RURAL DEVELOPMENT AND PANCHAYAT RAJ DEPARTMENT

POLICY NOTE
2026 - 2027

DEMAND No. 42

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Minister for Rural Development and Water Resources

TABLE OF CONTENTS

1. Introduction

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"The best, quickest and most efficient way is to build up from the bottom. Every village has to become a self-sufficient republic. This does not require brave resolutions. It requires brave, collective, intelligent work."

- Mahatma Gandhi

The Government accords the highest priority to rural development and decentralised governance, recognising that the progress of rural areas is fundamental to the State's overall socio-economic growth. With more than half of the State's population residing in rural areas, the Government is implementing an inclusive development strategy that improves infrastructure, livelihoods and public services in every village, carried forward by the Rural Development and Panchayat Raj Department through the three tiers of the Panchayat Raj Institutions.

This Policy Note presents a comprehensive policy framework for rural Tamil Nadu under the vision of *"Vetri Tamizhagam"*. The Vetri Tamizhagam Vision Document adopted by the Government envisions villages governed by efficient and transparent Panchayats; served by urban-grade infrastructure, clean water, connectivity and housing for all; and driven forward by empowered women, thriving rural enterprise and assured employment. The programmes of the Department for 2026-27 translate this vision into action.

2. Vision

2. Vision

We envision a rural Tamil Nadu where digitally empowered and vibrant local bodies nurture self-reliant and resilient communities; where robust infrastructure and sustainable growth secure an enhanced standard of living; and where rural poverty is fully eradicated and a dignified livelihood is assured for all.

Each element of this vision has a concrete meaning in the daily life of the people in rural areas. A digitally empowered village is one where every household can access Government services, entitlements and information without travelling to a block or district office. A self-reliant village meets its needs from its own resources — raising revenue, maintaining its assets and deciding its local priorities. Robust infrastructure means all-weather roads, assured drinking water, dependable street lighting and sound economic and social assets; sustainable growth means development that raises incomes and living standards today without depleting the land, water and natural resources on which the next generation will depend. An enhanced standard of living is felt in everyday life — clean drinking water at the doorstep, a safe and well-lit street, a proper toilet, a pucca house and a village that is clean and dignified to live in. A dignified livelihood is a work that provides not merely an income but security, respect and the confidence to plan for the future — through wage employment, self-employment or enterprise.

This vision aligns rural transformation with the Localisation of the Sustainable Development Goals (LSDGs) across the Department's entire portfolio. Livelihoods, housing and women's empowerment build a

Poverty-free village with enhanced livelihoods, a Socially just and socially secured village and a Women-friendly village, advancing No Poverty (SDG 1), Zero Hunger (SDG 2), Gender Equality (SDG 5), Decent Work and Economic Growth (SDG 8) and Reduced Inequalities (SDG 10). Drinking water, sanitation and waste management build a Water-sufficient village, a clean and green village and a Healthy village, advancing Clean Water and Sanitation (SDG 6) and Good Health and Well-being (SDG 3), while the protection of water bodies from untreated discharge safeguards Life Below Water (SDG 14). Roads, community assets, renewable energy and digital connectivity build a Village with self-sufficient infrastructure, advancing Affordable and Clean Energy (SDG 7), Industry, Innovation and Infrastructure (SDG 9), Sustainable Cities and Communities (SDG 11), Responsible Consumption and Production (SDG 12) and Climate Action (SDG 13). Transparent, participatory and accountable Panchayats build a Village with good governance, advancing Peace, Justice and Strong Institutions (SDG 16) and Partnerships for the Goals (SDG 17).

The policy framework rests on three Pillars — **Poverty Alleviation, Improving Quality of Life and Strengthening Governance** — under which the entire programme of the Department for 2026-27 is organised.

The First Pillar, **Poverty Alleviation**, ensures dignified livelihoods for all rural households, expands affordable housing and promotes the economic and social empowerment of women through Self-Help Groups, entrepreneurship and financial inclusion. The Government has adopted a comprehensive approach encompassing guaranteed wage employment under VB-GRAM, quality housing for every eligible family under Vetri Veedu Thittam with modern construction technologies and adequate plinth area, and the strengthening of the Self-Help Group movement — through initiatives such as the *Singappenngal Valimaippaduthum Thittam* — as the prime vehicle for rural women's access to credit, income-generating activities, leadership and participation in local governance. Special focus is placed on women, Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes, persons with disabilities and other vulnerable groups, with universal access to drinking water and household toilets completing the foundation of a dignified life.

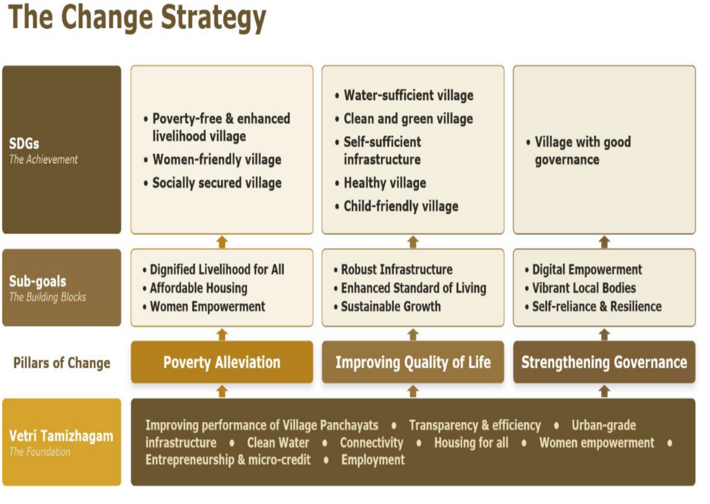
The Second Pillar, **Improving Quality of Life**, creates resilient public infrastructure and raises living standards through climate-resilient and environmentally sustainable development. Its centrepiece is TN-VETRI, the integrated development initiative of the Department, under which the infrastructure of every Village Panchayat — drinking water, sanitation, rural connectivity, community assets, and the special needs of Hilly and Peri-Urban Panchayats — is assessed as a whole and developed through need-based, gap-based and geography-based planning, in alignment with the Central schemes implemented in the State. Roads, Educational Institutions, Anganwadi centres, community halls and other public assets, together with effective waste management and sanitation, are being strengthened to improve public health, dignity and environmental sustainability.

The Third Pillar, **Strengthening Governance**, prioritises the digital transformation of Rural Local Bodies, institutional capacity building, sound financial management and citizen participation, so that Village Panchayats become self-reliant, resilient and capable of responding to future developmental challenges. Capacity building of elected representatives and functionaries, participatory village development planning, strengthened own-source revenue, digital service delivery, timely grievance redressal and social audit together underpin transparent and accountable local government.

Through these three Pillars, the Department is pursuing medium-term and long-term strategies for resilient, financially empowered, environmentally sustainable and citizen-centric Rural Local Bodies. Digital governance initiatives are improving administrative efficiency, transparency, monitoring and citizen service delivery, while sustainability is integrated into rural development through water conservation, renewable energy, natural resource management and climate-resilient infrastructure. The Department remains committed to building resilient, self-reliant and prosperous rural communities, ensuring an improved quality of life and sustainable development for all.

Progress under this vision is measured. The **Panchayat Advancement Index (PAI)**, the national framework of the Ministry of Panchayati Raj, assesses the development and performance of every Gram Panchayat against the Localisation of the Sustainable Development Goals; the

State Government is further developing its own expanded **Panchayat Development Index (PDI)** to capture the priorities of Tamil Nadu's villages. The Change Strategy depicted below shows how the Vetri Tamizhagam vision flows through the three Pillars of Change and their building blocks into the village outcomes of the LSDGs — the chain along which this Policy Note is organised and progress will be measured.



This Policy Note accordingly presents an overview of the State's rural profile, the governance architecture and institutional arrangements of the Panchayat Raj Institutions, their financial framework, developmental achievements and the key challenges confronting Rural Local Bodies, and then sets out, Pillar by Pillar, the policy interventions and programmes proposed for 2026-27 — towards administrative efficiency, better public service delivery, sustainable management of rural assets, stronger local democracy, digital transformation and accelerated, inclusive rural development.

3. Panchayat Raj - Overview

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The Panchayati Raj Institutions (PRIs) in Tamil Nadu derive their constitutional authority from Part IX of the Constitution of India (Articles 243 to 243-O), inserted by the 73rd Constitutional Amendment Act, 1992, which came into force on 24th April 1993. The State has implemented these provisions through the Tamil Nadu Panchayats Act, 1994.

The Rural Development and Panchayat Raj Department plays a central role in advancing this vision by strengthening rural infrastructure, enhancing service delivery, promoting sustainable livelihoods, and empowering Panchayat Raj Institutions. The three-tier Panchayat Raj system comprising Village Panchayats, Panchayat Unions, and District Panchayats serves as the foundation of grassroots democracy, ensuring participatory planning and effective local governance through Gram Sabhas and other community-based institutions.

In line with the Seventy-third Constitutional Amendment, the Government aims to strengthen Panchayat Raj Institutions through the devolution of functions, funds, and functionaries, while promoting transparency, accountability, capacity building and sound financial management. Community participation, habitation-level planning, and convergence of development programmes are emphasised to ensure equitable and need-based development.

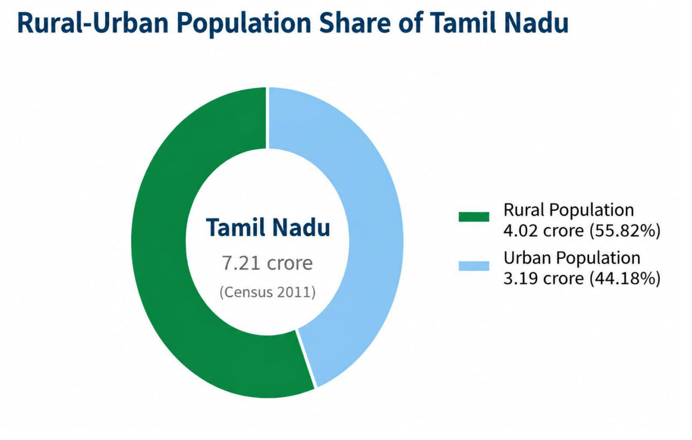
3.1. Rural Demographic Profile

Table No.1

Population Profile (Census 2011)

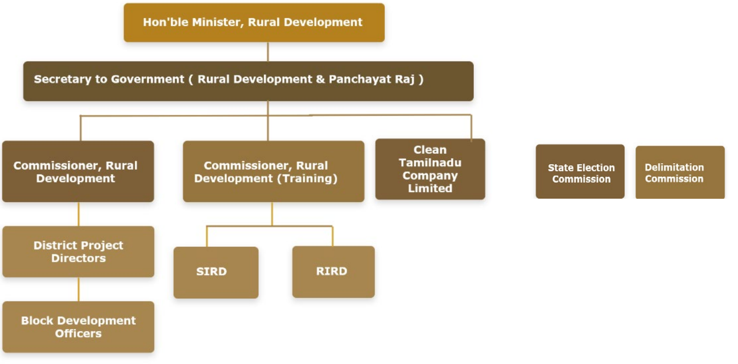
Indicator	Total	Male	Female
Total Population (Census)	7,21,38,958	3,61,58,871	3,59,80,087
Rural Population	4,02,65,526	2,02,02,709	2,00,62,817

More than **55.82 per cent** of Tamil Nadu's population resides in rural areas, highlighting the critical role played by Rural Local Bodies in delivering civic services, implementing welfare programmes, creating public infrastructure, promoting livelihoods, and facilitating inclusive development. The size and diversity of the rural population require a robust governance framework capable of addressing varying developmental needs across geographically diverse regions, including coastal belts, hilly terrains, tourism zones, drought-prone areas, and agriculturally intensive regions.



3.2. Departmental Administrative Hierarchy

The Rural Development and Panchayat Raj Department functions through a well-structured and decentralised institutional framework that extends from the State Secretariat to the Village Panchayat level, ensuring effective governance, efficient implementation of development programmes, and delivery of public services across rural Tamil Nadu.



The Department is headed by the Hon'ble Minister for Rural Development, who provides overall policy direction, while the Secretary to Government is responsible for policy formulation, legislative matters, administrative oversight, financial planning, and coordination with various Government Departments. The Commissioner of Rural

Development and Panchayat Raj functions as the Head of the Department and is entrusted with the implementation of Government policies, administration of rural development programmes, strengthening of Panchayat Raj Institutions, monitoring of Rural Local Bodies, and overall supervision of departmental activities throughout the State.

The Commissioner of Rural Development (Training) is responsible for capacity building and professional development of Government officials and elected representatives through structured training programmes. The Tamil Nadu State Election Commission is constitutionally mandated to conduct free and fair elections to Rural and Urban Local Bodies, while the Tamil Nadu Delimitation Commission undertakes delimitation of territorial constituencies and fixation of ward boundaries to ensure equitable representation in accordance with statutory provisions.

Rural Development and Panchayat Raj Department has separate gazetted officers in the cadre of Additional Director, Joint Director and Assistant Director cadre who are governed by Tamil Nadu Panchayat Development Service Rules. Block Development Officers are governed by Tamil Nadu Panchayat Development Subordinate Service rule.

At the district level, the District Collector functions as the Inspector of Panchayats and exercises overall supervision and control over Rural Local Bodies within the district. Moreover, District Collector serves as the principal coordinating institution for rural development programmes, assisted by the Project Director, Executive Engineer, Assistant Project Officers. The Project Director, District Rural Development Agency (DRDA), is responsible for planning, coordinating, implementing, and monitoring major rural development programmes and flagship schemes. The Assistant Directors (Panchayats & Audit) oversee Panchayat administration, statutory compliance, and institutional governance, ensure financial discipline, audit compliance, and accountability in Rural Local Bodies. Assistant Executive Engineers having the responsibility of technical supervision in the technical subdivisions comprise of blocks.

At the block level, the Block Development Officers supervise the implementation of Government schemes, provide technical guidance to Village Panchayats, coordinate developmental activities, and monitor programme performance, he is assisted by technical officers- Assistant Engineers/Block Engineers, Overseers and Road Inspectors.

At the Village Panchayat level, Panchayat Secretaries, Village-level functionaries, technical personnel, and other field staff assist the elected Village Panchayats in maintaining statutory records, implementing development works, managing local finances, delivering essential public services, and ensuring compliance with the provisions of the Tamil Nadu Panchayats Act, 1994, and the rules framed thereunder. They also serve as the primary interface between the Government and rural communities, facilitating citizen participation and effective grassroots governance.

Institutional support for strengthening local governance is provided through the State Institute of Rural Development (SIRD) and the Regional Institutes of Rural Development (RIRDs), which organise induction training, refresher courses, thematic workshops, research activities, and capacity-building programmes for Government officials, elected representatives, and other stakeholders.

3.3. Panchayat Raj Institutions

3.3.1.Evolution of Local Self-Government and Panchayat Raj in Tamil Nadu

Mahatma Gandhi championed village self-governance, an ideal reflected in Article 40 of the Constitution, which directs the State to organise Village Panchayats. Even under British rule, Viceroys Mayo and Ripon promoted local self-government. The

Balwantrai Mehta Committee (1957) recommended a three-tier Panchayat Raj system, implemented from 1960, though PRIs remained weakened by poor representation of SCs, STs and women, and limited powers and finances.

Tamil Nadu's tradition of local self-governance dates to inscriptions at the Sri Vaikundavasa Perumal Temple, Uthiramerur (c. 920 A.D., under Parantaka Chola), which record a written constitution for village assemblies with election procedures and eligibility norms. Under the "Kuda Olai Murai," voters wrote candidates' names on palm leaves and dropped them into a mud pot serving as a ballot box—a remarkable democracy within a monarchy and a precursor to modern elections. This system declined under colonial rule.

Local governance later evolved through the Acts of 1854, 1871 and 1884 (creating District Boards, Taluk Boards and Village Panchayats), the 1920 Acts, and the Madras Village Panchayats Act, 1950. The Madras Panchayats Act, 1958 established a two-tier system of Village Panchayats and Panchayat Unions.

The 73rd Constitutional Amendment (1993) gave Panchayats constitutional status, and the Tamil Nadu Panchayats Act, 1994 created a three-tier system with directly elected members, reservations for SCs/STs and women (50% since 2016), a State Election Commission, State Finance Commissions and District Planning Committees. Functions related to all 29 Eleventh Schedule subjects have been devolved, making Panchayats vital active agents for grassroots development.

3.3.2. Panchayat Raj System

The Panchayat Raj System in Tamil Nadu functions through a constitutionally mandated three-tier structure comprising District Panchayats, Block (Panchayat Union) Panchayats, and Village Panchayats. Each tier performs distinct yet complementary functions within the framework of rural governance, while the devolution of financial resources follows the principle of subsidiarity, ensuring that the largest share of funds is allocated to Village Panchayats, where essential public services are delivered directly to citizens.

Table No. 2

Panchayat – Three Tier System

Tier	Number of RLBs	Elected Leadership	Executive Leadership
District Panchayat	37	District Panchayat Chairman	District Panchayat Secretary
Block Panchayat	397	Block Panchayat Chairman	Block Development Officer

Tier	Number of RLBs	Elected Leadership	Executive Leadership
Village Panchayat	12,571	Village Panchayat President	Block Development Officer (Village Panchayats)/ Village Panchayat President

Village Panchayats serve as the primary institutions for local planning, drinking water supply, sanitation, street lighting, maintenance of community assets, rural roads, environmental management, and implementation of Central and State Government programmes. Block Panchayats provide technical coordination, programme implementation support, and inter-village infrastructure, while District Panchayats undertake district-level planning, coordination, monitoring, and policy oversight.

3.3.3 Rural Local Bodies Reorganisation

The administrative structure of Rural Local Bodies in Tamil Nadu has evolved continuously in response to demographic growth, administrative convenience, and the need for improved public service delivery. The Government has undertaken periodic reorganisation through the formation of new District Panchayats, Panchayat Unions, and Village Panchayats, merger of Village Panchayats, and upgradation of eligible Village Panchayats into Town Panchayats to strengthen local governance and enhance administrative accessibility.

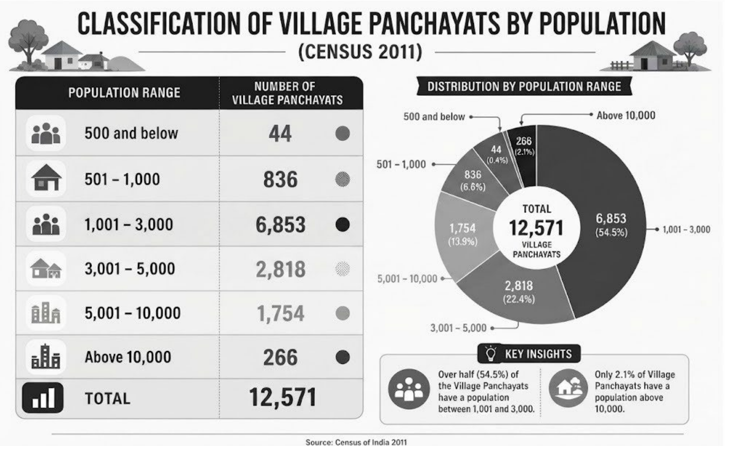
Recent reorganisation include the formation of the Mayiladuthurai District Panchayat, establishment of nine new Panchayat Unions, constitution of ninety-three new Village Panchayats, merger of two Village Panchayats in Kanyakumari District, and upgradation of Gandarvakottai Village Panchayat into a Town Panchayat.

Village Panchayats across the State vary considerably in terms of population, geographical characteristics, settlement patterns, and development potential. While most Village Panchayats have a population between 1,000 and 5,000, several have populations exceeding 10,000 and require urban-like civic infrastructure. Further, villages with special characteristics such as coastal, hilly, and tourism areas require differentiated planning, specialised infrastructure, environmental safeguards, and context-specific development interventions.

3.4. Powers and Functions of the Panchayat Raj Institutions

3.4.1. Village Panchayats

Tamil Nadu has 12,571 Village Panchayats comprising 78,997 habitations spread across 37 rural districts. The President of the Village Panchayat is its Executive Authority, and unless dissolved in accordance with law, every Village Panchayat continues in office for five years from the date appointed for its first meeting after an ordinary election. Village Panchayat-wise rural population data based on Census 2011—covering total, SC, ST and women population—were published in August 2014 in coordination with the Director of Census Operations and are available on the Rural Development and Panchayat Raj Department website.



3.4.2. Mandatory Functions (Section 110)

Every Village Panchayat shall, within its jurisdiction, undertake:

- Construction, repair and maintenance of village roads (other than Highways and Panchayat Union Roads), with connected bridges, culverts and causeways;
- Street lighting in residential areas; construction and maintenance of drainage and arrangements for its disposal;

- Street cleaning and public sanitation through Solid Waste Management; provision and maintenance of public latrines;
- Provision and maintenance of burial and cremation grounds; Supply and distribution of safe drinking water; sinking and maintenance of wells, ponds and other water bodies;
- Maintenance and preservation of community assets vested in the Panchayat, and other duties imposed by the Government by notification.

3.4.3. Discretionary Functions (Section 111)

Subject to availability of resources, Village Panchayats may undertake:

- Planting and preservation of trees and green cover;
- Lighting of public roads and places

outside built-up areas;

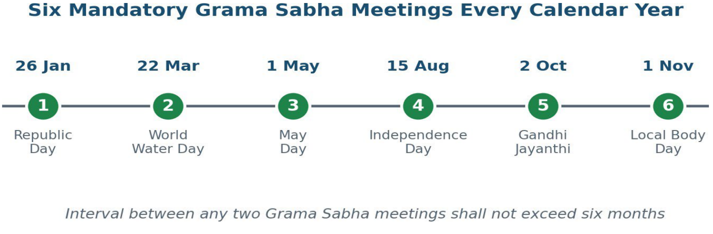
- Establishment and maintenance of public markets;
- Regulation of fairs, festivals and public gatherings;
- Provision of cart stands, cattle sheds, public slaughterhouses and reading rooms;
- Development of playgrounds, parks, gymnasiums and other recreational facilities.

3.4.4. Grama Sabha

Article 243 of the Constitution provides for the Grama Sabha as the foundation of participatory democracy at the village level. It consists of all persons on the electoral rolls of a Village Panchayat, and the interval between any two meetings must not exceed six months.

Under Section 3 of the Tamil Nadu Panchayats Act, 1994, the Grama Sabha approves the Village Development Plan, the annual budget, and the audit report of the preceding financial year; reviews the progress of all schemes executed by the Village Panchayat; and approves beneficiary lists under government schemes through special Grama Sabhas convened for that purpose.

Grama Sabha meetings are mandated 6 times every calendar year:



Under extraordinary circumstances—natural calamities, public health emergencies, pandemics, or the Model Code of Conduct during elections, mandatory meetings may not be conducted; special meetings may be convened whenever necessary. Every meeting must pass resolutions on matters placed before it, record proceedings in prescribed registers, and maintain photographic or videographic evidence. Village Panchayats may spend up to ₹5,000 to conduct a Grama Sabha or special Grama Sabha meeting.

3.4.5. Village Panchayat Development Plan (VPDP)

Article 243G of the Constitution mandates Panchayats to prepare plans for economic development and social justice, and Section 240 of the Tamil Nadu Panchayats Act, 1994 requires every Village Panchayat to prepare an annual Development Plan. To facilitate this, the People's Plan Campaign is conducted every year from 2nd October to 31st December as a participatory planning process, envisaging convergence of departmental schemes relating to the 29 subjects in the Eleventh Schedule. The VPDP aligns people’s needs and priorities with available resources through a shared vision, clear goals and a concrete action plan. The Thematic VPDP comprises 13 key stages—including constitution of the Village Panchayat Planning Facilitation Team (VPPFT), community mobilization, special Gram Sabhas, identification and prioritization of needs, finalization of the plan and its uploading on the e-Gram Swaraj Portal—thereby ensuring transparency, accountability and community ownership in planning and implementation.

3.4.6. Panchayat Unions (Block Panchayats)

At the intermediate tier, 397 Panchayat Unions function in the State. Each Union is divided into territorial wards, generally one ward for every 5,000 population. Ward Members are directly elected, while the Chairperson is elected indirectly from among the elected Ward Members. The Block Development Officer (Block Panchayat) is the Executive Authority, assisted by supporting staff.

3.4.7. Functions (Sections 112 and 114)

The Panchayat Union Council is entrusted with: construction and maintenance of classified Panchayat Union Roads with their bridges, culverts and causeways; construction and management of Panchayat Union Elementary and Middle Schools;

restoration and maintenance of water bodies under its control, including minor irrigation tanks, ponds and ooranies; preventive and remedial measures against epidemic outbreaks; conduct and regulation of classified fairs and festivals; and establishment and maintenance of Panchayat Union Markets. Under Tamil Nadu Panchayat Act 1994, Section 114, the Government may further entrust Unions with schemes and programmes relating to economic development and allied sectors.

3.4.8. Finances and Infrastructure

Panchayat Union Councils are not empowered to levy taxes. They receive non-tax revenues and assigned or shared revenues—including a share of the Pooled Assigned Revenue, fees and user charges, rentals, fines and penalties—along with

State Finance Commission grants such as the Population Grant and the Minimum Lump Sum Grant, which the Sixth State Finance Commission has enhanced to ₹40 lakh per annum per Union. As per the Fifteenth Central Finance Commission, 15 per cent of the total grant to Rural Local Bodies is earmarked for Panchayat Unions. 388 Unions have permanent office buildings; Under the Scheme Component of Pooled Assigned Revenue (SCPAR), reconstruction of 224 old and dilapidated Union office buildings has been taken up. Further, construction of Panchayat Union office building to the newly formed 9 Panchayat Unions will be taken up.

3.4.9. District Panchayats

There are 37 District Panchayats, one constituted in each district under Section 24 of the Tamil Nadu Panchayats Act, 1994. Ward Members are directly elected and the

Chairperson is elected indirectly from among them. Mayiladuthurai District, carved out of Nagapattinam, will get a separate District Panchayat in the next cycle of local body elections. In every district, an Assistant Director of the Rural Development and Panchayat Raj Department serves as Secretary to the District Panchayat with supporting staff.

For coordination with line departments, each District Panchayat constitutes Standing Committees on: (1) Food and Agriculture; (2) Industries and Labour; (3) Public Works; (4) Education; and (5) Health and Welfare including Prohibition, with power to constitute additional committees as necessary. Each Standing Committee elects its chairperson from among the elected members, and the district. Panchayat Chairperson is an ex-officio member of all Standing Committees.

3.4.10. Functions

Principal functions include: preparation of District Development Plans; compilation of administrative reports from Village Panchayats and Panchayat Union Councils into the Annual District Report; planning, coordination and review of schemes relating to agriculture, land development, animal husbandry, dairy, poultry, fisheries, rural industries and allied sectors; planning and review of rural housing programmes, particularly for Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes; and identification and prioritization of major drinking water supply schemes.

3.4.11.Finance

District Panchayats have no powers to levy taxes; the State Finance Commission Grant is their principal revenue source, supplemented in some districts by income from assets such as lands and buildings. They receive 6 per cent of the SFC Devolution Grant earmarked for Rural Local Bodies, released monthly, and 5 per cent of the Fifteenth Central Finance Commission grant to Rural Local Bodies.

3.4.12.District Planning Committee

Mandated by the Seventy-Fourth Constitutional Amendment Act, 1992, District Planning Committees are to be constituted in all 37 districts. The District Panchayat Chairperson chairs the Committee, with the District Collector as Vice-Chairperson; MPs, MLAs and representatives of urban and rural local bodies are nominated as members as per prescribed norms. The Committee prepares integrated district plans by consolidating plans received from various local bodies, and will be constituted in all rural districts after elections to both rural and urban local bodies are completed.

3.5. Resources of Rural Local Bodies in Tamil Nadu

Among the three tiers of Rural Local Bodies in Tamil Nadu, the Village Panchayat is the only tier empowered to levy and collect taxes. Village Panchayat revenue is derived from three sources: (a) Tax Revenue, (b) Non-Tax Revenue, and (c) Grants.

3.5.1. Tax Revenue

- **Property Tax:** Section 172 of the Tamil Nadu Panchayats Act, 1994 empowers Village Panchayats to levy property tax to all approved buildings within their jurisdiction, as per assessment guidelines issued in G.O. (Ms.) No. 255, RD&PR Department, dated 13.12.1999. Self-financing educational institutions were brought under the net from 2008–09. Demand for 2026–27: ₹733.84 crore.

- **Professional Tax:** Section 198-B provides for collection of professional tax from employees based on salaries or wages; employers deduct and remit the tax to the concerned Village Panchayat, which appropriates the proceeds to the Village Panchayat Fund. Demand for 2026–27: ₹351.06 crore.

- **Advertisement Tax:** Levied under Sections 198J to 198T of Tamil Nadu Panchayat Act 1994, governed by the Tamil Nadu Panchayats (Licensing of Hoardings and Levy and Collection of Advertisement Tax) Rules, 2009. The Government fixes minimum and maximum annual rates for hoardings in rural areas, and the annual rent is credited to the Village Panchayat's General Fund.

3.5.2.Non-Tax Revenue

Non-tax sources include fees for building plan and layout approval; fees on Dangerous and Offensive Trades; market fees; water charges; cart stand fees; social forestry auction proceeds; fishery rentals; 2-C patta fees; income from markets, fairs and ferries; fines and penalties; and seigniorage fees and lease amounts from mines and minerals.

- **Layout and Building Plan Approval:** Under the Tamil Nadu Combined Development and Building Rules, 2019 (Gazette No. 43, dated 04.02.2019), layouts are approved by the Village Panchayat President with prior concurrence of the Director of Town and Country Planning (or authorized Joint/Deputy Director). The President may approve residential buildings up to 10,000 sq. ft.

plinth area and commercial buildings up to 2,000 sq. ft., subject to prescribed conditions.

- **Water Charges:** A deposit of ₹1,000 is collected per household water connection, with a minimum monthly charge of ₹30. Demand for 2026-27; ₹410.47 crore.

3.6. Grants to Rural Local Bodies

3.6.1. State Finance Commission (SFC) Grants

Under the 73rd Amendment and Section 198 of the Act, SFC is constituted every five years to review local body finances, distribute net State tax revenue between the State and local bodies, determine assigned revenue shares, recommend grants-in-aid from the Consolidated Fund, and suggest measures to improve local body finances. Seven SFCs have been constituted since 1994.

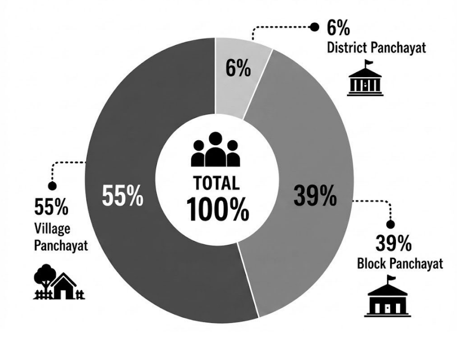
Sixth SFC (award period 2022–23 to 2026–27) was constituted on 06.03.2020 and its report was tabled in the Legislative Assembly on 13.01.2023 and most recommendations were accepted. Key recommendations: devolution of 10% of the State's own tax revenue to local bodies; rural–urban vertical sharing ratio of 51:49; and distribution among District Panchayats, Panchayat Unions and Village Panchayats in the ratio **6:39:55**. Grants fall into two major types — Special Grants and Devolution Grants.

3.6.2. (a) Special Grants.

- Capital Grant Fund (CGF).
- Operations, Maintenance and Deficit Grant Fund (OMDGF

(b) Devolution Grants: Devolution among three tiers of Panchayats

Shared among the three tiers in the ratio 6:39:55



3.6.3.Seventh SFC:

The seventh SFC was constituted on 28.05.2025. The Commission will submit its report to the government by 31.12.2026, For the award period from 01.04.2027 to 31.03.2032.

3.6.4.Pooled Assigned Revenue (PAR)

Revenue from Stamp Duty and additional taxes collected by various departments is assigned to Rural Local Bodies at the State level: one-third is distributed between Village Panchayats and Panchayat Unions, and two-thirds is earmarked for Priority Projects in rural areas. For the year 2026–27 release will be based on actual collections during 2025–26.

3.7 Central Finance Commission Grants

3.7.1.Fifteenth Central Finance Commission (2021-22 to 2025-26)

As per the recommendation of 15^{th} CFC, the ratio of tied-to-untied grant ratio is 60:40. of the tied grants, 30% is for water supply, water security, rainwater harvesting and waste recycling, and 30% for sanitation; untied grants are for specific local needs as per guidelines, excluding salary and institutional expenses. Grants are distributed among tiers in the vertical ratio: Village Panchayats 80%, Block Panchayats 15%, District Panchayats 5%.

Table No.3

15th CFC Devolution tier-wise /year wise Details

Year	Village Panchayats	Block Panchayats	District Panchayats	Total
2020-21	2885.60	541.05	180.35	3607.00
2021-22	2132.80	399.90	133.30	2666.00
2022-23	2208.80	414.15	138.05	2761.00
2023-24	2232.80	418.65	139.55	2791.00
2024-25	2365.60	443.55	147.85	2957.00
2025-26	*510.34	95.68	31.89	637.91
Total	**11825.60**	**2312.98**	**770.99**	**15419.91**

*FY 2025-26 15th CFC Grants – 9 Districts

Table No.4

Vertical distribution among three tiers of panchayats

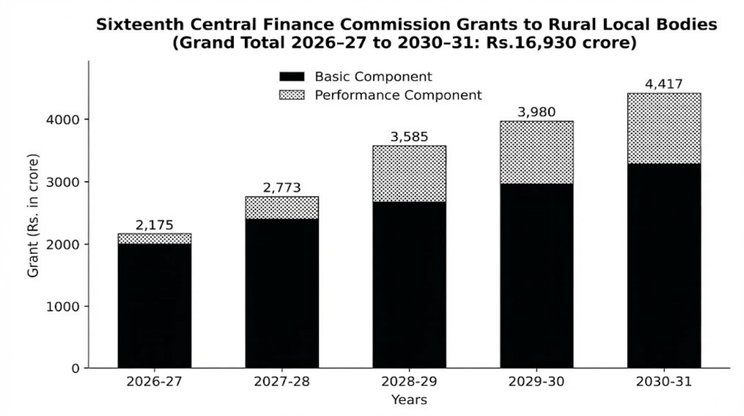
District Panchayat	5%
Block Panchayat	15%
Village Panchayat	80%

3.7.2. 16th Central Finance Commission Grants:

The details of the three-tier distribution for the entire tenure of the Sixteenth Finance Commission are shown below:

- The tenure of the Sixteenth Central Finance Commission is from 2026-27 to 2030-31. The ratio for tied and untied grants has been fixed at 50:50.
- Out of the tied grants, 25% is allocated for water supply, water security, rainwater harvesting, and waste recycling, and the remaining 25% is for sanitation.

- The untied grants are to be used for specific local needs as per the guidelines, excluding salary and institutional expenses. As indicated in Sixteenth Central Finance Commission's recommendation, the grants are distributed among the respective tiers of Panchayats based on the recommendations of the State Finance Commission (SFC). The vertical distribution ratio for the three tiers of rural local governance is as follows:



3.8.The National Panchayat Awards:

The National Panchayat Awards, conferred by the Ministry of Panchayati Raj, recognize outstanding performance by Panchayats across priority sectors and themes, and carry financial incentives for the awardees.

3.8.1. Main Award Categories:

- Deen Dayal Upadhyay Panchayat Satat Vikas Puraskar **(DDUPSV)** – Awards for outstanding performance under specific Localized Sustainable Development Goal (LSDG) themes.

- Nanaji Deshmukh Sarvottam Panchayat Satat Vikas Puraskar **(NDSPSV)** – Award for overall excellence across all nine LSDG themes.

3.8.2. Special Award Categories:

- **Gram Urja Swaraj Award** – Village energy self-reliance.
- **Carbon Neutral Awa**rd – Promotion of carbon neutrality.
- **Atma Nirbhar Panchayat Award** – Excellence in own-source revenue mobilization.
- **Climate Action Award** – Effective climate change mitigation and adaptation initiatives.
- **Panchayat Kshamta Nirmaan Sarvottam Sansthan Puraskar** – Recognition of institutions providing outstanding capacity-building and support to Gram Panchayats.

3.9. Elections to Rural Local Bodies in Tamil Nadu

3.9.1. History and Status of Elections

The first ordinary elections under the Tamil Nadu Panchayats Act, 1994 were held in 1996, followed by elections in 2001, 2006, 2011, 2019 and 2021. District Panchayat and Panchayat Union elections are conducted on a party basis, while Village Panchayat elections are non-party. Elections were held in 27 districts in December 2019, and in the nine newly created districts after delimitation in October 2021. Representatives in the new districts assumed office on 20.10.2021 with tenure ending on 19.10.2026. In the remaining 28 districts, elected representatives served from 06.01.2020 to 05.01.2025.

3.9.2. State Election Commission and Delimitation Commission

The Tamil Nadu State Election Commission was established in 1994 as an independent, autonomous constitutional authority to conduct elections to urban and rural Local Bodies, with superintendence, direction and control over preparation of electoral rolls. Under Section 28 of the Tamil Nadu Panchayat Act 1994, ward delimitation must be undertaken after every census; the State Delimitation Commission has been constituted under Section 12 of the Tamil Nadu Delimitation Commission Act, 2017.

4.Pillars of Change

4. Pillars of Change

The Vetri Tamizhagam Change Strategy provides a structured framework for achieving sustainable rural transformation in Tamil Nadu by aligning development initiatives with the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). The strategy is founded on strengthening Village Panchayats and is driven by three core pillars: Poverty Alleviation, Improving Quality of Life, and Strengthening Governance. These pillars promote dignified livelihoods, quality infrastructure, digital empowerment, and resilient Rural Local Bodies. Through targeted interventions, the framework aims to create poverty-free, water-secure, clean, healthy, child-friendly, and well-governed villages. It offers a comprehensive roadmap for inclusive, equitable, and sustainable rural development while empowering communities and strengthening grassroots governance.

4.1. First Pillar: Poverty Alleviation

The First Pillar, Poverty Alleviation, emphasises on ensuring dignified livelihoods for all rural households, expanding affordable housing, and promoting women's economic and social empowerment through Self-Help Groups, entrepreneurship, and financial inclusion.

This would fulfill the objectives of LSDGs-Poverty-free and enhanced livelihood village, a Socially just and socially secured village, and a Women-friendly village, with rural housing and community asset creation also contributing to a Village with self-sufficient infrastructure. Guaranteed wage employment, self-help group enterprise, skill development and micro-credit linkage together advance the universal goals of No Poverty (SDG 1), Zero Hunger (SDG 2), Gender Equality (SDG 5), Decent Work and Economic Growth (SDG 8) and Reduced Inequalities (SDG 10), while a secure home for every family supports Sustainable Cities and Communities (SDG 11).

4.1.1. Housing

Housing as a Social Enabler

A permanent house is a basic human need as food and clothing, and for a rural family it is far more than shelter. A child studies better under a roof that does not leak; a mother's health improves in a dwelling that keeps out rain, heat and vermin; a family's savings grow when they are no longer spent each season on rebuilding walls of mud and thatch. A house is therefore not merely a welfare benefit but a social enabler and an economic asset — it confers dignity and security of tenure, gives the family a stable address through which it becomes visible to every welfare institution of the State, releases household income for education, nutrition and enterprise, and creates an asset that appreciates across generations, while withstanding the cyclones, floods and heat that rural Tamil Nadu increasingly faces. Providing a permanent pucca house to every rural family that lacks one is a foremost priority of this Government.

4.1.2.The Vision of the Government

State has adopted the *Vetri Tamizhagam – Vision Document* as the State's governance roadmap to transform Tamil Nadu into a socially inclusive, economically prosperous and equitable State. One of the key commitments of the *Vetri Tamizhagam – Vision Document* is “Housing for All”, under which this Government has resolved that every eligible rural poor family shall be provided a safe, durable and permanent house, and has set before the State the goal of five lakh new houses.

Despite the implementation of various Central and State programmes over the years, a significant number of rural families continue to live in huts, mud-wall houses and structurally weak dwellings. With the sustained rise in the cost of materials and labour, the unit assistance available under the existing schemes is no longer adequate to construct a durable house of the prescribed standard. Realising the vision of housing for all therefore requires a new scheme, designed afresh, with enhanced financial assistance and greater flexibility for the beneficiary.

4.1.3. A New Rural Housing Scheme

Accordingly, this Government will implement a new rural housing scheme namely ***"Vetri Veedu Thittam"*** dedicated exclusively to the rural areas of Tamil Nadu. **In the first phase,** sanction will be accorded to convert 70,000 huts into pucca **houses** during **2026-27.**

Enhanced Unit Cost

The unit assistance has been raised from ₹3.50 lakh to ₹5.00 lakh per house — the highest ever provided under a State-funded rural housing scheme in Tamil Nadu. It is fixed at a level at which a rural family can complete a durable house with a concrete roof without falling into debt.

Affordable Institutional Finance

Beneficiaries who wish to build beyond the assistance may avail a home loan of up to ₹1.00 lakh from Co-operative or Commercial Banks, or assistance from the Community Investment Fund through the State Rural Livelihoods Mission. Banks will be encouraged to extend these loans without collateral and at low rates of interest.

Interest Subvention

On such loans, this Government will bear an interest subvention of 3 per cent per annum, on a reimbursement basis, for the entire loan period of up to fifteen years, for beneficiaries who repay their instalments on time.

Priority to the Most Vulnerable

Priority will be given to widows, destitute women, deserted women and women-headed families; transgender persons; sanitation workers; released bonded labourers; confirmed manual scavengers; persons affected by serious illness; victims of fire, flood and other natural calamities; survivors of major accidents left with disability or trauma; and women survivors of crime. Particularly Vulnerable Tribal Groups, Scheduled Tribes and nomadic communities will receive high priority.

Reservation for Differently-Abled Persons

A mandatory sub-quota of 5 per cent of the district allocation is reserved exclusively, across all categories, for differently-abled persons, including families having persons with intellectual disabilities. In addition, 40 per cent of the houses in every district are earmarked for Scheduled Caste and Scheduled Tribe households.

Basic Amenities along with the House

An individual household latrine will be provided an incentive of ₹12,000/- through convergence with the Swachh Bharat Mission – Gramin, wherever the beneficiary has not already received this benefit. Every completed house will be facilitated with a domestic gas connection, an electricity connection and a household tap water connection. Where houses are built together, roads, street lights and drinking water facilities will be provided in convergence with other programmes. Every beneficiary will also plant at least two tree saplings at the house site and protect them with tree guards, the final instalment being released only after the plantation is verified in the field.

Transparency in Payments

The assistance will be released directly to the beneficiary's bank account in instalments as the construction reaches each stage, and an SMS will be sent as soon as each payment is initiated. Cement required for construction will be supplied by the Department.

With an enhanced unit cost, a family can determine the size of the house to its own needs, affordable credit and the full range of basic services. This Government will take a decisive step towards housing for all in rural Tamil Nadu, ensuring that every eligible rural family has access to a dignified, secure and resilient home.

4.2. Basic Amenities for Households

Provision of Household Tap Connections:

"Every Rural Households to be provided with Functional Household Tap Connections (FHTCs) to supply water with adequate quantity (55LPCD) of prescribed quality on regular and long-term basis at affordable service delivery charges leading to the improvement in living standards of rural communities".

In Tamil Nadu, out of 1.51 Crore rural households, 1,12,56,706 households have been provided with Functional Household Tap Connections. Safe drinking water will be made available to every rural household and all pending household tap connections will be completed in a phased manner

Provision of House Hold Latrines

Ensuring Sanitation is a key factor for achieving the Localized Sustainable Development Goals (LSDGs) by strengthening Rural Local Bodies, improving sanitation services, promoting sustainable waste management, and enhancing environmental sustainability and quality of life. It primarily contributes to SDG No. 6 (Clean Water and Sanitation) and supports SDGs No. 3, 11, 12, and 13 through improved sanitation, public health, resource management, and climate resilience.

All rural families are facilitated to access safe toilets by providing Individual House Hold Latrines (IHHL) which consists of a sanitary substructure, a superstructure, and a water storage facility to ensure proper hygiene. Identified eligible households are given an incentive of ₹12,000/- for constructing IHHLs.

4.3. Wage Employment (VB-GRAM (G))

The Viksit Bharat—Guarantee for Rozgar and Ajeevika Mission (Gramin) Scheme has been implemented from 01.07.2026 as an alternate to Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme (MGNREGS).

During 2026-27, from 01.04.2026 to 30.06.2026 3.22 Crore persondays have been generated by providing employment to 31.47 Lakh Workers pertaining to 29.83 Lakh Households under MGNREGS with the total expenditure of ₹1,804 Crore.

The funds under VB-GRAM (G) scheme will be shared by the Central and State Governments in the ratio of 60:40. The primary objective of the Scheme is to provide an enhanced statutory wage-employment guarantee of 125 days in each financial year to rural households whose adult members volunteer to undertake unskilled manual work.

Under VB-GRAM (G) Scheme, 81.39 Lakh households were registered and Job cards were issued to 103.18 lakh individual workers which includes 1,38,314 differently abled persons and 581 transgender. 26.75 lakh person days have been generated as on 25.07.2026. Out of the total person days created in the State, 87.08% were generated by women and 29.69% of the beneficiaries belong to SC/ST families.

5.Second Pillar: Improving Quality of Life

5.Second Pillar: Improving Quality of Life

The Second Pillar, Improving Quality of Life, the focus shifts towards creation of resilient public infrastructure, enhancement of living standards, climate-resilient development, improved public services, and environmentally sustainable growth.

This would be fulfilling the objectives of Localised SDGs of a Water-sufficient village, a Clean and green village, a Healthy village, a Child-friendly village and a Village with self-sufficient infrastructure, with safe sanitation and street lighting also advancing a Women-friendly village. Assured drinking water, sanitation and waste management, all-weather roads, community assets and digital connectivity together carry forward the universal goals of Clean Water and Sanitation (SDG 6), Good Health and Well-being (SDG 3), Affordable and Clean Energy (SDG 7), Industry, Innovation and Infrastructure (SDG 9), Sustainable Cities and Communities (SDG 11), Responsible Consumption and Production (SDG 12) and Climate Action (SDG 13).

Background

To bring rural areas on par with urban areas, several infrastructure schemes have been implemented by Rural Development and Panchayat Raj Department. During the previous years, infrastructure works were carried out through various schemes and efforts have been taken to cover all 12,571 Village Panchayats.

Roads and bridges account for the largest share of financial investment, reflecting the Government's continued emphasis on improving rural connectivity and transportation infrastructure. Public buildings, including schools, community halls, Panchayat offices, and other civic facilities, represent another major component of investment. Significant allocations have also been made towards irrigation and water conservation structures to strengthen agricultural sustainability and climate resilience.

Investments in sanitation infrastructure, street lighting, water supply systems, and environmental improvements contribute directly towards improving public health, safety, environmental quality, and overall standards of living in rural communities.

The demand for such a large public asset base also highlights the increasing importance of systematic asset management, preventive maintenance, digital inventory systems, lifecycle planning, and sustainable financing mechanisms to preserve these investments over the long term.

Despite regular investments by the Government of Tamil Nadu and the Government of India in rural development, village infrastructure continues to face challenges due to fragmented planning, uneven resource allocation, and the absence of a comprehensive mechanism to assess infrastructure gaps. Development programmes are implemented independently by various departments, resulting in duplication of investments, inadequate convergence of schemes, and unequal development among villages and habitations. The lack of a unified asset inventory and integrated planning framework further limits efficient resource utilisation and sustainable infrastructure management.

There are 18,705 habitations that still needs to be taken up for development interventions. Also, with the emergence of new settlements / streets and increase in population, there are again certain gaps in providing basic amenities that needs to be addressed.

5.1. Integrated Development Policy: Tamil Nadu Village Empowerment, Transformation & Rejuvenation Initiative (TN-VETRI)

To address the challenges in infrastructure development in rural areas, the **Tamil Nadu Village Empowerment, Transformation & Rejuvenation Initiative (TN-VETRI)** is proposed as an integrated, village-centric development programme.

The initiative aims to prepare a comprehensive inventory of public assets, scientifically identify infrastructure gaps, and develop a **Single Integrated Village Development Plan** by converging resources from all infrastructure related Central and State Government schemes.

TN-VETRI proposes equitable funding for villages and habitations, provision of essential civic amenities in all rural areas, and urban-grade infrastructure in peri-urban and special Village Panchayats. Predictable annual allocations and dedicated Operation and Maintenance support will ensure sustainability of public assets. By integrating planning, financing, implementation, and maintenance, TN-VETRI seeks to promote balanced, inclusive, and sustainable rural development while strengthening Panchayat Raj Institutions and improving the quality of life of rural communities across Tamil Nadu.

A key feature of TN-VETRI is the provision of separate and equitable financial allocations for both the main village and its habitations. This approach will help to eliminate disparities in infrastructure developments within Village Panchayats and ensure that even the smallest habitation is not left behind.

To facilitate systematic implementation, TN-VETRI proposes a predictable allocation of funds to every Village Panchayat, enabling long-term planning and timely execution of development works. Such predictable funding will enable Panchayats to prepare realistic development plans and reduce dependence on adhoc sanctions and fragmented departmental schemes.

The scheme envisages **pooling and convergence** of all infrastructure related schemes and budgetary allocations under

Rural Development Department. This will synchronise planning and resource allocation with requirements felt at the village panchayat level, provide flexibility to plan and improve administration of schemes.

An important pillar of TN-VETRI is the **aligning of financial resources** available under various central Government programmes with the policy objectives and implementation of the scheme. Instead of implementing schemes in isolation, the initiative proposes to integrate funds available under Central Finance Commission Grants, State Finance Commission Grants, VB GramG, Jal Jeevan Mission, Swachh Bharat Mission (Gramin), Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana (PMGSY), NABARD-assisted projects, Members of Parliament Local Area Development Scheme (MPLADS) and other programmes.

Accordingly, TN-VETRI represents a transformative model for rural development in Tamil Nadu by integrating planning, financing, implementation, and maintenance into a single comprehensive framework. Through village-centric planning, convergence of Government resources, equitable infrastructure investment, and sustainable asset management, the initiative has the potential to significantly improve the quality of life in rural areas and realise the vision of balanced, inclusive, and sustainable rural development across the state.

5.1.1. Differentiated Development Strategy for Village Panchayats

Village Panchayats across Tamil Nadu have diverse geographical, demographic and socio-economic characteristics. A **need-based, category-specific**

development approach, rather than a uniform model of rural development, is therefore essential to address the gaps due to emergence of new settlements, increase in population and habitations uncovered so far. Therefore, the panchayats are classified as below.

- Peri-Urban & Large Village Panchayats**:** 1,200
- Hilly Panchayats**:** 277
- Coastal Panchayats**:** 235
- Tourism-Based Panchayats**:** 76

Despite significant improvements in rural infrastructure over the years, developmental gaps persist in road connectivity, drinking water, sanitation, economic infrastructure, digital access and public services. Connectivity-deficient Panchayats continue to face poor roads, inadequate public transport, unsafe road conditions, and insufficient street lighting, while water and sanitation-deficient Panchayats struggle with reliable drinking water, sustainable water management, sanitation coverage and solid waste management.

Hilly and tribal Panchayats require focused investments in all-weather roads, community water supply, schools, transport, and essential public services to address challenges arising from difficult terrain and scattered habitations.

Similarly, rapidly urbanising Peri-urban Panchayats need upgraded infrastructure, including roads, water supply, waste management, parks, street lighting and scientific land-use planning to support future growth.

Strengthening rural economies also requires investments in village markets, shandies, drying yards, milk collection centres, warehouses, schools, Anganwadi centres and digital infrastructure such as public Wi-Fi and digital libraries.

Expected Outcomes

A differentiated development strategy will enable targeted investments, equitable infrastructure development, reduce regional disparities, improved public service delivery and promote sustainable, resilient and inclusive rural development across all categories of Village Panchayats.

5.2. Sub- Mission 1. Water Supply

5.2.1. Water Supply

Water Sufficient Village which is Theme 4 of Localization of Sustainable Development Goals (LSDG) is a rural community that has achieved complete water security through 100% access to safe drinking water, efficient management, and active conservation of its water ecosystems. In India, it focuses on universal access to the safe drinking water and aligns with the Sustainable Development Goals (SDG 6) which aims to ensure the availability and sustainable management of clean water and sanitation for all. Further, the Provision of "Drinking Water for All" has been envisaged in the Vetri Tamizhagam document, which also ensures universal access to safe, adequate, and reliable drinking water remains one of the foremost priorities of rural development and public health.

Present scenario

The Government of Tamil Nadu has made significant progress in strengthening rural drinking water infrastructure to ensure safe and reliable water supply to rural households. The responsibility for providing and maintaining drinking water facilities rests with the Village Panchayats, supported by the Rural Development and Panchayat Raj Department and TWAD Board through various schemes, including the Jal Jeevan Mission. At present, the State has established an extensive water supply network comprising 1,27,896 Hand Pumps, 1,14,913 Power Pumps, 1,08,647 Mini Power Pumps, 1,23,579 Overhead Tanks (OHTs), 9,909 Ground Level Reservoirs (GLRs), and 583 Combined Water Supply Schemes (CWSSs). This infrastructure caters to the drinking water needs of rural communities across the State. However, increasing demand due to population growth, depletion of groundwater resources, climate variability, and rising operation and maintenance costs necessitate continuous investments in source sustainability, water conservation, infrastructure augmentation, and efficient service delivery to achieve universal and sustainable water security in rural Tamil Nadu.

Single Village schemes: Local source

Single Village Water Supply Schemes (SVS) form the backbone of rural drinking water supply in Tamil Nadu, particularly in villages where dependable local water sources are available. Under these schemes, borewells fitted with power pumps serve as the primary source of water, supplying drinking water to Overhead Tanks

(OHTs) through pumping mains, from where water is distributed to households through a piped distribution network. These schemes are designed to meet the drinking water needs of individual Village Panchayats using locally available groundwater sources, thereby minimizing transmission costs and ensuring ease of operation and maintenance.

Under the Jal Jeevan Mission (JJM), the Government of Tamil Nadu has prioritized the strengthening and augmentation of Single Village Schemes to provide Functional Household Tap Connections (FHTCs) to every rural household. The Mission focuses on improving source sustainability through groundwater recharge, rainwater harvesting, and watershed development, while upgrading pumping systems, storage facilities, and distribution networks to ensure an adequate, safe, and reliable water supply. Emphasis is also placed on regular water quality monitoring, community participation through Village Water and Sanitation Committees (VWSCs), and sustainable operation and maintenance. Single Village Schemes continue to play a crucial role in achieving universal rural drinking water coverage and realizing the objective of a Water Sufficient Village under the Jal Jeevan Mission.

Multi village scheme - CWSS :

In areas where local water sources are inadequate or where groundwater quality is affected, protected drinking water is supplied through Combined Water Supply Schemes implemented by the Tamil Nadu Water Supply and Drainage Board (TWAD Board). Under such schemes, bulk water supply is provided to Village Panchayats for distribution to the rural population.

The major water storage and distribution infrastructure maintained within Village Panchayats includes Overhead Tanks (OHTs), Ground Level Reservoirs (GLRs), and Mini Tanks, which facilitate the storage and supply of potable water to households and public institutions.

5.2.2. Gap in the Water Supply Infrastructures

There is a gap in the coverage of Functional Household Tap Connections (FHTCs) and supporting water supply infrastructure, particularly Overhead Tanks (OHTs), remains inadequate in several Village Panchayats due to Rapid population growth, expansion of habitations, urbanisation of rural settlements, declining groundwater resources, and ageing water supply infrastructures have further widened the gap between demand and available service levels. As a result, many rural households continue to depend on public fountains, hand pumps, bore wells, and other traditional sources, resulting in inequitable access to potable water and increased burden on women and children for water collection.

5.2.3. Initiative for the Provision of Water Supply Infrastructures:

The TN-VETRI scheme, through its Sub-Mission on Water Supply, will promote sustainable water resource management via source strengthening, rainwater harvesting, groundwater recharge, energy-efficient pumping, smart monitoring of networks, and scientific operation and maintenance, supported by digital tools, GIS-based asset mapping, and remote performance monitoring. This comprehensive scheme aims to improve rural drinking water security, enhance public health, reduce the time spent by households in collecting water, and strengthen climate resilience of water supply systems. By achieving universal Functional Household Tap Connection coverage and expanding storage infrastructure, the Government will ensure equitable access to safe drinking water and sustainable, inclusive rural development across Tamil Nadu.

The expansion of Functional Household Tap Connections need to be supported by corresponding augmentation of water storage and distribution infrastructure. Accordingly, the programme proposes the construction of new Overhead Tanks (OHTs) on saturation basis across the State in a phased manner.

The water supply Sub-Mission of TN-VETRI would be aligned with resources available in the Central Government scheme Jal Jeevan Mission.

5.3. Sub - Mission 2.Sanitation

The Sub-Mission "Sanitation" under the TN-VETRI scheme drives rural transformation by aligning targeted interventions with both Localised and Universal Sustainable Development Goals.

Basic sanitation prioritizes social dignity, safety, and public health to create a Women-friendly village, Child-friendly village, Socially secured village, and Healthy village, directly advancing SDG 6 (Clean Water & Sanitation), SDG 3 (Good Health & Well-being), and SDG 5 (Gender Equality). Solid waste management strengthens local livelihoods and infrastructure to build a Clean & green and

Poverty-free village, driving SDG 11 (Sustainable Communities), SDG 12 (Responsible Production), and SDG 13 (Climate Action) through circular resource recovery. Liquid waste management protects natural water bodies to sustain a Water-sufficient village under good local governance, safeguarding SDG 14 (Life Below Water).

By establishing infrastructure for sanitation, clean water, and scientific waste management, mission elevates the rural standard of living and builds the foundation for healthy, resilient communities which are core components of the *Vetri Tamizhagam.*

5.3.1.Sanitation Infrastructure:

Sanitation infrastructure which includes Individual House Hold Latrines, Community Sanitary Complexes, Toilets provisions in Schools and Anganwadis and other Public

Utilities. Under various schemes, these infrastructures were created earlier. There are gap is still persists in rural areas and it has to be addressed to maintain the Open Defection Free status which claimed earlier.

5.3.2.Solid Waste Management:

Solid waste management in rural areas involves the systematic collection, segregation and disposal of waste generated in villages, covering both biodegradable waste like kitchen scraps and farm residue, and non-biodegradable waste like plastics, glass, and metal. Households are encouraged to segregate waste at source, with wet waste converted into compost or biogas through compost pits and vermicomposting, while dry waste is collected, sorted at village-level segregation sheds and sent for recycling. The effective rural waste management keeps villages clean, prevents the spread of disease, protects soil and water from contamination, and can even generate income through the sale of compost and recyclables.

Table: 5

Solid Waste Management Infrastructure in Village Panchayats,

Sl. No.	Infrastructure / Resource	Number
1	Sanitary Workers & Thooimai Kaavalars	93,531
2	Segregation-cum-Storage Sheds	12,723
3	Community Compost Pits	13,277
4	Street Garbage Bins	98,553
5	Tricycles / Pushcarts	34,613
6	E-carts	18,563
7	Pickup Vehicles	1,587
8	Micro-Composting Centres (MCCs)	287
9	Plastic Waste Management Units	402
10	Gobardhan Plants	170

The Solid Waste Management Rules, 2026 introduced recently with a comprehensive regulatory framework promoting scientific waste management, environmental sustainability, resource recovery, and circular economy principles across Rural Local Bodies in Tamil Nadu. The key provisions include- four stream segregation, Extended Bulk Waste Generator Responsibility (EBWGR), dumpsite waste remediation and establishing institutional infrastructure. This rule was enforced on 1st April 2026 with time line to implement and enforce.

5.3.3. Liquid Waste Management

Liquid waste management in rural areas deals with the safe disposal and treatment of greywater from kitchens, bathrooms, and washing areas, along with blackwater from toilets. To prevent the stagnation of grey water in roads/streets and public places and to ensure efficient handling of grey water, 1,02,012 community soak pits and 17,594 horizontal/vertical filters, rootzone, Decentralized Waste Water Treatment System (DEWATS), Constructed Wet Land, Phytorid, etc. have been constructed under the resources of State and Central Government fund and SBM (G) schemes. For Faecal Sludge Management (FSM), Cluster mapping was conducted for all panchayats and ULBs for decanting faecal sludge from rural areas into existing and proposed Sewage Treatment Plants (STPs) and Faecal Sludge Treatment Plants (FSTPs) in urban areas. 10,492 Panchayats are mapped into four phases for decanting into nearby urban treatment facilities on a cost-sharing basis.

To ensure targeted implementation, every Village Panchayat must assess habitation-wise needs through a comprehensive Village Sanitation Gap Analysis. This gap analysis must be compiled using data from habitation surveys, the Asset Management Database, and Panchayat records, and verified through joint field inspections.

The Sanitation Submission of TN-VETRI would be aligned with resources available in the Central Government scheme Swachh Bharat Mission(G).

5.3.4. Clean Tamil Nadu Company Limited:

Effective management of non-biodegradable solid waste is essential to address the increasing waste generation resulting from population growth and improved living standards in rural areas.

Improper disposal of such waste poses serious environmental and public health risks.

Based on the identified significant gaps in the value chain management of non-biodegradable waste, particularly in secondary segregation, transportation, logistics, and price discovery, resulting in poor returns to local bodies. To address these challenges, based on the successful functioning of Clean Kerala Company Limited, it was proposed to establish the Clean Tamil Nadu Company Limited as a Special Purpose Vehicle (SPV) under the Companies Act. It was proposed that the company will aim to create a centralized system for aggregation, logistics, price discovery, and marketing of recyclable and co-processable waste, enabling better negotiation with recyclers, ensuring fair prices, providing technical support to local bodies, and strengthening sustainable solid waste management across rural and urban local bodies.

5.4. Sub-Mission 3: Rural Connectivity

5.4.1. Rural Roads - Need and Importance

The Government of Tamil Nadu, under the Hon'ble Chief Minister, has adopted the *"Vetri Tamizhagam — Vision Document"*, a governance roadmap that translates the Government's commitments into concrete policy initiatives, welfare schemes and infrastructure projects. For rural roads, it makes two far-reaching commitments: under **"Damage-Free Roads"**, recognising that roads continue to develop potholes and cause accidents, particularly to two-wheeler riders, funds will be allocated exclusively for attending to road damages immediately;

under **"Roads Connecting All Panchayats"**, all Panchayats will be connected to the highway network within the next five years, and roads connecting Schools, Primary Health Centres and all major public facilities will be improved.

These commitments proceed from the recognition that, for the rural households, the road is the first public service — carrying children to school, patients to care, produce to market and workers to their livelihood. Rural transport underpins the rural economy, productivity, resilience and livelihood security, improved roads connect the community with education, health, markets, drinking water, energy and welfare services, advancing poverty eradication, hunger elimination and social integration under the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

Rural roads contribute directly to the SDGs: proven poverty reducers, they lower transport and input costs and widen access to markets and technology (SDG 1 - No Poverty); enable the flow of farm inputs and produce, stabilise prices and strengthen the delivery of the Supplementary Nutrition Programme, the Mid Day Meal Programme and the Public Distribution System (SDG 2 - Zero Hunger); allow quicker access to primary and specialised health care, improving maternal health outcomes (SDG 3 - Good Health and Well-being); improve access to education and rural-urban interaction (SDG 4 - Quality Education); raise the socio-economic status of rural households through reduced transport costs and better price realisation for farmers (SDG 8 - Decent Work and Economic Growth); and, through green construction technologies, minimise the use of conventional materials and reduce carbon footprint (SDG 13 - Climate Action).

5.4.2. Status of the Rural Road Network

Tamil Nadu maintains one of the most extensive rural road Network in the country — 1,39,690 Km of Village Panchayat and Panchayat Union Roads maintained by the Rural Development and Panchayat Raj Department, at a rural road density of 146 Km per 100 Sq.Km against the national average of 117 Km. Since 2010, the network has expanded by nearly 48 percent with the growth of rural settlements.

Table: 6
Rural Road Network as on 01.04.2026

Sl. No.	Surface Type	Village Panchayat Roads (Km)	Panchayat Union Roads (Km)	Total (Km)
1	Black Topped	74,073	22,083	96,156
2	Cement Concrete	3,357	384	3,741
3	Double Layer WBM	1,472	74	1,546
4	SingleLayer WBM	10,031	312	10,343
5	Gravel	2,565	65	2,630
6	Earthen	24,521	753	25,274
	Total	**1,16,019**	**23,671**	**1,39,690**

Of this network, about 99,897 Km (72%) are surfaced and about 39,793 Km (28%) unsurfaced; about 12,000 Km of bus plying roads form the backbone of rural public transport. During the last decade, 77,822 Km of rural roads have been improved at a cost of ₹23,834 crore and 1,008 High-Level Bridges have been constructed at a cost of ₹2,809 crore under NABARD assistance, PMGSY and State-funded programmes, and habitation connectivity has been substantially achieved across the State.

Quality in road works is ensured through a dedicated Quality Control Wing, National and State Quality Monitors, empanelled Engineering Institutions and State, District and Mobile Quality Control Laboratories; GIS-based planning and digital monitoring, built on the Online Road Register and updated spatial data, support scientific prioritisation of investments and asset management.

5.4.3. The Challenge Ahead

While the network has grown and connectivity stands substantially achieved, the surfaced network is ageing — about 22,815 Km of surfaced roads are more than

10 years old and another 41,432 Km are between 6 and 10 years old — and about 28 percent of the network remains unsurfaced. Increasing traffic, the growing renewal backlog and rising service expectations demand a decisive shift from expansion to preservation: sustained, prioritised investment in maintenance, renewal, strengthening and upgradation. It is to meet this challenge that the Government has articulated its vision for rural roads.

5.4.4. Vision for Enhanced Transit, Rural Road Maintenance and Infrastructure (VETRI)

In line with the Vetri Tamizhagam vision of the Government, the rural roads programme shall be guided by the two commitments — **Damage Free Roads** through enhanced maintenance, and **Roads Connecting All Panchayats** through prioritised strengthening and upgradation — with the Roads & Bridges sub-mission of TN-VETRI as the principal vehicle for realising them, implemented in alignment with the Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana (PMGSY) in the State.

Damage Free Roads. The asset management framework will be strengthened to ensure systematic maintenance of rural roads and protection of the public investments already made — expanding routine maintenance coverage, reducing the renewal backlog, integrating road safety measures, enabling technology-based monitoring of road assets, and mandating a five-year routine maintenance component in all road improvement works from 2026-27.

Roads Connecting All Panchayats. Priority shall be accorded to strengthening and upgrading the 12,000 Km of bus plying roads and the roads connecting Village Panchayat headquarters, ensuring reliable all-weather connectivity to every Village Panchayat.

Strengthening of Ageing Roads. About 6,000 Km of roads will be strengthened annually during the next five years under the sub-mission, prioritised on condition, utility and socio-economic importance, with cross drainage structures having a linear waterway up to 15 metres taken up along with the road works, and road safety measures — signage, road markings, traffic calming at schools, habitations and junctions, and protective works at vulnerable locations — integrated into every road work.

The vision for 2031 is a rural road network that is safe, reliable and responsive to the evolving needs of rural communities — assets preserved, access to opportunity improved, and all-weather connectivity assured. During 2026-27, the Government will take up improvement of rural roads on these priorities, in furtherance of inclusive growth under Vetri Tamizhagam.

5.5. Sub-Mission 4: Community Assets

The **vision** is to focus on strengthening essential public infrastructure to improve service delivery, education, healthcare, livelihoods, recreation, and community well-being in rural areas. Priority will be given to the construction, reconstruction, renovation, and upgradation of the following assets based on need and condition:

- **Panchayat Infrastructure:** Construction, reconstruction, repair, and retrofitting of Village Panchayat Offices and other public utility buildings.

- **Street Lighting:** Street lighting is a mandatory civic service under **Section 110 of the Tamil Nadu Panchayats Act, 1994**, ensuring public safety, women's security, and improved quality of life in rural areas. Nearly 35% of Village Panchayats own revenue is spent on electricity charges for street lighting. To reduce the costs, Village Panchayats are promoting energy-efficient LED lighting and solar-powered systems. Rural Tamil Nadu has 34.12 lakh street lights, including 31.36 lakh LED, 1.43 lakh CFL, 0.84 lakh tube, 0.20 lakh solar, 0.08 lakh sodium vapour, and 0.21 lakh high mast lights. Under TN-VETRI, priority will be given to expanding

LED and solar-powered street lighting in uncovered and underserved areas.

- **Education & Child Development:** Construction of additional classrooms in Government schools based on enrolment norms and development of Anganwadi Centres where buildings are unavailable or dilapidated.

- **Health Facilities:** Upgradation of Government rural health institutions by providing essential infrastructure and basic amenities.

- **Rural Libraries:** Modernisation of libraries with digital infrastructure, books, furniture, internet, Wi-Fi and workspace facilities to function as rural knowledge centres.

- **Public Service Infrastructure:** Construction of Public Distribution Shops, community halls, multipurpose shelters in disaster-prone areas and public squares.
- **Sports & Recreation:** Development of playgrounds, mini stadiums, parks, children's play areas, outdoor gyms and other recreational facilities.
- **Livelihood & Marketing Infrastructure:** Upgradation of village markets, weekly shandies, fish markets, fish drying yards, agriculture storage godowns, threshing floors and SHG buildings to support rural livelihoods and local economic development. This Sub-Mission aims to create inclusive, resilient, and sustainable community assets that enhance the quality of life, strengthen public service delivery, and promote rural economic growth.

5.6. Sub-Mission 5: Hilly Areas

The Hilly Areas Sub-Mission addresses the unique development challenges of hilly Village Panchayats, including steep terrain, scattered habitations, heavy rainfall, landslides and limited infrastructure. In addition to the interventions under other TN-VETRI Sub-Missions, this Sub-Mission provides terrain-specific infrastructure and services to improve connectivity, safety, accessibility and quality of life.

The planning process shall identify landslide and erosion-prone areas, remote habitations lacking road connectivity, gaps in drinking water supply, inadequate street lighting and electricity, limited access to essential services and emergency communication. Further, it will ensure that all development works are carried out without encroaching upon forest lands.

Hilly Area-Specific Interventions: The Sub-Mission shall prioritise slope protection works, hill-specific roads and pathways, group wells, protected springs and gravity-fed water supply systems, solar-powered LED street lights, terrain-adapted school infrastructure, mobile PDS shops, emergency communication facilities, drone-based services for essential supplies and emergency response, and other need-based local solutions approved by the Grama Sabha and District Collector.

The Sub-Mission aims to ensure safe, resilient, climate-adaptive and inclusive development of Hilly Panchayats through improved infrastructure, better connectivity, reliable public services and enhanced disaster preparedness.

5.7. Sub-Mission 6: Peri-Urban Panchayats

This Village Panchayats classified under the Peri-Urban category — comprising Panchayats in the vicinity of urban local bodies, Panchayats with high own source revenue, and Panchayats with large population, as so classified. These Panchayats are transforming from rural to urban in character, and the works under this Section provide the urban-grade amenities which that transformation demands.

The works under this Sub-Mission are in addition to the works admissible under the other Sub-Missions, which continue to apply to these Panchayats. The provisions of those Sub-Missions — including the need identification, eligibility and priority rules — apply to the corresponding works under this Section except as varied below.

Need Identification

Planning shall focus on assessing population growth, built-up area, floating population, habitation density, gaps in solid and liquid waste management, open dumping sites, congestion points, availability of urban amenities and the requirement for cluster-level infrastructure such as parks, gasifier crematoriums, parking facilities and fecal sludge treatment systems.

Key Interventions

The Sub-Mission will support the development of landscaped public squares, parks, playgrounds, sports facilities, modern libraries, scientific solid and liquid waste management systems, rejuvenation of water bodies, cluster-based gasifier crematoriums, vehicle parking facilities, public Wi-Fi hotspots, CCTV surveillance, solar street lights, solar pumps, rooftop solar panels, Village Forests, Panchayat-owned shopping complexes and Electric Vehicle (EV) charging stations.

Common facilities shall be developed on a cluster basis to maximise coverage and avoid duplication. Parks and public spaces shall have assured operation and maintenance arrangements. Gasifier crematoriums shall be established only where no similar facility exists within the prescribed service radius. Shopping complexes, parking facilities and EV charging stations shall be developed only where demand is established and approved by the Grama Sabha. Solar and digital infrastructure shall be provided only where technical feasibility, financial sustainability and long-term maintenance are ensured. Village Forests shall be developed on suitable Panchayat land, and all cluster facilities shall be located at centrally accessible locations to maximise the population and habitations served.

5.8. Asset Creation under VB-GRAM (G)

The Viksit Bharat—Guarantee for Rozgar and Ajeevika Mission (Gramin) Scheme has been implemented from 01.07.2026 as an alternate to Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme (MGNREGS).

The objective and aim to align the rural development frame work, growth, convergence and saturation through public works.

Objective of the Scheme

The core objective of the Viksit Bharat—Guarantee for Rozgar and Ajeevika Mission (Gramin) Scheme is as follows;

- The primary objective of this Scheme is to provide an enhanced statutory wage-employment guarantee of one hundred and twenty-five days in each financial year to such rural households whose adult members volunteer to undertake unskilled manual work, thereby enabling them to participate more effectively in the expanded livelihood security framework.
- To facilitate adequate farm-labour availability during peak agricultural seasons.
- To institutionalize convergence, saturation-driven planning to address the varying needs of Village Panchayats with such plans aggregated at the Block, District, State and National levels.

- To modernize governance, accountability and citizen engagement through a comprehensive digital ecosystem with the use of Technological Intervention and Artificial Intelligence for planning, audits and fraud risk mitigation.

Salient Features of the VB-GRAM (G) Scheme

- The guarantee of employment has been increased from 100 days to 125 days.

- If employment is not provided after demanding work, unemployment allowance will be automatically payable as an enforceable legal right.

- Compensation for each delayed payment of wages will be paid along with the wages. This will enhance transparency and ensure that workers receive their full entitlement.

- The Village Panchayat will prepare its feature ready saturation driven Village Panchayat Development Plan as participatory plan. VPDP shall incorporate a vulnerable household-centric approach to ensure that the benefits of public investments reach the most disadvantaged and underserved sections of society.
- A Unified Convergence Frame work will be established for coherent planning, execution and monitoring of all works undertaken in rural areas by the whole of Government.
- The Government will notify periods aggregating to 60 days in a financial year during which works under the Act shall not be undertaken, in order to facilitate the availability of farm labour during peak sowing and harvesting seasons.

- The scheme also envisages classification of Village Panchayats into different categories such as Category-A, Category-B, Category-C and others based on parameters prescribed by the Central Government, thereby facilitating need-based planning and resource allocation.

Funding Pattern

Under the New Scheme the funding pattern between Central and State Government will be shared as 60:40 ratio for Wages, Material and Admin Components.

Categories of Works-

To focus on empowerment, growth, convergence and saturation through public works with a thematic focus on Water Security through Water-Related Works, Core Rural Infrastructure, Livelihood-

Related Infrastructure and Works for the Mitigation of Extreme Weather Events will be taken up under the Scheme.

I— Water Conservation:

Ponds, Ooranies and Minor Irrigation (MI) Tanks located in rural areas constitute some of the most important community assets under the management of Rural Local Bodies. These water bodies play a vital role in irrigation, groundwater recharge, drinking water security, and ecological sustainability, making their upkeep central to both livelihoods and environmental resilience in the countryside.

Across the 37 rural districts of the State, there are about 21,966 Minor Irrigation Tanks and 70,248 ponds and Ooranies under the purview of Rural Development and Panchayat Raj Department, in rural areas.

Although the water bodies along with the connecting inlet and outlet channels have been rejuvenated under various schemes, yet there are vast number of water bodies yet to be restored.

Under the Viksit Bharat – Guarantee for Rozgar and Ajeevika Mission (VB-GRAM G), water conservation and water resource management works are under taken by engaging unskilled labour, thereby generating wage employment while creating durable community assets. The Mission focuses on strengthening water security by undertaking works based on local hydrological conditions and technical feasibility.

The major works taken up include the creation and rejuvenation of ponds, farm ponds, fishery ponds, percolation tanks, flood or diversion channels, check dams, underground dykes, canals, irrigation wells, recharge structures, gully plugs rainwater harvesting systems, micro-irrigation channels, afforestation and plantation for soil and moisture conservation. These interventions promote water conservation, rainwater harvesting, groundwater recharge, improved irrigation potential, soil and moisture conservation and sustainable water resource management in rural areas.

Rainwater harvesting and conservation measures shall be prioritized to improve the water table level availability, enhance irrigation potential and strengthen climate resilience.

II—Core Rural Infrastructure

For strengthening rural core infrastructure, works such as the construction and upgradation of rural roads and culverts, Village Panchayat Offices, Anganwadi buildings, rural libraries, school infrastructure, cremation sheds, solid and liquid waste management assets, village parking areas, Common rural amenities will be undertaken.

III—Livelihood-related Infrastructure

To improve productivity, enhance income opportunities and strengthen the livelihoods of rural households, works such as the construction of training-cum-skill development centres, village haats, food grain and agricultural produce storage structures, buildings for Self Help Groups, vermicomposting units, development of silvipasture grasslands and fisheries-related infrastructure works will be undertaken.

IV—Special works to mitigate Extreme Weather Events and Disaster Preparedness—

For reducing disaster risk and to mitigate extreme weather events, preparedness works such as Construction of cyclones shelters, flood shelters, Construction of diversion channels, windbreak and shelterbelt plantations works will be undertaken.

Peak Agricultural Seasons

To facilitate labour availability on peak agriculture seasons, the Government will notify a period or periods aggregating to sixty days in a financial year, covering the peak agricultural seasons of sowing and harvesting, during which no works will be taken up under the Scheme.

Transparency

VB-GRAM (G) incorporates several technology-enabled measures to strengthen transparency, accountability, and effective governance. Wages shall be transferred directly to the bank account of beneficiaries through Aadhaar-based Direct Benefit Transfer (DBT). Worker attendance shall be captured through the National Mobile Monitoring System (NMMS) Application with Face Authentication to ensure authenticity and transparency. All assets created under the programme will be Geo-tagged for monitoring and verification purposes.

Budget Outlay 2026-27

The Government of India has sanctioned an interim normative allocation of ₹7,586 crore. Correspondingly, the State Government matching share is ₹5,057 crore. Accordingly the total Outlay for the implementation of VB GRAM G during 2026-27 is ₹12,643 crore. Under scheme, VB GRAM (G) scheme, wage rate of ₹345/- per day has been fixed for unskilled workers.

5.9. Constituency Development Schemes:

5.9.1. MLA Constituency Development Scheme (MLACDS)

The MLA Constituency Development Scheme (MLACDS) continue to play a significant role in creating durable community assets and addressing local infrastructure needs across the State. However, the present financial allocations under these schemes have not kept pace with the increasing cost of construction materials, labour and project implementation. As a result, the number of development works that can be executed within the existing allocations has declined considerably, affecting the timely provision of essential public infrastructure.

Under the MLA Constituency Development Scheme, each Member of the Legislative Assembly is presently provided an annual allocation of ₹3.54 crore (inclusive GST). The scheme supports the creation of durable public assets such as school and public buildings, drinking water supply and water conservation structures, roads, bus stands, milk chilling centres, Solid and Liquid Waste Management (SLWM) facilities and assistance for differently-abled persons.

5.9.2. Members of Parliament Local Area Development Scheme (MPLADS):

The Members of Parliament Local Area Development Scheme (MPLADS) is a Central Sector Scheme launched in December 1993 and administered by the Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation, enabling Members of Parliament to recommend works of a developmental nature in their areas. Under the Scheme, each MP is entitled to ₹5 crore per annum, for the creation of durable community assets based on locally felt needs in sectors such as drinking water, education, public health, sanitation, roads and other essential infrastructure. Lok Sabha Members may recommend works within their respective constituencies, Rajya Sabha Members anywhere within their State of election, while nominated Members may choose works anywhere in the country. To promote inclusive development, atleast 15 % of the entitlement is earmarked for areas inhabited by Scheduled Castes and 7.5 % for Scheduled Tribe areas. The funds are non-lapsable, and the works are executed by the District Authorities through Government agencies in accordance with the Scheme guidelines, with MPs recommending but not directly implementing the projects. By channelling resources directly to grassroots priorities identified by elected representatives, MPLADS complements State and local body programmes, and in the rural context it serves as an important convergence source — alongside MLACDS and other schemes — for bridging local infrastructure gaps and strengthening community assets at the village level.

6.Third Pillar: Governance Reforms

6.Third Pillar: Governance Reforms

The Third Pillar, Under Strengthening Governance, priority is accorded to digital transformation of Rural Local Bodies, strengthening institutional capacity, enhancing financial management, promoting citizen participation, and building self-reliant and resilient Village Panchayats capable of responding effectively to future developmental challenges.

This would fulfilling the objectives of Localised SDGs of a **Village with good governance**, a **Socially just and socially secured village** and a **Women-friendly village**, with transparent planning and asset maintenance also underpinning a Village with **self-sufficient infrastructure**. Capacity building of elected representatives and panchayat functionaries, participatory Gram Panchayat Development Planning, strengthened own-source revenue, digital service delivery, timely grievance redressal and social audit together advance the universal goals of Peace, Justice and Strong Institutions (SDG 16), Partnerships for the Goals (SDG 17), Gender Equality (SDG 5) and Reduced Inequalities (SDG 10).

6.1.Good Governance Initiatives

6.1.1Procurement Reform Policy:

Registration of Contractors

The Government have issued the Guidelines for Registration of Contractors 2026 in G.O.(Ms) No.115, Rural Development and Panchayat Raj Department, dated 30.06.2026, replacing the system in force since 2024. The new framework establishes a single-point, technology-enabled and criteria-based registration system for contractors executing rural infrastructure works.

1. **Single-point registration.** Registration is done only at the District Rural Development Agency (DRDA). Separate Block-level registration is dispensed with.

2. **Wider area of operation.** One registration is valid across the home district and all adjoining districts — without any additional registration fee or deposit.

3. **Simple class structure.** Three registered classes — New Entrant (works up to ₹10 Lakh; fee ₹10,000), Class II (up to ₹50 Lakh; fee ₹20,000) and Class I (up to ₹2 Crore; fee ₹30,000).

4. **Works above ₹2 Crore thrown open.** No registration is required for works above ₹2 Crore. Any contractor

may participate, subject only to the prequalification conditions of the tender; successful bidders are recorded as Class IA — with no fee, no deposit and no renewal.

5. **Solvency Certificate abolished.** In its place, a Registration Deposit equal to one-fiftieth of the class limit is furnished as an irrevocable electronic Bank Guarantee (₹20,000 / ₹1,00,000 / ₹4,00,000).

6. **Capacity linked to deposit**. A contractor may hold works up to 50 times the Registration Deposit at any time, and may enhance the deposit at any time to enhance capacity.

7. **Objective eligibility criteria.** Eligibility is determined by fixed, verifiable norms — GST transactions of

20%, annual turnover of 50% and works experience of 25% of the value applied for, in any one of the preceding ten financial years, with past works escalated at 5% per annum.

8. **Entry for new contractors.** The New Entrant category permits registration without any prior works experience, opening the field to educated youth and new enterprises.
9. **Open participation with Failsafe Deposit.** Even unregistered contractors may bid for works; on award, they furnish a Failsafe Deposit in addition to the Security Deposit, and are enrolled as registered contractors on successful completion.
10. **Full fee exemption for priority groups.** Individual women contractors (a new concession), SC/ST contractors

including wholly-owned firms, TNCDW-recognised SHGs/PLFs and unemployed civil engineering graduates and diploma holders are fully exempt from the registration fee.

11. **Time-bound and accountable.** Every application is decided within 15 days; appeal lies to the District Collector. Graded disciplinary provisions banning and blacklisting with due process protect the integrity of the system.

12. **Free and automatic renewal.** Renewal is free of cost, and automatic for contractors who have executed at least one work during the validity. All existing registrants stand migrated to the corresponding new classes automatically, without fee.

Impact. The new Guidelines replace repeated registrations, discretionary scrutiny and paper securities with one office, one register, one digital deposit and arithmetic criteria. Entry costs are reduced, small contractors gain a market spanning several districts, new entrants and priority groups gain an assured gate, and high-value works draw open competition without registration barriers — enlarging the pool of bidders for every tender and securing competitive rates for rural infrastructure.

To strengthen transparency and accountability, training will be given to all procuring officials for effective implementation of e-procurement, ensuring uniformity in the tendering process and reducing manual intervention. Standardised Model Tender Documents will be adopted across all Rural Local Bodies to promote consistency, clarity, and legal certainty. In addition, qualification criteria should be objective, proportionate, and non-discriminatory, ensuring equal opportunity for all eligible bidders.

These measures would create a more competitive procurement environment, improve value for public expenditure, enhance the quality and timeliness of infrastructure projects, and reinforce public confidence in Panchayat procurement processes.

6.1.2. Green and Climate Resilient Panchayats:

Village Panchayats and Self-Help Groups (SHGs) can play a decisive facilitating role in bringing as many as Households in rooftop solar within reach of rural household. With the implementation of VB-GRAMG focusing in Plantation and nursery raising, the green cover in rural areas can be increased. Converting Solid waste into Compost and household biogas to be a part of rural Solid waste management activities. Taken together, these activities will exhibit the State's carbon-neutrality commitment from the village upward.

6.1.3. Institutional and Community Measures

The Green components in the Village Panchayat Development Plan would include- Grama Sabha resolutions on tree planting, waste segregation at household level and water conservation; village-level environment committees; deployment of Thooimai Kaavalars; and green-themed training for elected representatives and staff through SIRD, RIRDs and District Training Centres. Recognition mechanisms — awards for plastic-free, ODF Plus Model and greenest Panchayats. These initiatives would sustain community momentum better than enforcement alone.

6.1.4. Renewable Energy in Rural Habitations

Encouraging and facilitating Rural Household for Solar Energy:

Village Panchayats can facilitate eligible families to receive help in registration for roof top solar , vendor selection, subsidy claims and net-metering formalities at the Panchayat office itself rather than travelling to district centres. Awareness campaigns through Grama Sabhas, Self-Help Groups and Panchayat display boards, explaining in simple Tamil the actual cost, subsidy, savings and payback period, address the information gap that most often deters rural adoption.

Promoting and Encouraging Solar-power

Village Panchayats will be encouraged to significantly reduce recurring electricity expenditure by adopting renewable energy solutions such as LED and solar-powered street lights, rooftop solar systems, and solar-powered water pumps. Solar street lights are especially beneficial for remote hamlets and interior roads. Installing rooftop solar panels over public buildings can make these buildings energy self-sufficient Together, these measures enhance sustainability, improve service delivery, and strengthen the financial resilience of Village Panchayats**.**

6.1.5. Green Cover, Ecosystem Restoration and Climate Resilience:

Plantation and avenue greening:

Tree plantation is a key intervention for addressing climate change, enhancing green cover, and restoring ecological balance in rural areas. It plays a vital role in improving environmental sustainability, supporting biodiversity, and strengthening the livelihoods and living standards of rural communities.

The Rural Development and Panchayat Raj Department has been undertaking extensive plantation activities across Tamil Nadu under the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme (MGNREGS). The activities include large-scale tree plantation in public places, Government schools, colleges, and institutions; avenue plantations along

Government roads; coastal plantations; and river-side plantations.

In 2026–27, 2 crore saplings are being raised in 1,834 nurseries, comprising 1,542 RD nurseries and 292 GTM nurseries under the Forest Department. Additionally, 250 new nurseries will be established.

6.1.6.Partners in Development

The Government is committed to accelerating inclusive and sustainable rural development through the creation of quality public infrastructure. While significant investments are being made through various Government programmes, the growing infrastructure needs and aspirations of rural communities require a collaborative approach that complements public investment.

Accordingly, the Government has adopted the "Partners in Development" approach to establish an institutional framework for collaboration with Corporates under Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR), Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs), Community-Based Organizations (CBOs), Educational Institutions, philanthropic organizations and other eligible institutions. By leveraging their financial resources, technical expertise and innovation, the initiative seeks to complement Government efforts in creating sustainable public assets, mobilizing additional investments and accelerating rural transformation through shared responsibility and strategic partnerships.

This scheme also aims to promote rural infrastructure development through partnerships with Companies (under CSR), Community-Based Organizations (CBOs), Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs), and other eligible institutions, thereby creating sustainable community assets and improving the quality of life in rural areas.

Under this category, development works shall be undertaken by Partner Agencies in selected villages by providing financial support for rural infrastructure creation. The Partner Agency may execute the works directly or entrust execution through the respective District Rural Development Agency (DRDA).

The Partner Agency may choose to fund, execute or support a wide range of rural development projects within designated villages. The permissible scope of works under this partnership includes:

1. **Sports & Recreation:** Construction of playgrounds, mini-stadiums, and sports facilities.
2. **Community Spaces:** Construction of community halls and public square developments.
3. **Education & Culture facilities:** Building of public libraries and additional school classrooms.
4. **Public Utilities:** Complete revamp and modernization of street lighting facilities.
5. **Ecological Assets:** Rejuvenation and restoration of water bodies, including minor irrigation tanks, ponds, and ooranies.
6. **Other Works:** Any other rural public infrastructure asset mutually agreed upon by both Parties.

To ensure seamless execution, the choice of implementation model rests with the Partner Agency based on its internal guidelines and resources. The works may be executed via either of the following paths:

i. **Execution by the Partner Agency:** The Partner Agency directly executes and completes the physical development works on-site using its own capital, technical teams, and contractors, subject to necessary departmental monitoring.

ii. **Execution by the DRDA:** The Partner Agency provides the financial capital or grants for the estimated cost of the work and entrusts the actual tendering and execution to the respective District Rural Development Agency (DRDA).

6.1.7. Rejuvenation of Water Bodies by Corporates, NGOs/CSR/CBOs and Educational Institutions

The Government have issued G.O.(Ms).No.116. Rural Development and Panchayat Raj (SGS2(2)) Department, dated 30.06.2026, to establish a transparent institutional framework to welcome Corporates, NGOs/CSR/CBOs into water body rejuvenation and conservation.

Modes of Implementation:

The above works shall be taken up as per the following modes:

A. Funded and Executed by Corporates/ Firms / NGOs / CBOs / Educational Institutions

B. Works Executed by the Department with Funding from Corporates/ Firms/ NGOs/ CBOs/ Educational Institutions

C. Machineries and kind provided by Corporates / Firms / NGOs / CBOs / Educational Institutions

D. G.O.(Ms) No.50 of Industries (MMC-1) department dated 27.04.2017 and further amendments.

Upon finalization of the mode of implementation, the District Collector shall issue a No Objection Certificate (NOC) for commencement of works and a Memorandum of Understanding will be executed by the Corporates, NGOs/CSR/CBOs and Educational Institutions with the District Collector.

6.2. Comprehensive citizen participation app

It is proposed to develop and implement a comprehensive Citizen participation app to serve as an integrated digital platform connecting Village Panchayats with rural citizens.

The application would facilitate real-time dissemination of Government orders, Panchayat resolutions, Gram Sabha notices, meeting agendas, development plans, and public announcements. Citizens would be able to receive timely notifications regarding Gram Sabha meetings and access relevant documents well in advance, enabling informed participation in local decision-making.

The platform would also support online communication of tax demands, digital payment of Panchayat taxes and user charges, and electronic access to various Panchayat services, thereby improving convenience and strengthening local revenue administration.

An important feature of the application would be the provision of a dedicated citizen participation module, enabling residents to submit suggestions, vote on village development priorities, provide feedback on public services, and communicate local issues directly to Panchayat authorities.

To further strengthen governance, the application may incorporate an Artificial Intelligence (AI)-enabled analytical layer capable of categorising citizen grievances, summarising recurring issues, identifying priority concerns, and automatically escalating unresolved matters to higher administrative authorities for timely intervention. Such a system would enhance transparency, improve grievance redressal, strengthen participatory governance, and promote greater accountability within Rural Local Bodies.

6.3. Performance Assessment Policy

At present, there is no comprehensive and Tamil Nadu-specific framework for objectively assessing the overall performance and developmental progress of Village Panchayats. Existing evaluation mechanisms primarily focus on compliance with scheme guidelines and programme implementation, without adequately capturing the broader dimensions of governance, service delivery, infrastructure, financial management, environmental sustainability, and citizen participation. In order to establish a robust performance assessment system tailored to the needs and priorities of the State, it is proposed to introduce a **Panchayat Development Index (PDI)** exclusively for Tamil Nadu. The PDI would serve as a scientific and evidence-based tool to measure the performance of every Village Panchayat on an annual basis across a range of development indicators.

To ensure equitable comparison, Village Panchayats may be grouped into five categories based on their baseline development status, enabling fair assessment among similarly placed Panchayats. The annual PDI assessment would not only monitor progress but also guide policy interventions and strengthen planning at the grassroots level. Resource allocation under various development programmes may be linked to both the baseline status and subsequent performance of Panchayats, thereby providing greater support to underperforming Panchayats while incentivising continuous improvement. Special attention would be given to bridging regional disparities and accelerating development in lagging areas.

Table No.7

Present Scenario of Graded Village Panchayats

As per of Panchayat Advancement Index

S. No	Grade/ Range of VPs	No. of VPs in 2022-23	No. of VPs in 2023-24	Performance
1	A+ - (90-100)	0	0	Excellent
2	A - (75-89)	0	263	Very Good
3	B - (60-74)	6902	10640	Good
4	C - (40-59)	5618	1564	Needs Improvement
5	D - (0-39)	5	15	Requires Significant Improvement
Total No. of VPs		**12525**	**12482**	

6.4. Services through web portal

Services provided by Village Panchayats and Panchayat Unions to the public are now to be handled through an online platform to ensure transparency and accountability. The Web portal address are given below:

- www.tndrdpri.indianbank.bank.in
- www.onlineppa.tn.gov.in
- www.vptax.tnrd.tn.gov.in

These services, previously based on manual record-keeping and receipts, are now offered digitally, ensuring efficiency and accessibility for the public.

6.4.1. Online payments

A new portal **www.vptax.tnrd.tn.gov.in** has been developed by the National Informatics Centre for online payment of property taxes, professional taxes, and water charges to Panchayats. The portal has been launched in 2022-23 across Tamil Nadu, facilitates online tax payments. The portal is now having data of 1.50 crore households, and Point of Sale (POS) machines have been distributed to 12,480 Village Panchayats to ease tax collection.

6.4.2. TNPASS (Tamil Nadu Panchayat Account Simplification System)

To streamline the financial transactions in Village Panchayats, Tamil Nadu has introduced the Simplified Panchayat Account system. This system simplifies accounting procedures, enabling faster transactions and better service delivery at the grassroots level.

(a) Payment of Service Charges through TNPASS

Providing drinking water and maintaining street lights are key responsibilities of Village Panchayats.

Previously, Service Charges for these services were paid via demand drafts to the Tamil Nadu Generation and Distribution Corporation (TANGEDCO) and the Tamil Nadu Water Supply and Drainage (TWAD) Board. This created difficulties in coordinating the collection and payment of electricity charges, as well as issues in delivering quality services. Therefore, the Rural Development and Panchayat Raj Department, in coordination with other departments, has integrated these payments through electronic mode, and action is being taken to clear outstanding dues.

6.4.3. Layout and Building Plan approval

Through the Online PPA portal, (www.onlineppa.tn.gov.in) layout approval and building plan approval in rural areas are granted by the concerned Village Panchayats with the prior technical approval of the Chennai Metropolitan Development Authority (CMDA) or DTCP. This portal, which was launched in the financial year 2024-25, operates transparently across all Village Panchayats in the State.

6.4.4.Simplifying the Procedure for Starting Industries in Rural Areas

To promote industrial development in rural areas, building plan approvals for factories, business licenses and permits can now be easily obtained. Specific guidelines have been issued. A Single Window Portal is being developed to coordinate with various departments and facilitate the immediate issuance of the necessary permits.

6.5.Training & Capacity Building

Capacity Building and Training programmes are critical to improve capability, capacity, productivity, performance and effectiveness of Panchayat Functionaries (PFs) like officials, staff and Elected Local Body representatives (ERs) entrusted with the responsibility of implementing Government schemes and providing services. The training programmes not only enhance skills, knowledge, competencies but also contribute to better attitude and positive behaviour.

This important function for the Rural Development Department is entrusted to Commissioner of Rural Development Training, the State Institute of Rural Development and Panchayat Raj (SIRD & PR), 5 Regional Institutes of Rural

Development and Panchayat Raj (RIRD & PR) and 37 District Resource Centres for Panchayats (DRCP). Various other training programs in coordination with line departments and with the support of the State Finance Commission (SFC) are also undertaken by the training wing effectively.

6.5.1. Revamped Rashtriya Gram Swaraj Abhiyan (RRGSA)

The Government of India introduced the restructured Rashtriya Gram Swaraj Abhiyan scheme in 2018 and now expected to be extended upto 2026-27 to 2030-31, which aims to strengthen capacities of institutions for rural local good governance to become more responsive towards local development needs. It also aims to facilitate participatory planning with people, leveraging technologies for effectively utilizing available resources and realizing sustainable solutions to local problems which are linked to Sustainable Development Goals. The Panchayats have therefore been designated as a key player for implementation of the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals to be achieved by 2030.

6.5.1.1. Funding Pattern

Revamped Rashtriya Gram Swaraj Abhiyan is executed with a financial sharing pattern of 60:40 (Union and State Government) for Training, Training Infrastructure and Human Resources, Distance learning, Innovative activities, Technical support to Panchayat Raj Institutions, Administrative and Financial Data Analysis and Planning Cell, Panchayat Buildings, E-enablement of Panchayats, Project based support for Economic Development and Income enhancement, IEC (1.5%) and Programme Management (1.5%).

During the year 2025-26, the Government of India, Ministry of Panchayat Raj has approved Annual Action Plan for a sum of ₹153.24 crore under Revamped Rashtriya Gram Swaraj Abhiyan for conducting various training programmes and also creation of infrastructure facilities and Human Resources. During the 2025-26, 80,441 persons have been trained at an expenditure of ₹20.53 crore. Infrastructure facilities at Panchayat level have been developed at an expenditure of ₹28.95 crore and ₹10.52 crore has been incurred for Human Resources.

6.5.2. State Institute of Rural Development and Panchayat Raj (SIRD &PR)

State Institute of Rural Development and Panchayat Raj is the apex institution at the State level organizing training programmes for various target groups to update their knowledge, upgrade their skills and change their attitude for successful implementation of the various schemes of the department effectively and efficiently. It is also vested with the responsibility of developing course content and training of trainers for various courses.

SIRD&PR has been registered as a Society under Tamil Nadu Societies Registration Act of 1975. Presently the Institute is functioning in a 25-acre campus at Maraimalainagar, Chengalpattu District.

6.5.3. Training of Elected Representatives and Panchayat Functionaries

A comprehensive 'Capacity Building Plan' for the elected representatives of Panchayat Raj Institutions and Panchayat Functionaries was designed which included Localization of Sustainable Development Goals (LSDG), Augmentation of Own Source

Revenue (OSR), Specialized Module for Women Elected Representatives, Model Women Friendly Panchayats and Panchayat Advancement Index (PDI). To conduct these training programs for the following categories i.e. Assistant Directors, Block Development Officers, Line Department Officials and Elected Representatives. We also provide Training of Training (ToT) to State level Master trainers, Regional level Resource persons, District Resource persons and Sub-Divisional Resource persons.

Training will prepare the PRI Representatives to discharge their functions effectively and as per rule of law. Books have been prepared on various topics including Panchayat Administration, Schemes implementation, Financial Administration, e-Governance etc. Exclusive training Programmes will also be organised for the women and SC & ST Representatives to enhance their capabilities, inculcate leadership qualities and empower them to perform their roles and responsibilities properly.

Table - 8

Training Plan– SIRD&PR – 2026-27

No. of programmes	No. of participants trained
130	6500

6.5.4. Regional Institute of Rural Development and Panchayat Raj Establishment

Regional Institutes of Rural Development and Panchayat Raj are headed by Principals in the cadre of Additional Director / Joint Director of Rural Development and Panchayat Raj. The State Government provides 13.44 Crore per annum for the five RIRD&PRs and SIRD&PR as budgetary support. The Government of

India, Ministry of Rural Development intermittently supports for the recurring and non-recurring expenditure.

6.5.5. Activities of Regional Institutes of Rural Development and Panchayat Raj

Based on the course content and modules developed by SIRD&PR, the RIRDs directly trains various stakeholders like officials and functionaries of the Rural Development and Panchayat Raj Department, elected representatives of Panchayat Raj Institution such as Ward Members of Block Panchayats, Village Panchayat Presidents, Panchayat Secretaries and Government functionaries, Self Help Group Members, CBOs, Line Department Officials on Government schemes and programmes.

Table - 9

Training Plan – RIRD&PRs - 2026-27

No. of programmes	No. of participants trained
550	22,000

6.5.6.District Resource Centres for Panchayats (DRCPs):

District Resource Centres for Panchayats (DRCPs) have been established under Rashtriya Gram Swaraj Abhiyan to focus exclusively on Panchayat Raj training and capacity building at District level. The Government of India guideline mentions it as District Panchayat Resource Centre (DPRC). The District Resource Centres for Panchayats function under the administrative control of the District Collector. The District Resource Centres for Panchayats will train Village Panchayat Ward Members, Road Inspectors, Panchayat

Secretaries, Village Panchayat staff including OHT operators, Thooimai Paniyalargal, Community based Organizations and Village Panchayat level Committees.

Table - 10

Training Plan DRCPs – 2026-27

No. of programmes	No. of participants trained
1,788	71,500

7. Central Government Schemes to be aligned with TN VETRI

7.Central Government Schemes to be aligned with TN VETRI

7.1.Jal Jeevan Mission

The Jal Jeevan Mission (JJM) is being implemented in Tamil Nadu with the vision of providing Functional Household Tap Connections (FHTCs) to every rural household, ensuring 55 litres per capita per day (LPCD) of safe and adequate drinking water on a regular and sustainable basis. The scheme has been extended up to 2028 for the completion of ongoing works. Out of 1,25,25,733 rural households, 1,12,56,706 households (89.87%) have been provided with FHTCs, while 15 districts, 197 blocks and 8,834 Village Panchayats have achieved Har Ghar Jal status i.e., Panchayats that achieved 100% provision of Functional Household Tap Connections (FHTCs). The scheme is funded equally by the Government of India and the Government of Tamil Nadu (50:50). The Municipal Administration and Water Supply Department is the State Nodal Department, with the Managing Director, TWAD Board serving as the Mission Director. The RD&PR Department implements Single Village Schemes and in-village infrastructure for Multi Village Schemes (MVS), while the TWAD Board implements MVS. The Mission also encourages community participation through beneficiary contributions of 5% in Villages where the population of SC/ST is more than 50%, hilly and forest villages and 10% in other villages towards the capital cost of in-village water supply infrastructure.

7.2. Jal Jeevan Mission 2.0:

The Government of India has announced JJM 2.0 named as Rural Piped Water Supply Scheme (RPWSS) for Operation &

Maintenance of these schemes during the year 2026. JJM 1.0 focused heavily on creation of Infrastructures whereas JJM 2.0 insists on Operation and Maintenance of the Water Supply Systems.

7.2.1. Core Objectives of JJM 2.0:

Jal Jeevan Mission 2.0 named as “Rural Piped Water Supply Schemes” primarily focuses on long-term service delivery and asset sustainability rather than just building basic infrastructure to guarantee a minimum of 55 liters per capita per day (lpcd) of potable water meeting BIS:10500 standards through Functional Household Tap Connections (FHTCs).

7.2.2 Components of JJM 2.0:

Institutional Architecture and Drinking Water Governance: -

JJM 2.0 envisages to split management into village-level micro utilities (local distribution/repairs) and state-level macro utilities (bulk transfers/bulk infrastructure).

7.2.3.District Technical Units (DTUs):

Existing District Level Project Monitoring Unit (DPMUs) are proposed to be re-constituted as Integrated District Technical Unit Cum Programme Management and Command & Support Centre for strengthening the District Water and Sanitation Mission (DWSM) and institutional architecture for facilitating the GPs / VWSCs, in a more focused manner. The District Technical Units (DTUs) are responsible for local handholding and mandates a Joint Technical Committee to vet projects valued at ₹100 crore or above.

7.2.4. Environmental & Quality Governance:

- **Quality Assurance:** Combines community Field Test Kits (FTKs) with formal labs and central digital dashboards.

- **Source Sustainability:** Requires water budgeting, hydro-geological mapping, and convergence with programs like VB-GRAM (G) for groundwater recharge.

7.2.5. Digital & Financial Accountability:

- **Digital Public Infrastructure:** Uses the Sujalam Bharat GIS-linked Asset Registry to verify projects before releasing funds , alongside Supervisory Control and Data Acquisition (SCADA) systems for real-time tracking.

- **State Commitments:** Requires legally binding MoUs and a Comprehensive Implementation and Reform Plan (CIRP) from States to receive phased funding via SNA-SPARSH system.

- **Review Timeline:** A formal program-wide mid-term evaluation is scheduled for 2027.

7.2.6.ID Creation for Rural Piped Water Supply Schemes(RPWSS):

RPWSS module has been introduced by the Government of India and made available in the JJM-IMIS portal to merge various components of Piped Water Supply (PWS) scheme as a single scheme (RPWSS ID) in IMIS for capturing comprehensive data on assets created under PWS schemes and to ensure better Operation & Maintenance of these Schemes.

7.2.7. Sujalam Bharat Mobile Application:-

The Sujalam Bharat Mobile Application, launched by the Government of India which enables the States to carry out geo-tagging and geo-referencing of assets created under the RPWSS module. The Access to the Sujalam Bharath Mobile Application is provided to the following limited users:

- State level: Nodal Officer; Chairman of Executive Committee; Chief Engineer, JJM
- District level: District Collectors; ACs/ PDs – DRDA; EEs of TWAD Board

Upon successful geo-tagging/ geo-referencing and approval, "Sujal Gaon IDs" are generated. These habitation-level identifiers provide comprehensive information on piped water supply assets from source to habitation.

7.2.8. User Fee Charges:

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

- Minimum User Charge of ₹30/- is being collected.
- The Bulk water transfer charges to the TWAD Board has to be paid by the Village Panchayats at the tariff rate fixed by the Government.
- Water Supply Works under Jal Jeevan Mission are monitored by Village Water Supply and Sanitation Committee–(VWSC) and Village Panchayat.

7.2.9. Internet of Things (IoT):

Automatic sensor-based monitoring & control system improves the efficient usage of electricity and public water supply systems. This prevents unwarranted wastage of water through controlled usage of the motor.

The Automatic sensor-based Monitoring systems were installed in few Panchayats and will be scaled up in a phased manner.

7.3. Swachh Bharat Mission (Grameen) -SBM(G)

The Swachh Bharat Mission (Grameen) [SBM(G)] was launched to eliminate open defecation through behavioural change and the construction of Individual Household Latrines (IHHLs) and Community Sanitary Complexes (CSCs). Under SBM(G) Phase I (2014–2019), Tamil Nadu achieved Open Defecation Free (ODF) status in 2019, with all Village Panchayats declared ODF. Phase II, launched in 2020–21, focuses on ODF Plus, emphasizing the sustainability of ODF status, effective Solid and Liquid Waste Management (SLWM), and the creation of visually clean villages. Except for IHHLs and Faecal Sludge Management (FSM), all programme components are implemented in convergence with Finance Commission Grants and other schemes. SBM(G) is a key enabler for achieving the Localized Sustainable Development Goals (LSDGs) by strengthening Rural Local Bodies, improving sanitation services, promoting sustainable waste management, and enhancing environmental sustainability. The Mission primarily contributes to SDG 6 (Clean Water and Sanitation) while also supporting SDGs 3, 11, 12, and 13 through improved public health, resource efficiency, and climate resilience.

7.3.1. Components of SBM (G) -II

Swachh Bharat Mission (Gramin) Phase II have four important components.

A. ODF sustainability : 100% access to Safe Sanitation to all through construction of Individual Household Latrines, Community Sanitary Complexes and IEC activities.

B. Solid Waste Management: Effective management of solid waste by at least 80% of households and all public places. To ensure the construction and proper functioning of infrastructure related to the management of biodegradable and non-biodegradable waste. Also, construction of plastic waste management units as well as GoBARdhan plants, with a focus on their functionality.

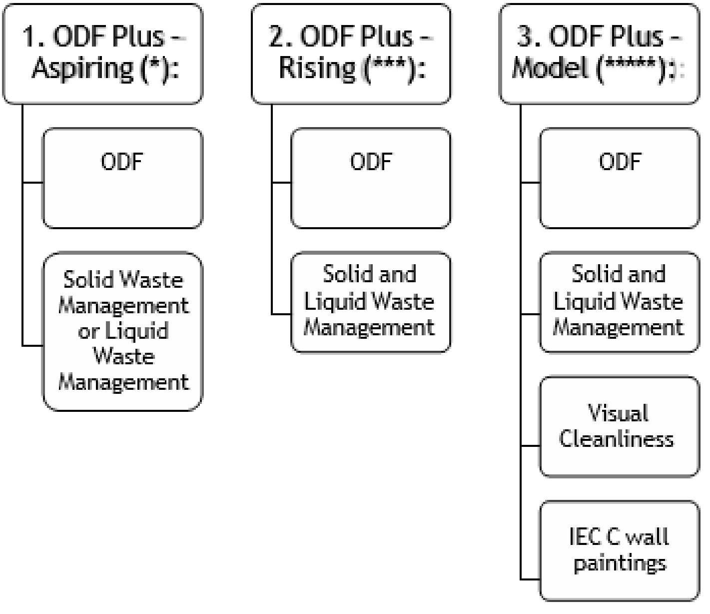
C. Liquid Waste Management: Coverage of at least 80% of Households and all Public Places with Grey Water Management, Black Water Management (Wastewater containing faecal matter).

D. Visual Cleanliness of the villages: Villages are visually clean with minimal litter, minimal Stagnant Water and No Plastic dump.

7.3.2. Categorisation of Village Panchayats

The Village Panchayats are given star rating under SBM-G Phase II based on the saturation in above components.

This assessment is used to measure the progress achieved by each village panchayat in Open Defecation Free (ODF) sustainability, solid waste management, liquid waste management and visual cleanliness and to facilitate continuous improvement.



7.3.3. Individual Household Latrines (IHHL)

The scheme aims to ensure that all rural families can access safe toilets. A duly completed IHHL shall consist of a sanitary substructure, a superstructure, and a water storage facility to ensure proper hygiene. Identified eligible households are given an incentive of ₹12,000/- for constructing IHHLs. So far, in phase II, 6,83,782 IHHLs have been taken up with an outlay of ₹780.30 crore under SBM (G) for those who have not been covered under earlier schemes.

7.3.4. Community Sanitary Complexes (CSC)

An ODF Plus village is expected to have at least one community sanitary complex, which may cater to the sanitation needs of the floating population. The CSCs have separate facilities for men and women and consist of an appropriate number of toilet seats, including one for the physically challenged, bathing cubicles, running water and wash basins. It is built in a place in the village that is acceptable and accessible. 16,317 Community Sanitary Complexes were taken up with an outlay of ₹642.08 crore under SBM(G) Phase II in convergence with Finance Commission Grant and other schemes.

7.4. Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana (PMGSY)

The Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana (PMGSY) has significantly strengthened rural road connectivity in Tamil Nadu through successive phases. Under **PMGSY-I,** all-weather road connectivity was provided to 1,986 unconnected habitations by constructing and upgrading 7,678 roads covering 16,296 km and 98 bridges at a cost of ₹4,586 crore. Under **PMGSY-II,** 860 roads covering 2,940 km and 34 bridges were upgraded at a cost of ₹1,434 crore. Under **PMGSY-III** (2019–20 to 2024–25), 1,826 roads covering 7,377 km and 83 bridges were sanctioned at a cost of ₹4,875 crore to improve connectivity to Gramin Agricultural Markets, Higher Secondary Schools, and Hospitals.

Under **PMGSY-IV**, the focus is on providing all-weather road connectivity to the remaining eligible unconnected habitations with a population of 500 and above in plain areas and 250 and above in hilly areas, based on the 2011 Census. Tamil Nadu has almost achieved universal rural habitation connectivity, with only 9 eligible habitations in forest areas remaining. Forest clearance has been obtained for 4 habitations, and action is underway to secure statutory clearances for the remaining 5 habitations.

7.4.1. PM-JANMAN

PM-JANMAN aims at providing road connectivity to unconnected Particularly Vulnerable Tribal Group (PVTG) habitations having population of more than 100.

During 2025-26, sanction has been accorded for the construction of 4 roads covering a length of 10.96 Km at a cost of ₹9.07 crore to provide connectivity to 5 tribal habitations.

7.4.2.Maintenance of PMGSY Roads

The maintenance of PMGSY roads is being monitored through the Electronic Maintenance of Rural Roads (e-MARG) portal of the Government of India. As per PMGSY guidelines, maintenance of PMGSY roads is fully funded by State Government.

During 2025-26, an amount of ₹45 crore was allocated by the State

Government towards maintenance of PMGSY roads. During 2026-27, an amount of ₹50 crore is required for routine maintenance of 7,178 Km length of PMGSY roads.

7.4.3. Performance Incentive Grant

Government of India introduced Performance Incentive Grants for States based on their performance under PMGSY.

From 2016-17 to 2024-25, Tamil Nadu has received Incentive Grants amounting to ₹356 crore. The State Government has provided a matching share of ₹237 crore. The funds are utilised for periodic renewal of PMGSY roads that have completed the prescribed maintenance period. So far, periodic renewal works have been carried out for 4,972 Km length of PMGSY roads under this initiative.

7.4.4.Technology Initiatives

Tamil Nadu has been a pioneer in adopting innovative and environment-friendly technologies in rural road construction. Technologies such as Cement Stabilisation, Soil Stabilisation, Coir Technology, Chemical Stabilisation, Waste Plastic Roads and Cold Mix Technology have been adopted under PMGSY.

From 2012-13 to 2024-25, roads covering a length of 6,175 Km at a cost of ₹3,666 crore have been taken up using various alternate technologies.

Tamil Nadu received recognition from the Ministry of Rural Development, Government of India for outstanding implementation of road construction works using green and innovative technologies during the 25th Anniversary celebrations of PMGSY during 2026.

7.5. Pradhan Mantri Awaas Yojana – Gramin

The Pradhan Mantri Awaas Yojana – Gramin (PMAY-G), implemented in Tamil Nadu since 2016–17, aims to provide pucca houses with basic amenities to eligible houseless households and those living in kutcha or dilapidated houses. The scheme provides a unit assistance of ₹1.20 lakh per house, shared between the Union and State Governments in the ratio of 60:40, with a minimum plinth area of 269 sq. ft. To ensure the construction of durable houses, the State Government provides an additional ₹1.20 lakh per house towards RCC roofing and related costs. Beneficiaries also receive ₹12,000/- for toilets under SBM-G, 90 person-days of unskilled wages under MGNREGS/VB GRAM, and access to loans of up to ₹70,000/-, if required.

From 2016–17 to 2024–25, 7,02,560 houses have been sanctioned, of which 6,68,709 houses have been completed. The Government of India has released ₹5,058 crore, while the State Government has contributed ₹3,372 crore as its matching share. In addition, the State has released ₹5,283 crore towards RCC roofing assistance, with an expenditure of ₹5,066 crore, ensuring the timely completion of quality rural housing.

7.6. Pradhan Mantri Janjati Adivasi Nyaya Maha Abhiyan (PM-JANMAN)

During 2023-24 the Ministry of Tribal Welfare, Government of India has launched a scheme PM-JANMAN (Pradhan Mantri Janjati Adivasi Nyaya Maha Abhiyan) to improve the socio-economic condition of the Particularly Vulnerable Tribal Groups (PVTGs). Providing pucca houses to the

PVTG households is one of the interventions by MoRD, GoI under PM-JANMAN. In Tamil Nadu, six tribal communities viz., Irular, Kattunayakkan, Kota, Korumba, Paniyann and Toda residing in 21 Districts are eligible to get houses under this scheme. To provide PVTG households and habitations with basic facilities such as safe housing, clean drinking water and sanitation, improved access to education, health and nutrition, road and telecom connectivity, and sustainable livelihood opportunities on saturation mode. A housing scheme for PVTGs, similar to PMAY-G with slight modifications, has been approved by the Ministry of Rural Development, Government of India.

7.6.1. Mode of Selection of beneficiaries

Based on the list of PVTG villages provided by the Ministry of Tribal Affairs, the Ministry of Rural Development has mapped these villages on the Awaas portal, and eligible households are identified through village-level surveys conducted via the AwaasApp. After completing the surveys, houses have been sanctioned to eligible PVTG households following due procedures. Owning a pucca house and having a Government Employee as a member in the family are the two exclusion criteria under this scheme.

7.6.2.Plinth Area and Unit Cost (State Support to PM-JANMAN)

The State Government has increased the plinth area of 269 sq.ft to 300 sq.ft in Tamil Nadu. The unit cost of a house under PM-JANMAN in Tamil Nadu is ₹5.07 lakh per house for Plains and ₹5.73 lakh for hilly area which is inclusive of State support cost, convergence with MGNREGS/VB-GRAM wages for 90 person-days of un-skilled labour over and above the unit cost, and assistance of ₹12,000/- for toilets through convergence with the Swachh Bharat Mission – Gramin (SBM-G)

7.6.3.Sanction and Fund Allocation

Houses are sanctioned under the Pradhan Mantri Janjati Adivasi Nyaya Maha Abhiyan, with an enhanced plinth area of 300 sq.ft and substantial additional assistance from the State, under which 13,065 houses have been sanctioned at an estimated cost of ₹261 crore. Apart from this, State Support cost provided by Government of Tamil Nadu is ₹367 crore.

8. Revised Budget Estimates for 2026-27

8. Revised Budget Estimates for 2026-27

A sum of ₹39,609 crore is provided in the Revised Budget Estimate for the year 2026-27 out of which, the revenue Expenditure is ₹33,971 crore and Capital Expenditure is ₹5,638 crore.

9.Conclusion

9.Conclusion

Tamil Nadu has established one of the most robust and progressive systems of rural local governance in the country. With a network comprising 37 rural districts, 37 District Panchayats, 397 Block Panchayats, 12,571 Village Panchayats, and 78,997 habitations, serving a rural population of more than four crore citizens, the State possesses a strong institutional platform for advancing inclusive and sustainable rural development.

Over the past three decades, the evolving developmental landscape has brought forth new challenges, including fragmented scheme-based planning, increasing maintenance liabilities, misalignment of administrative boundaries, rapid peri-urbanisation, limited institutional convergence, and the growing need for digital governance and climate-resilient infrastructure.

The policy proposals presented in this Concept Note collectively address these emerging challenges through a comprehensive and integrated reform agenda under the vision of **"Vetri Tamizhagam."** The proposed interventions seek to strengthen Village Panchayats as vibrant institutions of local self-government capable of delivering efficient public services, promoting inclusive economic growth, fostering participatory democracy, and ensuring sustainable management of public assets.

The introduction of transformative initiatives such as New Housing scheme, the **Tamil Nadu Village Empowerment, Transformation and Rejuvenation Initiative (TN-VETRI)**, the **Panchayat**

Development Index, category-specific development missions, digital Gram Sabha platforms, enhanced fiscal devolution, strengthened infrastructure maintenance, and institutional capacity building together provide a comprehensive roadmap for the future of rural governance in Tamil Nadu.

Implementation of these recommendations, supported by the proposed financial framework and phased resource mobilisation strategy, would enable the State to transition from fragmented programme implementation towards a unified, outcome-oriented, and citizen-centric model of rural development. Such an integrated approach would not only improve governance and public service delivery but also accelerate progress towards the Sustainable Development Goals, strengthen local democracy, promote resilient rural economies, and realise the vision of **"Vetri Tamizhagam"**—creating digitally empowered, self-reliant, prosperous, and sustainable rural communities across Tamil Nadu.

N.ANAND
Minister for Rural Development and
Water Resources
Government of Tamil Nadu

Annexure

Annexure-I

District-wise Rural Population and SC/ ST Population

Sl. No.	District	Rural Population	SC & ST Population
1	Kancheepuram	7,34,580	2,53,798
2	Chengalpattu	11,27,209	4,00,366
3	Tiruvallur	15,85,280	5,41,823
4	Cuddalore	18,00,133	6,35,870
5	Viluppuram	17,24,186	5,55,125
6	Kallakkurichi	11,88,774	4,35,472
7	Vellore	8,62,476	2,47,498
8	Ranipet	8,08,534	2,18,568
9	Tirupathur	8,11,546	2,04,412
10	Tiruvannamalai	19,73,836	5,74,236
11	Salem	19,57,105	4,66,879
12	Namakkal	10,38,006	2,89,227
13	Dharmapuri	12,78,796	2,70,587
14	Krishnagiri	14,65,743	2,41,925
15	Erode	11,30,722	2,35,773
16	Tiruppur	11,39,466	2,65,486
17	Coimbatore	10,21,359	2,33,057
18	The Nilgiris	3,10,591	1,14,213
19	Thanjavur	16,67,809	3,85,756
20	Nagapattinam	5,19,500	1,89,133
21	Mayiladuthurai	7,41,788	2,73,957
22	Thiruvarur	1006482	3,89,679
23	Tiruchirappalli	14,71,945	3,19,628
24	Karur	6,68,360	1,59,919
25	Perambalur	4,68,017	1,52,640
26	Ariyalur	6,71,100	1,73,716
27	Pudukkottai	12,92,611	2,39,349
28	Madurai	13,00,126	2,77,373
29	Theni	5,75,394	1,44,966
30	Dindigul	14,57,767	3,38,661
31	Ramanathapuram	10,09,270	2,14,109
32	Virudhunagar	12,86,543	3,16,993
33	Sivaganga	9,07,249	1,82,156
34	Tirunelveli	7,70,260	1,57,927
35	Tenkasi	8,53,403	1,97,807
36	Thoothukkudi	9,93,119	2,57,525
37	Kanniyakumari	6,46,441	30,439
Total		**4,02,65,526**	**1,05,86,048**

Annexure-II

District Wise – number of Blocks & Villages Panchayat

S. No	District	No. of Blocks	No. of Village Panchayats
1	Ariyalur	6	201
2	Chengalpattu	8	359
3	Coimbatore	12	235
4	Cuddalore	14	683
5	Dharmapuri	10	250
6	Dindigul	14	308
7	Erode	14	234
8	Kallakkurichi	10	416
9	Kancheepuram	6	274
10	Kanniyakumari	9	94
11	Karur	8	158
12	Krishnagiri	11	333
13	Madurai	13	420
14	Mayiladuthurai	5	241
15	Nagapattinam	6	193
16	Namakkal	15	310
17	Perambalur	4	121
18	Pudukkottai	13	488
19	Ramanathapuram	11	429
20	Ranipet	7	288
21	Salem	20	385
22	Sivagangai	12	441
23	Tenkasi	10	210
24	Thanjavur	14	589
25	The Nilgiris	6	96
26	Theni	8	130
27	Thiruvarur	10	430
28	Thoothukkudi	12	415
29	Tiruchirappalli	14	408
30	Tirunelveli	9	204
31	Tirupathur	6	208
32	Tiruppur	13	265
33	Tiruvallur	15	526
34	Tiruvannamalai	19	842
35	Vellore	7	249
36	Viluppuram	15	688
37	Virudhunagar	11	450
Total		**397**	**12,571**

Annexure – III
Water Supply Sources and Combined Water Supply Schemes

S. No	District	Hand Pumps	Power Pumps	Mini Power Pumps	Overhe ad Tanks (OHTs)	Ground Level Reservoi rs (GLRs)	No of CWSS	No of VPs benefited through CWSS
1	Kancheepuram	2346	2264	1943	2600	63	6	22
2	Chengalpattu	3435	2898	3400	3266	140	9	21
3	Tiruvallur	4300	3717	2427	4325	89	11	42
4	Cuddalore	7960	3855	3594	4499	72	18	404
5	Viluppuram	4615	3580	6702	4151	3	4	19
6	Kallakkurichi	1630	2084	3299	2180	8	4	49
7	Vellore	246	3425	3293	2499	93	5	73
8	Ranipet	939	2277	1726	2059	35	9	42
9	Tirupathur	1812	2294	2963	2171	84	2	91
10	Tiruvannamalai	3650	6852	6697	6365	123	26	196
11	Salem	4706	6581	5049	7250	308	10	370
12	Namakkal	2123	4570	1410	4751	294	13	285
13	Dharmapuri	8466	4177	6505	4150	145	8	249
14	Krishnagiri	8187	4843	8187	4988	198	24	321
15	Erode	2510	4876	1651	5109	639	45	202
16	Tiruppur	1973	4707	2690	5363	946	18	264
17	Coimbatore	1329	2732	502	3479	679	12	218
18	The Nilgiris	6	1298	185	55	1388	2	7
19	Thanjavur	4974	4107	2242	5925	118	13	392
20	Nagapattinam	9336	210	244	1215	71	1	164
21	Mayiladuthurai	8998	1717	1701	2528	47	9	155
22	Thiruvarur	4879	2442	1265	3280	117	3	85
23	Tiruchirappalli	4820	5250	3921	4045	374	32	388

S. No	District	Hand Pumps	Power Pumps	Mini Power Pumps	Overhe ad Tanks (OHTs)	Ground Level Reservoi rs (GLRs)	No of CWSS	No of VPs benefited through CWSS
24	Karur	2367	3019	2714	3218	189	17	145
25	Perambalur	3079	816	1038	741	52	9	118
26	Ariyalur	882	1614	1533	1765	264	9	137
27	Pudukkottai	4996	4140	4508	6033	598	34	484
28	Madurai	2527	3617	3933	2682	150	9	413
29	Theni	139	1047	1020	1129	138	26	111
30	Dindigul	1526	4037	3401	4059	205	31	271
31	Ramanathapuram	560	1749	1394	2519	734	38	414
32	Virudhunagar	5939	3949	4791	2779	291	11	450
33	Sivagangai	3685	2981	5094	4109	259	32	440
34	Tirunelveli	1146	2064	1673	2026	232	30	178
35	Tenkasi	999	1593	2409	1887	486	15	220
36	Thoothukkudi	6524	2016	1836	2796	225	27	388
37	Kanniyakumari	287	1515	1707	1583	52	11	90
Total		**1,27,896**	**1,14,913**	**1,08,647**	**1,23,579**	**9,909**	**583**	**7,918**

Annexure - IV
District wise details of Street Lights in Rural Areas

Sl. No	District	Total No. of Street Lights
1	Ariyalur	61753
2	Chengalpattu	148101
3	Coimbatore	108205
4	Cuddalore	157241
5	Dharmapuri	68919
6	Dindigul	84381
7	Erode	68452
8	Kallakkurichi	37509
9	Kancheepuram	92605
10	Kanniyakumari	61815
11	Karur	64029
12	Krishnagiri	109265
13	Madurai	76599
14	Mayiladuthurai	77607
15	Nagapattinam	89469
16	Namakkal	80957
17	Perambalur	31357
18	Pudukkottai	119264
19	Ramanathapuram	105906
20	Ranipet	54689
21	Salem	118985
22	Sivagangai	91193
23	Tenkasi	52311
24	Thanjavur	216806
25	The Nilgiris	20169
26	Theni	29610
27	Thiruvarur	96997
28	Thoothukkudi	146918
29	Tiruchirappalli	72668
30	Tirunelveli	48873
31	Tirupathur	104314
32	Tiruppur	210432
33	Tiruvallur	122600
34	Tiruvannamalai	99827
35	Vellore	60493
36	Viluppuram	125213
37	Virudhunagar	97334
Total		**34,12,866**

Annexure- V
District Wise details of Ponds/Ooranies and Minor Irrigation Tanks

S. No	District Name	No. of MI Tanks Available	No. of Ponds and Ooranies Available
1	ARIYALUR	477	1792
2	CHENGALPATTU	593	2512
3	COIMBATORE	9	565
4	CUDDALORE	237	2780
5	DHARMAPURI	548	504
6	DINDIGUL	1057	1518
7	ERODE	22	623
8	KALLAKURICHI	379	1873
9	KANCHEEPURAM	378	2119
10	KANNIYAKUMARI	206	242
11	KARUR	107	827
12	KRISHNAGIRI	1093	1376
13	MADURAI	976	2376
14	MAYILADUTHURAI	0	2096
15	NAGAPATTINAM	0	3149
16	NAMAKKAL	119	551
17	PERAMBALUR	257	1231
18	PUDUKKOTTAI	3798	5292
19	RAMANATHAPURAM	1124	3898
20	RANIPET	185	1360
21	SALEM	192	564
22	SIVAGANGAI	4224	4718
23	TENKASI	406	458
24	THANJAVUR	52	3350
25	THE NILGIRIS	0	0
26	THENI	24	470
27	THOOTHUKKUDI	405	1501
28	TIRUCHIRAPPALLI	1136	1801
29	TIRUNELVELI	308	192
30	TIRUPATHUR	243	259
31	TIRUPPUR	0	1149
32	TIRUVALLUR	528	3302
33	TIRUVANNAMALAI	1252	4395
34	TIRUVARUR	0	4423
35	VELLORE	135	819
36	VILLUPURAM	783	3238
37	VIRUDHUNAGAR	713	2925
Total		**21966**	**70248**

Annexure- VI
Officers & Staffs in RD & PR Department

Sl. No	Name of the Post	State Level	District Level	Deputation to Other Depts.	Total
I. Gazetted Establishment					
1	Additional Director	13	-	4	17
2	Joint Directors	10	79	10	99
3	Assistant Directors	18	393	6	417
5	Block Development Officer	45	1068	4	1117
	Total	**86**	**1540**	**24**	**1650**
II. Engineering Establishment					
6	Chief Engineer	2			2
7	Superintending Engineer	3	-	-	3
8	Executive Engineer	2	37	14	53
9	Assistant Executive Engineer	4	179	20	203
10	Assistant Engineer	11	916	16	943
11	Senior Draughting Officer	-	37	-	37
12	Junior Engineer	-	315	-	315
13	Overseer / Junior Draughting Officer	3	2619	-	2622
14	Road Inspector	-	1151	-	1151
	Total	**25**	**5,254**	**50**	**5,329**

III. Non-Gazetted Establishment

Government Employees

Sl. No	Designation / Post	Directorate	District/other off	Total
15	Deputy BDO	47	3936	3983
16	Assistant	49	5642	5691
17	Junior Assistant	38	3171	3209
18	Steno Typist	17	185	202
19	Typist	26	1054	1080
20	Driver	11	934	945
21	Record Clerk	7	149	156
22	Office Assistant	54	670	724
23	Night Watchman	2	135	137
Total		**251**	**15876**	**16127**

Panchayat Union and Village Panchayat Employee

Panchayat Union Employee			**Village Panchayat Employees**		
S.No	**Name of the post**	**Nos**	**S.No**	**Name of the post**	**Nos**
1	Driver	776	1	Panchayat Secretary	12480
2	Record Clerk	390	2	Thooimai Paniyalar	26623
3	Office Assistant	1533	3	OHT operator	40419
4	Night Watchman	380		**Total**	**79522**
Total		**3079**			

Under the chairmanship of Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu, Thiru. C. Joseph Vijay, a review meeting on the schemes and activities of the Rural Development and Panchayat Raj Department was held at the Secretariat on 03.07.2026.

Hon'ble Minister for Rural Development and Water Resources, Thiru. N. Anand, after visiting the Plastic Waste Management Unit at Veeramur Panchayat, Kanai Panchayat Union, Villupuram District held discussions with the Thooimai Kaavalargal.

Panchayat Union office building constructed at Kelamangalam, Krishnagiri District, under the Scheme Component of Pooled Assigned Revenue Fund.

Tree saplings planting and maintenance work near Perumal Kovil Natham, Amirthakulam, Lakkampatti Panchayat, Kolathur Panchayat Union, Salem District at an estimated cost of Rs. 21.70 lakh, under the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme (MGNREGS).

Tree saplings planting and maintenance work near Perumal Kovil Natham, Amirthakulam, Lakkampatti Panchayat, Kolathur Panchayat Union, Salem District at an estimated cost of Rs. 21.70 lakh, under the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme (MGNREGS).

Renovation work of the Pannapatti Kuttai Minor Irrigation Tank at Pallipatti Panchayat, Kadaiyampatti Panchayat Union, Salem District under the Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) Fund.