Special Censuses and Surveys at the instance of and to meet the requirements of the State and Union Governments. The Department also brings out the Statistical Hand Book of Tamil Nadu and Season and Crop Report of Tamil Nadu annually which serve as ready reckoners for the data needs of various departments of the State Government.

Quinquennial Agriculture / Economic Census Reports, scheme wise annual and monthly reports are also released. Outcomes of these reports are widely used by various Departments, Research organizations and Public. The skilled technical personnel of this department deputed to major line departments have been rendering a useful service in monitoring and review of the welfare programmes / socio-economic schemes implemented by those Departments.

Presently, all the States have started implementing evidence based policy making for better governance and service delivery to the

Public. In order to achieve this goal, a Data Analytics Unit has been formed in the Department.

3.2.2 Initiatives in the Department

3.2.2.1 Data Analytics Unit (DAU)

To support evidence based policy making and to provide data based inputs to policy making bodies, the Data Analytics Unit in the Department of Economics and Statistics has been formed in collaboration with Tamil Nadu e-Governance Agency (TNeGA). With emerging changes in the sphere of data usage across the globe, this Department, in addition to being a Data Provider is also a Data Analyzer of voluminous data generated by various Government Departments in the course of their functioning which are rarely organized and analysed to produce actionable reports. Tamil Nadu is the first State in India to establish such a Unit.

This Unit provides relevant inferences based on analysis using application software and latest Information Technology tools to quicken the decision making process.

Data Analytics Unit has completed the following four projects jointly with JPAL-SA:

- (i) Analysed Chief Minister's Comprehensive Health Insurance Scheme (CMCHIS) – Datasets provided by Health Department.
- (ii) Analysed Local Body Survey datasets and submitted Report to 5th State Finance Commission.
- (iii) Matching of Missing Persons and unidentified dead bodies - for State Crime Records Bureau (SCRB), Police Department.
- (iv) Analysis of response in respect of Emergency call Number "100" received in Greater Chennai Police - for Police Department.

Based on the requests of Departments concerned, the following two projects were taken up

- i. Geographical Information System (GIS) based Decision, Support System for Crime Mapping, Analysis and identifying Crime Hotspots by

State Crime Records Bureau (SCRB),
Police Department.

- ii. Using Machine Learning Techniques for improving GST collection in Tamil Nadu - Analysis by Commercial Taxes Department.

3.2.2.2 Tamil Nadu Household Panel Survey on Socio-Economic Development (TNHPS)

Tamil Nadu Household Panel Survey aims at understanding the dynamics of socio-economic developments in the State. The survey is designed to capture dynamic changes and transformation taking place in the economy and society with individuals and households as the reference point. The Survey would be helpful in designing appropriate policies and programmes for the problems and challenges faced by the people.

Tamil Nadu Household Panel Survey was approved by Government of Tamil Nadu under Tamil Nadu Innovative Initiatives (TANII) fund for a period of 3 years vide G.O.(Ms.) No.19, Planning, Development and Special Initiatives

(SPC) Department, dated 26.02.2016 at a total project cost of Rs.390.00 lakh.

The panel survey is implemented in three phases over the years:

Phase-1: Pre-baseline Survey / House listing;

Phase-2: Baseline Survey and

Phase-3: End line Survey.

The survey is conducted in co-ordination with the Madras Institute of Development Studies (MIDS). An important feature of this survey is capturing data in the field through Computer Assisted Personal Interview (CAPI) mode i.e., in digital mode, through Tablets.

The Pre-baseline Survey / House listing was completed during 2018 and a total of 2,51,594 households were surveyed. House listing in Bifurcated / Trifurcated Districts and Thoothukudi District for 42,452 households was completed in January 2022. The Report on the Pre-baseline Survey was released in September 2022.

During 2022-23, the Baseline Survey of TNHPS was conducted in all Districts. The data processing is under finalisation and the Report will be released shortly.

3.2.2.3 Conduct of Panel Survey on Socio-Economic Status of Elderly Population in Tamil Nadu (TNEPS)

The objectives of Tamil Nadu Elderly Population Survey (TNEPS) is to understand the socio-economic status of the elderly, their physical and financial dependency and their health status including cognition and wellbeing, access to the health care system and social protection schemes. It would create a panel of datasets on the socio-economic status of the elderly population and provide a unique platform to achieve the goals and to improve the wellbeing of the elderly population.

The survey is helpful for designing appropriate evidence-based policies for elderly people and framing policies and programmes for the problems and challenges faced by the elderly persons. It is also helpful for designing Social

Security Policy and programme interventions and for creating a Platform for Research.

This panel survey is being conducted by the Department of Economics and Statistics (DoES) in co-ordination with Abdul Latif Jameel Poverty Action Lab - South Asia (JPAL-SA) for a period of eight years with the data collection time gap of every 2 years. JPAL-SA acts as a Technical Advisor. The data collected for this survey is in Computer Assisted Personal Interview (CAPI) mode using Tablets.

The health measurements and bio markers are being collected for the first time in Tamil Nadu. It includes credible scientific data on burden of disease, mental health and functional health, health care, social and economic wellbeing of elderly population. The Panel Survey on Socio-Economic Status of Elderly Population in Tamil Nadu (TNEPS) was approved by the Government of Tamil Nadu at a total project cost of Rs.606.00 lakh under Tamil Nadu Innovation Initiatives (TANII) Fund for a period of 3 years vide G.O.(Ms.)No.21, Planning, Development and

Special Initiatives (ST.2&E) Department, dated 27.02.2016.

Five Districts, namely Chennai (Greater Chennai area), Tiruvannamalai, Dharmapuri, Tiruchirappalli and Kanniyakumari have been selected for the survey based on the Human Development Index and Dependency ratio. The house listing was completed in mid-July 2018 where nearly 92,000 elderly from 61,954 households were surveyed in these five Districts.

The baseline survey was completed in June 2019 in which 4739 households with 6294 elderly were surveyed by the Department of Economics and Statistics.

Out of this elderly population, the Department of Public Health has collected health measurements from 4496 individuals. The findings of the baseline survey have been shared with stakeholders. The wave-1 survey for 4892 elderly individuals from 3881 households was completed and report published. The wave-2 of the survey is to commence shortly in 2024.

3.2.2.4 Survey on Knowledge, Attitude and Practices (KAP) of voters

The Baseline survey on Knowledge, Attitude and Practices (KAP) was conducted by the Department of Economics and Statistics (DoES) in Tamil Nadu with a view to enhance the Systematic Voters Education and Electoral Participation Programme (SVEEP) as proposed by Election Commission of India, before conducting of Parliamentary Election, 2024 and the report was submitted to the Chief Electoral Officer, Tamil Nadu on 01.11.2023.

Earlier, the Baseline Survey, End line Survey on Knowledge, Attitude and Practices (KAP) has been conducted before and after the Tamil Nadu State Assembly Election 2021 by the Department of Economics and Statistics (DoES) in Tamil Nadu with a view to assess the Systematic Voters Education and Electoral Participation Programme (SVEEP) conducted by Election Commission of India.

3.2.2.5 Concurrent Evaluation of Chief Minister's Breakfast Scheme (CMBFS)

The primary objectives of the studies are to assess the awareness and utilization of the free breakfast scheme among students and parents / guardians and to examine the impact of the scheme on student well-being including physical health, nutrition, concentration, retention and academic performance. Also, aims to examine, analyse the influence of the scheme on student attendance rates, dropout rates and overall school environment.

A concurrent evaluation of CMBFS in co-ordination with the Department of Evaluation and Applied Research is being conducted in 11 Districts of Tamil Nadu viz., Chennai, Chengalpattu, Thiruvallur, Villupuram, Thanjavur, Ariyalur, Salem, The Nilgiris, Theni, Sivagangai and Kanniyakumari. Phase-II of the survey will commence in 10 Districts viz., Cuddalore, Erode, Kanchipuram, Karur, Madurai, Nagapattinam, Ramanathapuram, Tirunelveli, Tiruvarur and Vellore.

3.2.2.6 Kalaingar Magalir Urimai Thittam (KMUT)

A sample check on Kalaingar Mahalir Urimai Thittam was done by the Department of Economics and Statistics Officials in 7 Districts of Tamil Nadu on pilot basis. Further, DoES Officials were nominated to act as Supervisors for the KMUT applications received from Public. Also, as per request of Special Programme Implementation Department super check of appeal petitions on KMUT were carried out by DoES field Officials all over Tamil Nadu for 81,631 applications.

3.2.3 New Initiatives of the Department

3.2.3.1 Open Government Data

The Department of Economics and Statistics is the nodal organization for implementing Tamil Nadu Open Government Data (TNOGD) Project in the State in concordance with National Data Sharing and Accessibility Policy (NDSAP), Government of India. This project has a TNOGD portal viz., <https://tn.data.gov.in> hosted by ELCOT. TNOGD promotes transparency, accountability and value creation by making

Government data available to all. This portal is useful in publishing data to the public online at one place as the Departments and the users can download and visualize the data. The Statistical Handbook published by the Department has been updated for 11 years from 2009 in shareable format in the TNOGD portal which can be downloaded for analytical purposes as per needs of stakeholders. The District Statistical Hand Book details have been uploaded in the portal. The Statistical Handbook consists of 42 Chapters for which the data are collected from more than 200 Institutions / Departments.

3.2.3.2 Website

The website of Department of Economics and Statistics has been developed and available at website address: <https://des.tn.gov.in>

3.2.4 Social Statistics

3.2.4.1 National Sample Survey (NSS)

The National Sample Survey is a significant undertaking in India, representing a comprehensive collection of Socio-Economic Surveys. Established in 1950, it operates under

the technical guidance of the National Statistical Office, Government of India, employing scientific sampling methods for data collection. The survey, conducted in successive rounds, employs a stratified multi-stage design for sample selection.

Tamil Nadu became a participant in the NSS from the 18th round in 1963. The survey covers a diverse array of topics, providing invaluable insights into various aspects of the Indian population.

Some noteworthy subjects addressed in each round include:

1. Household Consumer Expenditure
2. Employment and Unemployment
3. Unincorporated Non-Agricultural Enterprises
4. Land Holdings & Livestock
5. Debt & Investment
6. Health
7. Education
8. Housing Condition
9. Particulars of Urban Slum dwellers
10. Migration
11. Domestic Tourism

The field work for the NSS 79th round, has been conducted from July 2022 to June 2023.

3.2.4.2 Housing Statistics

In order to frame housing policies and implement appropriate housing plans at the national level, the data on housing and building activities in Public and Private Sectors is being collected. This data widely covers the nature and type of construction, plinth area and floor area, number of dwelling units, residential and non-residential and estimated cost etc.

The Public Sector data has been collected from various Government construction agencies and from all local bodies. The Private Sector data has been collected from 151 Urban Local Bodies and reports are shared with National Building organisation (NBO).

3.2.4.3 Housing and Building Statistics

This is a central sector scheme. The objective of the scheme is to strengthen the statistical system so as to develop coherent and consistent system of data collection on housing and the related Building Construction Sector and online

transmission of housing and building construction related data to Building Related Information and Knowledge System (BRIKS) Portal of National Building Organisation (NBO), Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs (MoHUA), New Delhi. In Tamil Nadu, 17 Cities with population more than one lakh as per 2011 census have been selected under this scheme for data collection since the year 2014-15.

The data on housing and building construction related activities is being collected by the Department of Economics and Statistics from different sources in the State using the formats following the prescribed time schedules as specified in the instructions / guidelines issued by National Building Organisation (NBO). Data has been collected from 17 selected centres upto the quarter March 2024 and transmitted online to National Buildings Organisation, New Delhi.

3.2.4.4 Building Construction Cost Index (BCCI)

The data on prices for Building Construction Cost Index (Base year 2011-12) of important building materials and wage rates of building

construction labourers prevailing in 16 selected district centres is collected on quarterly basis in Tamil Nadu viz., Chennai, Kancheepuram, Cuddalore, Vellore, Salem, Dharmapuri, Coimbatore, Erode, Thanjavur, Tiruchirapalli, Madurai, Pudukkottai, Virudhunagar, Palayamkottai, Nagercoil and Udhagamandalam and Building Construction Cost Index calculated and sent to Government.

3.2.5 Industrial Statistics

3.2.5.1 Annual Survey of Industries (ASI)

Annual Survey of Industries is the important source of Industrial Statistics of the registered / organized manufacturing sector of the Economy. The Annual Survey of Industries is being conducted annually by National Statistical Office, Government of India and the State Government participates in the survey. List of factories registered under section 2m(i) and 2m(ii) of the Factories Act, 1948 are selected for the conduct of Annual Survey of Industries. The Annual Survey of Industries provides data on the principal characteristics of Industries in the State under 27 key indicators at the State and District

level generated under National Industrial Classification (NIC) 2 and 3 digit level classification of industries. This includes data such as Capital Invested, Outstanding loans, Input and Output and Gross Value added, Number of workers, wages paid to them etc. These data are utilized for computing value added of manufacturing sector for the State.

At present, Report for 2019-20 has been released. Data collection work has been completed for years 2020-21 and 2021-22. Field work for the year 2022-23 has commenced.

3.2.5.2 Index of Industrial Production (IIP)

Index of Industrial Production (Base year: 2011-12) measures the general level of industrial performance in the Economy. Monthly Index is compiled based on the production data received from three major sectors Mining, Manufacturing and Electricity sectors consisting of 253 items.

Production data for 8 items relating to Mining sector are collected from State Geology & Mining Department and Neyveli Lignite Corporation. Data under manufacturing sector for 244 items

are collected directly from 1244 factories in a specified form on a voluntary basis, while data for Electricity sector is collected from Central Electricity Authority, New Delhi. Based on these production particulars, sector wise index and use base index is compiled and released every month. State Index of Industrial Production has been released upto the month of April 2024 (Provisional).

3.2.6 Collection of Agricultural Statistics

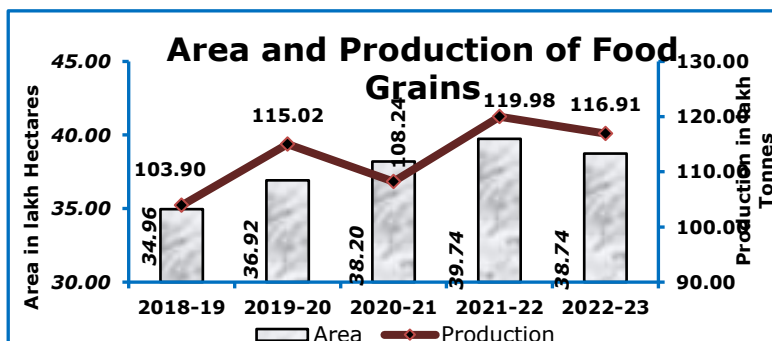
The Department of Economics and Statistics is the State Agricultural Statistics Authority (SASA). As a majority of the population is engaged in agriculture and allied activities for their livelihood, collection and maintenance of Agricultural Statistics is important for monitoring a key sector of the State's Economy. The Agricultural Statistics System is very comprehensive and provides data on a wide range of topics such as crop area and production, land use, irrigation, land holdings, crop insurance, agricultural wages and marketable surplus. All these Statistics are utilized in making agricultural policy decisions.

This Department collects, compiles and releases reports on the Agricultural Statistics.

3.2.6.1 Season and Crop Report (2022-23)

The Season and Crop Report published every year highlights the district wise details of land utilization, sources of irrigation, area brought under irrigated and un-irrigated crops, estimates of production, yield rate of food and non-food crops raised in each district and sent to Union Government, State Government and other departments.

In addition to this, the report contains the data on Rainfall, Price trends on Agricultural Commodities, Agricultural Wages paid and Index Numbers of Agricultural Economy. Season and Crop Report for the year 2021-22 has been released and can be viewed on the web site: (<https://www.tn.gov.in/crop/stat.htm>). Releasing of the report for the year 2022-23 is under progress.



Food grains production for 2022-23 has declined by 2.6% compared to last year due to 2.5% decrease in area under food grains. Also, as compared to last year, the area under food grains has decreased due to decrease in rainfall by 16.1%.

3.2.6.2 Forecasting of Crop Area and Production

Before the final data of area under crops is settled during Jamabandhi and final results of yield rates as per crop cutting experiments become available, the advance information regarding season-wise area and production of 56 important food and non-food crops is furnished to Union Government.

3.2.6.3 Crop Estimation Survey Scheme (Paddy, Cereals, Pulses, Oilseeds, Sugarcane and Cotton)

Under the scheme a total of 9,500 crop cutting experiments are planned every year and the field work is conducted by the officials of Agriculture Department every year for 17 major food and non-food crops. The supervision of this Crop Estimation Survey is undertaken by Officials of the Department of Economics and Statistics. Based on the crop cutting experiments, estimates of production and productivity are arrived at the State and District level. Under this scheme, during the year 2024-25 (Fasli-1434) 9524 crop cutting experiments were conducted.

3.2.6.4 Crop Cutting Experiments for Fruits and Vegetables

The main purpose of the crop cutting experiments on fruits and vegetables is to provide reliable estimates of production and yield per hectare.

Under this Scheme, every year principal horticultural crops - 8 fruit crops viz., Mango, Banana, Jackfruit, Grapes, Guava, Orange,

Lemon and Pineapple and 5 vegetable crops viz., Tomato, Lady's finger, Brinjal, Cabbage and Sweet potato are covered for conduct of Crop Cutting Experiments (CCE). Under the scheme, during the year 2023-24 (Fasli 1433) 1500 Crop Cutting Experiments in 750 selected villages were conducted.

Fruits / Vegetables	Production (in Tonnes)		
	2020-21	2021-22	2022-23
Mango	639574	481819	673063
Banana	3895645	3945224	4303918
Jackfruit	69007	79526	70168
Grapes	50009	64679	65771
Guava	92609	105722	124652
Orange	2492	2392	1581
Lemon	34786	45230	63819
Pineapple	41439	21083	34212
Tomato	935194	815479	794330
Lady's finger	204166	184539	158579
Brinjal	346053	278612	253499
Cabbage	251982	251523	311520
Sweet Potato	12920	8095	9534

3.2.6.5 Minor Crops

The main purpose of the Crop Cutting Experiments on Minor Crops is to provide reliable estimates of production and yield per hectare.

Under this Scheme, Crop Cutting Experiments are conducted every year for 8 minor crops viz., Chillies, Onion, Turmeric, Potato, Coriander, Tapioca, Cashewnut and Ginger. Under this Scheme, during the year 2023-24 (Fasli 1433), 1330 Crop Cutting Experiments in 665 selected villages were conducted.

Minor Crops	Production (in Tonnes)		
	2020-21	2021-22	2022-23
Chillies	25057	26382	25292
Onion	356939	398807	359785
Turmeric	97830	124917	136370
Potato	73014	100890	102863
Coriander	1627	2364	2713
Tapioca	3893338	3055454	3330275
Cashewnut	25459	36183	26586
Ginger	5991	7371	5740

3.2.6.6 Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana (PMFBY)

Under “Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana (PMFBY)” scheme, the crop cutting experiments are conducted by Assistant Agriculture Officers and the average yields are estimated to provide indemnity to the farmers affected by natural calamities such as drought, flood, cyclone, attack of pests, diseases, etc. The crop cutting experiments are planned and supervised by the Department of Economics and Statistics. For the year 2023-24 in Special season 44,026 experiments for 4 crops and in Rabi season 54,088 experiments for 31 crops are being conducted. Under Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana Scheme, the average yields are estimated for all the notified crops and sent to concerned Insurance Companies. Moreover, area sown data reconciled by the District Level Monitoring Committee is furnished to Insurance Companies at the prescribed level at the end of every season to calculate threshold yield to pay compensation to Farmers.

3.2.6.7 Crop Estimation Survey on Coconut and Arecanut

The aim of the Crop Estimation Survey on Coconut and Arecanut is to estimate the total number of trees of Coconut and Arecanut, the number of bearing and non-bearing palm trees, the average yield per palm of Coconut and Arecanut and the total production per year for the Districts and State. The period of survey is from July to June. During the year, 2024-25 under this scheme survey is being conducted in 382 villages for Coconut and 108 villages for Arecanut.

3.2.6.8 Rainfall Data

Rainfall data is collected from 604 manual / automatic rain gauge stations maintained by Revenue Department, Public Works Department, Forest Department, Rural Development Department and Indian Meteorological Research Department. Based on this data, Monthly, Seasonal and Annual Rainfall statistics are compiled for usage of various Departments.

3.2.6.9 Irrigation and Reservoirs data

Irrigation data is collected under three major heads, viz., source-wise area irrigated, crop-wise area irrigated and data on water storage in reservoirs used for Agriculture. The data is collected from Revenue Department, Rural Development Department and Public Works Department. Every year, Block-wise and District-wise Irrigation Profile is being prepared.

3.2.6.10 Agricultural Wages

Data on agricultural wages is collected at the rate of one village per block in respect of 385 blocks of the State. The prevailing details of agricultural wages in the selected villages are collected directly from the villages by the field staff on monthly basis to calculate Agricultural Wages Index and the reports are being sent to Union Government and State Government.

3.2.6.11 Marketable Surplus

The objective of the Marketable Surplus Scheme is to estimate paddy available at the end of each of the three seasons (Kuruvai, Samba and

Kodai) for sale after deducting own consumption of cultivators, wages in kind and seed reserves.

3.2.7 Centrally Sponsored Schemes

3.2.7.1 Timely Reporting Scheme (TRS)

In 20 percent of randomly selected villages, land use statistics relating to irrigated and un-irrigated lands and high yielding and local variety crop details, are collected for three seasons viz., Kharif, Rabi and Summer for nine principal crops. Necessary instructions are given to Village Administrative Officers through Revenue authorities to maintain village records in a proper way.

During 2023-24, a sample of 3,480 villages were selected and Nine fold land classification and crop area is estimated District wise, Season wise and State level estimates are being consolidated and sent to Union Government.

3.2.7.2 Improvement of Crop Statistics (ICS)

The key activities of the Improvement of Crop Statistics scheme are sample check on area

enumeration and page totalling of Khasra Register (Adangal) in the Registers maintained by the Village Administrative Officer and supervision of Crop Cutting Experiments for some important food crops in the State-wide selected sample villages under this scheme.

The purpose of this scheme is to locate deficiencies in the system of collection of Agricultural Statistics in the State by exercising meaningful supervision by Union and State authorities over the primary field workers viz. Village Administrative Officers, to suggest remedial measures for the improvement in the system.

The results of this scheme is used by the National Statistics Organisation, Government of India to effect improvements in the quality of primary data in respect of both Crop Area and Yield Estimation in the State.

3.2.7.3 Agriculture Census

Agriculture Census was started in 1970-1971 and conducted once in every five years in three phases by Government of India.

Agriculture Census provides important information such as type of agricultural holdings (Individual, Joint and Institutional), tenancy status, social status of land holders, land use, nature of irrigation, cropping pattern, usage of pesticides and fertilizers and usage of agricultural machineries.

So far, Ten Agriculture Censuses have been completed. The Phase-I of 11th Agriculture Census, with 2021-22 as reference year, has been done in digitalized method, for the first time by the Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare, Government of India. The Phase-I of the Census has been completed and the final data was duly approved by the State level Co-ordination Committee and sent to Government of India and accepted. Training for Phase II and Phase III will be conducted shortly to District level Officials.

3.2.8 Estimation of State Income

State Income estimate is an important indicator to measure the economic growth of the State. The State Domestic Product and related economic aggregates serve as an indicator to

assess the status of the State's Economy. It is highly useful in studying the structural changes that take place in the Economy.

3.2.8.1 State Income

The State Income Estimates - Gross State Domestic Product (GSDP), Net State Domestic Product (NSDP) and Per Capita Income - are computed every year for 17 sectors of the State Economy and District Income Estimates are also computed. The GSDP / NSDP estimates in the New Series (Base Year 2011-12) for the years 2020-21 (Revised Estimates), 2021-22 (Quick Estimates) and 2022-23 (Advance Estimates) have been prepared at Current and Constant (2011-12) Prices and released.

Estimates of State Domestic Product of Tamil Nadu

(Base year 2011-12)

(Rs. in Crore)

Sl. No.	Year	Gross State Domestic Product				Net State Domestic Product			
		at Current Prices	Growth rate (%)	at Constant (2011-12) Prices	Growth rate (%)	at Current Prices	Growth rate (%)	at Constant (2011-12) Prices	Growth rate (%)
1	2011-12	751486	-	751486	-	674478	-	674478	-
2	2012-13	854825	13.75	791824	5.37	768295	13.91	709343	5.17
3	2013-14	968530	13.30	851976	7.60	858870	11.79	750416	5.79
4	2014-15	1072678	10.75	893915	4.92	957350	11.47	791915	5.53
5	2015-16	1176500	9.68	967562	8.24	1057084	10.42	862437	8.91
6	2016-17	1302639	10.72	1036762	7.15	1171973	10.87	922084	6.92
7	2017-18	1465051	12.47	1125793	8.59	1317984	12.46	1000308	8.48
8	2018-19	1630209	11.27	1204667	7.01	1468449	11.42	1071602	7.13
9	2019-20	1743144	6.93	1243836	3.25	1564831	6.56	1099402	2.59
10	2020-21 (RE)	1788074	2.58	1244650	0.07	1598520	2.15	1094122	-0.48
11	2021-22 (QE)	2071286	15.84	1343287	7.92	1854109	15.99	1182919	8.12
12	2022-23 (AE)	2364514	14.16	1453321	8.19	2115510	14.10	1279878	8.20

R.E: Revised Estimates, Q.E: Quick Estimates, A.E: Advance Estimates

Net State Domestic Product (NSDP) - Per capita Income of Tamil Nadu

(in Rupees)

Sl. No.	Year	At Current Prices	At Constant (2011-12) Prices
1	2011-12	93112	93112
2	2012-13	105340	97257
3	2013-14	116960	102191
4	2014-15	129494	107117
5	2015-16	142028	115875
6	2016-17	156595	123206
7	2017-18	175276	133029
8.	2018-19	194373	141844
9.	2019-20	206165	144845
10	2020-21(RE)	209628	143482
11	2021-22(QE)	242253	154557
12	2022-23(AE)	275583	166727

R.E: Revised Estimates, Q.E: Quick Estimates, A.E: Advance Estimates

District Income Estimates in the New Series with the Base Year 2011-12 for the years 2011-12 to 2019-20 (Provisional) has been

prepared at Current and Constant Prices and released.

3.2.8.2 State Accounts

The scheme involves the Economic-cum-Purpose Classification of Tamil Nadu Budget every year based on the methodology given by National Statistical Office (NSO). The analysis of State Budget for the year 2022-23 (Actual), 2023-24(Revised Estimate), 2024-25 (Budget Estimate) has been completed and the statements have been sent to the Government for State GDP estimation.

The Economic-cum-Purpose Classification of the annual audited accounts of the Municipal Corporations and Municipalities, Town Panchayats, Panchayat Unions in the State are taken up and the Statistical Statements have been prepared upto the year 2021-22 and sent to the Government. The analysis for the year 2022-23 is under progress.

3.2.8.3 Capital formation

The analysis of the accounts of Non-Departmental Commercial Undertakings (NDCU)

of State and Centre and Autonomous Institutional bodies (Public) and Educational Institutions in Tamil Nadu have been completed upto the year 2021-22 and the analysis for the year 2022-23 is under progress.

The preparation of the estimates of Gross Fixed Capital Formation for Public Sector for the State in new series with base 2011-12 for the years 2011-12 to 2020-21 is in progress.

3.2.9 Prices and Price Indices

3.2.9.1 Market Intelligence and Prices

Wholesale and Retail prices of important Agricultural and Non-Agricultural commodities, arrivals, off-take, stock details of major Agriculture Commodities are being collected every week from 96 Market Intelligence Centres spread all over the State. Monthly price statements are sent to Government, Agriculture, Horticulture and Plantation crop Departments, Coconut Development Board, Food Corporation of India. Prices are also sent to Prisons Department, Government Hospitals and other line departments as and when requested by them.

3.2.9.2 Wholesale Price Index (WPI)

Wholesale Price Index of Tamil Nadu is compiled and released every month with base year 2011-2012=100. WPI tracks the changes in the price of goods before the retail level. Wholesale Prices for agriculture and Non-agricultural commodities (excluding GST and other taxes) are collected from 83 Centres for compilation of Wholesale Price Index for the State and the report for the month of April 2024 been compiled and sent to the Government.

3.2.9.3 Consumer Price Index for Industrial Workers (CPI-IW)

Under Central Series, the Consumer Price Index for Industrial workers is compiled and released for 7 Centres by Government of India viz., Chennai, Salem, Madurai, Coimbatore, Coonoor, Tirunelveli and Virudhunagar in Tamil Nadu by Labour Bureau, Chandigarh with base year as 2016=100. The Weekly / Monthly Price details for the compilation of this index are collected by this Department staff from 14 markets and sent to Labour Bureau, Chandigarh.

Under State Series, Consumer Price Index for Industrial Workers with base year 2011=100 are compiled and released on monthly basis for four Centres viz., Cuddalore, Nagercoil, Thoothukudi and Vellore. These indices are used for calculating Dearness Allowances, Daily Wages and Minimum Wages.

3.2.9.4 Consumer Price Index for Rural, Urban and Combined at District level (CPI(R,U,C))

Consumer Price Index (Rural, Urban, Combined) for Tamil Nadu and Districts at Group and subgroup level are being released every month with effect from October 2022 with Base year 2019-20=100. The price details are collected from 153 Rural and 190 Urban markets spread over the State for compilation of CPI Index. Consumer Price Index (Rural, Urban and Combined) at District level is useful to understand the price trends at District level and for decentralized planning. The report upto the month of April 2024 has been released.

3.2.10 Sustainable Development Goals

3.2.10.1 Indicator Framework

The Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) are the blue print to achieve a better and more sustainable future for all. They address the global challenges we face, including those related to poverty, inequality, climate, environmental degradation, prosperity, peace and justice.

The indicators are the backbone of SDGs. The State Indicator Framework (SIF) has 314 indicators, the District Indicator Framework (DIF) contains 104 indicators and the Block Indicator Framework (BIF) contains 93 indicators.

The State has finalised 60 indicators for the Urban Indicator Framework (UIF) and 32 indicators for the Resettlement Indicator Framework (RIF) for the development of Urban and Resettlement areas as part of the Localization of SDGs.

The Analytical Report on SIF 1.0 has been prepared by the Department of Economics and Statistics and shared with the Departments. Based on a series of joint discussions with

participation of the State Planning Commission, Sustainable Development Goals Co-ordination Centre (SDGCC), Department of Economics and Statistics and Line Departments, the SIF 2.0 is being evolved.

3.2.10.2 SDG Dashboard

This Department also contributed to the core team that redesigned the SDG Dashboard, which was developed by the Tamil Nadu e-Governance Agency (TNeGA) and the Dashboard is functional. The updated SDG Dashboard has been designed for online data uploading at the District and Block levels by the Line Departments, with visualisation tools to check the performance of the Goals, Targets and Indicators.

3.2.10.3 Capacity Building

Capacity Building programmes on data entry procedures in the SDG dashboard are conducted for the Nodal Officers and Management Information System (MIS) Personnel of all the Line Departments and District Officials of this Department.

3.2.10.4 Monitoring

This Department also analyses the performance of the State under various SDGs using the Report of the SDG India Index released by NITI Aayog, apart from identifying and communicating the focus areas to all stakeholding departments to take necessary remedial actions for improvement of the State in these vulnerable areas. This Department plays a key role in collecting data in close co-ordination with the stakeholding Departments under the SDGs.

3.2.10.5 State Reform Action Plan

This Department has prepared the State Reform Action Plan on Multidimensional Poverty Index (MPI) indicators constituting Plan of Action provided by the concerned Line Departments in achieving the targets.

3.2.10.6 District Good Governance Index

The Baseline report on “District Good Governance Index (DGGI)- Tamil Nadu 2021” prepared by this Department has been shared with the Secretaries of Departments, District

Collectors and Government of India. Next version of the Report is under preparation.

3.2.10.7 SDG Fact Sheet

Tamil Nadu SDG Fact Sheet 2021 was released by the Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu on 04.03.2023. The preparation of SDG Fact Sheet 2022 has been completed and is to be released shortly.

3.2.11 Publications

This Department consistently produces reports on a diverse range of Topics, covering State, District, and Block-level analyses. Noteworthy Publications include the "Statistical Hand Book of Tamil Nadu", "Tamil Nadu at a Glance", "District Hand Book" and "Block Hand Book" released annually.

Among the key reports, the Season and Crop report 2022-23, Estimates of State Domestic Product and the Economic-cum-purpose classification of the Tamil Nadu State Budget serve as valuable resources for stakeholders seeking comprehensive insights into various aspects of the region.

The reports published by this Department are as follows:

1. Index of Industrial Production Monthly Report (September (Final) 2023, October (Provisional) 2023).
2. Improvement of Crop Statistics - Annual Report - 2022-23
3. Housing Private Sector 2021-22
4. Housing Public Sector 2021-22
5. Timely Reporting Scheme Annual Report 2022-23
6. Consumer Price Index(RUC)-State April 2024 Monthly Report
7. Consumer Price Index (IW)- State April 2024 Monthly Report
8. Wholesale Price Index – April 2024 (Provisional)
9. Building Construction Cost Index Numbers of Tamil Nadu BUILDING - Quarterly Report December 2023

10. Annual Survey of Industries - 2019-20

Anticipated releases include the "Statistical Hand Book of Tamil Nadu-2021-22", "District Hand Book-2022-23", "Block Hand Book-2022-23" and "Tamil Nadu at a Glance-2022-23" reflecting the commitment of the department in providing up-to-date and relevant information for informed decision-making.

3.2.12 Rationalisation of Minor Irrigation Statistics (RMIS)

The Rationalisation of Minor Irrigation Statistics Scheme is a 100% Centrally Sponsored Scheme under the Ministry of Jal Shakti (MoJS), Department of Water Resources (WR), River Development (RD) & Ganga Rejuvenation (GR), launched in order to build up a comprehensive database on the Minor Irrigation Sector.

The main objective of this scheme is to conduct Minor Irrigation Census all over the Country on quinquennial basis covering irrigation schemes having ayacut area less than 2000 hectares and to build a reliable and sound database on Minor Irrigation Sector, which will be useful for estimating availability of Ground Water

and formulation of realistic plan for Water Resources Development.

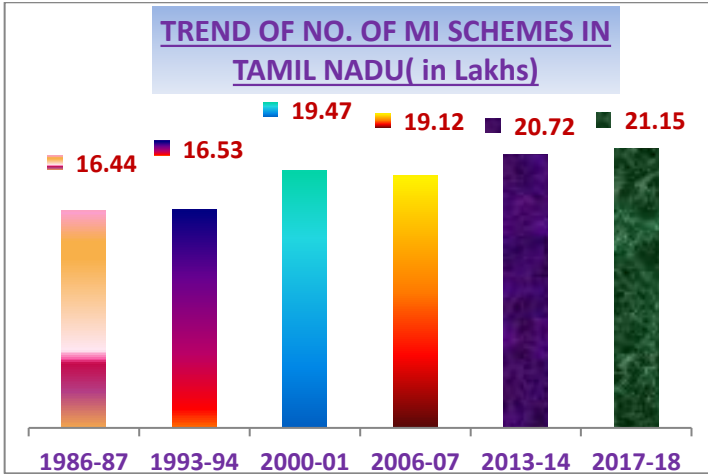
3.2.12.1 Sixth Minor Irrigation Census (2017-18) and 1st Census of Water Bodies

So far, five Minor Irrigation Censuses (MI) with reference year from 1986-87, have been conducted and the Sixth in series is conducted with reference year 2017-18.

The Government of India has expanded the scope of Minor Irrigation Census to include Census of Water Bodies also. The objective is to capture information on important parameters of Water Bodies like their number, size, condition, type, usage, storage capacity etc., It covers all Water Bodies irrespective of their use. Such a sound database will be useful for effective Planning and Policy formulation. The images of Water Bodies along with their Co-ordinates (Longitude and Latitude) are captured through a Mobile App and uploaded in the Government of India Server.

The Sixth Minor Irrigation Census with reference year 2017-18 including first ever

Census of Water Bodies has been completed and the Report is released on 29.11.2023.



Comparison between 5th MIC and 6th MIC Results

Name of the Scheme	Number of MI schemes		% Variatio n
	5 th MIC	6 th MIC	
Ground Water Scheme (GWS)	20,25,566	20,70,818	+ 2.23
Surface Water Scheme (SWS)	46,951	44,091	- 6.09

Name of the Scheme	Number of MI schemes		% Variation
	5 th MIC	6 th MIC	
Total MI Schemes	20,72,517	21,14,909	+ 2.05
Water Bodies (Rural)	Water Body Census not conducted	99,414	---
Water Bodies (Urban)		7,543	---
Total Water Bodies		1,06,957	---

The RMIS wing is now functioning from the Department of Economics and Statistics, vide orders issued in G.O.(Ms.)No.143, Revenue & Disaster Management Department, dated 04.04.2022.

The Department of Economics and Statistics is the nodal department to conduct the Minor Irrigation Census and Census of water bodies. The Commissioner, Department of Economics and Statistics is the State Minor Irrigation Census Commissioner and RMIS Wing has been brought under the administrative control of the

Commissioner, Department of Economics and Statistics vide orders issued in G.O.(Ms.) No. 62, Planning, Development & Special Initiatives (ST2&E) Department, dated 25.04.2023.

The Department of Water Resources, River Development & Ganga Rejuvenation (DoWR, RD & GR) has intended to undertake the 1st Census of Major & Medium Irrigation (MMI) Projects and 1st Census of Springs along with 7th Minor Irrigation Census and 2nd Census of Water Bodies with 2022-23 as the reference year.

3.2.13 Tamil Nadu State Statistical Training Institute

The Tamil Nadu State Statistical Training Institute (TNSSTI) was established in 2012 with the mandate of imparting training regarding routine / Special scheme and General Administration and to enrich and enhance statistical knowledge in order to improve the efficiency of staff members working in the Department of Economics and Statistics (DoES). TNSSTI has been functioning in the premises of Department of Economics and Statistics from

01.05.2012 with the Director and supporting staff.

During the year 2023-24, 9 types of Training programmes have been conducted in 25 batches for 651 officials. Moreover, Basic Statistical Training was imparted to 250 Ministerial Staff in the Civil Service Training Institute, Bhavani Sagar in the month of July-2023 as a Special Initiative. In the forthcoming years, it has been planned to conduct Statistical Training to other Department officials in Rural Development Training Institute and other Training Institutes.

3.3 DEPARTMENT OF EVALUATION AND APPLIED RESEARCH

State and Union Governments are executing numerous welfare and infrastructure development Programmes / Schemes / Projects for improvement in the social and economic wellbeing of the people in the State. It is vital to assess the outcome and impact of such programmes through feedback from the people and stakeholders. Department of Evaluation and Applied Research (DEAR) has been assigned with the task of taking up evaluation studies for the Government since 1974. The Evaluation Reports help in Policy decision making and formulation and correction of the programme in due course. This department has completed and submitted so far, 802 Evaluation Reports to the Government across various sectors viz., Social Welfare, Health, Education, Agriculture, Industry, Irrigation, Horticulture, Forest, Housing, Transport, Rural Development, Adi Dravidar and Tribal Welfare, etc.

3.3.1 Key functions

- i) Evaluate various schemes, projects and programmes of the State and Union Governments besides Externally Aided Projects.
- ii) Conduct Ad hoc and Quick Evaluation studies on need basis.

3.3.2 Overseeing mechanism

The Department of Planning, Development and Special Initiatives is the administrative head for the Evaluation and Applied Research Department. The State Evaluation Committee (SEC) and the State Evaluation Advisory Board (SEAB) are guiding the Department in undertaking Evaluation Studies.

3.3.2.1 State Evaluation Committee (SEC)

The State Evaluation Committee (SEC) headed by the Secretary to Government, Finance Department decides on the list of studies to be taken up for Evaluation. In the SEC 2023, thirteen studies have been approved for evaluation.

3.3.2.2 State Evaluation Advisory Board (SEAB)

The State Evaluation Advisory Board (SEAB) is headed by the Vice-Chairman, State Planning Commission and is having Members from State Evaluation Committee and representatives from Educational Research Institutions. The Board discusses and finalizes the study objectives and sample design of the methodology presented and approve the findings of the Evaluation Report based on the suggestions of the department and deliberations of the Board. The Methodologies and the Evaluation Reports presented by this Department are approved by the SEAB. In the year 2023, four Evaluation Studies were approved.

3.3.3 Performance

Various stages of progress of the total 30 Evaluation Studies in hand are as follows: Four (4) draft Evaluation Reports to be presented to the SEAB; two (2) draft Evaluation Reports at the correction stage; three (3) Evaluation Reports are in drafting stage; two (2) Evaluation Studies are at data analysis stage; three (3) draft

Methodologies are ready to be presented to the SEAB; two (2) draft methodology preparation is under progress; five (5) Evaluation Studies are awaiting basic data; three (3) Evaluation Studies have been outsourced, four (4) Evaluation Studies to be outsourced, two (2) Evaluation Studies to be dropped.

3.3.4 Method of Evaluation Studies

The State Evaluation Committee decides on the nature and number of Evaluation studies to be undertaken by this Department, the basic details and the objectives to be covered for the Evaluation study are collected from the Department concerned to frame the methodology with sample design. The methodology is presented to the State Evaluation Advisory Board for approval. On approval, schedules / questionnaire are prepared based on the objectives of the study. The schedules / questionnaire are digitalized and uploaded in the software application and put to test during the pilot study to check the flow and correctness. Field visits are conducted in the sample Districts to collect primary and secondary data. The data collected are analysed and tabulated to prepare

the draft report and sent to Department concerned for comments. The Report is later presented to State Evaluation Advisory Board for approval and on approval the Report is submitted to Government.

3.3.5 e-Evaluation System

Under e-Evaluation System - Department website has been created; hardware and software applications have been purchased; training has provided to staff on software application to frame questionnaire. The Evaluation studies have been completed by using Tablets for collection of Primary Data since 2018 by uploading and collecting data on Tablets to ensure quality and efficiency in processing of data.

3.3.6 Evaluation Guidelines

To strengthen the role of Evaluation in policy decision making, Evaluation Guidelines have been issued to create a common basis for designing, understanding and commissioning of Evaluation Studies by various Government Departments for new policy decision making, review of ongoing schemes / programmes and for

extension or termination of schemes / programmes.

In the review meeting conducted by the Hon'ble Chief Minister held on 26.07.2021, this Department has been directed to undertake impact evaluations for all State sponsored schemes/programmes with a budget of over Rs.150.00 crore per year and also instructed to utilize 2 per cent mandatory fee to undertake evaluation studies without any inordinate delay as per the Evaluation Guidelines. In the review meeting convened by Chief Secretary held on 14.12.2021, it was suggested to outsource the studies for evaluation of programmes / schemes costing more than Rs.150.00 crore.

3.3.7 Outsourcing of Evaluation Studies

The Department has selected 19 Empanelled Agencies to conduct Evaluation Studies through outsourcing. As per the framework for evaluation of studies based on the level of technicality, sample size with wide geo-spatial representation and studies which require external validation are to be outsourced. To complete the Evaluation Studies in time to take effective and efficient

policy decision making, this Department has outsourced five Evaluation Studies and they are at various stages of progress.

3.3.8 Budget Announcement

Based on the announcement of the Hon'ble Minister for Finance and Human Resources Management (2023-24) on "Preparation of Evaluation Reports for providing valuable evidence on cost effectiveness of large public spending of all State Sponsored Schemes with a budget outlay of over Rs.150.00 crores", the Department had submitted proposal to Government to undertake Evaluation studies of different projects / programmes / schemes of the State Government with an outlay of more than Rs.150.00 crores identified by various Departments. Based on the proposal, Government had issued orders vide G.O.(Ms.) No.72, Planning, Development and Special Initiatives (ST2&E) Department, dated 15.03.2024 to undertake 10 Evaluation Studies.

3.4 SPECIAL AREA DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME

Consequent on the withdrawal of HADP from Central Assistance, the Special Area Development Programme (SADP) was launched in Tamil Nadu during the year 2015-16.

Special Area Development Programme is being implemented in Tamil Nadu since 2015-16 to till date with an annual outlay of Rs.75.00 crore.

The SADP projects are being implemented in the following 11 Districts based on the approval of the Government under the supervision of the Project Director, SADP, Udhagamandalam.

1. The Nilgiris
2. Coimbatore
3. Tiruppur
4. Erode
5. Dindigul
6. Madurai
7. Theni

8. Virudhunagar
9. Tirunelveli
10. Kanniyakumari, and
11. Tenkasi

The hilly areas above 600msl (Mean Sea Level) of the Western Ghats area alone are considered for implementation of Special Area Development Programme.

The main objective of the programme is to conserve soil, moisture and forests thereby implementing eco-friendly works / projects. The projects also aim at a relative bonding of water and land development activities along with development of human livelihoods with special emphasis on protecting the environment, native flora and fauna, aquatic life and improve the livelihood opportunities of hilly people at the micro-catchment area level.

Besides the above, Horticulture, Agro-tribal and Tribal Welfare Development, Livestock, construction of Highways and Rural Roads, Gap-filling infrastructure of Urban and Rural Local Bodies, Agri-marketing and Agribusiness and

Aquaculture Development are given adequate importance under Special Area Development Programme.

All projects implemented under this scheme are assessed and recommended by the concerned District Collectors and Administrative Departments and approved by the Project Sanctioning and Monitoring Committee (PMSC) headed by the Chief Secretary to Government.

A total allocation of Rs.646.37 crore has been sanctioned for taking up 3067 projects upto March 2024.

The progress of Special Area Development Programme Projects are monitored through a web portal.

4.0 SPECIAL INITIATIVES

The Special Initiatives Wing, which was formed in the year 2003, processes special initiative schemes/ projects that emanate from different sources, in consultation with respective administrative departments of the Secretariat and other line departments. Accordingly, the Planning and Development Department was renamed as Planning, Development and Special Initiatives Department. Chennai Metro Rail Project has been one of the major special initiatives in the Department since inception.

4.1 Public Transport System in Chennai Metropolitan Area

The Chennai Metropolitan Area (CMA) has an extensive public transportation network which comprises Chennai Metro Rail (Phase-I), Metropolitan Transport Corporation (MTC) buses, Sub Urban Rail System, and Mass Rapid Transit System (MRTS). Existing public transportation network, would not be adequate to address the growing travel demand and to curb traffic congestion and pollution. The Government is also committed to increase the share of public

transport from 28% (2018) to 50% by 2048. The Government of Tamil Nadu has therefore decided to implement Phase-II of Chennai Metro Rail with a Metro Rail Network of 118.9 Km.

4.2. Chennai Metro Rail Limited (CMRL)

The Chennai Metro Rail Limited (CMRL) was incorporated as a State-owned Special Purpose Vehicle (SPV) under the Companies Act to implement metro rail projects in December 2007. The company was restructured subsequently in the year 2009 as a joint venture with equity stakes of the Central and State Governments as 50:50. Under this arrangement, the Government of India nominates five Directors to the Board of Directors, including the Secretary, Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs, Government of India, as Chairman. On the other hand, the State Government nominates five Directors, including the Managing Director.

4.3. Chennai Metro Rail Projects

The Chennai Metro Rail is the fast, reliable, efficient, pollution free and sustainable public transport system fully integrated with other public and private transport modes including

airlines, long-distance trains and buses, city buses, suburban trains and MRTS. The Chennai Metro Rail Projects have led to improved ease of living, increase in productivity and reduction in air pollution in the city. Metro Rail infrastructure in Chennai is being developed in phases as these projects are highly capital intensive, requiring huge investments.

4.3.1 Chennai Metro Rail Project-Phase-I (including Extension)

The Phase-I of Chennai Metro Rail Project, covering two corridors, one from Washermenpet to Chennai Airport and another from Chennai Central to St. Thomas Mount, was initially proposed in June 2006. The Government accorded in-principle approval to the project in December 2007 and recommended it to the Government of India for funding and external financial assistance. The Government of India accorded administrative approval for implementing the two corridors under Phase-I in February 2009. The project covering a total length of 45.1 km was sanctioned at an estimated cost of Rs.14,600 crore as a joint venture

between the Government of India and the Government of Tamil Nadu.

The Government of Tamil Nadu also approved the extension of Corridor-1 of Phase-I of the Chennai Metro Rail Project from Washermenpet to Thiruvottriyur / Wimco Nagar by a length of 9.051 km. This proposal was recommended to the Government of India for necessary approval for funding and external assistance from Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) in October 2010. The Government of India accorded administrative approval for implementing the project at an estimated cost of Rs.3770 crore on 15.06.2016.

The approved metro rail corridors under Phase-I (including extension) are as indicated below:

Corridors	Elevated	Underground	Total
Chennai Airport to Wimco Nagar (km)	11.2	20.9	32.1
Chennai Central to St. Thomas Mount (km)	12.3	9.7	22.0
Total Length (Km)	23.5	30.6	54.1
Metro Stations	20	21	41

The passenger services under Phase-I were inaugurated in various stages depending on the stage of completion and connectivity to depot as indicated below:

Date of Inauguration	Km	Stretches
29.06.2015	10.15	Koyambedu to Alandur (Elevated)
21.09.2016	8.60	Chennai Airport to Little Mount (Elevated)
	1.20	Alandur to St. Thomas Mount (Elevated)
14.05.2017	7.40	Koyambedu to Nehru Park (Underground)
25.05.2018	2.50	Nehru Park to Chennai Central (Underground)
	4.35	Little Mount to AG-DMS (Underground)
10.02.2019	10.90	AG-DMS to Washermenpet (Underground)
14.02.2021	9.05	Washermenpet to Wimco Nagar (Underground & Elevated)
Total	54.15	

The project cost of Phase-I has been revised from Rs.14,600 crore to Rs.18379.92 crore for which necessary approvals of the State and Central Governments have been obtained in the year 2021. As per the revised funding pattern, the Government of Tamil Nadu has released

Rs.3125.78 crore as equity (17.00%) and Rs.2752.36 crore as subordinate debt (14.98%). The Government of India has released Rs.3125.78 crore as equity (17.01%) and Rs.730.00 crore as subordinate debt (3.97%). The remaining Rs.8646.00 crore (47.04%) has been received as pass-through assistance [senior term debt] from Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA).

In respect of Phase-I Extension, as against the project cost of Rs.3770 crore, the Government of Tamil Nadu has released Rs.508.00 crore as equity and Rs.599.27 crore as subordinate debt. Similarly, the Government of India has released Rs.508.00 crore as equity, Rs.205.00 crore as subordinate debt. Rs.2141.00 crore was received as pass-through assistance - senior term debt from JICA.

4.3.2 Phase-I Operations

The entire Phase-I, covering a total length of 54.1 km under the Chennai Metro Rail Project, is fully operational. The ridership has been on an upswing and showing increasing trend in 2023-24. The passenger growth of 131 % has

been achieved in 2023-24, when compared to 2019-20. Further, efforts are constantly being made by CMRL to increase ridership by improving last mile connectivity, by introducing trip cards with discounted fares, access improvements and multimodal integration. Kathipara Urban Square and Central Square are a few iconic examples of multimodal integration, which facilitate seamless transfer to other modes of transport, taken up by CMRL with financial assistance from Chennai Metropolitan Development Authority (CMDA). To improve last mile connectivity, minibuses were launched by the Government from time to time, based on their performance. Other modes of last mile connectivity such as Smart Bikes, Uber, Ola, share autos etc. are being encouraged and deployed on a regular basis.

4.3.3 Chennai Metro Rail Project – Phase – II

The Government of Tamil Nadu, in April 2017, accorded in-principle approval for the Phase-II project covering three metro rail corridors with a total length of 107.55 Km and recommended it to the Government of India for its approval, funding, and for obtaining external loan assistance from bilateral/ multilateral

agencies. The Government has subsequently decided to extend one of the Phase-II corridors viz. Corridor-4 from Lighthouse to Poonamallee via Vadapalani and Porur, in response to the findings of the updated Comprehensive Mobility Plan (CMP) for Chennai Metropolitan Area and to modify certain underground stretches in Corridor-5 as elevated to reduce costs. Accordingly, a Comprehensive Detailed Project Report (DPR) was prepared by M/s. RITES Limited.

4.3.4 Approval of Phase-II project

The Government of Tamil Nadu accorded in-principle approval to Phase-II of the Chennai Metro Rail Project involving three Metro Rail corridors covering a total length of 118.9 Km at an estimated cost of Rs.69,180 crore in January 2019 and recommended to the Government of India for their approval, funding, and external loan assistance.

In the meantime, based on the suggestions of the Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs on benchmarking for cost estimation of metro rail projects and in compliance with the New Metro

Rail Policy of Government of India, the cost estimate for Phase-II of the Chennai Metro Rail Project has been revised to Rs.61,843 crore (excluding IDC and Front-end fee) and Rs.63,246 crore including IDC and Front-end Fee. The revised cost has also been sent to the Government of India for their approval and funding. The Government of India has been requested to sanction the entire Phase-II of Chennai Metro Rail Project under 50:50 equity sharing basis, as was done for Phase-I of Chennai Metro Rail Project. This is the largest Metro Rail Project in India, taken up in a single phase.

The announcement for counterpart funding for the Phase-II project has been made in the Union Budget Speech for 2021-22. In August, 2021 the project has also been recommended by the Public Investment Board (PIB) as Central Sector Project under equity sharing model. However, final approval of Government of India is still awaited.

4.3.5 Approved Phase-II corridors and metro stations

- ❖ **Corridor-3:** Madhavaram to Siruseri SIPCOT (45.8 Km) is a North-South Corridor connecting the prime locations like IT Corridor, Adayar, Mylapore, and Purasaiwalkam;
- ❖ **Corridor-4:** Lighthouse to Poonamallee Bypass (26.1 Km) is the East-West Corridor covering the commercial hubs of the city viz. Nandanam, T.Nagar, Vadapalani, Porur and Poonamallee;
- ❖ **Corridor-5:** Madhavaram to Sholinganallur (47.0 Km) is the orbital corridor connecting prime locations viz., Villivakkam, Anna Nagar, Koyambedu, Virugambakkam, Ramapuram, Madipakkam, and Medavakkam;

The details of metro stations proposed under Phase-II are as follows:

Corridors	Elevated Stations	Underground Stations	Total
Corridor-3	20	30	50
Corridor-4	18	12	30
Corridor-5	42	6	48
Total	80	48	128

4.3.6 Funding tie ups for Phase-II

The funding for sections from Madhavaram to Sholinganallur (35.67 km) of Corridor -3 and from Madhavaram to CMBT (16.34 km) of Corridor-5, with a total length of 52.01 km, has been tied up with Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA). The loan agreement with JICA for 1st tranche amounting to 75 Billion 519 Million Japanese Yen, was signed in December 2018 and the 2nd tranche of the loan amounting to 73 Billion Japanese Yen has been signed in March 2022.

The funding for implementation of Corridor-4 from Lighthouse to Poonamallee Bypass (26.1 km), the remaining stretches in Corridor -3 from Sholinganallur to Siruseri SIPCOT (10.13 km) and for Corridor -5 from CMBT to Sholinganallur (30.66 km) has also been fully tied up with the Asian Development Bank (ADB), Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank (AIIB) and New Development Bank (NDB). The Loan Agreement for the AIIB was signed in October, 2021 for Asian Development Bank in December, 2022 and in respect of NDB in July 2023.

4.3.7 Implementation of Phase-II project as State Sector

The Government, in January 2019, has accorded administrative sanction for implementation of JICA funded stretches, treating the project as a "State Sector Project" without prejudice to the participation of the Government of India in the project. The Government, in July 2020, has also accorded administrative sanction for implementing the Corridor-4 and balance stretches of Corridor-3 and 5, treating the project as a "State Sector Project" without prejudice to the participation of the Government of India in the project.

The Government of Tamil Nadu has sanctioned Rs.5400.00 crore as share capital and Rs.12013.89 crore as subordinate debt upto 31-03-2024 for implementing the Phase-II project. With the funding from the State Government, the Chennai Metro Rail Limited after completing soil investigations have prepared detailed designs. The major contracts for construction of elevated/ underground viaducts, stations and for installation of systems have been awarded. In this regard, CMRL, based on its

cumulative experience of successfully implementing Phase-I, has introduced several innovative design elements such as optimization of station sizes, platform length, ventilation systems etc. without compromising on statutory standards. These innovations are being replicated, by other upcoming Metros in India. All stations have been planned to be disabled friendly and also to comply with IGBC Green building standards, thus addressing both social and environmental requirements.

The civil construction works covering the total length of 118.9 Km are under steady progress at the scheduled pace. CMRL is also taking abundant care and precaution to ensure safety and minimise inconvenience to the citizens of the city during the construction phase.

4.3.8 Phase-I Extension - From Airport to Kilambakkam Bus Terminal

With a view to ameliorate the traffic congestion on the GST Road, which is a gateway to the southern parts of Tamil Nadu, and provide intermodal connectivity to the upcoming Kilambakkam Bus terminal, the Government

accorded approval in January 2020 to prepare the Detailed Feasibility Report (DFR) / Detailed Project Report (DPR) for extension of Corridor-1 of the Chennai Metro Rail from Airport to Kilambakkam Bus Terminal. The Detailed Project Report prepared by M/s. AECOM is now under active consideration of the State Government for posing the same to Government of India for their approval, equity participation, funding and external assistance by bilateral / multilateral banks.

4.3.9 Phase-II Extensions

The Government has issued orders in July, 2022 for preparation of Detailed Feasibility Reports for extension of following Phase-II corridors by CMRL:-

- i. Extension of Corridor-3 from Siruseri to Kelambakkam
- ii. Extension of Corridor-3 from Kelambakkam to Kilambakkam Bus Terminal via Mambakkam and Vandalur.

- iii. Extension of Corridor-4 from Poonamallee Bypass to Sriperumbudur.
- iv. Extension of Corridor-5 from Thirumangalam to Avadi via Mogappair and Ambattur.

The Consultant Firms have submitted the Detailed Feasibility Reports and they are under Government scrutiny.

5. MRTS in Tier-II Cities

In order to address the growing traffic congestion and travel demand in Tier-II cities, the Government of Tamil Nadu instituted detailed feasibility studies for Mass Rapid Transit System in Coimbatore, Madurai, Salem, Tiruchirappalli and Tirunelveli as per the guidelines issued by the Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs. The reports have been submitted by CMRL.

The Detailed Project Reports for Coimbatore and Madurai Metro Rail Projects have been

submitted by CMRL, the summary of which are as follows:-

Coimbatore Metro	Madurai Metro
<p>Corridor 1: From Ukkadam Bus Stand to Airport via Neelambur Integrated Station (20.4 km)</p> <p>Corridor 2: From Coimbatore Junction to Valiyampalayam Pirivu (14.4 km)</p> <p>(Total 34.8 Km completely elevated)</p>	<p>Thirumangalam to Othakadai 32 km</p> <p>Elevated : 26.5 km</p> <p>Underground : 5.5 km</p> <p>(The underground stretch will be at the central part of the city)</p>
Total Completion Cost	
Rs. 10,740.49 Crore	Rs. 11,368.35 Crore

The above two Project proposals have been recommended to Government of India for funding under 50:50 equity sharing basis and the same are under the consideration of the Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs.

6. Formation of Joint Sector SPV between CMRL and TIDCO to implement Commercial Projects:

The Government in February 2024 issued orders on the formation of a joint venture SPV in the name of "Chennai Metro Asset Management Limited" with 50:50 equity participation between Chennai Metro Rail Limited (CMRL) and Tamil Nadu Industrial Development Corporation (TIDCO) for development of integrated commercial space with available land parcels of the agencies of Government of Tamil Nadu. The projects, viz, Developing 27 floor commercial building near Central Square and Multimodal Facility complex at Broadway bus stand and Kuralagam are being taken up by joint-venture SPV. Detailed Project Reports are under preparation for the Integrated Development of Bus terminals at Vadapalani, Anna Nagar West, K.K. Nagar and Mandaveli.

THANGAM THENARASU
MINISTER FOR FINANCE AND HUMAN
RESOURCES MANAGEMENT



The Fourth Meeting of the State Planning Commission was conducted under the Chairmanship of the Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu and Chairman of the State Planning Commission, Thiru M.K. Stalin, on 22.09.2023 at the Secretariat in Chennai.



The Subway constructed at a cost of Rs. 9.75 crore near the Rajiv Gandhi Government General Hospital and Chennai Medical College and across the intersection of Evening Bazaar Road and Poonamallee High road was inaugurated on behalf of Chennai Metro Rail Limited, under Central Square Project, through Video Conference by the Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu Thiru M.K.Stalin on 27.02.2024. The event was attended to by the Hon'ble Minister for Religious Endowments, Member of Parliament Central Chennai and Senior Government Officials.



Dr. J. Jeyaranjan, Vice Chairman, State Planning Commission submitted 11 Study Reports prepared by the State Planning Commission, to the Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu, Thiru M. K. Stalin, on 12.03.2024, at Secretariat. Thiru Ramesh Chand Meena, IAS Additional Chief Secretary to Government, Planning, Development & Special Initiatives Department was present during the event.



Tamil Nadu Technology Hub (iTNT) portal funded under TANII scheme was launched by the Hon'ble Minister for Youth Welfare and Sports Development Thiru. Udhayanidhi Stalin, Hon'ble Ministers Dr. Palanivel Thiaga Rajan, T.M. Anbarasan and other dignitaries participated in the event.



The Eighth Steering Committee Meeting under the partnership of Government of Tamil Nadu and Abdul Latif Jameel Research Laboratory on Poverty for South Asia was held on 22.08.2023 at Secretariat, Chennai under the Chairmanship of Hon'ble Minister for Finance and Human Resource Management



Special Area Development Programme has funded the Construction of new Accident and Emergency Block at Govt. Hospital Kotagiri at an estimated cost of Rs.3.03 crore for the benefit of the Public and the Hon'ble Minister for Health on 08.02.2024 in the presence of Hon'ble Minister for Tourism.



16 new BS VI-4200 mm wheel based buses for improving the Transport facilities in The Nilgiris District were procured under Special Area Development Programme at an estimated cost of Rs.5.874 crore and inaugurated by the Hon'ble Minister for Transport on 25.02.2024 in the presence of Member of Parliament of The Nilgiris District.



Leaf Collection Vehicles were procured under Special Area Development Programme at a cost of Rs.2.26 Crore for Industrial Cooperative Tea Factories for the benefit of 26,000 Small Tea Growers in The Nilgiris District and inaugurated on 06.03.2024 by the Hon'ble Minister for Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises and Hon'ble Minister for Tourism.



State Planning Commission conducted a consultative workshop with stakeholders in collaboration with British Deputy High Commission for developing “Heat Mitigation Strategy for Tamil Nadu” on 14.02.2024



Establishment and Operationalisation of SIPCOT industrial innovation Centres in Sriperumbudur and Hosur industrial Parks under Tamil Nadu Innovation Initiatives (TANII) Scheme.



Sustainable Development Goals Coordination Centre has been formed in the Planning and Development Department in association with the United Nations Development Programme.



Tamil Nadu Sustainable Development Goals Coordination Centre Team, along with Team of officials from Department of Planning and Development, Finance Department, State Planning Commission and Department of Economics and Statistics visited Haryana's Sustainable Development Goals Coordination Centre on a Learning cum Exposure visit.



A 60-member team comprising Panchayat Leaders, representatives of the Sustainable Development Goals Coordination Centre and Officers from various Departments visited the Kerala Institute of Local Administration to understand the implementation of Sustainable Development Goals at the Panchayat Level and gain insight into various best practices.



An interaction between the Nobel Laureate and Member Economic Advisory Council to the Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu, Prof. Esther Duflo, JPAL–South Asia Researchers and the SDGCC Team was organised on 23.08.2023 for working together towards evidence creation for programmatic inputs.



Crop Assessment Refresher Training – Kanniyakumari District



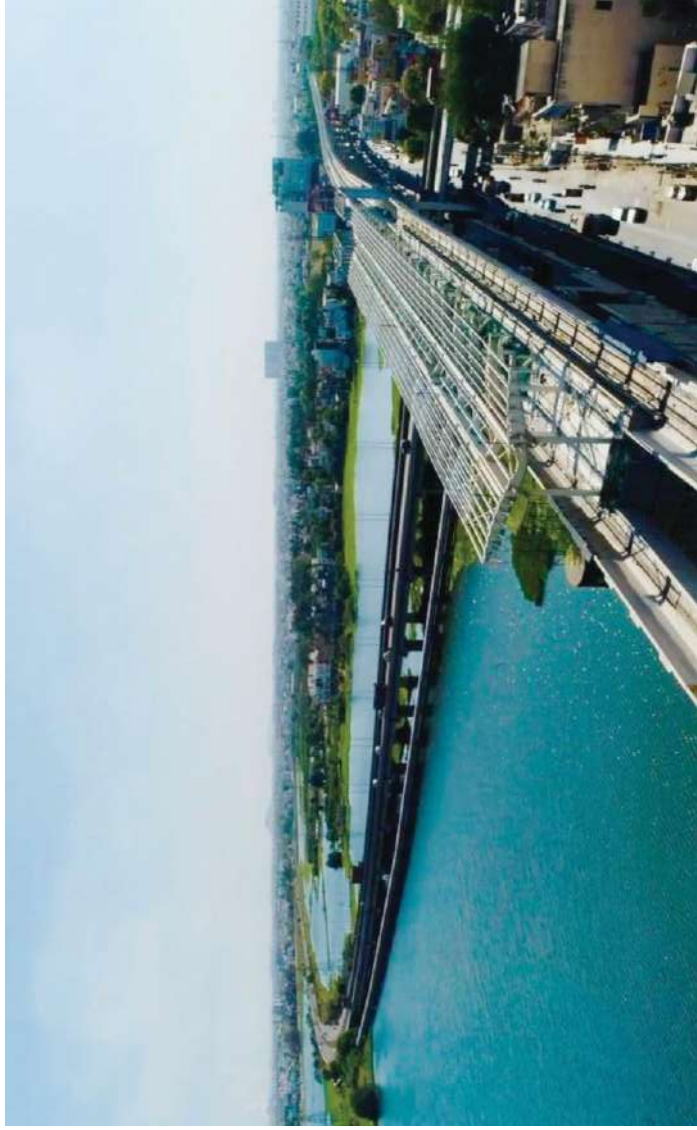
Paddy Crop Cutting Experiment - Salem District



Chilli Crop Cutting Experiment - Tiruvallur District



Chennai Metro Rail Project – Phase II
Corridor 4 – Alapakkam Launching of Girder



Chennai Metro Rail Project – Phase II
Corridor 4 – Porur Bypass Station - Roof works



Chennai Metro Rail Project – Phase II
Corridor 4 – Viaduct from Karayanchavadi to Mullaitthottam



SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS
TAMIL NADU