



Government of Tamil Nadu  
**State Planning Commission**



# Newsletter

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# Greetings from the Vice-Chairman's Desk

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Dr. J. Jeyaranjan

It is with great pleasure that I present to you the **Inaugural Edition of the Newsletter** from the State Planning Commission of Tamil Nadu. This momentous occasion marks the beginning of a new era in our collective efforts to promote sustainable and inclusive development in our pursuit of progress and prosperity.

This newsletter is designed to be a platform for sharing valuable insights, updates, and success stories from our collaborative efforts. Through this medium, we hope to foster a deeper understanding of our initiatives and the progress we are making towards realising the objectives set by our government that stand for social justice. In these pages, you will find a wealth of information on the activities and initiatives undertaken by the State Planning Commission and its various partner departments. From rural development and healthcare to education and environmental conservation, we will delve into the diverse range of sectors where we are actively working to drive positive change.

**Democratisation** is not just a goal for us; it is a fundamental principle that guides our actions and decisions. As we embark on this journey of sharing knowledge, experiences, and insights, I encourage all our partners and readers to actively engage with us. Your feedback and suggestions will be truly invaluable in shaping the future editions of this newsletter and all our ongoing endeavours.

I would also like to express my heartfelt gratitude to all the individuals, government departments, and organisations that have partnered with us in our mission. Together, we can achieve remarkable progress and create a Tamil Nadu where truly no one is left behind in the process of development.

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Warm regards,

**Dr. J. Jeyaranjan**

Vice Chairman | State Planning Commission

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# GOVERNMENT OF TAMIL NADU

## State Planning Commission

### Overview

#### Chairperson

Thiru. M.K. Stalin,  
Hon'ble Chief Minister  
of Tamil Nadu

#### Vice-Chairperson

Dr. J. Jeyaranjan

#### Full-Time Member

Prof. R. Srinivasan

#### Addl. Full-Time Member

Dr. M. Vijayabaskar

#### Member Secretary

Tmt. Sudha. S, I.F.S.,

#### Part-Time Members

- ✦ Dr. N.Ezhilan MLA
- ✦ Thiru. K. Deenabandu IAS., (Retd.)
- ✦ Prof. Sultan Ahmed Ismail
- ✦ Ms. Mallika Srinivasan
- ✦ Dr. J. Amalorpavanathan
- ✦ Dr. G. Sivaraman
- ✦ Padma Shri Dr. Narthaki Nataraj

### About the State Planning Commission

The **State Planning Commission** serves as an apex advisory body to the Government of Tamil Nadu. Its primary role is to provide **evidence-based policy guidance**, aimed at fostering holistic growth and development within the state. Under the guidance of the Honourable Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu, the Commission actively engages in the formulation, implementation, and evaluation of policies, with a specific focus on **development, economic growth, social welfare and innovation**.

The State Planning Commission reviews, evaluates and monitors various welfare schemes and programmes of the Government, to ensure effective delivery of services at the grassroots level. The Commission, through its evaluation of schemes and programs, also suggests course corrections for enhanced effectiveness of policy decisions. The Commission works closely alongside sectoral Government Departments, promotes knowledge sharing and fosters collaborative initiatives for the State's progress. It undertakes sector-specific studies and also organises topical seminars and workshops that bring together key stakeholders and experts.

The State Planning Commission also rolls out special schemes such as the **State Balanced Growth Fund (SBGF) Scheme** and the **Tamil Nadu Innovation Initiatives (TANII)**. Additionally, various studies focusing on sustainable land and forest use have been prepared through the **Tamil Nadu State Land Use Research Board (TNSLURB)**, since its establishment in 1975.



► The Hon. Chief Minister chairs a review meeting with the State Planning Commission

# Our Key Programmes

## ◆ Tamil Nadu Innovation Initiatives (TANII)

The Planning Commission is mandated with the idea of fostering a culture of innovation in governance, through **Tamil Nadu Innovation Initiatives (TANII)** scheme. Innovative ideas that enable the seamless delivery of public services in the State are recommended by SPC for funding.

## ◆ State Balanced Growth Fund (SGBF)

The Commission is mandated to bring about balanced growth among the districts through the **State Balanced Growth Fund (SGBF)** where specific sectors are targeted for development. Health and Education are currently the focus sectors for SGBF disbursement.

## ◆ Tamil Nadu State Land Use Research Board (TNSLURB)

The **Tamil Nadu State Land Use Research Board (TNSLURB)** promotes formal interactions through research, studies, workshops and seminars, amongst various stakeholders for sustainable management and conservation of land and water resources, that enables knowledge sharing and informed policy decision making.

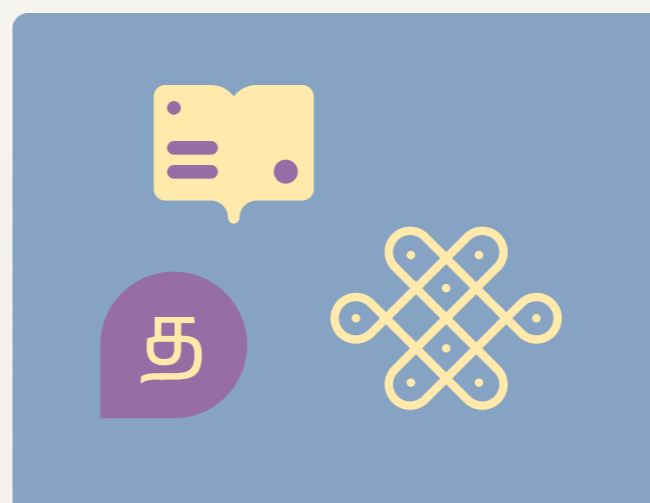
## 7 Focus Areas

The State Planning Commission formulates innovative programs and policies tailored to these broad focus areas and their allied domains, by working closely alongside sectoral Government Departments.



### Agricultural Policy and Planning

Promotes development of agricultural and allied areas including animal husbandry, dairy, fisheries, irrigation and food processing.



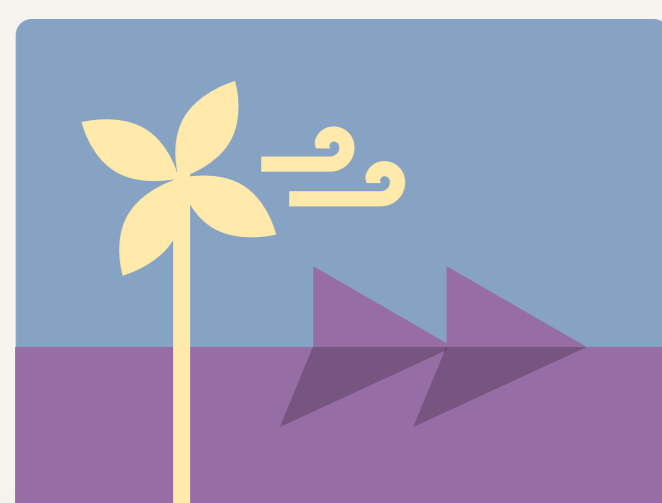
### Education & Employment

Fosters access to universal quality of education and employment and promotes youth welfare, and the development of sports, art, culture and the Tamil language.



### Health & Social Welfare

Enhances public health, and overall quality of life in Tamil Nadu with a focus on women empowerment and well-being of all disadvantaged groups.



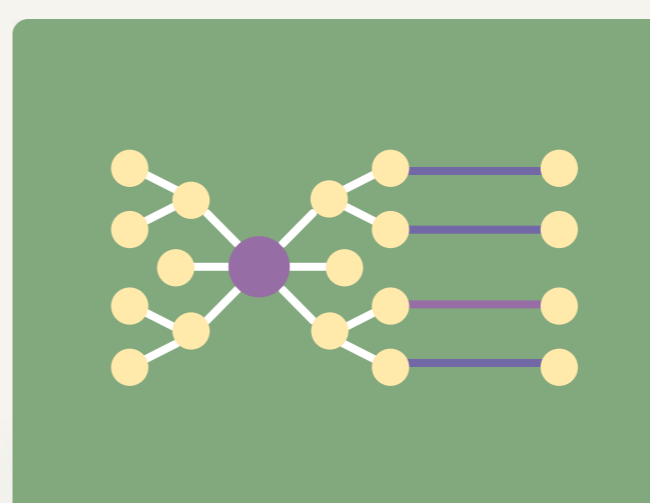
### Industry, Power & Transport

Enables in the development of the State's trade and industrial economy which includes Energy, Highways, Transport, IT, MSMEs handlooms and textiles.



### Land Use

Promotes prudent utilisation of land and all natural resources, by gathering micro-level data on current land use and degradation.



### Plan Co-ordination

Focuses on fostering innovation in governance through seamless implementation of innovation schemes for public service delivery.



### Rural Development & District Planning

Promotes holistic development of rural areas by addressing regional imbalances, rural livelihoods, housing, infrastructure and women's development.

# Vidiyal Payanam Scheme for Women

Mapping the impact of the Government's flagship scheme on various facets of women commuters' lives

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## INTERVIEW SNIPPETS

"I am a street vendor and my income varies between ₹1000 - ₹3000 per month. Earlier, I would spend around ₹500 per month on travel, which often is **around 50% of my monthly income**. It was a huge burden for women like me. This scheme has saved us from that burden and helps us to travel more freely across places."

"Few women in our village have sufficient education to find work in the town. Now we use the free bus to go to shops, to visit the church. Many young girls from our village have started going to the town for tailoring classes and other such things. **We no longer depend on anyone to travel, these days.**"

## About the Scheme

Gender justice has been a cornerstone of several social justice measures undertaken by the Government of Tamil Nadu over the past 50 years. The Tamil Nadu **Human Development Report (2017)** highlights that our state has one of the highest rates of workforce participation from women in the country. However, the COVID-19 pandemic has disproportionately affected women and has compounded their vulnerabilities, especially in the informal economy due to livelihood losses.

Against this backdrop, the flagship **Vidiyal Payanam** Scheme - announced by the Tamil Nadu Government in May 2021 - waives travel charges for women commuters in the urban zones of the State, in ordinary fare state-owned public buses.

## Impact Assessment of Vidiyal Payanam by the State Planning Commission

To evaluate the scheme's impact on women commuters, the State Planning Commission undertook a study in **two phases** - first in the Chennai metropolitan area and further in 3 urban nodes in the State, i.e: Nagapattinam, Madurai and Tiruppur. The study covered the age profile, social category, educational profile, income profile and average savings of women commuters.

The key findings are documented in the following pages →

## KEY INSIGHTS

From the Impact Assessment Studies, it is seen that the Vidiyal Payanam scheme has helped women bus commuters by -

- ◆ Contributing to higher **disposable income**
- ◆ Enabling higher **workforce participation**
- ◆ Contributing to their empowerment and dignity, by reducing **dependence** on family members for their mobility
- ◆ Improving their social well-being, as more women are now able to access new learning and skilling **opportunities** in urban areas, as well as to access **urban leisure spaces** at reduced cost

**PHASE I STUDY**

Based on usage data provided by Metropolitan Transport Corporation (MTC), three of the busiest bus routes in Chennai were chosen for the impact assessment study.



**159A**  
Koyambedu to Thiruvottiyur



**500**  
Tambaram to Chengalpattu



**102B**  
Broadway to Kannagi Nagar

**80%**

of women passengers who disclosed their caste identity belonged to marginalized social groups

39.3% belong to Scheduled Castes (SC) and 40.4% to Other Backward Classes (OBCs) →

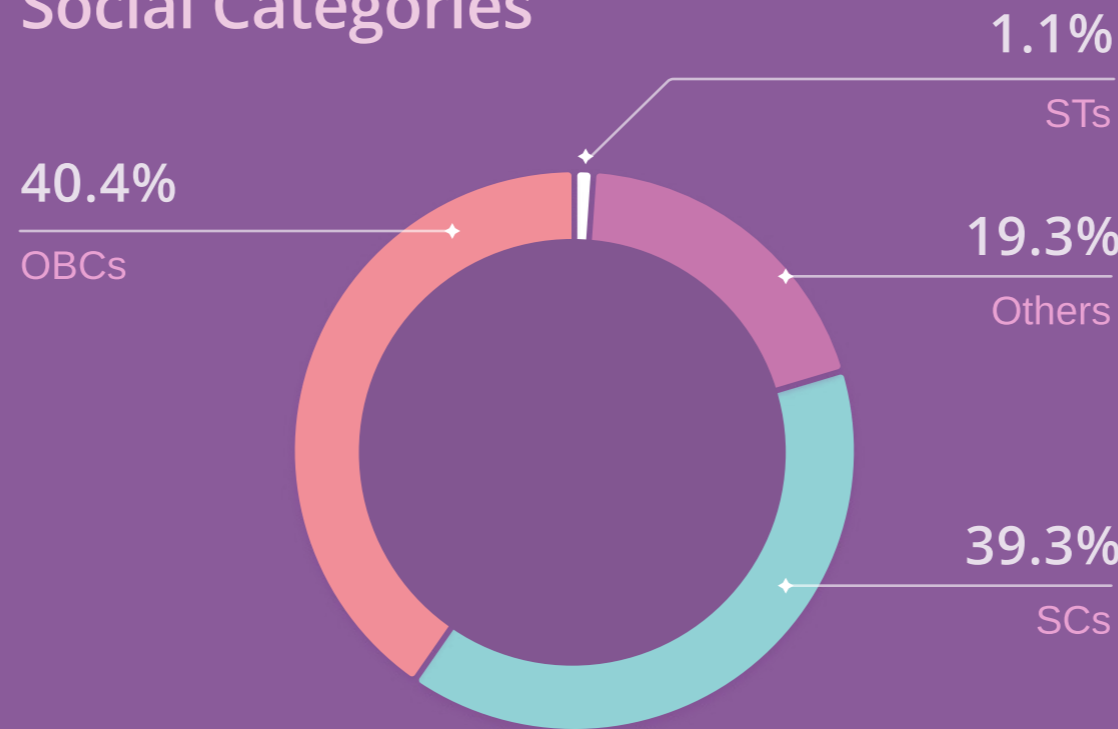
This also highlights the fact that higher proportions of women from these communities are dependent on public transport for their mobility.

**~ 28%**

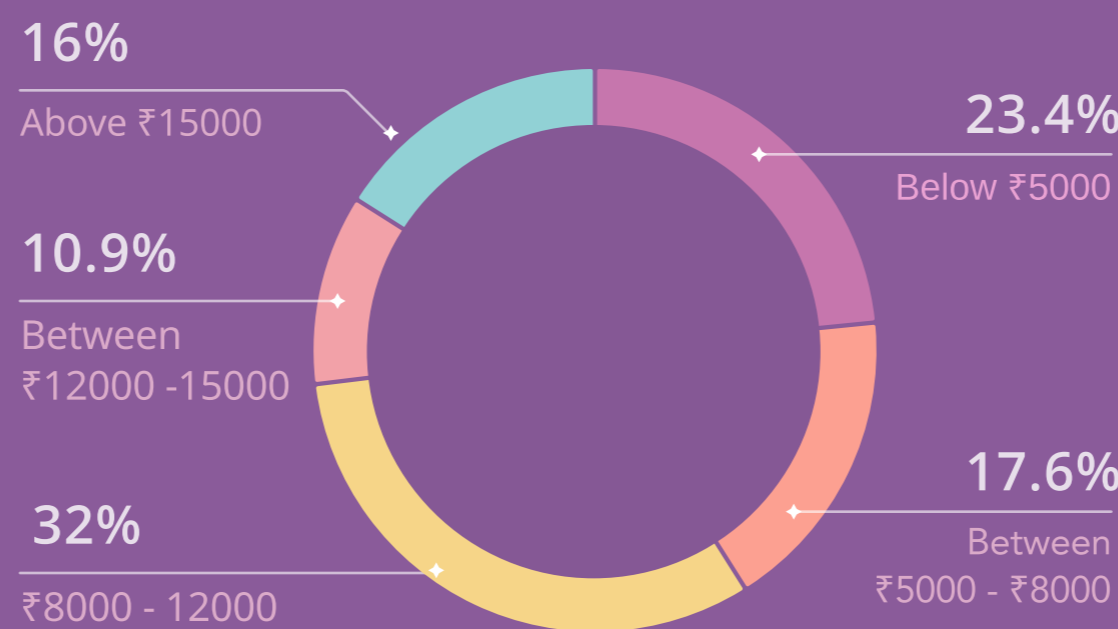
Of women commuters who avail the Vidiyal Payanam Scheme earn less than ₹5000 per month

Thus, the scheme is far more advantageous to women from lower-income households than well-to-do households

**Social Categories**



**Earnings**



**INSIGHTS**

The typical woman commuter who avails the Vidiyal Payanam Scheme tends to make

**50** Trips a month on average

On average, she is able to save upto

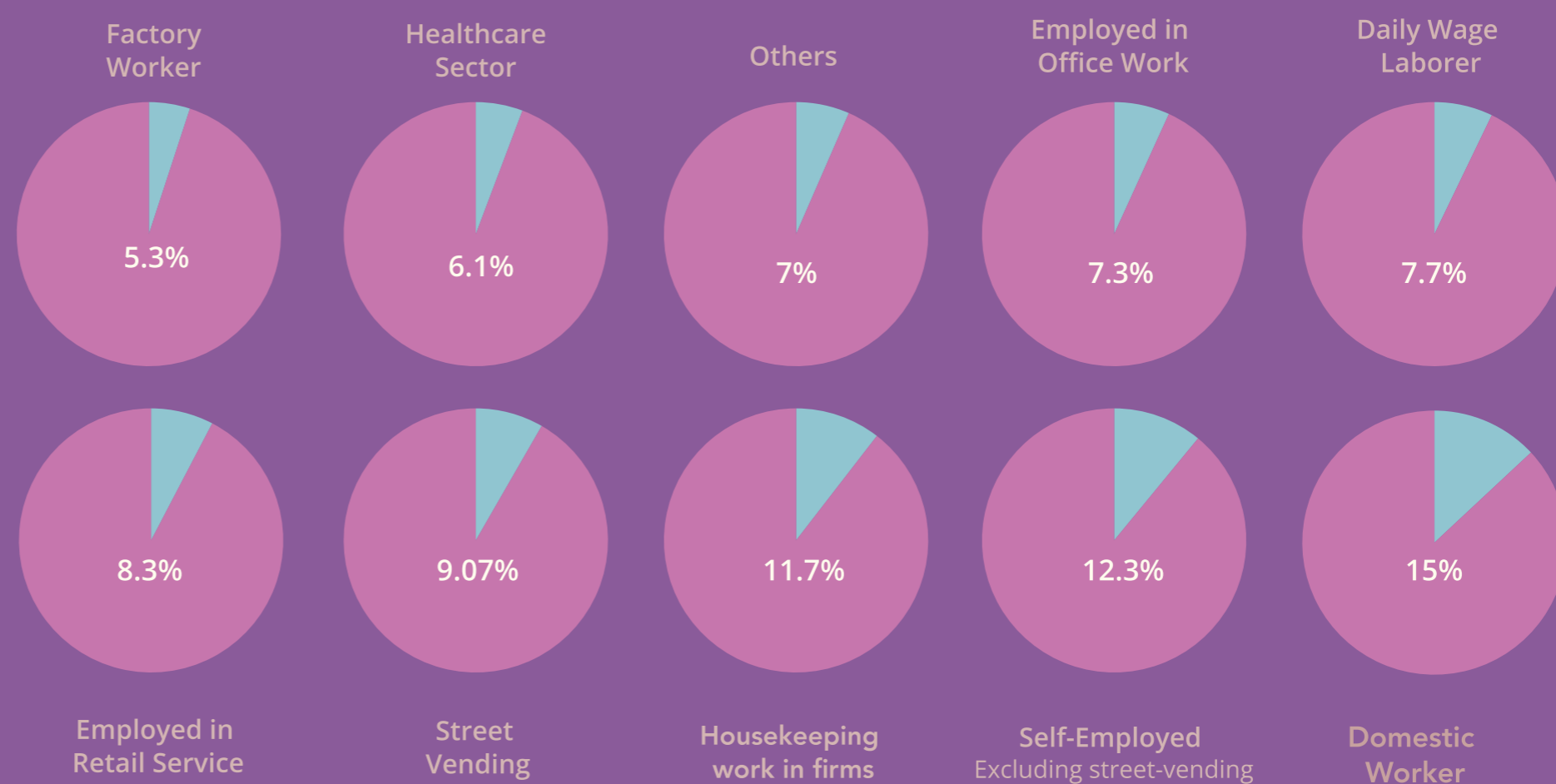
**₹858** every month

She is able to save around

**8-12%** of her monthly income

**Average savings for women commuters among Non-Professionals**

● Savings ● Income



**SOURCE:**

'A Report on the Zero-Ticket Bus Travel Scheme for Women' - State Planning Commission

**AUTHORS:**

Prof. M. Vijayabaskar (Additional Full-Time Member, SPC) and Jaganth G. & Benita Tresa

**PHASE II STUDY**

Conducted in three different urban nodes in Tamil Nadu - marked by different economic bases that they draw their dynamism from.



**Nagapattinam**

A town amidst a dense agrarian belt



**Madurai**

A cultural center, tourist and trade hub



**Tiruppur**

Industrial and manufacturing hub

**78%**

of the women users who disclosed their caste identity, belong to marginalized social groups

39% belong to Scheduled Castes (SC), 21% to Most Backward Classes (MBCs) and 18% to Backward Classes (BCs) →

This also highlights the fact that higher proportions of women from these communities are dependent on public transport for their mobility.

**~ 23%**

Savings on their monthly income with the scheme, for women users who report to be earning less than ₹5000 per month

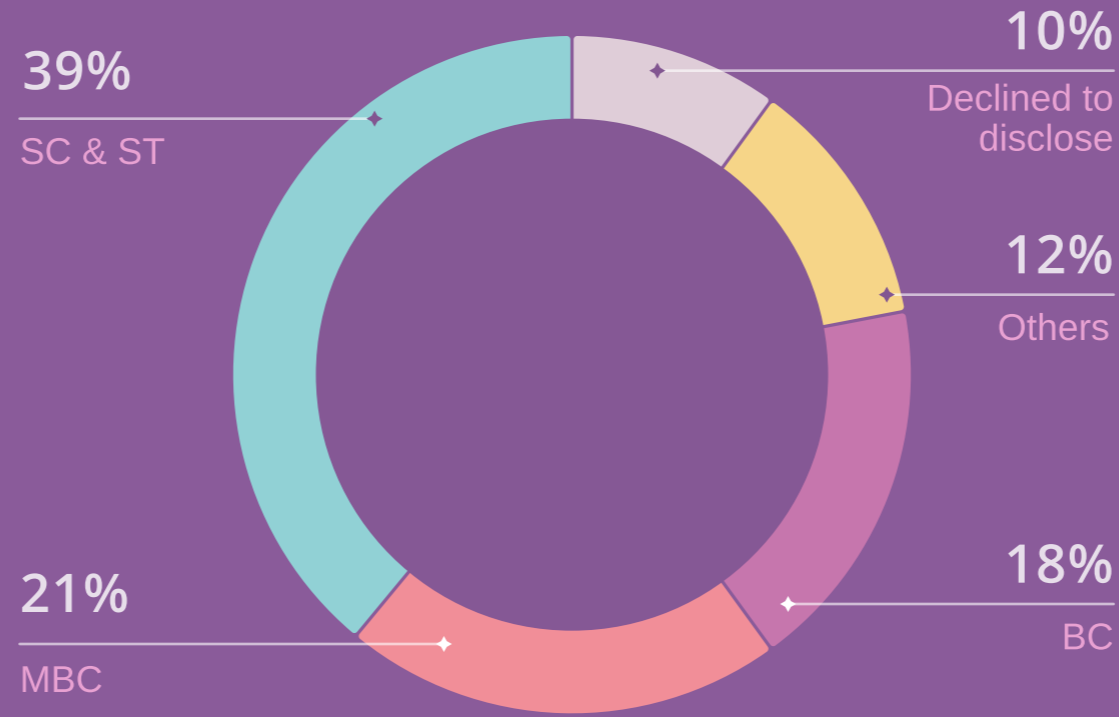
Thus, the scheme is far more advantageous to women from lower-income households than well-to-do households

**14%**

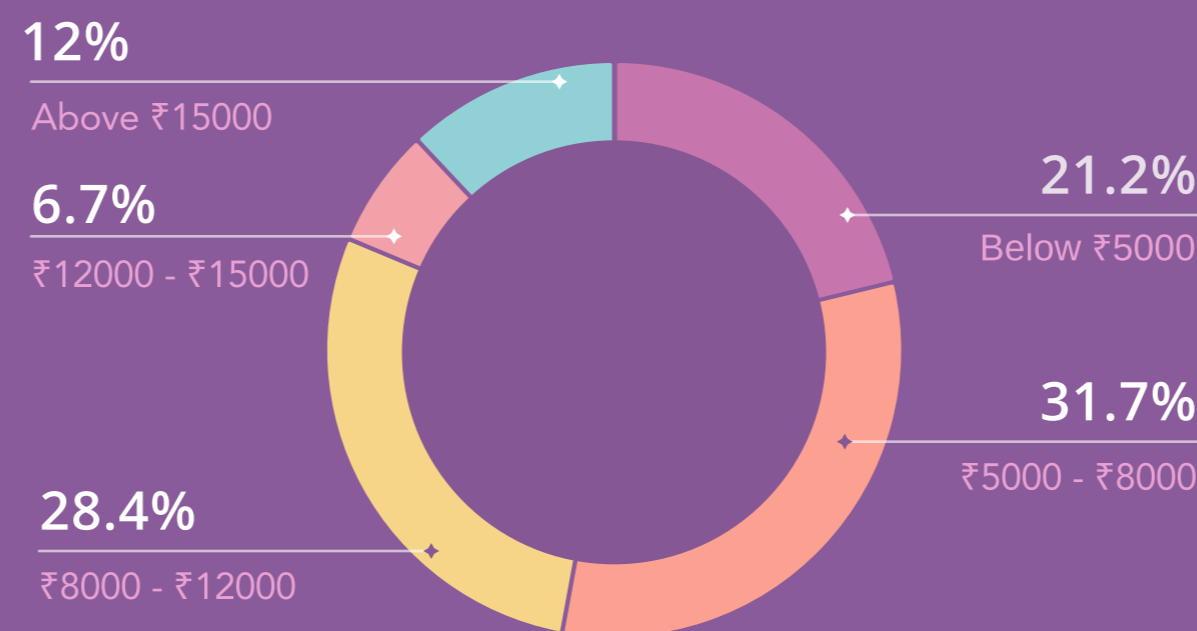
Average monthly savings for economically vulnerable users like

- Daily wage workers in agriculture and construction,
- Street vendors and
- Domestic workers

**Social Categories**



**Earnings**



**INSIGHTS**

The typical woman commuter who avails the Vidiyal Payanam Scheme tends to make

**51** Trips a month on average

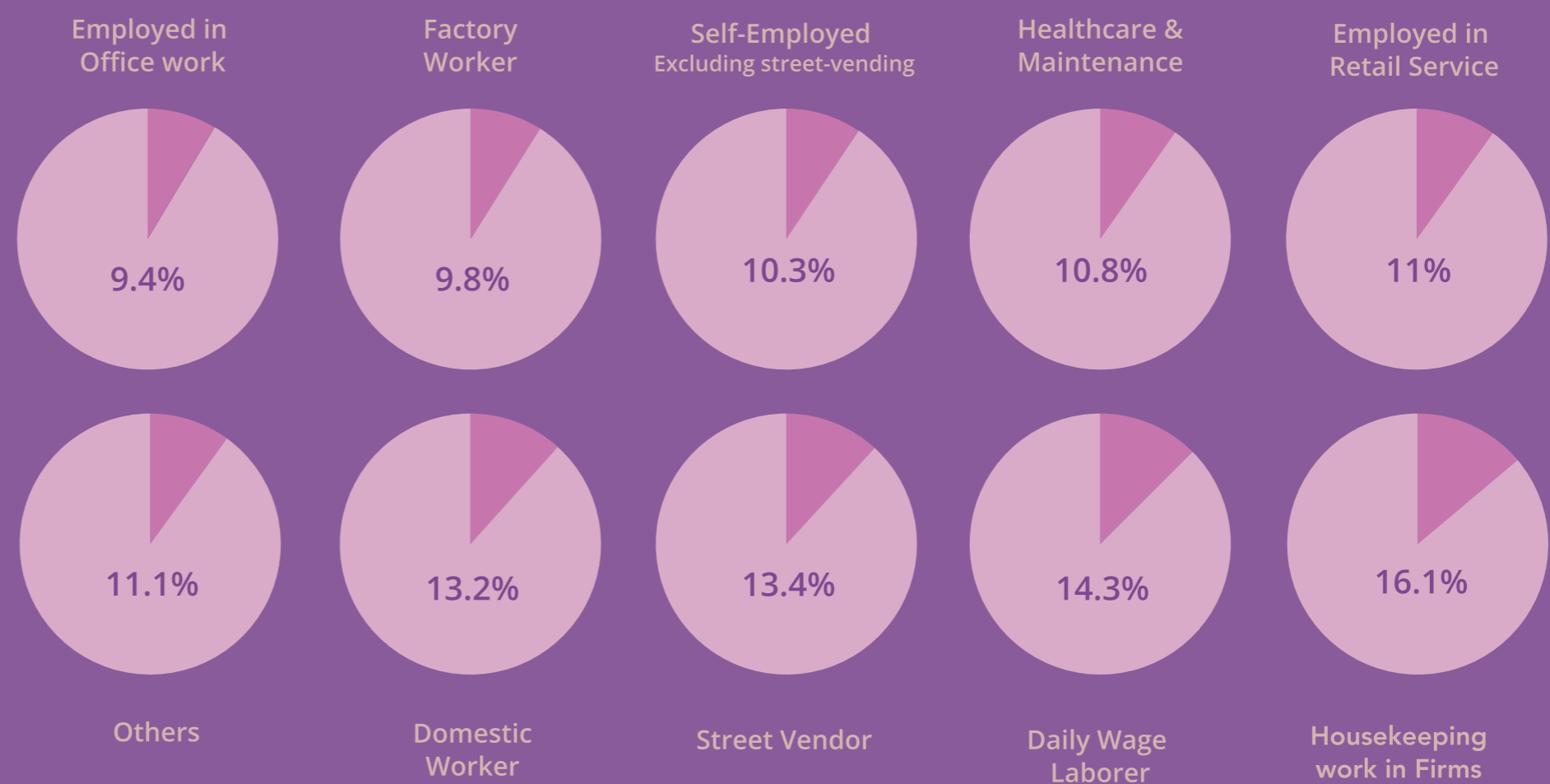
On average, she is able to save upto

**₹888** every month

She is able to save around

**14%** of her monthly income

**Average savings for women commuters among Non-Professionals**



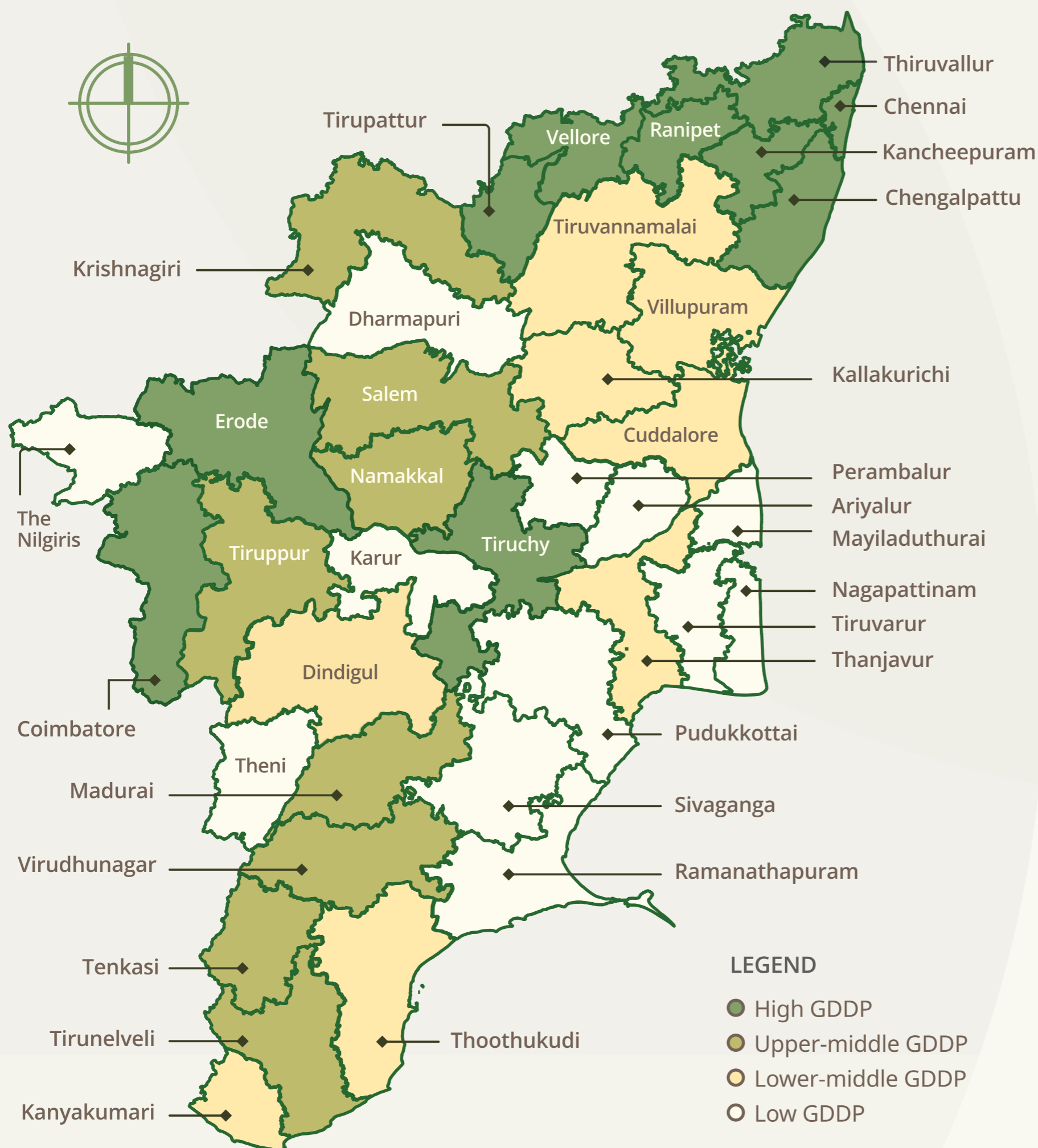


# Mapping the Regional Growth Pattern in Tamil Nadu

The State Planning Commission's report on 'Regional Growth Pattern in Tamil Nadu' analyses the imbalances in growth across districts in Tamil Nadu. While balanced regional growth is an elusive economic objective to achieve for policy makers, the state has made significant progress towards this goal. This has been possible primarily due to the conscious spread of public utilities like education and health care to all the villages of the state. Economic opportunities have also spread to all parts of the state, through the creation of infrastructure facilities such as the dense network of transport and electricity facilities. Yet, the regional imbalance continues to exist, that needs our collective, concerted effort in alleviation.

Apart from quantifying the state's growth imbalance based on the **Gross District Domestic Product (GDDP)**, the report further explores the possibilities of **identifying growth potentials** in each region. It is also identified that a study of sub-sectors data from the GDDP along with data from other sources will help us to create a strategy for region-specific growth plans. Another important take away of this report is the need to frequently revise the methodology of estimating the Gross State Domestic Product for Tamil Nadu.

## TN Districts and their Gross District Domestic Product (GDDP)



Rank	District	GDDP in Rs. Lakhs
1	Coimbatore	18096073
2	Thiruvallur	14926564
3	Chennai	13528553
4	Kancheepuram	11683528
5	Vellore	8434525
6	Dharmapuri	8061964
7	Erode	7344526
8	Tiruchirapalli	7123676
9	Salem	6580623
10	Madurai	6120857
11	Thirunelveli	5764940
12	Namakkal	5272190
13	Virudhunagar	4676915
14	Cuddalore	4593078
15	Kanyakumari	4407338
16	Villupuram	4323193
17	Thanjavur	4290476
18	Thoothukudi	3968238
19	Dindigul	3777107
20	Thiruvannamalai	3042350
21	Pudukkottai	2364511
22	Karur	2248951
23	Nagapattinam	2124854
24	Ramanathapuram	1955463
25	Theni	1906485
26	Sivagangai	1751813
27	Perambalur	1698336
28	The Nilgiris	1540421
29	Thiruvarur	1475410



# State Balanced Growth Fund (SBGF)

## Fund Highlights

SBGF Fund Yearly Budget  
₹100 Crores/Year

Year of Establishment  
2012-2013

## About the State Balanced Growth Fund

The **State Balanced Growth Fund (SBGF)** was launched in the year 2012-13 with the idea of addressing regional disparities in key socio-economic developmental indicators in the state of Tamil Nadu. A yearly budget of ₹100 crores has been allotted by the state government for this purpose.

After the reconstitution of the State Planning Commission, an amendment has been made to the guidelines and the focus is narrowed down to biennial plans in specific sectors. Presently, the focus of the fund will be on improving key measurable outcomes in **health, nutrition and education** of the targeted districts.

### SBGF SUCCESS STORY

#### Establishment of small onion peeling machinery at the Alathur Block for Chettikulam shallot farmers

**Perambalur** is the one of the major districts where small onion or shallots are cultivated in large quantities in the state. Under the SBGF scheme, a shallot peeling machine was erected at the Chettikulam village Onion Market Complex by the Department of Agricultural Marketing and Agri-Business.

The goal was to supplement cultivation with food processing and value addition, enabling an increase in farmers' income by tapping into the growing demand for these products. Farmers who cultivate shallots employ the newly erected peeling machine to produce value-added products such as peeled onion, onion flakes and onion powder. They directly sell these products to hotels and departmental stores.

#### ► SBGF Success Story

*Small onion peeling machinery in Chettikulam village*





# Tamil Nadu Innovation Initiatives (TANII)

## Fund Highlights

TANII Corpus  
₹100-150 Crores/Year

Year of Establishment  
2015

Implementing Department  
Disaster Management and  
Mitigation Department

TANII Budget  
₹701 lakh

## About Tamil Nadu Innovation Initiatives (TANII)

Innovation, research and technology investments are crucial for sustainable economic growth and development, providing enduring solutions to the challenges faced by the state.

Through the **Tamil Nadu Innovation Initiatives (TANII)** scheme, the State Planning Commission has played a key role in fostering innovation in public service delivery in the State. The aim of the scheme is to make Tamil Nadu the innovation hub of the country.

Since its inception in 2015, the Planning Commission has recommended close to 400 innovative projects across various government departments, for funding from the *State Innovation Fund* corpus.

## NOTABLE TANII RECOMMENDED PROJECTS

### Design, development and deployment of Unmanned Aerial Vehicles (UAVs) for disaster preparedness in flood-prone areas

The State Planning Commission had recommended the purchase and the use of Unmanned Aerial Vehicles (UAVs) for the purpose of **photogrammetric mapping**. The UAVs would identify flood-prone areas. The captured images will be pre-processed, stitched and converted into maps to further understand situations of river courses to initiate disaster mitigation measures. This technology is currently assisting various departments like Police, Agriculture, Horticulture, Geology and Mining and TANGEDCO.



## Establishment of the Tamil Nadu Technology Hub (iTNT) for driving innovation in the Emerging and Deep-tech areas

The Tamil Nadu Technology Hub (iTNT) is the country's first Emerging and Deep-tech Innovation Network. This one-of-its-kind centre will work to connect the ecosystem of innovators, entrepreneurs, researchers and industry players, with the support of the government, to spur innovation. It aims to create a positive impact on the world Academic Network of more than 570+ Engineering Colleges, engaging with researchers and industry partners to pave the way for innovation that will drive the world of tomorrow. An initiative by the information technology (IT) department, the technology hub will function as a central catalyst for the exchange of talent.

Implementing Agency  
Tamil Nadu e-Governance  
Agency (TNeGA)

-----  
TANII Budget  
₹2000 lakh



## A real-time monitoring system to track elephant movement and address human-elephant conflict

The TANII-recommended project aims to establish a real-time monitoring system in Coimbatore district's seven forest ranges to address human-elephant conflicts. It utilizes thermal and rotating cameras with sensors and wireless intranet to pinpoint wild elephants' exact locations, issuing instant alerts. Command centers will monitor elephant movements, providing visual images for identifying lone elephants or herds. Additionally, an integrated system near railway tracks will alert station masters and loco-pilots about the presence of elephants.

Implementing Department  
Department of Forests

-----  
TANII Budget  
₹1000 lakh



## Sentence patterns, structures and rules in Tamil for machine translation

Students in schools and colleges can independently master Tamil-English grammar with this innovative tool, seamlessly converting simple Tamil sentences into English. Beyond mere translation, the tool classifies and tokenizes words, breaking down statements into meaningful phrases.

It addresses structural differences between the languages, offering clear rules for accurate translation. Specifically, it converts Subject-Object-Verb (SOV) in Tamil to Subject-Verb-Object (SVO) in English. This technology classifies various sentence types in Tamil, such as gerunds, conditionals, adjectival participles, and simple and compound phrases. It is available as an open-source tool, easily accessible to the public at [www.tamilvu.org](http://www.tamilvu.org).

Implementing Agency  
Tamil Virtual Academy

TANII Budget  
₹72.72 lakh

## Web-based surveillance on epidemic-prone infectious disease notification system in 12 Corporations of Tamil Nadu

Dengue, a significant global health concern transmitted by *Aedes* mosquitoes, leads to Dengue Hemorrhagic Fever (DHF) and Dengue Shock Syndrome (DSS), causing substantial morbidity and mortality. Each year, this virus causes 50 million infections and 24,000 deaths globally, with notable impacts in India. In the absence of specific antiviral drugs or vaccines, dengue prevention should prioritize mosquito vector control. Utilizing **advanced surveillance methods** for Dengue Virus in mosquitoes is essential for safeguarding public health and ensuring the efficacy of vector control programs.

This TANII funded project establishes apex centres equipped with RT-PCR facilities to detect Dengue Viruses in *Aedes* mosquitoes. If the virus is detected, then follow-through activities like source reduction and fogging are initiated, aiming to eliminate the virus at the vector stage itself, for innovative prevention and control in humans - making Tamil Nadu the sole state in India with this approach.

Implementing Agency  
Directorate of Public Health

TANII Budget  
₹298 lakh





# Tamil Nadu State Land Use Research Board (TNSLURB)

## Overview

### Funding Corpus

₹80 lakhs/year

### Year of Establishment

2011

### TNSLURB's Focus Areas

- ◆ Sustainable Urban and Industrial Development
- ◆ Agriculture & Rural Development
- ◆ Water and Land Resources Management
- ◆ Sustainable Management of Heritage & Tourist Sites
- ◆ Energy Infrastructure
- ◆ Environment, Climate Resilience and Natural Landscape



## About Tamil Nadu State Land Use Research Board

Tamil Nadu State Land Use Research Board (TNSLURB) was constituted in 2011 as a permanent body in the State Planning Commission, with the goal of carrying out activities for the conservation of land and water resources and their sustained use, to the best possible advantage of the people in the State.

Harnessing the immense potential of **technology and data**, TNSLURB aims to ensure sustainable land governance in Tamil Nadu by

- ◆ Integrating and analysing data in the development of land-use plans
- ◆ Developing land-use policy that prioritises climate change mitigation and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)
- ◆ Supporting social, economic and environmental development of the state
- ◆ Assisting State Departments in identifying and resolving issues related to the utilisation of land resources

## WORKSHOPS CONDUCTED

Over the period of the past 12 years, TNSLURB has commissioned over **79 research studies** and organised 15 **workshops and seminars** on various themes related to land use. Various research studies were also taken up by TNSLURB in association with departments, reputed institutions and civil society organisations.

The findings of the studies have helped the concerned departments in conceptualising schemes and programs, while the outcome of these studies went on to be documented and developed as policy recommendations.



### Workshop on 'Sustainable Seaweed Farming in Tamil Nadu: Way Forward'

January 2023

Seaweed farming has brought significant socio-economic benefits to marginalized coastal communities with limited access to alternate economic activities. In collaboration with the Institute of Fisheries Post-Graduate Studies, a workshop was conducted to develop new strategies and a **framework for promoting seaweed farming in Tamil Nadu**. The workshop explored various themes, including seaweed species diversification, their impact on biodiversity, ecological considerations in regions like the Gulf of Mannar and Palk Bay, potential industrial opportunities, required infrastructure, and associated livelihood possibilities.

During his inaugural address, Dr. J. Jeyaranjan (Vice-Chairman of the State Planning Commission) highlighted the need to harness the vast potential of **seaweed farming** in the state. A panel discussion gathered insights from experts, seaweed cultivators, the scientific community and representatives of fisherwomen communities engaged in seaweed collection.



### International workshop on the 'Effective Management of Forest Invasive Species'

February 2023

Invasive alien plant species are a major driver of biodiversity loss, posing threats to our ecosystems, economies and communities. TNSLURB and Forest College & Research Institute organised an international workshop to improve the knowledge and strategies for the effective management of **forest invasive species** in Tamil Nadu. The panel discussions also examined the scope of their removal, the need for restoration of forest landscape at the state level and the possibility of working alongside MGNREGA workers, Joint Forest Management committees and rural self-help groups for this purpose.

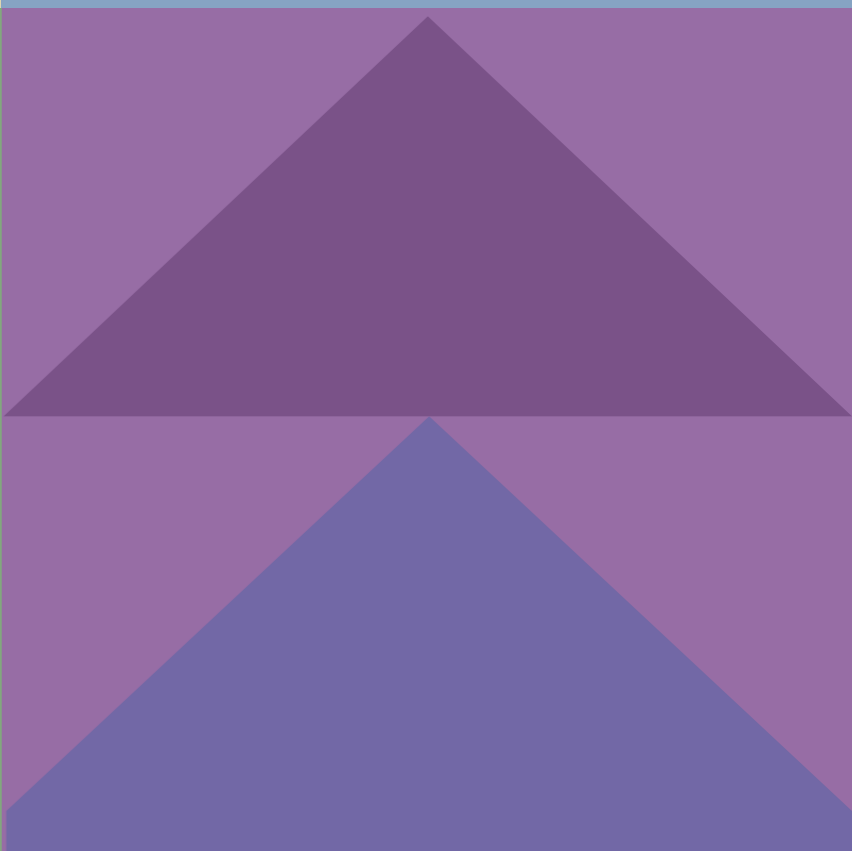
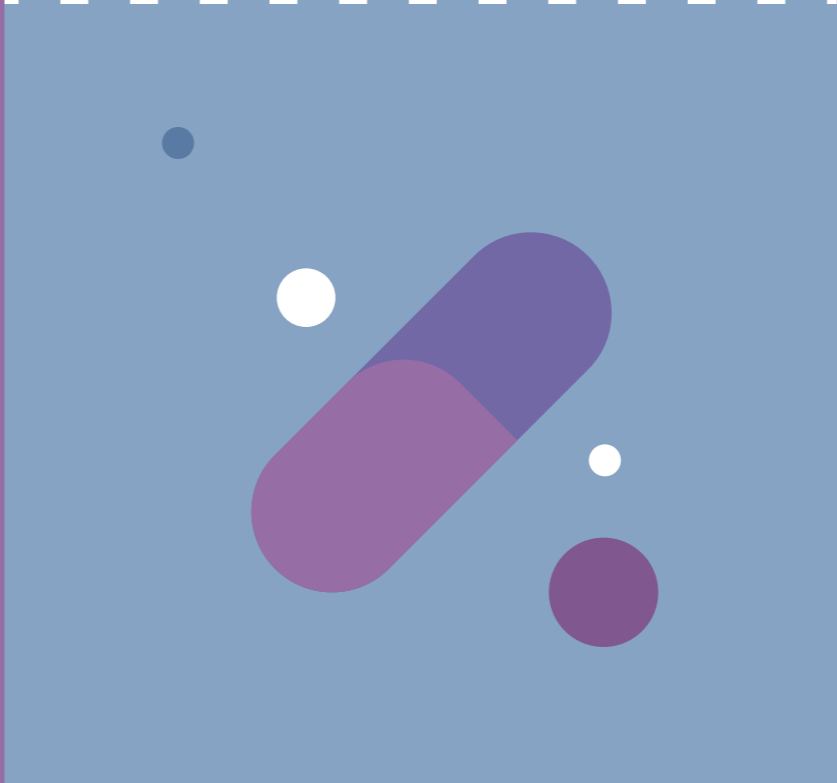
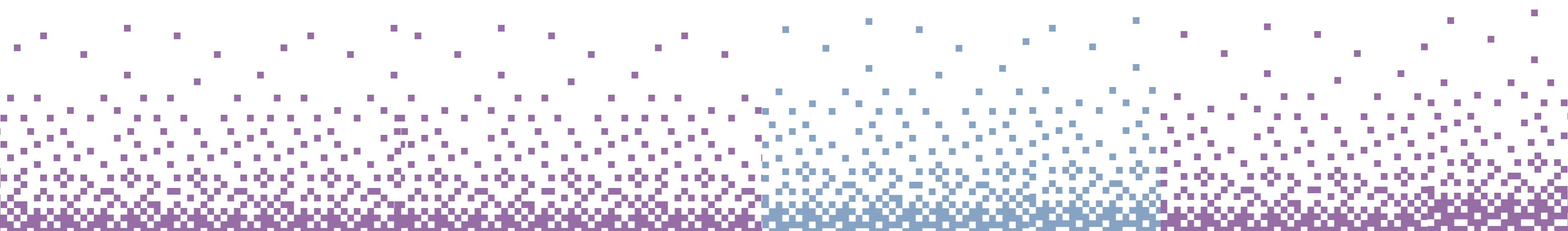
A panel discussion on '**Strategies to Manage Forest Invasive Species**' was chaired by State Planning Commission Members - Professor M. Vijayabaskar and Professor Sultan Ahmed Ismail.

► Participants at the International Workshop on the *Effective Management of Forest Invasive Species*





Government of Tamil Nadu  
**State Planning Commission**



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