

RURAL DEVELOPMENT AND PANCHAYAT RAJ DEPARTMENT

Policy 2023 - 2024

Development that includes all communities, Districts and all sections of the population is the 'Dravidian Model of development'

- The Pradhan Manthri Awaas Yojana (Gramin) provides house to houseless and this scheme is implemented in Tamil Nadu with a fund sharing pattern of 62:38, where 62% comes from the State Government, which shows its commitment to provide good quality houses to the houseless.
- The Government of Tamil Nadu enacted Tamil Nadu Panchayats Act, 1994 and the elections are conducted to the local bodies by the State Election Commission, which ensures decentralization of power in the democratic system for the three-tier Panchayats of rural local bodies.
- Hence, the convening of Gram Sabha is compulsorily mandated six times a year to ensure people's participation in every stage of planning, implementation and monitoring.
- The 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) of the United Nations are reclassified into "Localization of Sustainable Development Goals" (LSDG), with the aim of embedding them in the Panchayat Raj Institutions (PRIs) with nine themes.

History of Panchayat Raj Institutions

- History of Panchayat Raj Institutions Archaeological evidence from Porunai and Vaigai River Civilizations points to local planning in Tamil Nadu, from about 2600 years ago.

- Excavations at Keeladi, in Sivagangai district has revealed the practices of construction of houses with fire kiln bricks, sewage canals made of clay pipes, ring wells, and the practice of purifying water through filters were also evident.
- Aganaanooru mentions a system similar to the Kudavolai between the 2nd century BC to the 3rd Century AD. Manur inscription in Tirunelveli District mentions elections and village administration during the eighth-century AD. Local self-governance was more prominent during the Chola period, evident from the Uthiramerur stone inscriptions in Kancheepuram District.
- This tradition peaked during the 10th and 11th centuries under the reign of Cholas when Village Councils used to levy taxes, improve community life and administer justice in their limited area. “Kudavolai murai” was the name of
 - the secret ballot method exercised to elect members to the Village Councils.
- During the British period, Thomas Munro introduced the ryotwari system which laid the foundation for collecting taxes directly from peasants and ensured ownership of land vested with them. In the late 19th Century, Lord Ripon, the then Viceroy of India, gave importance to Local Self Governments. In the post-independence era, the first enactment regarding democratic decentralization in the State was the Madras Village Panchayats Act of 1950.
- Further, in its Directive Principles of State Policy, the Constitution of India empowers the State to 15 constitute village Panchayats as units of Self Government.
 - Balwant Rai Mehta Committee (1957),
 - Ashok Mehta Committee (1977),
 - G.V.K Rao Committee (1985)
 - L.M.Singhvi Committee (1986)
- Article 243-G, read with the Eleventh Schedule of the Constitution, stipulates that the States may, by law, endow the Panchayats with twenty-nine subjects listed in the Eleventh Schedule of the Constitution.

- 73rd Constitutional Amendment Act, 1992 was passed and it came into effect in April 1993.

Elected Representatives in Rural Local Bodies (RLBs)

- The Tamil Nadu State Election Commission was established in 1994
- Based on the 17 Government's reservation policy of 50% of the offices and seats to women in the Rural Local Body, elections were successfully held in 2019 and 2021.

Grama Sabha

- Historical evidence in Tamil Nadu has depicted the presence of 'Oor' and 'Sabha' during the Chola period. These Sabhas aided the administration and ensured democratic decision making.
- Article 243 of the Constitution ensures the formation of the Grama Sabha
- The Honourable Chief Minister made an announcement in the legislative assembly under Rule 110 that mandatory Grama Sabhas will be held six times, on 26th January, 22nd March, 1st May, 15th August, 2nd October and 1st November, annually.
- Namma Grama Sabai App A new mobile application, 'Namma Grama Sabai' has been launched by the department during this year to monitor the conduct of Grama 20 Sabhas

Panchayat Unions

- At the intermediate level, there are 388 Panchayat Unions (Block Panchayats) in the state. The Panchayat Unions are divided into territorial wards for a minimum of every 5,000 population.
- The Ward Members are directly elected from the territorial wards, and the Panchayat Union Chairperson is elected indirectly from 23 among the Ward Members. Panchayat Union Council cannot levy taxes.
- Financial resources of Rural Local Bodies In Tamil Nadu, among the three tiers of Rural Local Bodies, the village panchayat is the only body

empowered to levy and collect taxes. The village panchayats receive revenue from the following sources:

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

Sixth State Finance Commission (2022-23 – 2027-28)

- The Sixth SFC constituted in the year 2020 by the Government has submitted its recommendations, and most of the recommendations have been accepted by the Government.

Key recommendations of the Sixth SFC:

- Award period of the Sixth SFC is 2022-23 to 2027-28.
- Sixth SFC recommended devolving 10% of the State's own Tax Revenue to Local Bodies.
- The vertical sharing ratio between Rural and Urban Local bodies will be 51:49.
- The Government has also ordered to share the devolution grant among the Rural Local Bodies, the District Panchayats, Panchayat Unions and Village Panchayats in the ratio of 6:39:55, respectively.
- The Grant allocated to the three tiers will be devolved on the basis of the Multiplier formula recommended by the Sixth State Finance Commission.

Sixth SFC has categorised the grants into

Two major heads as detailed below:

1. Special Grant
2. Devolution Grant

State Level - CGF

- Rural Infrastructure - Rs.600 Crore
- ODR – Road Conversion - Rs.120 Crore
- Regional Institute of Rural Development and Panchayat Raj - Rs.1 crore

- School maintenance - Rs.140 crore.

Own Sources of Revenue

- a. Tax Revenue
- b. Non-Tax Revenue
- c. Pooled Assigned Revenue (PAR)

Awards and Recognitions to best performing Village Panchayats and Institutions

Uthamar Gandhi Award

- The Honourable Chief Minister made an announcement in the legislative assembly under Rule 110 to re-institute the “Uthamar Gandhi Award” from the year 2022 to encourage Panchayat Presidents to lead from the forefront in the development of their Panchayats and achieve the Sustainable Development Goals.
- This Award was earlier given between 2006 -2010 and later discontinued. This award will be conferred to one best performing Village Panchayat per district with a cash award of Rs.10 lakh. The eligible village Panchayats will be selected based on a standard set of indicators for assessing their performance in fulfilling Sustainable Developmental Goals.

State Schemes

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

- The State Government launched the Landmark Anaithu Grama Anna Marumalarchi Thittam during 2006-2011 with a focus on Comprehensive development of all Village Panchayats.
- This scheme aimed at improving the overall basic infrastructure facilities in all Village Panchayats in a phased manner over a span of five years.
- The compulsory works included rejuvenation of a Pond, establishment of a Rural Library with provision of furniture and books, creation

/improvement of Common Burial Grounds / Cremation sheds and establishment of Community / School Sports Centre with required equipment in every Village Panchayat. The scheme created a positive impact on the rural people.

- The Flagship scheme of the Government has now been re-launched as Anaithu Grama Anna Marumalarchi Thittam-II (AGAMT-II) to ensure holistic development of all habitations in every Village Panchayat in the State through equitable distribution of resources. It will be implemented in a phased manner over a period of five years from 2021-22 to 2025-26. Population Grant, Habitation Grant have been assessed by giving weightage of 50% for number of Habitations and 50% for Population. In 2023-24, 2,504 Village Panchayats will be taken up with an allocation of Rs.1,148 crore.

Revival of Rural Libraries under Anaithu Grama Anna Marumalarchi Thittam during the year 2022-23

- The Article 243-G, along with the XI Schedule of Constitution of India and Section 111 of the Tamil Nadu Panchayats Act, 1994 empowers the Village Panchayats to open and maintain libraries / reading rooms in the Villages

Periyar Ninaivu Samathuvapuram

- To promote social justice and to spread Thanthai Periyar's message of social equality, the Government of Tamil Nadu had launched "Periyar Ninaivu Samathuvapuram" scheme as part of the Golden Jubilee Celebrations of Indian Independence during the year 1997-98. The vision was to enable people belonging to various communities to live together without caste or communal differences.

Namakku Naame Thittam (Rural)

- Dr Kalaingar M. Karunanidhi, Hon'ble former Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu, during the Budget Speech 1997-98, announced the Namakku Naame Thittam (NNT) to encourage people's participation in the

creation of public assets. The scheme aims to promote and strengthen the self-help and self-reliant attitude of the rural community.

- Individuals, groups, institutions, companies or the local community can choose work by accepting to contribute a minimum of one-third of the cost for the works under this scheme.
- If the public contribution is 50% or more of the estimated value of the work, the District Collector can permit the contributor or the agency to execute the work without tender. For 2023-24, the scheme will be continued with an outlay of Rs.100.00 crore.

Mudalvarin Grama Salaigal Membattu Thittam (MGSMT)

- The Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu, during the debate on the Governor's speech in the Legislative Assembly on 13.01.2023, announced that the Government would implement a new scheme called 'Mudalvarin Grama Salaigal Membattu Thittam' (MGSMT) and in two years, 10,000 Km of Panchayat Union Roads will be improved at a cost of Rs.4,000 crore.
- The objective of the "Mudalvarin Grama Salaigal Membattu Thittam (MGSMT)" is to Upgrade / 65 Strengthen / Maintain Village Panchayat and Panchayat Union roads.

Tamil Nadu Rural Roads Improvement Scheme (TNRRIS)

- The objective of the Tamil Nadu Rural Roads Improvement Scheme is to address the critical gaps in the upgradation and strengthening of the road network.
- The scheme was funded by State Finance Commission Grants. So far, 29,194 km of roads have been taken up under this scheme at an estimated cost of Rs.6,427.23 crore.

NABARD - Rural Infrastructure Development Fund (RIDF)

- The Union Government instituted the Rural Infrastructure Development Fund (RIDF) under NABARD in 1995-96 for financing the implementation of rural infrastructure projects by the State Governments (80% Loan, 20% State Grant).

- Improvement of damaged Village Panchayat and Panchayat Union roads, upgradation of non-BT roads to BT standard and construction of bridges to ensure all-weather road connectivity in rural areas are taken up under this Scheme.

Union Government Sponsored Schemes

Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme (MGNREGS)

- The Union Government launched the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme in February 2006 to provide 100 days of employment in a financial year to any rural household whose adult members volunteer to do unskilled manual work.

Salient Features of the Scheme

- Right to demand and receive work within 15 days
- Right to un-employment Allowance
- No contractors or labour displacing machinery is allowed
- The wage rate has been revised to Rs.294 per day with effect from 01.04.2023 for Tamil Nadu for both men and women without any difference.

75 Day Campaign for water conservation works (2022)

- In 2022, a 75 Day Campaign was launched from March 22 (World Water Day) to June 5th (World Environment Day)

National Mobile Monitoring System (NMMS)

- Union Government has launched the National Mobile Monitoring System App on 21st May 2021 and mandated its daily use by all states. The NMMS App enables transparent monitoring of daily attendance by logging attendance details at the site, twice a day.

Convergence with KAVIADP

- The Agriculture and Farmers Welfare Department has launched a state flagship scheme - KAVIADP (Kalaigal All Village Integrated Agricultural Development Program) and is being implemented in the same villages as Anaithu Grama Anna Marumalarchi Thittam (AGAMT-II), thereby ensuring geographical convergence.
- The components of AGAMT-II pertaining to the rejuvenation of water bodies, marketing and livelihood support, and common infrastructural facilities directly converge with the objectives and outcomes of KAVIADP.

Housing for All - Pradhan Mantri Awaas Yojana - Gramin

- The Pradhan Mantri Awaas Yojana-Gramin (PMAY-G) is a Union Government Sponsored Scheme which is being implemented from the year 2016-17 replacing the erstwhile Indira Awaas Yojana to address the gaps in the Rural Housing programme.
- The fund-sharing ratio between Union and State governments under this scheme is 60:40 as per the guidelines issued by the Union Government, whereas, in Tamil Nadu, this ratio is 38:62 i.e., the state provides 62 % of the funds for the house constructed under the Housing for All - PMAY-G.

Objective

- ❖ “Housing for All” by 2022. The Union Government has currently extended the programme till 2024.

Jal Jeevan Mission

- Jal Jeevan Mission (JJM) was launched during the year 2019-20 for providing water supply to every rural household in adequate quantity (55 LPCD) and prescribed quality on a regular basis, through a Functional Household Tap Connection (FHTC). Community participation in 107 planning, monitoring of water supply, ensuring sustainability of sources through source-strengthening, water recharge and re-use are the other main objectives of the scheme.

Funding Pattern:

- The fund sharing pattern for implementation of works under Jal Jeevan Mission is shared by the Union Government (50%) and the State Government (50%).

Saansad Adarsh Gram Yojana (SAGY)

- The Union Government launched Saansad Adarsh Gram Yojana (SAGY) in 2014. Saansad Adarsh Gram Yojana aims at holistic development through the convergence of various schemes at the village panchayat.

Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana (PMGSY)

PMGSY III

- PMGSY I and II have been completed by the State, and PMGSY III (2019-25) is under implementation. The objective of PMGSY III is to upgrade existing 'Through-routes' and Major Rural Links that connect habitations to Gramin agricultural markets (Grams), High / Higher Secondary Schools and Hospitals. An overall target of 7,375 Km length of roads was allocated.
- PMGSY was initially implemented with 100% funding from the Union Government, from 2015 the funding pattern was 119 revised to 60:40 between Union and State Governments.

Swachh Bharat Mission (Grameen)- SBM(G)

- Swachh Bharat Mission (SBM) was launched in 2014, with a focus on behavioural change among the people to end open defecation and efforts were accelerated to achieve Universal Sanitation Coverage by 2019.
- The SBM has two phases - SBM Phase-I (2014-2019) focused on constructing individual household latrines and community sanitary complexes, while SBM Phase-II (2020-21 to 2024-25) aims to sustain and improve the gains of Phase-I. Tamil Nadu achieved ODF (open defecation-free) status in 2019.
- The key objective of 122 SBM (G) Phase II is to sustain the ODF status of villages and improve the cleanliness levels in rural areas through solid and

liquid waste management activities, making villages 'ODF Plus' by ensuring sustainability.

Namma Ooru Superu Campaign

- The 'Namma Ooru Superu' campaign was conducted from August 15th to October 2nd 2022, across all village panchayats. The primary aim was to create a people's movement for creating clean and green villages with specific focus on sanitation and liquid waste management through behaviour change among people.

GOBARdhan

- GOBARdhan aims to improve rural sanitation by transforming agro-waste into a valuable resource, converting animal waste, kitchen leftovers, crop residue, and market waste into biogas and bio-slurry. Under SBM (G) PhaseII, the project is eligible for a one-time grant of up to Rs.50.00 Lakh per district for the entire project period.

Shyama Prasad Mukherji Rurban Mission (SPMRM)

- The Union Government launched Shyama Prasad Mukherji Rurban Mission (SPMRM) with the aim to develop clusters of villages with facilities perceived to be essentially urban in nature, thus creating 'Rurban Villages'. The Union Government has allocated 11 non-tribal clusters to Tamil Nadu in a phased manner from the year 2016-17 onwards.

Revamped Rashtriya Gram Swaraj Abhiyan (RRGSA)

- The Union Government has launched Revamped Rashtriya Gram Swaraj Abhiyan scheme in the year 2022 to strengthen the capacities of Panchayat Raj Institutions to become more responsive towards local development needs.
- It also aims to facilitate participatory planning, leveraging technologies for effectively utilising available resources and realising sustainable solutions to local problems which are linked to Localisation of Sustainable Development Goals (LSDGs)