



ADI DRAVIDAR AND TRIBAL WELFARE DEPARTMENT

**POLICY NOTE
2025 - 2026**

DEMAND No. 4

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**Government of Tamil Nadu
2025**

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INTRODUCTION:

**கருமம் சிதையாமல் கண்ணோட வல்லார்க்கு
உரிமை உடைத்திவ் வுலகு. (குறள் 578)**

The world belongs to those who perform its administrative duties for the people with compassion.

In accordance with the above timeless wisdom of the revered poet Vaanpukazh Valluvar, the Government of Tamil Nadu, under the dynamic leadership of the Hon'ble Chief Minister, has embraced this principle in letter and spirit. With compassion at its core, the Government is committed to implementing welfare schemes for the Adi Dravidar and tribal communities—those who have long stood at the margins of society. These efforts aim not only to

uplift them across all dimensions of life but also to integrate them fully into the social mainstream.

VISION STATEMENT

- To accomplish the goal of inclusive development of Adi Dravidar and Tribal communities with special attention to the people living below the poverty line, women and children by 2030
- To enhance the self-confidence and self-esteem of Adi Dravidar and Tribal students by improving the academic levels by giving special focus on education.
- To uplift the socially, economically marginalized among the Adi Dravidar and Tribal communities and bring them into the mainstream of society with focus on overall improvement of their socio-economic status.

The Government is proactively implementing schemes in line with one of the United Nations' Sustainable Development Goals to uplift the people by eliminating educational, social and economic inequalities by 2030, irrespective of differences in race, origin, religion, or economic status.

Administrative structure

The Adi Dravidar and Tribal Welfare Department was established in 1988 as a separate entity from the Social Welfare Department, with the primary objective of uplifting the Adi Dravidar and Tribal communities. Its mission focuses on enhancing literacy levels, improving socio-economic conditions, and implementing targeted programs designed to raise their overall standard of living.

The Adi Dravidar and Tribal Welfare Department comprises several key institutions

and bodies, including the Directorate of Adi Dravidar Welfare, the Directorate of Tribal Welfare, the Tamil Nadu Adi Dravidar Housing and Development Corporation (TAHDCO), the Tamil Nadu State Commission for Scheduled Caste and Scheduled Tribes, the Social Justice and Human Rights Wing, the Tribal Research Centre, the Centre for Social Justice and Equity, along with a number of welfare boards established to support the holistic development of the communities.

The Adi Dravidar Welfare Directorate plays a vital role in identifying the needs of the Adi Dravidar community and works towards improving basic amenities in their habitations. The Directorate is responsible for issuing house site pattas, running schools and hostels for Adi Dravidar students and implementing various educational assistance programs—both pre-matric and post-matric. It also supports students

pursuing higher education abroad and is committed to the overall welfare and upliftment of the Adi Dravidar community.

The Directorate of Tribal Welfare is dedicated to enhancing the educational and social development of tribal communities through a range of targeted initiatives. These include operating Government Tribal Residential Schools, Eklavya Model Residential Schools, and hostels; providing educational scholarships; and implementing comprehensive tribal development schemes. The Directorate also oversees the implementation of the Forest Rights Act and facilitates housing and basic infrastructure through the Tholkudi Scheme. Additionally, it carries out programs like the Ainthinai Agricultural Management Scheme, various economic development schemes, and offers skill development training to promote self-reliance

and sustainable growth among tribal populations.

The Tamil Nadu Adi Dravidar Housing and Development Corporation (TAHDCO)

implements subsidized economic development projects aimed at improving the livelihoods of Adi Dravidar and Tribal communities. Its key focus areas include promoting economic empowerment, providing skill development training, and undertaking the construction of schools, hostels, and community halls to support socio economic development.

The Centre for Social Justice and Equity

was established at the Madras School of Social Work to conduct research, survey and offer certificate courses on social justice and equity. The Centre organizes conferences, seminars and undertakes research publications on issues of social justice and equity.

The Social Justice and Human Rights Wing of the police department is responsible for enforcing the Protection of Civil Rights Act, 1955, and the Scheduled Castes and the Scheduled Tribes (Prevention of Atrocities) Act, 1989, as amended in 2015. A State Level Vigilance Committee, chaired by the Hon'ble Chief Minister, monitors the effective implementation and enforcement of the Protection of Civil Rights Act to ensure justice and safeguard the rights of Adi Dravidar and Tribal communities.

The **Tribal Research Centre, The Nilgiris** is conducting research on the language and culture of the tribal people residing in Tamil Nadu, collecting data, and providing recommendations related to tribal welfare to the Government.

The **Tamil Nadu State Commission for Scheduled Caste and Scheduled Tribes** was

constituted on 13.10.2021 to protect the rights of Adi Dravidars and Tribals and ensure the protection of constitutionally mandated rights and liberties.

The Tamil Nadu Tribal Advisory Council was established on 04.09.1961 and reconstituted on 30.11.2023 to advise on planning new projects and schemes to ensure integrated development of Tribals.

The **Tamil Nadu Tribal Welfare Board** was established on 20.04.2007 and reconstituted on 08.09.2023 to implement various schemes for the welfare of Tribal people.

The **Tamil Nadu Cleanliness Workers Welfare Board** was established on 11.06.2007 and reconstituted on 03.05.2023 to monitor the implementation of welfare schemes for sanitary workers.

The **Tamil Nadu Narikuravar Welfare Board** was established on 27.05.2008 and reconstituted on 30.10.2023 to implement various welfare schemes to Narikuravars and enable them to undertake alternative careers.

The **Tamil Nadu Puthirai Vannar Welfare Board** was initially established on 15.10.2009 and was reconstituted on 03.08.2023. The reconstitution aims to enhance the implementation of various welfare schemes designed to improve the well-being of the Puthirai Vannar community.

An allocation of Rs. 3,924.12 crore has been provided in the Budget Estimate for the financial year 2025–2026 for the implementation of various welfare schemes aimed at the integrated development of Adi Dravidar and Tribal communities.

Scheduled Caste Sub-Plan and Tribal Sub-Plan (SCSP & TSP)

**பகுத்துண்டு பல்லுயிர் ஒம்புதல் நூலோர்
தொகுத்தவற்றுள் எல்லாந் தலை**

According to the couplet, funds in the state's overall budget are allocated proportionally to implement welfare schemes aimed at supporting the Adi Dravidar and Scheduled Tribes communities.

With the aim of uplifting the socio-economic and educational status of Adi Dravidar and Tribal people, Tribal Sub-Plan and Scheduled Caste Sub-Plan have been implemented from 1976-1977 and 1980-1981 respectively. Tamil Nadu Government allocates funds to Adi Dravidar Welfare and Tribal Welfare in accordance with the extent of population i.e., 20.01% and 1.17% respectively.

To give greater impetus to the plan, the Development Action Plan for the Scheduled Castes and the Scheduled Tribes Act (TN Act 20/2024) has been enacted in the Legislative Assembly on 29.05.2024 to ensure smooth implementation of the Scheduled Caste Sub Plan and Tribal Sub-Plan.

The Act provides for the preparation, approval, and implementation and monitoring the Development Action Plan for Adi Dravidars and Tribals, based on their population ratio, along with the allocation of funds and matters incidental or related to its effective execution.

The Adi Dravidar and Tribal Welfare Department is functioned as Nodal Department to implement schemes under the Sub-Plans. At the state level, the Secretary of the department has been appointed as the Monitoring Officer to oversee and ensure the effective execution of these schemes.

In the financial year 2023-2024, Rs.17,105.70 crore (21.95%) for the Scheduled Caste Sub Plan (SCSP) and Rs.1,565.89 crore (2.01%) for the Tribal Sub-Plan (TSP) have been allocated, out of the State Annual Plan allocation of Rs.77,930.30 crore. Rs.16827.22 crore (98.37%) on the SCSP and Rs.1520.35 crore (97.09%) on the TSP have been spent.

In the financial year 2024-2025, Rs.19363.56 crore (21.97%) for Scheduled Caste Sub-Plan and Rs.1738.40 crore (1.97%) for Tribal Sub-Plan have been allocated, out of the State annual plan allocation of Rs.88,130.83 crore.

In the financial year 2025-2026, Rs.20,365.64 crore (21.97%) for Scheduled Caste Sub-Plan and Rs.1,879.09 crore (2.03%) for Tribal Sub-Plan have been allocated, out of the State annual plan allocation of Rs.92,691.64 crore.

Details of Sectoral Fund Allocation under Scheduled Caste Sub-Plan and Tribal Sub- Plan for the financial year 2025-2026

(in Rs. crore)

S. No.	section	Adi Dravidar Sub-Plan	Tribal Sub-Plan
1	Welfare of Adi Dravidars, Scheduled Tribes, Backward, Most Backward Classes and Minorities	3420.73	687.80
2	Housing and Urban Development	1122.44	125.38
3	Rural development	1871.14	242.67
4	Social welfare and nutrition	7006.74	438.20
5	Drinking water supply and sanitation	522.47	21.75
6	Agriculture and allied activities	981.15	64.97
7	Education, Sports and Culture	1479.51	197.46
8	Health and Family Welfare	926.66	70.35
9	Transport	230.24	-
10	General economic Services	2422.29	4.89
11	Labour and Labour Welfare	77.69	8.76

(in Rs. crore)

S. No.	section	Adi Dravidar Sub-Plan	Tribal Sub- Plan
12	Special Area Programs	30.44	7.42
13	Industry and Minerals	259.25	2.87
14	Other social Services	14.89	6.57
Total		20365.64	1879.09

I. ADI DRAVIDAR WELFARE

The Directorate of Adi Dravidar Welfare is implementing a wide range of initiatives and programs aimed at the upliftment of the Adi Dravidar community. These initiatives focus on key areas such as education, skill development, housing, infrastructure development and health care with the overarching goal of integrating Adi Dravidar individuals into the social mainstream and ensuring inclusive growth.

1. Initiatives for Educational Development

"Education is what makes a person fearless, teaches him the lesson of unity, makes him aware of his rights and inspires him to struggle for his rights."

Inspired by the above vision of Dr. B.R. Ambedkar, the Government firmly believes that education is the key to establishing an egalitarian society. It fosters awareness,

empowers individuals to claim their rights, and has led to the implementation of various initiatives aimed at promoting educational development for all.

In the state of Tamil Nadu, 28,85,168 Adi Dravidar students are studying in Government, Govt. Aided and Private schools. (source: Integrated District Information System)

Out of the total allocation of Rs.3231.92 crore for the Adi Dravidar Welfare Department, an amount of Rs.2439.48 crore (75.48%) has been allocated for educational welfare schemes for the financial year 2025-2026.

Millions of Adi Dravidar students are benefiting from various welfare schemes that support their educational journey. These include scholarships up to higher education, tuition fee

assistance, exemption from examination fees, and the provision of free educational equipment.

1.1 Educational Development Schemes

a) Overseas Scholarship for pursuing Higher Education

Scholarships are provided to support Adi Dravidar, Christian Adi Dravidar and Tribal students pursuing higher education in abroad. These scholarships aim to encourage students to undertake masters and doctoral research programs at prestigious international institutions.

Under this scheme, eligible students are provided with financial assistance based on their family's annual income. A student whose family income is within Rs.8.00 lakh per annum can receive up to Rs.36.00 lakh per year, while those with an annual family income up to

Rs.12.00 lakh are eligible for a maximum of Rs.24.00 lakh per year.

To be eligible, students must be enrolled in universities ranked within the top 1000 in the QS (Quacquarelli Symonds) World University Rankings.

Through this scholarship scheme, students are pursuing higher education at renowned universities such as Oxford University, Cornell University, the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine, the University of Edinburgh, and the University of Bristol—all of which ranked among the top institutions globally during the academic year 2024–2025.

In the financial year 2024-2025, scholarship provided for 174 students (115 boys and 59 girls) an amount of Rs.60.33 crore.

In the financial year 2025-2026, this scheme was renamed as **Annal Ambedkar**

Overseas Scholarship for Higher Education

and an amount of Rs.65.00 crore has been allocated for this scheme.

(b) Incentive for Full Time Ph.D. Scholars

Adi Dravidar, Christian Adi Dravidar and Tribal students are provided with educational incentives to encourage and support their pursuit of research studies.

This scheme is being implemented to provide financial support to students pursuing full-time doctoral research studies. To expand its reach, the annual family income ceiling was increased to Rs.8.00 lakh from the year 2021.

Along with language, arts and science subjects, scholars are pursuing various fields such as Agri Meteorology, Structural engineering, VLSI (Very Large-Scale Integration design), Renewable Energy, Nano Science and

Technology, Agronomy and Environment Science.

The incentive scheme aimed at encouraging students to pursue full-time doctoral research studies was initially extended to 1,600 students. This number has now been increased to 2,000 students to expand the scheme's reach. Under this initiative, each selected student receives an incentive of Rs. 1.00 lakh per year, based on the allocation for the following courses:

S.No	Courses	Allocation
1.	Linguistics	10%
	Arts (Education, Commerce, Management, Architecture, Mass Communication, Design)	20%
2.	Science Subjects	20%
	Applied Science, Medical, Engineering	40%
3.	Others	10%

In the financial year 2024-2025, incentives have been provided for 1956 students (848 boys, 1107 girls and 1 Transgender) at an amount of Rs.19.56 crore.

For the financial year 2025-2026, an amount of Rs.20.00 crore has been allocated for this scheme.

1.2 Educational Scholarship Schemes

(a) Post Matric Scholarship Scheme

With the aim of promoting higher education, academic allowances and educational fee scholarships for Adi Dravidar students studying above the 10th standard in recognized educational institutions are directly credited to the students' bank accounts as part of the educational assistance provided.

The expenditure is shared between the Union and State Governments in the ratio of 60:40.

Parent / guardian annual income should not exceed Rs.2.50 lakh.

(i) Education Fees

The education fees prescribed by the Government for students studying in Government or Government-aided educational institutions, as well as the compulsory and non-refundable fees determined by the Fee Fixation Committee for students admitted under the Government / Management quota in self-financing colleges, are provided as educational financial assistance.

(ii) Academic Allowance

Group	courses	Academic allowance per annum (Rs.)	
		Hosteller	Day Scholar
I	UG / PG professional courses	13,500/-	7,000/-
II	Professional courses leading to Degree, Diploma, Certificate courses	9,500/-	6,500/-
III	U.G and P.G Courses leading to a degree but not covered under Group I & II.	6,000/-	3,000/-
IV	All Diploma Courses, Certificate courses etc., non-degree courses for which entrance qualification is 10 th Std.	4,000/-	2,500/-

In the financial year 2024-2025, Educational scholarships have been provided to 7,24,197 students an amount of Rs.508.38 crore. For the financial year 2025-2026, the State Government has allocated 40 percent share of Rs. 578.57 crore under the scheme.

(b) Pre Matric Scholarship Scheme

This scheme is being implemented to help school students pursue education without financial burden. This scheme is being implemented as a single scheme consisting of the following two components from the financial year 2021-2022, with the Union and State Governments sharing the cost in the ratio 60:40 respectively.

Component-1

Pre Matric Scholarship Scheme for Class IX and X students

To prevent students from dropping out of school, financial assistance is provided to students studying in recognized schools in the 9th and 10th class. The annual income of the parents or guardians should not exceed Rs.2.50 lakh.

In the financial year 2024-2025, an amount of Rs.52.06 crore provided as scholarship for 3,71,928 students.

For the financial year 2025-2026, a sum of Rs.51.04 crore has been allocated under the scheme.

Component-2

Pre Matric Scholarship Scheme for Children whose parents involved in cleanliness and occupation prone to health hazards

Since workers engaged in sanitation and similar occupations are at risk of health hazards, their children are provided with this educational assistance, regardless of caste, religion, or income limit.

Students studying from Class 1 to Class 10 in recognized educational institutions are eligible for this scholarship.

In the financial year 2024-2025, an amount of Rs.6.86 crore provided as scholarship for 49,024 students.

For the financial year 2025-2026, Rs.5.32 crore is allocated for this scheme.

Details of scholarships provided under these two schemes

component	Day Scholar	Hostel student
	(Per annum in Rs.)	
Component-1	3,500/- (Class 9-10)	7,000/- (Class 9-10)
Component -2	3,500/- (Class 1-10)	8,000/- (Class 3-10)

(c) State Government Special Post Matric Scholarship Scheme

The State Government's Special (Post Matric) Scholarship Scheme is being implemented to provide scholarships equivalent to the amount of the scholarship to Adi Dravidar

and Christian Adi Dravidar students who are unable to get benefit from the Union Government's Post Matric Scholarship Scheme for studies beyond Class X. The scholarship is directly credited to the students' bank accounts.

The annual income of the student's parent / guardian should not exceed Rs.2.50 lakh.

In the financial year 2024-2025, an amount of Rs.75.48 crore provided as scholarship for 18,029 students.

For the financial year 2025-2026, a sum of Rs.87.00 crore has been allocated under this scheme.

(d) State Government's Higher Education Special Scholarship Scheme

In addition to providing scholarships for students' education, the Special Scholarship Scheme amount is also directly credited to the bank accounts of Adi Dravidar and Christian

Adi Dravidar students staying in Government / Government aided colleges' paid hostels to cover their hostel expenses. The details of this additional assistance are as follows.

S. No.	courses	Scholarship per annum
1	Under Graduate Arts and Science courses and Polytechnic courses	Rs.7,500/-
2	Post Graduate Arts and Science courses and Professional courses.	Rs.8,000/-

To be eligible under this scheme, the annual income of the student's parent or guardian must not exceed Rs.2.50 lakh.

In the financial year 2024-2025, an amount of Rs.10.50 crore provided as scholarship for 13,830 students.

For the financial year 2025-2026, an amount of Rs.12.00 crore is allocated under the scheme.

(e) Education Fee Concessions

Adi Dravidar and Christian Adi Dravidar students studying in Government and Government-aided educational institutions are offered the following tuition fee concessions, regardless of income.

- a) Tuition fee concession for college students
- b) Special and examination fee concession for Under Graduate degree students
- c) Special and examination fee concession for Girls pursuing Post Graduate studies
- d) Application fee for college students
- e) Special fee concession for Adi Dravidar Welfare school students
- f) Exemption of Public Examination Fees for Class X, XI and XII Students.

In the financial year 2024-2025, an amount of Rs.26.47 crore provided as scholarship.

For the financial year 2025-2026, an amount of Rs.21.26 crore is allocated.

(f) Special Incentive Scheme for Girl Children

This scheme is being implemented to encourage Adi Dravidar and Christian Adi Dravidar girls studying in Government and Government-aided schools to continue their education, prevent dropouts, and ensure 100% enrolment and retention

The details of the incentive given to the students under this scheme are as follows:

Standard	Amount (per annum)
III to V	500/-
VI	1,000/-
VII and VIII	1,500/-

The details of the students are obtained through the Education Management Information

System (EMIS) website and the incentive is paid directly to the students' bank accounts.

In the financial year 2024-2025, an amount of Rs.47.42 crore provided as incentive for 4,77,624 students.

For the financial year 2025-2026, an amount of Rs.52.00 crore is allocated.

(g) Educational Tour to Higher Education Institutions

To kindle interest in pursuing higher education, a financial allocation of Rs. 25,000 per school is being provided to 206 High and Higher secondary schools. This funding is used to organize educational tours for students from Adi Dravidar and Tribal Welfare Schools, as an exposure visit to higher educational institutions. For the financial year 2025-2026 Rs.51.50 lakh is allocated.

(h) Supply of Textbooks and Notebooks

To reduce the financial burden of Adi Dravidar, Christian Adi Dravidar and Tribal students in the schools run by the department, textbooks to the students of class 1 to 12 and notebooks to the students of class 1 to 10 are provided at free of cost through the Department of School Education.

During the financial year 2024-2025, 17,037 students studying in 10th standard and 14,497 students studying in 12th standard in schools and hostels functioning under this department have been provided special guides and question bank booklets at a cost of Rs.3.60 crore.

For the financial year 2025-2026, an amount of Rs.1.40 crore is allocated.

(i) Distribution of Uniforms

In the schools and hostels functioning under the control of this department, students staying and studying from 1 to 8 class receive uniforms through the School Education Department. For students from 9 to 12 class, four sets of uniforms are provided by this department.

In the financial year 2024-2025, uniforms have been provided to 28,655 male and 21,029 female students under this scheme at a cost of Rs.22.29 crore.

For the financial year 2025-2026, an amount of Rs.14.35 crore is allocated under this scheme.

(j) Distribution of Bicycles

Bicycles are provided to Adi Dravidar, Tribal and Christian Adi Dravidar students studying in class 11th in Government, Government aided and

partially aided higher secondary schools with a view to help students reach school on time.

In the financial year 2024-2025, bicycles have been provided to 72,350 male and 89,249 female students under this scheme at a cost of Rs. 75.15 crore.

For the financial year 2025-2026 an amount of Rs.80.00 crore is allocated.

(k) Internship for Law College Students

Final year students enrolled in Government Law Colleges are eligible for a scholarship of Rs.10,000/- to support their internships with top law firms or senior advocates, as prescribed in the academic syllabus. Additionally, students who undertake internships under the Hon'ble Judges of the Madras High Court and the Madurai Bench of the Madras High Court are also provided a separate internship of Rs.10,000/-.

In the financial year 2024-2025, Rs.77.40 lakh have been provided as internship scholarships to 774 students at the rate of Rs.10,000/-

In the financial year, 2025-2026, an amount of Rs.93.00 lakh has been allocated for this scheme.

(I) Skill Voucher Scheme

A maximum of Rs. 25,000/- to provide skill training vouchers to the Adi Dravidar, Tribal and Christian Adi Dravidar students who pass their graduation, post-graduation and technical courses with 60% or more marks to encourage them to develop their employability skills.

In the financial year 2024-2025, skill vouchers have been provided for 164 students at the cost of Rs.41.00 lakh.

For the financial year 2025-2026, an amount of Rs. 41.00 lakh has been allocated for this scheme.

(m) Other Initiatives:

- Career guidance and counselling camps **"En Kalloori Kanavu"** were conducted in all the districts of the state to guide final-year school students on higher education. These camps provided awareness about entrance examinations for Union and State higher education institutions. A total of 21,000 students for the year 2023-2024, 21741 for the year 2024-2025 benefited from this initiative.
- The Career Fair camp was held in all district model schools in the year 2024-2025, 4863 students participated so as to get guidance about various entrance exams like CUET / NEET / JEE / NIFT.

- **I HAVE A DREAM!** An art and leadership training camps were held in Ambattur from 26.12.2024 to 30.12.2024 for 150 students studying in 8th and 9th standard.
- An online Entrance coaching class for CLAT (Law College Entrance Examination) was conducted for students belonging to the arts stream studying in class 12 at 98 Adi Dravidar Welfare Higher Secondary Schools from the academic year 2024-2025. Special training imparted for 100 students by direct coaching at Chennai and Trichy wherein 8 students were selected for counselling.
- Coaching classes for the JEE entrance exam are being conducted in 98 Adi Dravidar Welfare Higher Secondary Schools, and 441 students are undergoing training.

- 632 students are undergoing training through online and direct coaching classes for the NEET exam.

2. Schools

Inspired by the vision of Dr. B. R. Ambedkar, who firmly believed that **"The progress of any society depends on the progress of education in that society"** the Government is committed to fostering educational advancement as a means to achieve social transformation. Recognizing that meaningful change can only be brought about through the empowerment of individuals via education, several targeted educational development programmes have been launched.

As many as 1,138 Adi Dravidar Welfare Schools are functioning to provide quality education to the students and to increase the literacy rate.

Schools with modern infrastructure are being built and maintained by the Government in areas where Adi Dravidar people are in majority.

This Government ensures uninterrupted provision of education to these students through the above welfare schemes.

Details of Adi Dravidar Welfare Schools 2024-2025

Classification of schools	No of Schools	Boys	Girls	Total
Primary schools	833	15,168	15,561	30,729
Middle schools	99	4,274	4,298	8,572
High schools	108	5,458	5,029	10,487
Higher Secondary schools	98	14,448	13,147	27,595
Total	1,138	39,348	38,035	77,383

Facilities like libraries, classrooms, science laboratories, smart classrooms, smart boards, hi-tech laboratories, drinking water and toilet facilities, sports equipment, kitchen items, etc., are provided.

Teachers are also being imparted training on modern teaching techniques, computer technology and linguistics to enhance the quality of education.

Development of School Infrastructure

- Smart Class Rooms have been set up in 119 Adi Dravidar Welfare Schools and Smart Boards in 174 schools. High Tech Labs have been set up in 206 schools.
- 480 new classrooms and 15 science laboratories have been constructed in 154 Adi Dravidar Welfare Schools.
- In the financial year 2024-2025, 256 classrooms in 107 Adi Dravidar and

Tribal Welfare Schools, 42 toilets, laboratories in 21 High Schools and laboratories for 65 Higher Secondary Schools will be constructed at a cost of Rs.125.00 crore.

2.1 Refresher training for Teachers

- Curriculum and innovation training for postgraduate teachers was imparted by the State Educational Research and Educational Institutes in Madurai, Salem and Chennai districts.
- Training on providing higher education guidance to students was provided to all higher secondary school postgraduate teachers in Madurai on 19.08.2024.
- Innovation training was provided to all higher secondary school Head Masters in the name of "**Puthiyathor Ulagu Sei**" on two days on 20.11.2024 and

21.11.2024 at Anaikatti, Coimbatore district.

3. Hostels

Modern hostels equipped with essential facilities are being established near educational institutions to support students from remote rural areas. This initiative aims to reduce dropout rates by providing a safe, accessible, and conducive environment that enables students to continue their education without interruption.

The Adi Dravidar Welfare Hostels functioning under this Department and the number of students sanctioned therein are as follows:

Details of Adi Dravidar Welfare Hostels (2024-2025)

Type of the hostel	Number of hostels			Number of sanction students		
	Boys	Girls	Total	Boys	Girls	Total
School Hostels	738	403	1,141	53,881	28,530	82,411
College Hostels	71	81	152	7,881	5,849	13,730
ITI Hostels	16	2	18	1,356	116	1,472
Polytechnic Hostels	3	2	5	178	110	288
Post Graduate College Hostels	9	6	15	693	315	1,008
Total	837	494	1,331	63,989	34,920	98,909

- Additional 10 seats each (160 total seats) is created in 16 hostels in Theni district for the children of coffee/tea plantation workers native to Tamil Nadu working in Kerala border areas,

- In each hostel, 5 additional seats have been created to accommodate the children of Sri Lankan Tamils.

3.1 Initiative at Hostels

a. Hostel Infrastructure

- Model hostel has been constructed within the M.C. Raja Student Hostel complex, offering modern facilities and accommodations for up to 484 students. The 10-storey building was developed at a cost of Rs.44.50 crore, aiming to enhance residential infrastructure for students and support their academic journey.
- Hostels with modern facilities are being constructed in Sivagangai, Erode, Cuddalore and Virudhunagar districts at an estimated cost of Rs.37.95 crore.

- Renovation works in 535 hostels are in progress to improve the infrastructure facilities in the hostels at an estimated cost of Rs. 100.00 crore.

b. Learning cum Teaching Room

To foster personality development among students residing in college hostels, learning and teaching rooms equipped with modern facilities have been established in 22 hostels across 17 districts. This initiative, implemented at an estimated cost of Rs.10.00 crore, is benefiting 2,197 students by creating an environment conducive to academic and personal growth.

c. Working Women Hostels

Hostels for working women have been constructed and are in use in the districts of Tiruvallur, Trichy and Coimbatore.

d. Hostel Management Information System (HMIS)

In order to maintain the hostels in a consistent manner and create a good environment for students to study, a **Hostel Management Information System (HMIS)** with maintenance work, surveillance cameras and biometric attendance registration has been installed in 1275 hostels at a cost of Rs.27.15 crore.

e. Common Kitchen

In order to provide quality and tasty food to the students staying in hostels, a scheme to provide food through a common kitchen is being implemented in Chennai following the Chief Minister's breakfast scheme. Through this scheme, approximately 2,500 students staying in 21 hostels in Chennai are benefiting. Following this, it has been expanded to the cities

of Coimbatore, Madurai and Trichy at an estimated cost of Rs.9.00 crore, benefiting 3,000 students.

f. Welcome Kit

To cater to the basic needs of students residing in school and college hostels, a welcome kit is provided. The kit includes essential bedding items such as a mattress with a pad, a blanket, a pillow with two covers, along with daily necessities, ensuring a comfortable and supportive living environment

In the financial year 2024-2025, 44289 kits were provided to the students at a cost of Rs.7.33 crore.

An amount of Rs.4.00 crore allocated for the financial year 2025-2026.

g. Skill Development of Hostel students

To enhance the overall development of hostel students, two specialized training programs have been introduced at a total cost of Rs.10.00 crore. **"Nallosai"** is a skill development program aimed at college hostel students, focusing on arts, science, sports, technology, software, and work-related skills. For school hostel students, **"Katral Inithe"** offers targeted academic support and education-related training to strengthen their learning outcomes.

h. Summer Arts and Skill Camp – Kalam Aadu

A summer skill camp called **"Kalam Aadu"** is organized for students staying in college hostels to create awareness about art, skill development, Government schemes and opportunities for studying higher education.

i. Supply of Magazines and Books

In order to improve the general knowledge of the students and prepare them for other competitive examinations including civil service examinations in the current competitive environment for job opportunities, the following books and periodicals are provided annually in schools and hostels.

S. No.	Schools / Hostels	Library Books / Magazines (per annum in Rs.)
1.	High / Higher Secondary Schools	1,450/-
2.	School hostels	3,690/-
3.	College hostels	7,997/-

In addition to the daily newspapers provided to college hostels, monthly magazines such as Yojana, Kurukshetra, weekly magazines such as Employment News, India Today, India Year Book, and Question bank for competitive exams are provided.

School hostels are provided with newspapers (2 Tamil and 1 English daily), monthly magazines such as Thittam, Sampak, Magic Pot, and Tell Me Why, The Manorama Yearbook, and Question bank for competitive exams.

Under this scheme, books and magazines worth Rs.59.92 lakh were given for the financial year 2024-2025.

For the financial year 2025-2026 an amount of Rs.60.05 lakh is allocated.

j. Facilities provided in hostels

- (i) Cooking gas connection, water purifiers, tilting grinders, electronic weighing machines, and mixer grinders.
- (ii) Sanitary napkin incinerator machines are being provided for Adi Dravidar welfare girls hostels.
- (iii) E-library and library facility.

- (iv) English speaking skills training through Tamil Nadu Skill Development Corporation
- (v) Digital signage board

3.2 Feeding and Miscellaneous Charges

Adi Dravidar Welfare Hostels, students are provided with feeding charges, special feeding charges on festival days and miscellaneous charges as follows.

Charges	School student (in Rs.)	College student (in Rs.)
Food Charges (per month)	Rs.1,400/-	Rs.1,500/-
Miscellaneous Charges (per month) (For buying soap, sikakai, oil and for hair cutting expenses)	Rs.100/-	Rs.150/-
Special Feeding Charges (During festival days such as Pongal, Republic Day, Tamil New year, Independence day and Diwali)(for a festival)	Rs.40/-	Rs.80/-

3.3 Financial Assistance to Schools and Hostels run by Non-Governmental Organizations (NGO)

(i) Hostels

A total of 4,432 Adi Dravidar students residing in 18 hostels operated by 16 private charitable organizations, in collaboration with the Government, are being provided with food allowance, miscellaneous expenses, and other benefits on par with students in Government-run hostels. This initiative ensures equitable support and improved living conditions for students from marginalized communities.

(ii) School with Hostels

Since 2006, the Government has been subsidizing the salaries of 160 teaching and non-teaching staff working in the school and two hostels run by the Muthukaruppan Memorial Educational Trust in Thoothukudi district.

In the financial year 2024-2025, an amount of Rs. 12.74 crore has been provided.

For the financial year 2025-2026, an amount of Rs.12.25 crore is allocated.

3.4 Government Industrial Training Institutes

The Government Industrial Training Institutes are function for vocational training.

Sl. No.	District Name	Location of ITI	Students Strength
1	Cuddalore	Chidambaram	253
2	Tiruvallur	Vadakarai	194
TOTAL			447

4. Socio-Economic Development Schemes

Various welfare schemes are being implemented by the Government to uplift the socio-economic status of the Adi Dravidar community.

4.1 Iyothee Thass Pandithar Habitation Development Scheme

Under this scheme, basic amenities are improved in the Adi Dravidar Habitations at an estimated cost of Rs.1000.00 crore over five years at the rate of Rs.200.00 crore per year.

In the financial year 2023-24, 1690 infra works were done at the cost of Rs.200.00 crore.

In the financial year 2024-2025, this amount has been enhanced to Rs.230.00 crore and 1966 works are being done. In addition, 120 Village Knowledge Centres have been constructed at the cost of Rs.117.27 crore.

The works under the scheme are undertaken by Tamil Nadu Adi Dravidar Housing Development Corporation (TAHDCO), Directorate of Rural Development and Panchayat Raj, Directorate of Town Panchayat and TNUHDB.

In the financial 2025-2026, an amount of Rs.280.00 crore has been allocated for the scheme.

4.2 Pradhan Mandri Adarsh Gram Yojana – (PMAGY)

Under the scheme, villages with more than 40% Adi Dravidar population are selected and provided with basic facilities like drinking water and sanitation, education, health and nutrition, social security, rural roads and housing, electricity and clean fuel, agricultural practices, financial inclusion, digitization, livelihood and skill development. The objective of the scheme is to identify and fulfil the needs and promote integrated development in the villages.

Under the above scheme, a financial allocation of Rs.20.00 lakh per village is provided by the Union Government to carry out works in the selected villages.

Under this scheme, 9028 works have been selected in 2,919 villages at an estimated cost of Rs.573.76 crore from 2018-2019 to 2024-2025 and 8,930 works have been completed.

Out of 2919 villages selected under this scheme, 2913 villages have been declared as Adarsh gram.

For the financial year 2025-2026, an amount of Rs.32.95 crore has been allocated to complete the remaining works.

4.3 Issuance of Free House Site Patta to Adi Dravidar and Scheduled Tribes

The scheme of providing free house site pattas is being implemented to uplift the socio-economic status of Adi Dravidar and Tribal people.

Under the scheme, land is acquired either through individual negotiations or through the

existing Land Acquisition Acts and house site pattas are issued to the beneficiaries.

The annual income ceiling of beneficiaries under this scheme has been fixed at Rs.1,00,000/-.

S. No.	Area	Extent of Land Provided
1	Rural	3 Cent
2	Municipality	1½ Cent
3	Corporation	1 Cent

In the financial year 2024-2025, a fund of Rs.6.00 crore has been allocated and 1478 beneficiaries have been given free house site pattas.

In land acquisition cases, as per court judgments, a high compensation amount of Rs.23.48 crore has been paid in the financial year 2024-2025.

For the financial year 2025-2026, an amount of Rs.26.00 crore has been allocated.

5. Tamil Nadu Adi Dravidar Arts and Literature Development Society

Tamil Nadu Adi Dravidar Art and Literature Development Society works to promote art, culture and literary works related to Adi Dravidar and Tribal communities.

Prize money is given to the best writers who produce excellent works in story, essay, poetry, history and novel as a separate corpus fund (Corpus Fund) through interest earned from the deposit of Rs.50.00 lakh.

Rs.1,00,000/- for a total of 11 writers including 9 Adi Dravidar / Tribal / Christian Adi Dravidar writers, 1 Non-Adi Dravidar / Non-Tribal writer writing on Adi Dravidar issues and 1 Adi Dravidar / Tribal / Non-Adi Dravidar and Non-Tribal writer writing on Tribal issues. The

cost of publication of the selected books is subsidised whichever is less.

a. Translation

The below mentioned six eminent works on Adi Dravidar and Tribal communities have been translated/reprinted. These works showcase the rich art, culture, and literary heritage of the Community thereby facilitating dissemination to a global audience.

1. Towards a Non-Brahmin Millennium: From Iyothee Thass to Periyar translated by Tmt. V.Geetha and Thiru. S.V. Rajadurai
2. Karukku by Tmt. Bama translated by Lakshmi Holmstrom
3. Dark Interiors: Essays on Caste and Culture by Thiru. Raja Gauthaman translated by Theodore Baskaran
4. Koogai by Thiru. Cho Dharman translated by Vasantha Surya

5. The Scar by Thiru. K. A. Gunasekaran
translated by Tmt.V.Kadambari
6. The Grip of Change written and
translated by Tmt.P.Sivakami

Apart from these six books re-printed, translations of books on Thoughts of Iyothee Thassar, Writings of M.C Rajah, Imayam's Sedal and collection of short stories by Dalit writers are under progress.

6. Dr. Ambedkar Award

The Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu confers the Dr.Ambedkar Award on Thiruvalluvar Day every year to a person from Tamil Nadu who has been working for the welfare of the Adi Dravidar and Tribal communities to eradicate caste discrimination and establish equality in the society. The award carries a cheque of Rs.5,00,000/-, a certificate and 8 grams of gold medal is presented to the awardee.

The Tamil Nadu Government has conferred the Dr. Ambedkar Award on 27 individuals who have worked for the Adi Dravidar and Tribal communities from 1998 to 2024.

The “Dr. Ambedkar Award” for the year 2024 was presented to Lok Sabha Member Dr.D.Ravikumar. It is noteworthy that he has dedicated over 40 years to ideological and grassroots work aimed at the upliftment of marginalized communities. His efforts have been deeply inspired by the principles of rationalism and guided by the philosophies of Thanthai Periyar and Dr. B.R. Ambedkar.

7. Verification of Genuineness of community certificates

In order to protect the interests of the Adi Dravidars, District Level Vigilance Committees have been constituted to verify the genuineness of the Scheduled Caste community certificates as detailed below: -

District Level Vigilance Committee (DLVC)

1	District Collector	Chairman	To scrutinize the correctness of the Scheduled Caste Community Certificates and to pass final orders. If this order is not accepted then an appeal can be made in the High court under Article 226 and the Supreme court under article 136 of the constitution of India.
2	District Adi Dravidar and Tribal Welfare Officer	Member-Secretary	
3	Anthropologist	Member	

8. Implementation of the Prevention of Atrocities Act

The Protection of Civil Rights Act, 1955, the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes (Prevention of Atrocities) Act, 1989 and Amendment Act, 2015, the Prevention of Atrocities Rules, 1995 and Amendment Rules, 2016 and 2018 are laws enacted and implemented by the Government of India to provide relief and rehabilitation to victims of atrocities and to prevent untouchability, oppression, crime and social inequality.

In Tamil Nadu, to prevent atrocities against the Adi Dravidars and the Tribals and to promote social harmony, the Social Justice and Human Rights Unit was formed in 1972. The unit comprises of an Inspector General of Police, an Assistant Inspector General of Police and 38 Deputy Superintendents of Police at the district level.

A helpline with technological facilities has been set up to report cases of violence and provide legal advice on the Prevention of Violence Act. (Helpline No. 14566) and (1800 2021 1989)

(a) Exclusive Special Courts

For the expeditious trial of offences against Adi Dravidar and Scheduled Tribes as well as relief and rehabilitation of the victims of atrocities, 23 Exclusive Special Courts have been established in Tamil Nadu.

The minimum amount of relief fund provided to victims of violence has been increased from Rs.85,000/- to Rs.1,00,000/- and the maximum amount from Rs.8,25,000/- to Rs.12,00,000/-.

During 2024-2025, Rs.71.62 crore was disbursed towards monetary relief, ex-gratia and pension.

Relief Details	Amount in Rs.	Gender	
		Male	Female
Relief Fund	49,73,01,182	2764	1835
Ex-Gratia	13,53,16,563	2692	1790
Pension	8,01,30,140	147	542
School fee	34,60,964	18	8
Basic needs	22,000	-	2

Jobs to the next of kith and kin of victims of crimes under atrocities act were given to 414 persons from 2021.

For the financial year 2025-2026, an amount of Rs.80.00 crore is allocated.

(b) Manitha Neyava Vaara Vizha - Samathuva Virundhu

To create awareness among the public against untouchability and to spread equality, **“Manitha Neyava Vaara Vizha”** is organized

every year from 24th to 30th January in all the districts of Tamil Nadu. Each district is provided with Rs.50,000/- and at the state level, one district is selected to organize the Manitha Neya Vaara Vizha and Rs.1,00,000/- is provided.

Community feasts are arranged every year on 26th January, 15th August, 2nd October and also on important local holidays declared in the district. Voluntary organisations are also involved in arranging the **"Samathuva Virundhu"** Rs.25,000/- each for 37 districts (except Chennai)

In the financial year 2024-2025, an amount of Rs.2.13 crore was utilized for this scheme.

For the financial year 2025-2026, an amount of Rs.23.05 crore is allocated.

(c) Selection of the Best Villages with Social Harmony

As a pioneer for the general public to overcome caste discrimination and live in social harmony, the best villages with social harmony are selected from all districts of Tamil Nadu (excluding Chennai) and a fund of Rs.10.00 lakh is being provided for the development work of those villages.

Under this scheme, villages in 37 districts have been selected and provided amount for development activities during 2024-2025.

During 2025-2026, an amount of Rs.3.70 crore is allocated.

(d) Awareness Training Programme

Under the initiative titled "**Samathuvam Kanpom**", awareness training has been provided to 983 Government officials at a cost of Rs.40.00 lakh. The program aims to equip

officials with a community-sensitive approach in addressing victims of violence, ensure proper implementation of the Prevention of Atrocities Act, and facilitate the provision of appropriate relief.

Additionally, awareness training on the Scheduled Castes and the Scheduled Tribes (Prevention of Atrocities) Act is being extended to members of District Vigilance and Monitoring Committees, Government officials and NGOs. This initiative, undertaken at a cost of Rs.3.00 crore, is designed to strengthen understanding and enforcement of the Act across various stakeholders.

9. Burial Grounds and Pathways

Basic facilities for graveyards and burial grounds are provided to Adi Dravidar habitations. Land acquisition for the construction of burial grounds and pathways is done in

accordance with the Tamil Nadu Land Acquisition Act, 31/1978 and through individual negotiations.

Work on the construction of a road and compound wall to access the cemetery is being carried out under the Iyothee Thass Pandithar Habitation Development Scheme from 2023-2024.

During the financial year 2024-2025, Rs.11.51 lakh is allocated towards improvement of burial and burial pathways. Also, 7.32 acres of land has been acquired at an estimated cost of Rs.90.30 lakh for setting up a burial and pathways to burial grounds.

For the financial year 2025-2026, an amount of Rs.60.91 lakh is allocated.

10. Providing Incentives to the Villages which follow Caste Free Burial Grounds

A cash award of Rs.10.00 lakh is given to the villages where caste free burial grounds are in practice. The award amount is utilized for the development activities of that village. Under this scheme 3 Villages per district (except Chennai) are selected.

During the financial year 2024-2025, 60 villages have been selected and an award amount of Rs.6.00 crore has been given.

For the financial year 2025-2026, an amount of Rs.8.10 crore is allocated.

11. Financial Assistance for Funeral Rites

Financial assistance of Rs.5,000 is provided to Adi Dravidars, Tribals, and Christian Adi Dravidars to support funeral expenses in the event of bereavement. This aid aims to offer

timely relief to families during times of loss and ensure dignity in final rites.

During the financial year 2024-2025, 20,037 families received funeral assistance amounting to Rs.9.95 crore.

For the financial year 2025-2026, an amount of Rs.9.95 crore is allocated.

12. Other Initiatives for Socio Economic Development

The Tamil Nadu Cleanliness Workers Welfare Board, Puthirai Vannar Welfare Board, Tribal Welfare Board and Narikuravar Welfare Board have been reconstituted and members have been appointed.

A comprehensive survey was conducted to assess the educational and socio-economic status of the Puthirai Vannar community. The objective of the survey is to formulate and implement targeted welfare schemes aimed at

improving their living conditions and ensuring inclusive development.

A software has been developed to monitor the Development Action Plan for SC/ST, Prevention of Atrocities Act, the Scheme of Tholkudi, Forest Rights Act, Adi Dravidar Welfare Management System and Hostel Management Information System at a cost of Rs.1.50 crore.

II. Tribal Welfare

வருணன் மேய பெருமணல் உலகமும்
முல்லை குறிஞ்சி மருதம் நெய்தல் எனச்
சொல்லிய முறையாற் சொல்லவும் படுமே

"As expressed in the *Tholkappiam*, the ancient Tamils lived in harmony with nature by organizing their lives according to distinct landscapes (*tinai*). Drawing inspiration from this timeless wisdom, our Government is committed to preserving this cultural heritage by implementing various initiatives aimed at the sustainable development of all people—across education, social welfare, and economic progress."

The Directorate of Tribal Welfare was established in 2000 with the objective of initiating and implementing schemes aimed at promoting education, socio-economic

development, and livelihood enhancement for tribal communities.

According to the 2011 Census, a total of 7,94,697 tribal people, belonging to 36 recognized tribal communities, were residing in Tamil Nadu. With the inclusion of the Narikuravar and Kurivikarar communities in the Scheduled Tribes list in 2023, the tribal population has increased to 8,41,558. This now constitutes approximately 1.17% of the total population of the State.

In order to improve the educational status of tribal communities, the Department is implementing a range of initiatives. These include the construction and maintenance of schools and hostels, provision of scholarships to tribal students, and financial support for livelihood development activities, including the creation of employment opportunities. Additionally, efforts are being made to safeguard

the language, culture, and heritage of tribal communities, while also providing housing and other basic amenities to improve their overall

Integrated Tribal Development Programme Areas (ITDP)

The Government have identified 10 hilly areas in revenue blocks of seven districts where tribal populations constitute 50% or more of the total population, namely, Salem, Namakkal, Kallakurichi, Thiruvannamalai, Tiruchirappalli, Dharmapuri, Tirupattur Districts and designated them as ITDP areas. For effective implementation of Tribal Welfare Schemes, seven Project Offices have been established and administered by the Project Officers.

Integrated Tribal Development Programme Areas

S. No.	District	Project Areas
1.	Salem	Yercaud, Pachamalai, Arunoothumalai and Kalrayan Hills
2.	Namakkal	Kolli hills
3.	Kallakurichi	Kalrayan Hills
4.	Tiruvannamalai	Jawadhu Hills
5.	Tiruchirapalli	Pachamalai
6.	Dharmapuri	Sitheri Hills
7.	Tirupathur	Jawadhu Hills and Yelagiri Hills

1. Education Development Programmes

“Education makes us the human beings we are. It has major impacts on economic development, on social equity, gender equity”

In light of the emphasis placed by Nobel Laureate Amartya Sen on the transformative power of education, the Government is

implementing various scholarship schemes and undertaking several initiatives to enhance educational access and quality.

The Department of Tribal Welfare allocates approximately 53.57% of its total budget towards education-related schemes and initiatives.

1.1 Tholkudi Fellowship Scheme

To encourage undergraduate, postgraduate, Ph.D and Postdoctoral students who pursue their research and study in tribal related subjects, a new fellowship scheme has been introduced for the first time in the country.

The annual family income of the parent, guardian, or student should not exceed Rs.8.00 lakh to avail the fellowship.

A fellowship amount of Rs.10,000 per month for six months has been provided for

undergraduate and postgraduate students and Rs.25,000 per month for three years has been provided for Doctorate and Postdoctoral scholars.

In the financial year 2024-25, 70 students have been selected and an amount of Rs.1.50 crore has been provided as fellowship.

1.2. Post Matric Scholarship Scheme

To encourage higher education of tribal children, scholarships under the Post Matric Scholarship scheme are provided to children who pursue higher education after 10th Standard. The expenditure for the post-matric scholarships is shared between the Union and State Government in the ratio of 75:25.

This scholarship is provided whose parents/guardians have an annual income not exceeding Rs.2.50 lakh.

The scholarship amounts are directly credited into the student's Aadhaar seeded bank accounts.

Under this Scheme, Tuition fees and Maintenance Allowance are disbursed as scholarships to the students.

1.2.1. Educational Fee

- a.** For tribal students pursuing studies above the 10th standard in Government and Government-Aided Educational Institutions, the fees prescribed by the Government are directly credited to the students' bank accounts in the form of educational scholarships.
- b.** For tribal students studying in self-financing educational institutions, the tuition fees as fixed by the Government / Fee Fixation Committee are provided as educational scholarships.

1.2.2 Academic allowance

The details of the maintenance allowance provided to students under the post-matric scholarship scheme are as follows:

Group	Courses	Allowance per month (in Rs.)	
		Hosteller	Days Scholar
I	UG / PG professional courses	1,200/-	550/-
II	Professional courses leading to Degree, Diploma, Certificate courses	820/-	530/-
III	U.G and P.G Courses leading to a Degree but not covered under Group I & II.	570/-	300/-
IV	All Diploma Courses, Certificate courses etc., non-degree courses for which entrance qualification is 10 th Std.	380/-	230/-

For tribal students studying in self-financing Colleges, the tuition fee is directly credited to the bank account of the educational institution on behalf of the students and maintenance allowance is directly credited into the students' Aadhaar seeded bank account.

In the financial year 2024-2025, an amount of Rs.25.79 crore has been disbursed, benefiting 22,659 students.

For the financial year 2025-2026, an amount of Rs.46.44 crore is allocated.

1.3 Scholarship for IX and X Std students (Pre-Matric Scholarship Scheme)

Pre-matric scholarships are provided to tribal students studying in 9th and 10th standard. The expenditure for this scheme is shared between the Union and State Government in the ratio of 75:25.

The annual income of the parents / guardians should not exceed Rs.2.50 lakh.

Details	Hostellers	Days Scholars
	(in Rs. Per Annum)	
Maintenance Allowance	5250/-	2250/-
Adhoc Grant	1,000/-	750/-

The scholarship amount is disbursed to the beneficiary bank account linked with Aadhaar number.

In the financial year 2024-2025, an amount of Rs.4.89 crore has been disbursed, benefitting 16,314 students.

For the financial year 2025-2026, an amount of Rs.5.90 crore is allocated.

1.4 Higher Education Special Scholarship Scheme

Though scholarships are provided to the Scheduled Tribe students to alleviate financial burdens, the Government is providing Special Scholarship for those who are staying in non-Government paid hostels. The scholarship is directly credited to the student's Aadhaar seeded bank accounts to cover the hostel accommodation cost.

S. No.	courses	Scholarship per annum
1	Under graduate Arts and Science courses and Polytechnic courses	Rs.7,500/-
2	Post Graduate Arts and Science courses and Professional courses.	Rs.8,000/-

To qualify under this scheme, the annual income of the student's parent or guardian should not exceed Rs.2.50 lakh.

In the financial year 2024-25, an amount of Rs.80.00 lakh was provided as scholarship for 1047 students.

For the financial year 2025-2026, an amount of Rs.50.00 lakh is allocated under the scheme.

1.5 Girls Incentive Scheme

To ensure that tribal girl children continue their schooling and to prevent dropouts, an incentive is provided to girls studying from 3rd to 8th Standard, as detailed below.

S. No.	Standard	Incentive (Rs.) (Per Year)
1	3 rd to 5 th	500/-
2	6 th	1000/-
3	7 th and 8 th	1500/-

The incentive amounts are directly credited to the students' Aadhaar seeded bank accounts.

In the financial year 2024-2025, an amount of Rs.2.92 crore has been provided for 29,913 students under this scheme.

For the financial year 2025-26, an amount of Rs.3.75 crore is allocated under the scheme.

1.6 Other Educational Scholarship Schemes

The following schemes are implemented for tribal students pursuing higher education in Government and Government-aided educational institutions, with no annual income ceiling.

- Tuition fee concession for college students
- Special fee and examination fee concession for undergraduate students.
- Special fee and examination fee concession for post graduate female students

- Application fees and registration fees. for college students
- Special fees for school students studying in GTR Schools.
- Examination fees for 10, 11 and 12th Standard students.

1.7. Other initiatives for Educational Development

- A scholarship of Rs.70,000/- each for three years is provided to tribal students pursuing Diploma in Nursing in private nursing training institutions.
- Special coaching is provided for higher education entrance exams like JEE, CLAT, NIFT, NEET and CUET in GTR schools and Eklavya Model Residential Schools. Through this initiative, 7 students in NIT, Trichy, 4 students in NIFT, Chennai and Bangalore,

2 students in Government Medical College and 1 student in the National Law College, Trichy are pursuing higher education for the first time in the last 2 years.

- A training camp on art and leadership, ***I have a dream !*** for school students was conducted in Ambattur from 26.12.2024 to 30.12.2024. Around 80 students studying in classes 8 and 9 of Government Tribal Residential School participated.
- As a result of the Government's consistent efforts, tribal students who have passed the 10th and 12th standards from Government Tribal Residential (GTR) Schools have achieved 100% admission into higher education institutions.

- Approximately 120 tribal students who had discontinued their studies in 10th, 11th and 12th standards were identified and subsequently enrolled in Industrial training institutions.
- In order to appoint teachers by conducting Special Teacher Eligibility Test, specialized coaching have been provided at 16 dedicated training centres for 665 tribal students who have completed Teacher training.
- Evening special coaching is provided to students of 9th to 12th standard through special teachers.
- Tolkudiyinar Thinam (National Tribal Day) was celebrated on November 15 in tribal schools. For the first time in the state, various competitions were organized across 328 Government Tribal

Residential (GTR) Schools, with the enthusiastic participation of approximately 24,000 students. In collaboration with the Forest Department, 24,000 saplings were also planted within the school premises, promoting environmental awareness and sustainability among students.

2. Tribal Residential Schools

By following the traditional values of the Scheduled Tribes, and with a view to increase the literacy rate of the Tribal people, Tribal residential schools with food and lodging facilities are set up and functioning in the tribal habitations.

Government Tribal Residential Schools and Students Strength (2024-2025)

Schools	No. of Schools	Boys	Girls	Total
Primary School	212	4,312	4,097	8,409
Middle School	49	2,052	1,906	3,958
High School	31	1,983	1,538	3,521
Higher Secondary School	28	4,530	4,021	8,551
Total	320	12,877	11,562	24,439

The pass percentage of X Standard students has increased from 84 % to 91 % in the academic year 2023-24. Similarly, the pass percentage of 12th Standard students has risen from 94 % to 95%.

2.1. Ekalavya Model Residential Schools

In order to provide education through English medium from grades 6 to 12, eight Ekalavya Model Residential Higher Secondary Schools are functioning with funding support from the Union and State Government.

S. No.	District	Place	Boys	Girls	Total
1	Kallakurichi	Vellimalai(@)	262	-	262
2	Salem	Abinavam(#)	-	450	450
3	The Nilgiris	M.Palada	134	70	204
4	Namakkal	Sengarai	255	127	382
5	Tiruvanna-malai	Puliyampatti	221	198	419
6	Tirupathur	Keelur	176	140	316
7	Chengalpet	Kumizhi	116	65	181
8	Salem	Yercaud	164	100	264
Total			1328	1150	2478

@ exclusively for boys and # girls respectively

In the academic year 2023-24, the pass percentage of X Standard students is 94%, and that of XII Standard is 96%.

During the academic year 2023-24, around 14 GTR schools achieved 100% pass percentage in 12th Standard Public examination, and 28 GTR schools achieved 100% pass percentage in 10th Standard public examination.

With a view to motivate the effective functioning of GTR Schools, a reward money of Rs.5.00 lakh has been awarded to the Nammiyampattu GTR school, Thiruvannamalai District which has achieved 100 % pass percentage in 12th Standard public examination during the academic year 2023-2024.

3. Tribal Welfare Hostels

With a view to create an atmosphere for the economically backward tribal students to stay and pursue education, the Government has

constructed and is maintaining hostels with food, and proper infrastructure facilities.

Details of Tribal Welfare Hostels and Students Strength (2024-2025):

Hostels	No. of Hostels	Boys	Girls	Total
School Hostels	38	1009	998	2007
College Hostels	5	-	313	313
ITI Hostels	6	437	-	437
Total	49	1446	1311	2757

- Food charges @ Rs.1,400/- for school students and @ Rs.1,500/- for college students is provided.
- In addition, Solar Lights, Sweaters and Raincoats are provided to the students of Tribal Hostels situated in Hilly Areas.
- To cater to the needs of the newly admitted college and hostel students, a Welcome Kit

containing bed items such as blankets, mat and pillows is provided.

- CCTV cameras, biometric devices and software for the Central Monitoring Dashboard have been installed for the welfare of the hostel students.

4. Industrial Training Institutes

With the objective of creating employment opportunities for tribal youth both within the country and abroad, and to promote self-employment, six Industrial Training Institutes (ITIs) with hostel facilities are currently functioning exclusively for tribal students. These institutes operate in collaboration with the Department of Employment and Training.

The ITIs offer skill-based training in various trades, including tailoring, electrician, fitter, plumber, wireman, welder, and Advanced CNC (Computer Numerical Control) operations,

Machinist Industrial Robotics and Digital Manufacturing Technician and Motor Vehicle Mechanic. In the academic year 2024-2025, training has been imparted for 862 students.

For the financial year 2024-2025, expenditure of Rs.8.98 crore has been incurred under this Scheme.

During the financial year 2025-26, an allocation of Rs.10.33 crore has been earmarked for administrative functions related to these training institutes.

5. Financial Assistance to the Schools and Hostels run by Non-Governmental Organisations

(i) Schools with Hostels

In the interest of 1,723 tribal students studying in 1st to 12th standard in the school run by the Society for Rural Development (SFRD) in Jawadhu Hills, Tiruvannamalai District, salary

grant for 36 Teaching and 7 Non-teaching staff is provided from State budget allocation. Since 2005, food charges, miscellaneous expenses and other benefits have been provided to 550 tribal students pursuing education by staying in Hostels.

In the financial year 2024-2025, a grant of Rs.3.71 crore was released.

During the financial year 2025-2026, an amount of Rs.3.93 crore is allocated.

(ii) Hostels run by Non-Governmental Organizations

Hostels for tribal students are opened not only by the Government but also by private charitable Non-Governmental Organizations. Grants for food and other items for 100 tribal students staying in hostels run by Aim for Seva in Coimbatore District, and Ramco & Group in

Virudhunagar District are provided on par with GTR School Students.

(iii) Scheme for Supporting Non-Governmental Organizations to run Schools with Hostels

Schools with hostel facilities are run by Montfort Community School in Yercaud, Salem district, PCDS Global Matric School, and Community Seva School in Kallakurichi district, for the benefit of tribal students.

During the financial year 2024-2025, an amount of Rs.4.18 crore is incurred benefitting 1,625 tribal students.

For the financial year 2025-2026, an amount of Rs.9.62 crore is allocated.

6. Social, Economic and Infrastructure Development Programs

Various welfare schemes are being implemented for the social and economic

development of the tribal people and to create infrastructure in tribal habitations.

6.1 Tholkudi - Scheme

The **"Tholkudi"** scheme has been implemented to improve the basic amenities such as houses, roads, drinking Water and Streetlights in tribal habitations and to improve the quality of life of tribal people through various livelihood activities. This scheme is to be implemented in four years at the cost of Rs.1000.00 crore, an amount of Rs.250.00 crore per year, which is allocated as Rs.225.00 crore in capital expenditure and Rs.25.00 crore in revenue expenditure.

The funds are specifically allotted to carry out the above works. Certain works are being implemented by this Department and through TAHDCO while some works are carried out by DRDA and Forest Department.

For the financial year 2024-25, following works have been undertaken under this scheme.

1874 houses are being constructed for economically backward houseless Scheduled Tribes at a cost of Rs.58.99 crore.

Basic infrastructure works in tribal areas are being undertaken at a cost of Rs.84.57 crore.

Link roads are being laid in the forest village for benefitting the tribal community at an a cost of Rs.51.47 crore.

10 numbers of Point of Care Testing (POCT) Machines to examine the health of tribal school children, Cell Counter Machines for testing anaemia patients and 20 New Mobile Medical Units are being procured at a cost of Rs.7.00 crore.

Long Range Wireless Internet connectivity and cell phone connectivity are being established in remote tribal areas at a cost of Rs.10.74 crore.

During the financial year 2024-2025, works are undertaken at a cost of Rs.224.99 crore.

For the financial year 2025-2026, an amount of Rs.225.00 crore has been allocated under the scheme.

6.2 Tholkudi Livelihood Scheme

குருந்தே முல்லை யென்று
இந்நான் கல்லது பூவும் இல்லை
கருங்கால் வரகே, இருங்கதிர்த் தினையே
சிறுகொடிக் கொள்ளே, பொறிகிளர் அவரையொடு
இந்நான் கல்லது உணாவும் இல்லை

As described in *Purananuru* (335), the ancient Tamil community cultivated four types of flowers- *Kurinchi*, *Mullai*, *Marutham*, and *Neithal* corresponding to the landscapes they lived in.

They also grew four traditional food grains—*Varagu* (kodo millet), *Thinai* (foxtail millet), *Kol*, and *Avarai*. This harmonious way of life reflects the pride and deep connection the Tamil people had with nature."

In order to uphold and consistently follow this esteemed way of life, a livelihood initiative titled the *Tholkudi Agriculture Management Scheme* – Ainthinai has been launched. This scheme aims to create self-employment and cooperative employment opportunities across various sectors, including agriculture and allied activities, non-farming enterprises, livestock development, fish farming, traditional industries, and the collection and processing of minor forest produce.

- Providing skill development training to tribal youth to enable them to get employment opportunities.

- Free training is being provided to tribal youth and graduates to prepare them for various competitive examinations conducted by Government and public sector institutions.
- Documentation of linguistic resources and conducting ethnographic research to preserve the cultural heritage of tribal
- Implementing projects such as providing grinding machines, animal husbandry, fish farming, value addition to agricultural products and sewing machines to improve the livelihood of tribal people.
- Providing grants for tribal registered with the Adi Dravidar and Tribal Development Association, of TAHDCO to commence businesses and implement such schemes for socio economic livelihood development projects.

During the financial year 2024-25, a sum of Rs.32.29 crore was incurred under this scheme.

For the financial year 2025-26, an amount of Rs.30.00 crore is allocated under the scheme.

6.3 Documentation of Tribal Languages:

To preserve the tribal languages and to carry forward the culture and heritage to the next generation, tribal languages are documented in audio and video formats.

6.4 Tribal Linguistic Documentation-National Tribal Conference

A two-day National Seminar on "Preservation and Promotion of the Tribal Cultural Heritage of Tamil Nadu" aimed at exploring the feasibility of preserving tribal languages, was held for the first time in Tamil Nadu on 27th and 28th September 2024. The seminar saw the participation of researchers from renowned national institutions and research centres.

In continuation of the conference, linguistic experts/researchers have been selected to document the tribal languages of Todar, Kanikarar, Narikuravar, Irular and Kurumbar. The documentation work is being carried out under the guidance and supervision of the Central Institute of Indian Languages (CIIL), Mysore.

6.5 Pradhan Mantri Aadi Adarsh Gram Yojana (PM-AAGY)

Under the scheme, works are carried out at 167 villages wherein the tribal population should be more than 50% and 500 persons should live in the village tribal population to meet the basic infrastructure requirement within 5 years (from 2021-2022 to 2025-2026)

Under the scheme, Gap filling activities for providing basic infrastructure in selected villages are carried out through an allocated amount of

Rs.20.38 lakh per village and with the financial assistance from line departments.

6.6 Financial Assistance under Article 275 (1) of the Indian Constitution

Under the scheme, funds are allocated for economic and infrastructure development.

During the financial year 2024-2025, an amount of Rs.20.19 crore is incurred.

For the financial year 2025-2026, an amount of Rs.15.00 crore is allocated.

6.7 Pradhan Mantri Jan Jatiya Adivasi Nyaya Maha Abhiyan (PM JANMAN)

The Union Government implements the PM JANMAN scheme in collaboration with 9 state line departments. As part of this initiative, Multi-Purpose Centres (MPCs) and Van Dhan Vikas Kendras (VDVKs) have been established and are actively functioning through the Directorate of Tribal Welfare.

In the financial year 2024-2025, 35 Multi-Purpose Centres (MPCs) are being constructed at the cost of Rs.20.68 crore.

For the year 2025-26, a sum of Rs.10.00 crore has been allocated.

6.8 Van Dhan Vikas Kendras (VDVKs)

Under this scheme, Van Dhan Vikas Kendras comprising 15 Self-Help groups with 20 members each (300 members in total) are established at tribal populated areas. Rs.15.00 lakh has been provided as grants for each VDVK for purchasing of equipment, imparting training, adding value to minor forest produce and so on.

Approximately 20 Van Dhan Vikas Kendras (VDVKs) are currently operational in Tamil Nadu, supporting tribal communities in value addition, processing, and marketing of minor forest produce.

7. Scheduled Tribes and Other Traditional Forest Dwellers (Recognition of Forest Rights) Act, 2006

The "Scheduled Tribes and Other Traditional Forest Dwellers (Recognition of Forest Rights) Act, 2006" was enacted and has been implemented, with the objective of recognizing the forest rights of tribal communities and other traditional forest dwellers who rely on forests for their livelihood, habitation, socio-cultural practices, and other needs. Under this Act, individuals and communities who have been residing in and around forest areas prior to December 13, 2005, are eligible to claim forest rights.

Tribes who have been residing in forests for three generations (75 years) before this date, and other traditional dwellers living in and

around forests for the same duration, are eligible.

Under this Act, the following five types of forest rights are granted

1. Individual Rights
2. Community Rights
3. Community Forest Resource Rights
4. Community Development Rights
5. Habitat Rights for Particularly Vulnerable Tribal Groups (PVTGs)

Applications received under this Act have been reviewed by three committees at different levels: the Gram Sabha, the Sub-Divisional Level Committee, and the District Level Committee.

A State-Level Monitoring Committee, headed by the Chief Secretary to Government has monitored the implementation of this Act.

So far, 15,442 individual rights for an extent of 8945.51 hectares and 1066 community rights for an extent of 24,470.85 hectares have been issued under this Act.

Initiatives taken in the implementation of the Forest Rights Act

- To implement the Forest Right Act swiftly, FRA Atlas consisting of tribal populated districts, FRA IT portal and State level FRA cells have been created.
- Capacity building programs for District Forest Officers, District Adi Dravidar and Tribal Welfare Officers have been conducted to speedily implement the Forest Rights Act including the issue of individual rights and community rights.

8. Verification of genuineness of Scheduled Tribe Community Certificates

Since November 11, 1989, the authority to issue community certificates for Scheduled Tribes has been vested with the Revenue Divisional Officer/Sub-Collector. To ensure the genuineness of community certificates issued to scheduled tribes, three state-level scrutiny committees have been established.

i. State-Level Scrutiny Committee (SLSC)

Secretary to Government / Additional Secretary / Joint Secretary, Adi Dravidar and Tribal Welfare Department	Chairperson
Director of Tribal Welfare / Deputy Conservator of forests / District Revenue Officer	Member Secretary
Director, Tribal Research Centre / Anthropologist	Member

ii. Vigilance Cells

Vigilance Cells are operating in four zones—Chennai, Salem, Vellore, and Madurai—under the leadership of the Deputy Superintendent of Police to conduct field investigations on the authenticity of tribal community certificates and report to the State-Level Scrutiny Committees.

The Social Justice and Human Rights Division, operating in all districts under the supervision of the Director General of Police, is also engaged in verifying the authenticity of tribal community certificates through field investigations and reporting to the State-Level Scrutiny Committee.

9. Tribal Research Centre (TRC)

The Tribal Research Centre was established in 1983-84 at M. Palada, Nilgiris district to study the lifestyle, culture, language, socio-economic and educational status of the tribal people living

in Tamil Nadu. The administrative expenses of this Centre are borne by the State Government, while the expenses for the project activities are funded by the Ministry of Tribal Affairs.

The Tribal Research Centre undertakes the following activities related to tribal communities:

- Conducting research studies on tribal communities.
- Recording social, economic, religious, political, and psychological changes among the listed tribal communities.
- Publishing monographs on the life and culture of tribal communities.
- Researching tribal languages and teaching them to instil confidence.
- Recommending the inclusion of weaker communities in the Scheduled Tribes list of Tamil Nadu.
- Studying the basic needs of tribal communities.

- Providing training and a proper perspective on tribal cultures and development.
- Establishing a tribal museum to preserve and exhibit the cultural heritage of tribal communities.
- Preparing prospective plans for the development of tribal communities.
- Conducting periodical research on the listed tribal communities of Tamil Nadu.
- Conducting evaluation studies on development schemes implemented by Government and Non-Government organizations.
- Organizing seminars and workshops on tribal development issues and organizations in tribal areas.

III. TAMIL NADU ADI DRAVIDAR HOUSING AND DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION LIMITED (TAHDCO)

“ஆதிதிராவிடரும் பழங்குடியினரும்
சமூகத்தின் உட்புறம் முளைத்து வரும்
வேர்களைப் போன்றவர்கள். அவர்கள் வளர்ச்சி
என்பது நாட்டின் முழுமையான
முன்னேற்றத்திற்கான அடிப்படையாகும்.
சமத்துவம் எங்கும் நிலைநிறுத்தப்படும் வரை,
நமது சுதந்திரமும், நமது முன்னேற்றமும்
முழுமை அடையாது”

In line with the vision of Muthamizharignar Kalaigarnar to ensure holistic development of the Adi Dravidar and tribal communities, the Tamil Nadu Adi Dravidar Housing and Development Corporation (TAHDCO) was established in February 1974. The Corporation was created to effectively implement initiatives such as the construction and maintenance of school and

hostel buildings, as well as to promote social and economic development through various projects, including entrepreneurship and skill development training. The paid-up capital of the board has been shared by the State and Union Government in the ratio of 51:49 since 1980.

The present authorized capital of the corporation is Rs.200.00 crore and paid-up share capital is Rs.147.11 crore.

1. Livelihood Development Schemes

To improve the economic status of Adi Dravidar and tribal people, various entrepreneurship schemes are being implemented through banks.

These schemes are implemented from the funds received from State Government, Government of India, borrowing loans with low interest rates from financial institutions like banks, National Scheduled Castes Finance and

Development Corporation (NSFDC), National Scheduled Tribes Finance and Development Corporation (NSTFDC) and National Safai Karam Charis Finance and Development Corporation (NSKFDC).

1.1 Chief Minister's Adi Dravidar and Tribal Socio-Economic Development Scheme

The Chief Minister's Entrepreneurship Programme for Adi Dravidar and Tribal Socio-Economic Development scheme implements to ensure livelihood enhancement, skill development and sustainable development.

As a pre-release grant of subsidy 35% or a maximum of Rs.3.50 lakh whichever is less is given to the total project cost of the individual.

Also, 6% interest subsidy is provided to the beneficiaries who regularly repay the loan instalments in the bank.

Since the launch (2023-24) of the CM-ARISE scheme, a subsidy of Rs.89.74 crore has been provided to 4688 beneficiaries.

Beneficiaries have chosen various entrepreneurial projects and benefited, under the scheme. Specifically, 29 percent benefited for heavy and light vehicle business, 7 percent for small commercial shops, 6 percent for clothing stores, and 6 percent for centring works.

In the financial year 2025-2026, an amount Rs.75.00 crore has been allocated for this scheme.

1.2 Union Government sponsored scheme Pradhan Mantri Anu Suchit Jati Abhyuday Yojana (PM-AJAY)

Comprehensive livelihood development projects, skill development training, basic infrastructure projects are being implemented

with the help of the Union Government. 50% of the project cost per individual or a maximum of Rs.50,000/- whichever is less will be released as subsidy. Subsidy with Bank Loan assistance is provided by banks to help the Adi Dravidar and tribal entrepreneurs.

The following income generating activities are undertaken under the scheme:-

- Setting up animal husbandry, dairy and poultry and goat units.
- Purchase of fishing boats and net for fish farming and fishing.
- Supermarket, stationery store, gym, beauty salon, spa

Under this scheme, financial assistance of Rs.52.62 crore has been provided to 10,740 beneficiaries in the financial year 2024-2025.

To ensure quick processing of subsidized loans to beneficiaries, to confirm Asset Creation, a committee has been formed. A Committee consisting of District Manager as Chairman, Regional Project Officer (Bank Manager) and a representative nominated by the Managing Director of TAHDCO as Members has been constituted to scrutinize the applications for availing subsidized loans on TAHDCO portal.

1.3 Schemes implemented with assistance of National Financial Institutions

The Tamil Nadu Adi Dravidar Housing and Development Corporation (TAHDCO) is functioning as a State Agency and is providing various term loans at low interest rates from financial development institutions, such as,

1. National Scheduled Caste Finance and Development Corporation (NSFDC),

2. National Scheduled Tribe Finance and Development Corporation (NSTFDC),
3. National Safai Karamchari Finance and Development Corporation (NSKFDC).

Loan assistance for Permanent Cleanliness worker

Through the National Safai Karamchari Finance and Development Corporation (NSKFDC), loan to improve the livelihood of the family members of 651 cleanliness workers working in 59 local bodies has been provided at a cost of Rs.11.77 crore. This amount is deducted from their monthly salary and remitted to the NSKFDC through TAHDCO.

1.3.1 Micro, Small Business Loans

Micro Credit Finance Scheme offers low-interest loans (4% interest), through the Union Government's financial institutions, namely the National Scheduled Caste Finance and

Development Corporation (NSFDC), National Tribal Finance and Development Corporation (NSTFDC), and National Safai Karamchari Finance and Development Corporation (NSKFDC). The scheme is implemented with CM-ARISE and PM-AJAY for livelihood entrepreneurship based on their eligibility.

Beneficiaries who are eligible and willing to get loans under this scheme will be registered in society as members. Loans get from the National Financial Development Corporations at low interest and provided to the beneficiaries through society interlinked with banks.

To implement this scheme, TAHDCO has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the Tamil Nadu State Cooperative Bank (TNSCB), while the TNSCB has signed an MoU with all District Central Cooperative (DCC) banks.

The Jai Bhim Workers and Small Traders Welfare Association was formed with 200 Adi Dravidar and tribal traders who did business in the Koyambedu commercial market in Chennai and Rs.4.71 crore has been provided as small business loans along with a subsidy of Rs.94.00 lakh. In continuation of the successful implementation of this scheme, small and micro credit scheme will be implemented across Tamil Nadu.

1.3.2 Education loan

Education loans have been provided to the Adi Dravidar and Tribal students at low interest rates after obtaining from National financial institutions such as NSFDC, NSTFDC, NSKFDC, etc., for pursuing graduation.

For the financial year 2024-2025, Education loans an amount of Rs.525.00 lakh were provided to 152 students.

1.4 Livelihood initiatives for Adi Dravidar and Tribal Self Help Groups.

a) Providing the Uniform for students

Through self-help group members who received Tailoring training from TAHDCO, 2.75 lakh uniforms are provided for 70,000 students of Adi Dravidar and Tribal Welfare Schools, Hostels and Eklavya Model Residential Schools and Hostels.

Under this scheme, an amount of Rs.6.50 crore has been provided to the 1300 self-help group members for stitching charges. So, women who are living in rural areas are got additional income. Uniforms are provided to the students at the beginning of the academic year.

b) Polivu Health Care Society

Polivu Health Care Society was started by five women's groups consisting of 60 Adi Dravidar women and supplies the items

such as soap, coconut oil, shampoo and washing powder to 20,000 students staying in Adi Dravidar and Tribal Welfare hostels throughout Tamil Nadu. Through this scheme, self-help groups have manufactured the products upto Rs.3.00 crore per year and earned an income of up to Rs.18.00 lakh.

c) Maintenance of Community Halls

27 newly constructed community halls are maintained by women SHGs consisting of 5 people. These groups have been provided with a loan of Rs.2.50 lakh per community hall and a grant of Rs.2.50 lakh for the necessary equipment through the NSFDC. These groups are maintaining the community halls by collecting a very low usage fee from the beneficiaries.

In future, all the community halls constructed by the Adi Dravidar and Tribal

Welfare Department will be provided to the SHGs for such maintenance. This will bring the community halls to long-term use and ensure additional income for the women.

d) Food preparation for Eklavya Model Residential Schools

To prepare hygienic food for the students studying in eight Eklavya Model Residential Schools, self-help groups have been formed with tribal women living in the school areas and provided on week training at the Indian Institute of Hotel Management located in Taramani, Chennai.

Modern cooking equipment has been provided by the Tribal Welfare Department at the rate of Rs.5.00 lakh per hostel. Through this, quality food is provided to 2,400 students and 40 self-help group members are receiving a monthly salary and dividends (more than 25,000/-).

1.5. Nannilam - Magalir Nilavudamai Thittam

The Nannilam Women Land Ownership Scheme, a land purchase scheme is being implemented to transform the Adi Dravidar and tribal people who are agricultural labourers into landowners and raise their social status. Under the scheme, women are given priority.

Under this scheme, lands should be purchased from persons belonging to communities other than Adi Dravidar and tribal communities. Stamp duty and registration fees are fully exempted for purchase of land.

Since the market value of land has been increased, the scheme was reviewed and an amount of 50 % of market rate or maximum Rs.5.00 lakh has been provided. Further, a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) has been signed into the Indian Overseas Bank to receive funds from the National Scheduled Caste Finance

and Development Corporation (NSFDC) for the beneficiaries to avail bank loan with subsidy towards purchase of Land.

During the financial year 2024-2025, a sum of Rs.19.99 crore has been released to 408 beneficiaries under the scheme.

For the financial year 2025-2026, an amount of Rs.20.00 crore is allocated under the scheme.

2. Skill Development Training

“Skill development is at the centre of changes happening in education and labour markets amid the global megatrends.”

according to the vision of World Bank, Skill development training is imparted to Adi Dravidar and Tribal students, youth and competitive exam aspirants to improve their skills and learn new technologies to meet the changing global economic needs.

- Special coaching has been provided to 1000 Adi Dravidar and Tribal graduates at the cost of Rs.1.00 crore to attend the competitive examinations.
- Vocational Management Training has been provided to 5000 Adi Dravidar and Tribal Entrepreneurs at the cost of Rs.2.00 crore.

2.1 Training for Union Public Service Commission exams

In collaboration with a leading training institute in Chennai, 100 Adi Dravidar and Tribal students who have completed degrees are trained for General Studies & Optional (Prelims - cum-Mains) for the Civil Service examination.

During the financial year 2024-25, training has been provided for 100 students at the cost of Rs.202.00 lakh under the scheme.

2.2 Chartered Accountant, Company Secretary, Cost and Management Accounting Training

In collaboration with a leading training institute in Chennai, Training has been provided to the students who have completed B.Com to crack the competitive examinations for Chartered Accountant - Intermediate, Company Secretary- Intermediate, and Cost and Management Accountant- Intermediate.

During the financial year 2024-2025, training has been provided to the 43 students at the cost of Rs.10.87 lakh.

2.3 Financial support to pursue BS (Data Science and Application) degree in IIT, Madras

Students who have passed class XII are given coaching to appear for the entrance exam for BS (Data Science and Applications) conducted by IIT Madras. Students who clear

above entrance exam are given financial assistance to pursue the course.

These students can simultaneously study their preferred degree course and study BS (Data Science and Application) degree course through Online.

During the financial year 2024-25, Training was provided for 28 students for entrance and an amount of Rs.34.55 lakh has been provided to 24 students who cleared entrance as assistance for pursuing education.

2.4 Coaching for Tamil Nadu Public Service Commission exam

Adi Dravidar youth who have completed Under Graduate and cleared the preliminary examination in Group II and Group IIA conducted by the TNPSC are being trained by leading institute to attend the Main exams.

During the financial year 2024-2025, coaching has been provided to 62 aspirants at the cost of Rs.12.88 lakh.

2.5 Training for Higher Education Entrance Exam (NEET, JEE and CLAT)

Training is provided to the Adi Dravidar and Tribal students studying in Class XII to attend the entrance examinations like NEET, JEE, CLAT to get admission in higher education institutions.

During the financial year 2024-2025, training has been provided to 350 students at the cost of Rs.109.12 lakh.

2.6 CAT (Common Admission Test) coaching

Training is provided for CAT entrance examination to pursue MBA degree in reputed educational institutes like IIM and IIT as well as other top MBA institutions across India.

During the financial year 2024-2025, Training has been provided to 268 students at the cost of Rs.31.90 lakh.

2.7 Higher Education Entrance Exams Training (IELTS, TOEFL, GRE, GMAT)

Training is provided to the SC/ST students for clearing the eligibility test such as IELTS, TOEFL, GRE, GMAT mandated by the educational institutions in foreign countries for securing admission.

During the financial year 2024-2025, training has been provided to 65 students at the cost of Rs.15.54 lakh.

2.8 Financial assistance to pursue degree in Hotel Management and Catering Technology

Financial assistance is provided for Adi Dravidar and Tribal students who are pursuing B.Sc – Hospitality & Hotel Administration or Diploma in Food Production at

Institute of Hotel Management Catering Technology and Applied Nutrition.

During the financial year 2024-25, Assistance provided to 37 students is studying at the cost of Rs.68.94 lakh.

2.9 International Air Transport Association (IATA, Canada) approved training

Training in the field of Passenger Ground Services and Reservation Ticketing, Air Cargo Introductory and Dangerous Goods Regulations and Foundation in Travel and Tourism, through courses accredited by the International Air Transport Association (IATA), Canada has been provided by recognized institutions to the youth who have passed the Under Graduate.

During the financial year 2024-25, 55 persons have been trained at the cost of Rs.29.77 lakh. In the first phase, 46 persons got

employment in leading airlines and service centres like IndiGo, Air India, Menzies, Bird Aviation, Hyundai, iGo Tours, Wings Vacation, Zenith Tours, Alhind Tours & Money Exchange, out of 55.

2.10 Training in Information Technology/ Animation through TCS iON

Training is provided to UG /PG students for the National Level qualifier test (NQT) of TCS iON and animation training is provided for qualifiers.

During the financial year 2024-25, Training is provided to the 100 students at the cost of Rs.23.60 lakh.

2.11 Nurse Skill Training by TCS iON and Apollo Medskills

Online Hospital Training is imparted to the students who have completed nursing in UG / PG or Diploma to work in leading Hospitals

During the financial year 2024-25, training has been provided to 378 persons at the cost of Rs.105.26 lakh.

2.12 CNC Operator Training

10th class pass out are being trained to operate milling machines to provide employment opportunities in local factories and manufacturing companies.

Under this scheme, 34 youths have been trained at a cost of Rs.48.79 lakh and provided job in the financial year 2024-25.

2.13 Warehouse Management, Warehouse Picker & Packer Training in the Logistics and Supply Chain Sector

Warehouse Management, and logistics and supply chain sectors training for degree and diploma students are provided. Warehouse Picker & Packer training is provided to students who have passed 10th, 12th standard and ITI.

During the financial year 2024-25, training has been provided to 33 students at the cost of Rs.7.26 lakh.

2.14 Drone Operation Training

Centre for Aerospace Research of Madras Institute of Technology provides training in Drones to students who have passed minimum class 10th to carry out agriculture related activities like pesticide and micro-fertilizer spraying on agricultural land using drones. Also, TAHDCO provides subsidies to buy its own drones and use them for agriculture.

During the financial year of 2024-2025, Drone training is provided to 53 beneficiaries at the cost of Rs.31.90 lakh and license provided through the DGCA.

2.15. Medical Coding Training

Training in medical coding is provided to the students who have passed their UG / PG in science and offered employment in software companies.

During the financial year 2024-2025, training has been provided to 55 students at a cost of Rs.8.25 lakh.

2.16 Fashion Designing

Training in fashion designing is provided to youth who have completed UG / PG for employment opportunities in fashion designing or setting up their own garment shops.

During the financial year 2024-2025, Training is provided to 30 youth at the cost of Rs.15.45 lakh.

2.17 Artificial Robotics Training

Training in artificial robotics is provided to youth who have completed their undergraduate and postgraduate degrees with mechanical engineering to get employment opportunities in leading companies.

During the financial year 2024-2025, Training is provided to 30 youth at the cost of Rs.18.00 lakh.

3. Renovation of Ingur and Mudalipalayam Industrial Estates

In order to provide employment and enhance the livelihood of Adi Dravidar and also encourage Adi Dravidar entrepreneurs, Ingur and Mudalipalayam Government Industrial Estates are being renovated with new infrastructure at the cost of Rs.50 crore.

4. TN BEAT (Tamil Nadu Business Entrepreneurs in Adi Dravidar and Tribal)

A special exhibition and seminar for Adi Dravidar and Tribal entrepreneurs **“TN- BEAT EXPO”** was held to promote the products of Adi Dravidar and Tribal entrepreneurs and to explore new opportunities and share ideas of renowned entrepreneurs.

The second edition of **TN BEAT (Tamil Nadu Business Entrepreneurs in Adi Dravidar and Tribal)** Expo was held on January 25th and 26th, 2025.

In this exhibition, more than 15,000 products manufactured by Adi Dravidar and Tribal people were displayed in 300 stalls. Also, the products of MNC companies in 200 stalls, Government Public sector undertakings in 30 stalls and nationalized and

private banks in 15 stalls were displayed in the expo. Thirty thousand people visited the expo.

5. Adi Kalaikol - The Adi Dravidar and Tribal Art and Literature Conclave

A new initiative to promote the art and culture, the Adi Dravidar and Tribal Art and Literature Conclave, known as **Adi Kalaikol**, was held on December 2nd, 2024 at the Chennai Trade Centre, Nandambakkam.

More than 300 photographs and 100 paintings and sculptures depicting the lifestyle of Adi Dravidar and Tribal people were displayed. More than 1000 books, and 800 musical instruments and Arts reflecting the culture were displayed.

6. Construction Activities

The TAHDCO is undertaking construction of hostels for Adi Dravidar and Tribal Welfare department, providing basic infrastructure

facilities to schools, Community Halls, providing basic amenities to Tribal Habitation & construction of tribal house and multipurpose centre for the welfare of tribal people.

Works undertaken in Financial Year 2024-2025

Schemes	Component	No. of Works	Estimate Amount (Rs in crore)
Adi Dravidar Welfare (State)	Hostel, School, Community & Providing basic Infrastructure	595	515.43
Tribal Welfare (State)	Hostel, School, Community & Providing basic Infrastructure	132	136.31
NABARD INFRA	Hostel & Schools	250	329.38
Tribal Welfare	Housing and Infra	2356	135.65
PM-AJAY (BJRCY), EMRS, PM JANMAN	Hostels, Multipurpose Centre, Maintenance work at Schools	203	94.01
TOTAL		3536	1210.77

6.1 State Government works

The construction of additional classrooms and science laboratories, hostels, compound walls, community halls, special repair works, and providing infrastructure facilities to Tribal Residential Schools in Kalvarayan Hills under State Balanced Growth Fund (SBGF) are undertaken under State Government schemes.

At present, 727 works to a total value of Rs.651.74 crore are undertaken under State Government schemes. Construction of 2356 houses for tribal welfare at a cost of Rs.135.65 crore is underway.

6.2 Works under NABARD -Rural Infrastructure Development Fund (NABARD-RIDF)

With the assistance of NABARD Rural Infrastructure Development Fund, 250 works

such as school and college hostels, basic amenities to schools and Village Knowledge Centre have been taken up at a cost of Rs.329.38 crore.

IV. Tamil Nadu State Commission for Scheduled Caste and Scheduled Tribes

To safeguard the legal rights of Adi Dravidar and Scheduled Tribes at the State Level and to resolve their issues, **“The Tamil Nadu State Commission Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes”** was established as an autonomous body on 13.10.2021.

The Commission functions under the Chairmanship of a former Justice of Madras High Court. A Vice Chairman and five members have also been nominated to this Commission. The term of office of the Chairman, Vice Chairman and members is three years. The Managing Director, TAHDCO is the Member-Secretary to the Commission.

As on 31.03.2025, 4074 cases have been resolved out of the 5450 petitions received by the commission.

V. WELFARE COMMITTEES

Tamil Nadu Tribal Advisory Council

As provided in Rule 4(1) of the 5th schedule in the Constitution of India, Tribal Advisory Council was constituted on 04.09.1961 to render necessary recommendations for the welfare of Scheduled Tribes in Tamil Nadu.

The Tribal Advisory Council has been reconstituted on 30.11.2023 comprising the Hon'ble Minister for Adi Dravidar Welfare is the Chairperson and 3 official members, 2 Tribal MLAs, 13 Non-official Members (Tribal) and 2 Non-Tribal members. The Director, Tribal Welfare is the Member – Secretary of this Council.

VI. WELFARE BOARDS

1. Tamil Nadu Puthirai Vannar Welfare Board

The **“Tamil Nadu Puthirai Vannar Welfare Board”** was established on 15.10.2009 under the Chairpersonship of Hon’ble Minister for Adi Dravidar Welfare, for the educational, socio-economic development of the Puthirai Vannar community and provides assistance.

There are 13 official members and 13 non-official members nominated to this Board. The Director of Adi Dravidar Welfare is the Member-Secretary of this Board. It was reconstituted on 03.08.2023.

Rs.10.00 crore was sanctioned for the financial year 2023-2024 to revive the Board and undertake livelihood development activities.

In order to improve the socio-economic development of the Puthirai Vannar community, a survey has been conducted. Based on the

survey, livelihood projects for them will be implemented.

2. Tamil Nadu Cleanliness Workers Welfare Board

The **“Tamil Nadu Cleanliness Workers Welfare Board”** was constituted on 11.06.2007 under the Chairpersonship of Hon’ble Minister for Dravidar Welfare to monitor the implementation and progress of the welfare schemes for cleanliness workers in the field of education, social and economic development.

It was reconstituted on 03.05.2023 consisting of a Deputy Chairman, 14 official members and 12 non-official members. The Managing Director, Tamil Nadu Adi Dravidar Housing and Development Corporation Limited (TAHDCO) is the Member-Secretary of this board.

As on date, 3.25 lakh members registered in this board. So far, Rs.11.76 crore has been provided as assistance to 9969 members.

Initiatives

During the financial year 2022-2023, an amount of Rs.20.00 crore has been allocated to the Cleanliness Workers Welfare Board by the 6th State Finance Commission for providing assistance to implement welfare schemes for the board members. Further, necessary provisions are made to release the amount for the welfare board.

During the financial year 2022-2023, a grant of Rs.98.00 lakh has been allocated for setting up Sanitary Mart through 13 Mahatma Gandhi Labour Agreement and Skill Development Cooperative Societies comprising 3,078 members.

During the financial years 2022-2023 and 2023-2024, 1000 houses have been provided to

the homeless members registered in the Cleanliness Workers Welfare Board through the Tamil Nadu Urban Habitat Development Board at a cost of Rs.110.00 crore. The scheme is implemented with 90 percent of amount contributed by the Government as a subsidy, 9 percent as the welfare board's contribution, and 1 percent as the beneficiaries' contribution.

Benefits including marriage, education, funeral assistance, natural death, accidental death and old age pension have been enhanced for sanitation workers and their dependents, on par with other welfare boards.

Loan assistance of the NSKFDC was provided only to manual scavengers who are below the poverty line, which has been extended to all cleanliness workers from the financial year 2022-23.

Under the **“Naan Mudhalvan Scheme,”** residential skill development training centre was started in Tirunelveli on 06.10.2022 by the

Welfare Board as a pilot project for the welfare of students studying in classes 8, 9, and 10 students. 48 students are benefited under the scheme.

3. Tamil Nadu Tribal Welfare Board

The **“Tamil Nadu Tribal Welfare Board”** has been constituted with chairmanship of the Minister of Adi Dravidar Welfare on 20.04.2007 for the development of the Scheduled Tribes in the fields of Socio, economic and education development. The Director, Tribal Welfare is the Member-Secretary of this Board.

It was reconstituted on 08.09.2023 with 8 official members and 14 Tribal non-official members (including 2 Legislative members) and 3 non-official members (non - Tribal).

Welfare measures like natural death, accidental death, funeral rites assistance, educational scholarship, marriage assistance and pension etc., are being provided to the

registered members of these boards. So far, 52,790 members are registered in Tamil Nadu Tribal Welfare Board.

4. Tamil Nadu Narikuravar Welfare Board

The Tamil Nadu Narikuravar Welfare Board was established on 27.05.2008. Adi Dravidar and Tribal Welfare Department has undertaken the control from Backward Classes, Most Backward Classes, and Minorities Welfare Department on 23.08.2023.

The Tamil Nadu Narikuravar Welfare Board was reconstituted on 30.10.2023 comprising the Minister for Adi Dravidar Welfare as the chairman, 8 official members, and 13 non-official members.

There are 16,010 members in the Narikuravar Welfare Board.

VII Financial allocation to Adi Dravidar and Tribal Welfare Department during 2025-26

(Rs. in crore)

Sl. No	Department	Revenue	Capital	Loan	Total
1	Adi Dravidar and Tribal Welfare Department - Secretariat	14.89	-	1.00	15.89
2	Adi Dravidar Welfare	2642.21	589.71	-	3231.92
3	Tribal Welfare	384.33	285.41	-	669.74
4	Tamil Nadu State Commission for the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes	6.57	-	-	6.57
	Total	3048.00	875.12	1.00	3924.12

Dr. M. MATHIVENTHAN
MINISTER FOR ADI DRAVIDAR
WELFARE



M.C. Raja Model College Boys Hostel was inaugurated by the Hon'ble Chief Minister on Samathuva Naal (14.04.2025).



The Hon'ble Chief Minister presented a copy of "Preamble of the Indian Constitution" to the Samathuva Naal Chief Guest Thiru. Prakash Ambedkar.



On Samathuva Naal (April 14, 2025), the Hon'ble Chief Minister inaugurated several buildings constructed by TAHDCO.



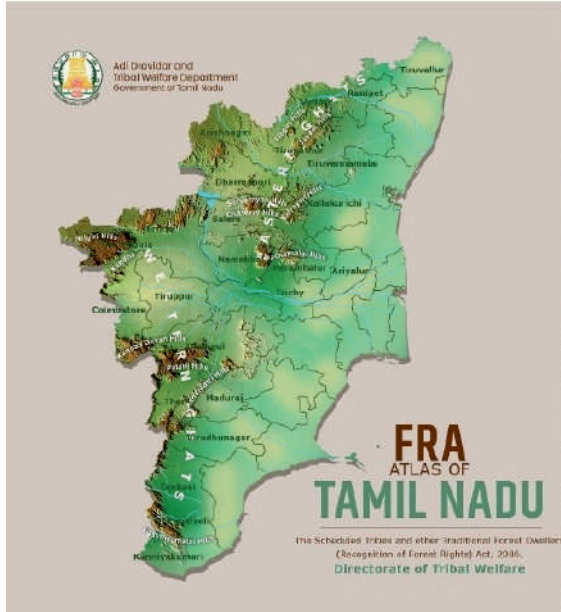
Thiru D. Ravikumar, Member of Parliament, received the Dr. Ambedkar Award for 2024 from the Hon'ble Chief Minister.



The Hon'ble Chief Minister visited the Government Adi Dravidar Welfare Girls' Hostel in Karaikudi and interacted with students.



The State-Level Vigilance and Monitoring Committee (SLVMC) meeting was held on 29.03.2025 under the chairmanship of the Hon'ble Chief Minister.



During the Samathuva Naal celebration, the Hon'ble Chief Minister released an atlas identifying potential areas for granting forest rights under the Forest Rights Act, 2006.



The Hon'ble Chief Minister handed over appointment orders to tribal youth who gained employment in prominent companies after completing skill development training under CTDP.



The Chief Minister along with students who received the Annal Ambedkar Overseas Higher Education Scholarship to study abroad.



The Hon'ble Deputy Chief Minister distributed four-wheeler to CM ARISE beneficiary.



Exhibition and Seminar TN-BEAT EXPO 2025 to encourage Adi Dravidar and Tribal entrepreneurs was inaugurated by Hon'ble Ministers.



TN-BEAT EXPO 2025 and Aadi Kalaikkol events held at Chennai .



At the state-level "Samathuvam Kaanbom" awareness training programme, the Hon'ble Minister for Adi Dravidar Welfare released a training handbook on the Prevention of Atrocities Act and Rules.



The Adi Dravidar and Tribal Welfare department hosted Tamil Nadu's first National Conference on "Tholkudi - Preservation and Promotion of Tribal Cultural Heritage".



The Hon'ble Minister for Adi Dravidar Welfare awarded certificates to students conducting research on tribal subjects through the Tamil Nadu Fellowship for Tribal Research.



Tholkudiyinar Thinam was celebrated in all tribal welfare schools.



The Tamil Nadu State Commission for Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes conducted a review meeting on 24.03.2025, in Tirunelveli District.

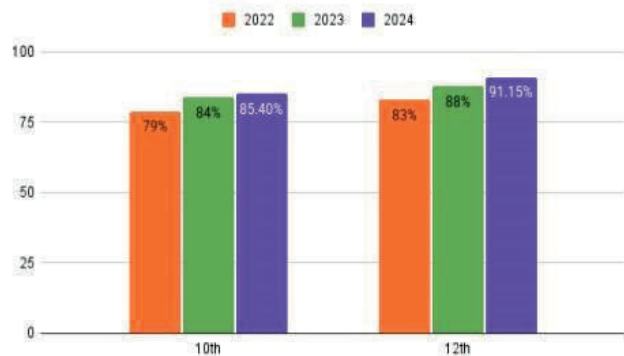


Infrastructure works undertaken by the TAHDCO for the welfare of Adi Dravidar and Tribal people.

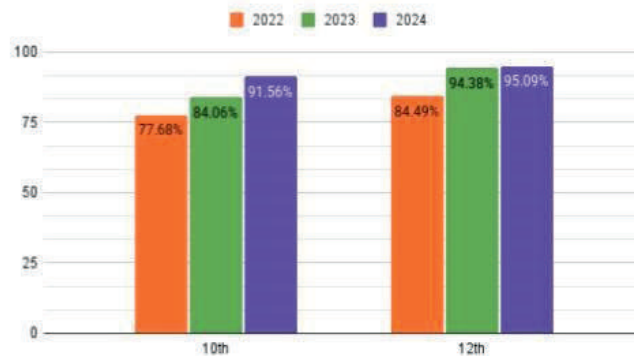


Completed works under the Iyothee Thass Pandithar Habitation Development Scheme

Pass percentage of students studied in classes 10th and 12th in Adi Dravidar welfare schools

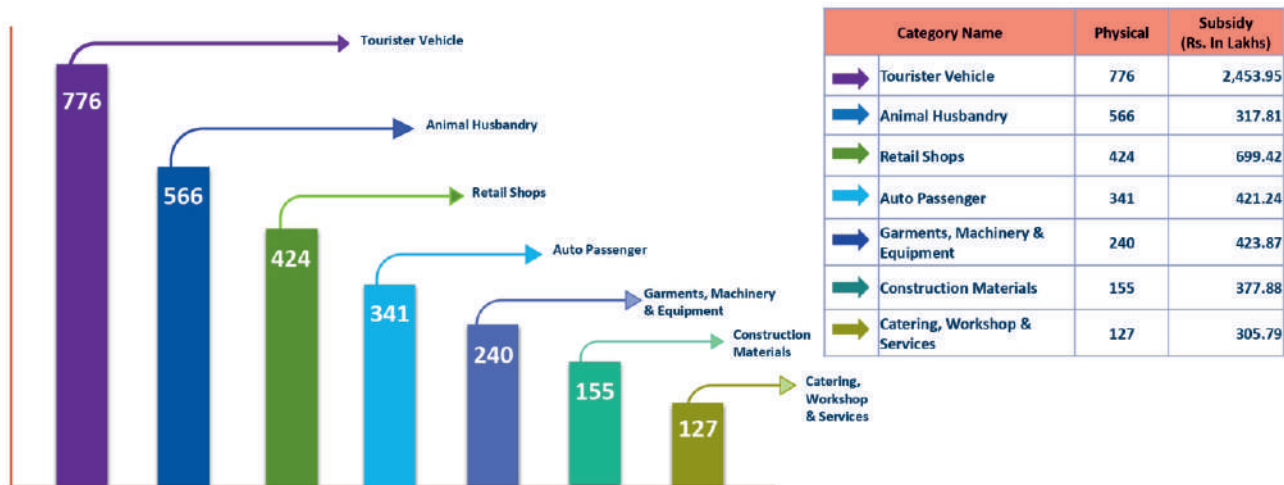


Pass percentage of students studied in classes 10th and 12th in Tribal Welfare schools



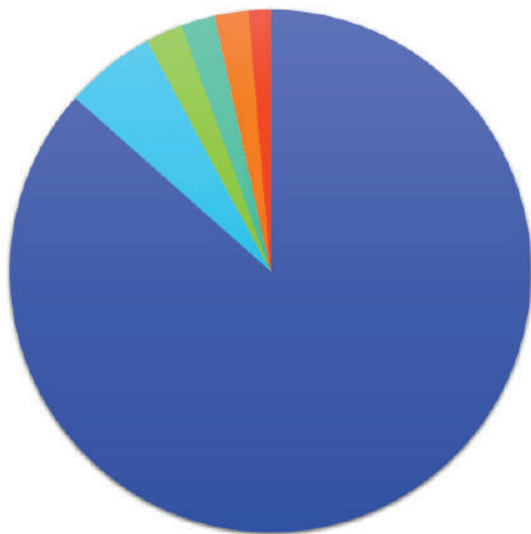
Pass Percentage of Adi Dravidar and Tribal Welfare Schools students.

CM-ARISE Trade Wise – 2024-25



Infograph of trade wise beneficiaries under the CM ARISE Scheme for the Year 2024-2025.

PM-AJAY Trade Wise – 2024-25



	Category Name	Physical	Subsidy (Rs. In Crore)
➡	Milch Animals	9293	45.48
➡	Sheep and Poultry Farming	605	2.96
➡	Manufacturing of Charcoal, Box, Silk Saree, Cottage Soap Industry and others	247	1.21
➡	Retail Shops (Petty, Stationary, Tea Stall, Hotel, Garments, Tailoring)	226	1.12
➡	Fishermen co-operatives	224	1.12
➡	Fruits and Vegetables Shops	145	0.75

Infograph of trade wise beneficiaries under PM-AJAY Scheme for the Year 2024-2025.



Adi Dravidar and Tribal Welfare Department related Newspaper articles.

