



BUDGET

2026 - 2027

**SPEECH OF
THE MINISTER FOR FINANCE,
PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT
Dr. N. MARIE WILSON**

**On 5th August 2026
Aadi 20, Thiruvalluvar Aandu - 2057**

Speech of Dr. N. Marie Wilson, Minister for Finance, Planning and Development, Government of Tamil Nadu, presenting the Revised Budget Estimates for the year 2026-27 to the Legislative Assembly on 5th August 2026.

Hon'ble Speaker,

Paying my deep respects to our ideological leaders — Thanthai Periyar, Perunthalaivar Kamarajar, Annal Ambedkar, Rani Velu Nachiyar and Makkal Sevagar Anjalai Ammal — I feel immense joy and pride in presenting the Revised Budget Estimates for the year 2026-27 before this august Assembly, that holds the glorious legacy of being graced by great people centric leaders like Perunthalaivar Kamarajar, Perarignar Anna and Makkal Thilagam M.G.R., who governed democratically with unwavering focus on public welfare and guide us through governance and administration even to this day. I also offer my heartfelt gratitude to our Hon'ble Chief Minister, the beloved leader of the people, who entered public life solely to pay back the debt of gratitude to the people who gave him everything. He overcame numerous conspiracies to win a historic victory, for the sake of the people he loves as his own life and for the people who love him

as their own, and today he sits in this House as a true '**Jananayagan**'. He constantly guides us, offers counsel, and works tirelessly with the sole thought of delivering good governance to the people of Tamil Nadu. I express my heartfelt gratitude to this leader cherished by the people. I begin my address before this esteemed House with the timeless words of Thiruvalluvar, the supreme son, who gifted us the sacred Tamil scripture, Thirukkural:

“பிறப்பொக்கும் எல்லா உயிர்க்கும் சிறப்பொவ்வா

செய்தொழில் வேற்றுமை யான் ”

(குறள் - 972)

“All are equal by birth; distinctions arise only from the deeds each performs”.

(Kural-972)

2. Guided by the noble principle that, 'All are equal by birth,' our Hon'ble Chief Minister, who has achieved numerous accomplishments within just three months of assuming office and has earned an enduring place in the hearts of the people, living in every household as a son, an elder brother, a younger brother, their very life, their kin and their every emotion. He is implementing many beneficial schemes for the people of Tamil Nadu who reside in his heart.

3. Our Hon'ble Chief Minister has brought about a massive people's revolution hitherto unseen in the political history of Tamil Nadu. This Government, founded on the great ideals of inclusive growth, social justice, equality, women's safety, eradication of poverty, a drug-free Tamil Nadu, and a corruption-free, honest and transparent administration, has not only spoken of these ideals over the last three months, but has also demonstrated them through action. The people of Tamil Nadu have increasingly come to recognise that, this is a Government built on the enduring principles of genuine social justice and honest governance.

4. This Government, under the leadership of the Hon'ble Chief Minister, has recorded significant accomplishments across various sectors since assuming office: increasing the free electricity provided to consumers with bi-monthly consumption of up to 500 units, to 200 units and reducing their household expenses; a loan waiver for farmers through co-operative societies; a special package for Kuruvai cultivation; the **'Singapenn Special Task Force'** for women's safety; creation of **Anti-Narcotics Task Force Units** at the district level to root out the deep-seated drug culture in Tamil Nadu; **closure of 717 liquor retail outlets**

located near educational institutions, places of worship and bus stands that disrupted daily public life; and the **'Thaaimaaman Thanga Mothiram Thittam'**, to be implemented from 15th September, the birth anniversary of Perarignar Anna, for children born in Government Hospitals. The implementation of these schemes have reinforced the trust that people have placed in our Government.

5. The victory of the Tamilaga Vettri Kazhagam is not merely the victory of a political party; it is the victory of the entire people of Tamil Nadu. Guided by this belief, and with the objective of implementing several welfare schemes for the benefit of the people, our Government, anchored in the core principles of Aram (Virtue), Porul (Prosperity) and Inbam (Well-being), has released the **'Vetri Tamizhagam – Vision Document'**, comprising ten key focus areas. Drawing on this document, the Government is identifying, formulating and operationalising programmes to be implemented over the next one, three and five years. This Government is committed to making the necessary social, economic and human capital investments in Tamil Nadu — which has for many years been a leading State on several socio-economic indicators in India — into a poverty-free, prosperous State that offers equal

opportunity to all and upholds social justice, and to propel the State into a 1.5 Trillion dollar economy by the year 2036.

6. Taking this vision forward, the Government will implement the schemes listed in the Vetri Tamizhagam Vision Document, covering sectoral priorities which *inter alia* include empowering women, improving governance, providing housing for all, ensuring safe drinking water, generating sustainable livelihood opportunities, protecting social justice and promoting green cover. The first budget of this Government would lay the foundation for realising these visionary programmes.

7. Immediately upon assuming office, our Government released the 'White Paper on Financial Management' clearly indicating that Tamil Nadu's debt has doubled over the past five years, reaching about Rs.10 lakh crore. Further, Tamil Nadu has recorded fiscal indicators that trail behind other peer States, including State's Own Tax Revenue as a proportion of Gross State Domestic Product (GSDP), Revenue Deficit and Fiscal Deficit. Interest payments and committed liabilities as proportion of the State's Total Revenue Receipts, have been rising consistently,

leaving limited fiscal space for new schemes and programmes.

8. In these challenging circumstances, this Government, having been elected by the people, is working on fulfilling its commitments to the public in a phased manner, while also taking various measures to recover the State from tight fiscal position. Firstly, the practice of requiring mandatory submission of unnecessary certificates by contractors in public tenders that had made tenders non-competitive; has now been abolished by this Government, thus bringing transparency to tendering process. Secondly, Government has discontinued the prevailing system of restricting tender eligibility to department's own registered contractors; and now, contractors registered with any Government department may bid for tenders issued by any other department, subject to the prescribed pre-qualification criteria. Thirdly, to encourage young entrepreneurs and small businesses to bid for Government tenders for the first time, eligibility criteria for low-value procurements have been relaxed, giving new and emerging contractors easier access to Government tenders. The resulting increase in competition is expected to bring greater efficiency to procurement and reduce fruitless expenditure. I am happy to inform this distinguished

House that these initiatives have already begun to yield positive results, delivering significant cost savings for the State.

9. Before our Government had assumed office, a significant portion of tender's estimates were being cornered by few individuals and certain political parties. Our Hon'ble Chief Minister has achieved an unparalleled milestone by resolutely putting a complete end to this practice. He has also changed the earlier procedure of approval at the Government's level for planning permission for multi-storied and high-rise apartment buildings. These approvals can now be obtained from Chennai Metropolitan Development Authority itself by delegation of powers, thereby eliminating the corruption that prevailed in the earlier process. Our Hon'ble Chief Minister remains steadfast in his resolve: "**We will not touch a single paisa of the people's tax money. We will not allow anyone to touch it. If touched, we will not spare them. And we will not spare those who have touched it in the past**". He stands unshakeable in this resolve and seeing him and hearing his name, we witness corrupt individuals fleeing in fear every day.

10. While establishing transparency and integrity in tenders and project approvals, our Government is now also undertaking various measures for additional revenue mobilisation. As part of these efforts, Government has recently levied an additional privilege fee on liquor manufacturers. This is expected to mobilise an additional annual revenue of up to Rs.1,000 crore to the exchequer. Government is also leveraging Information Technology through initiatives such as 'Faceless Assessment' under the Goods and Services Tax, 'Faceless Registration' in the Registration Department and end-to-end computerisation in monitoring mining activities. These initiatives are together expected to generate additional revenue of approximately Rs.15,000 crore for the Government that will enable the implementation of many welfare schemes successfully.

11. To achieve growth in revenue receipts in tandem with economic growth, to expand revenue streams sustainably and to suggest measures to increase the State's tax and non-tax revenue, the Government has recently constituted an expert committee on '**Revenue Augmentation**', headed by former Deputy Chairperson of Union Planning Commission, Thiru. Montek Singh Ahluwalia, along

with five other members. Through this Committee, Government aims to strengthen the State's fiscal autonomy and generate the financial resources necessary to fulfil its socio-economic development commitments.

School Education

12. கேடில் விழுச்செல்வம் கல்வி யொருவற்கு
மாடல்ல மற்றை யவை

(குறள்-400)

Learning is excellence of wealth
that none destroy; To man nought
else affords reality of joy

(Kural-400)

Education alone is the finest and indestructible wealth for an individual. Our Hon'ble Chief Minister have honoured those individuals who possess the great wealth of education through certificates of merit and scholarship. The Government, under the leadership of our Hon'ble Chief Minister, administers Government schools in which more than 43 lakh students are enrolled. Ensuring a clean and safe learning environment in these schools is essential for quality education and the well-being of students. Currently, there is no integrated system in place to provide professional cleaning and security services in

Government schools. Taking this into consideration, the Government is set to implement the '**Super Clean Super Campus**' Scheme. Under this scheme, daily cleaning activities, maintenance of drinking water facilities and toilets, and 24-hour security for school campuses will be ensured, delivering Super Safety, Super Students and Super Campuses under our Super CM's governance. This scheme will be implemented in 10,000 schools in the first phase, with an allocation of Rs.139 crore in the Revised Budget Estimates for 2026-27.

13. This is a Government led by our Hon'ble Chief Minister, the beloved Thaa Maaman of the children of Tamil Nadu. This Thaa Maaman and his Government recognise that quality educational institutions are just as essential as quality education itself for the children of Tamil Nadu. With the objective of modernising Government schools across Tamil Nadu and providing the necessary infrastructure facilities based on recommended norms, '**Palli Niraivu Thittam**' will be introduced. This scheme will cover a total of 3,734 schools, including 2,514 primary schools, 365 middle schools, and 855 high and higher secondary schools, at an estimated cost of Rs.2,132 crore. An amount

of Rs.300 crore is allocated for this scheme in the Revised Budget Estimates.

14. With the objective of providing quality education to academically talented students from socio-economically disadvantaged backgrounds, the Government will establish '**Perunthalaivar Kamarajar Schools of Excellence**' as modern residential institutions. These schools will cater to students from Classes IX to XII and will provide education, food, boarding, textbooks and uniforms free of cost. An amount of Rs.125 crore is allocated for the infrastructure development of these schools in the Revised Budget Estimates.

15. In a rapidly changing, globalised technological era, it is imperative that the school education curriculum be reimagined as experiential, inquiry-based, holistic, futuristic and competency-driven. A dynamic and progressive curriculum that focuses on critical thinking, creativity, financial literacy, gender equality, environmental awareness, digital competence, preparedness for competitive examinations and global citizenship is necessary to prepare future-ready children. To make Tamil Nadu a leader in learning outcomes, **an amount of**

Rs.25 crore is being allocated towards revision of the School Education Curriculum.

16. **"Say No to Drugs"** has been the unwavering message of our Hon'ble Chief Minister, who has consistently urged the youth to **"Choose Sports over Drugs,"** recognising that the vision of a drug-free Tamil Nadu must begin in our schools. In keeping with the timeless wisdom of Avvaiyar's Aathichudi, **"Ilamaiyil Kal,"** children must be made aware from an early age of the dangers of narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances, alongside preventive education against substance abuse. Accordingly, Anti-Drug Clubs and student volunteer groups will be established in schools as part of this initiative. To strengthen awareness and facilitate timely reporting, the 10581 helpline number will be prominently displayed on all school campuses. Further, the Government has developed the **'Drug-Free Tamil Nadu'** mobile application, enabling students and teachers to confidentially and securely report information relating to drug trafficking and substance abuse. An amount of Rs.7 crore has been allocated for the implementation of this initiative.

17. With the aim of transforming Tamil Nadu's Public Libraries into state-wide digital libraries that function as learning and innovation hubs — featuring digital knowledge, universal membership, 24x7 internet and mobile access, digital content, free Wi-Fi, and co-working spaces at the 38 district central libraries — this Government allocates Rs.10 crore towards the redesign of Public Libraries.

18. **Modern, branded bicycles** equipped with helmets and water bottles will be provided to approximately 5.32 lakh Gen-Z students studying in Class XI across Government and Government-aided schools in the current academic year. An estimated amount of Rs.277 crore is allocated towards this scheme. Our Hon'ble Chief Minister, deeply loved by Gen-Z, is firmly committed to nurturing them into a finest generation. This scheme reflects his vision and commitment.

19. In the Revised Budget Estimates, Rs.44,527 crore has been allocated to the School Education Department.

Higher Education

20. Tamil Nadu strongly opposes the NEET examination. Various irregularities and question paper

leaks in the NEET examination at the national level have severely affected the higher education prospects of the next generation. The Government of Tamil Nadu therefore urges the Union Government to immediately cancel the NEET examination system and revert to medical education admissions based on the earlier system of Class XII public examination marks.

21. A laptop has become an indispensable information technology device for students pursuing higher education. In today's rapidly advancing digital era, laptops are invaluable assets for students to sharpen their technical expertise, undergo skill development training, and make effective use of their time. Recognising this, our Government will implement the '**Vetri Laptop Scheme**' for college students. With an allocation of Rs.2,000 crore, this initiative aims to equip students with laptops as an essential learning resource.

22. Guided by the timeless wisdom of Naaladiyar, "**Knowledge is boundless, learning time is short**," it is our solemn duty to ensure that no student's learning is constrained by the unaffordability of decent accommodation. To transform student accommodation across the State, our Government will establish the '**Tamil Nadu**

Student Housing & Infrastructure Corporation' (TNSHIC) as a dedicated Special Purpose Vehicle, with an initial equity infusion of Rs.10 crore. Under the flagship '**TN-SUDAR**' (State Upgradation, Development and Advancement of student Residences) initiative, we will construct 200 Integrated Student Hostels delivering 1 lakh modern beds across major educational hubs. This project will be executed through a de-risked Public-Private Partnership (DBFOT) model, with an estimated capital outlay of Rs.3,200 crore, supported by a 20 per cent State Capital Construction Grant of Rs.640 crore, phased over the next two fiscal years. It will replace segregated housing with integrated, high-amenity campuses featuring fully air-conditioned study hubs, 24x7 security, hygienic kitchens and an automated allocation framework designed to ensure diversity and social parity. In the years to come, TN-SUDAR will help integrate youth across diverse communities and faiths.

23. A specialised Government Law College, offering advanced legal education on par with a School of Excellence in Law, will be established in the academic year 2027-28 at Madurai, with an intake of 300 students. In the Revised Budget Estimates,

Rs.8,393 crore has been allocated to the Higher Education Department.

Labour Welfare and Skill Development

24. To reduce the demand on petroleum based products and to help reduce environmental pollution, mechanics who currently service fossil-fuel-based vehicles, will be trained in the maintenance of electric vehicles and batteries, enabling them to service it well. Over the period of next five years, 22,500 persons, including 12,500 mechanics currently servicing fossil-fuel-based vehicles, will benefit under this scheme. An amount of Rs.3 crore has been allocated for this scheme in the current financial year.

25. With the aim of enabling Tamil Nadu youth to secure emerging global job opportunities, a new trade in Artificial Intelligence and Machine Learning will be introduced in Government Industrial Training Institutes at an estimated cost of Rs.10 crore. This trade will be introduced in 50 Industrial Training Institutes over a period of five years, at the rate of 10 institutes per year. Through this initiative, 24,000 students will receive training and employment opportunities in Artificial Intelligence technology over five years. Further, five new Industrial Training Institutes will be established in Tamil Nadu at a total

estimated cost of Rs.90 crore, for which an amount of Rs.7.5 crore has been allocated in the Revised Budget Estimates.

26. Coaching classes are currently being conducted for various competitive examinations notified by State Government recruitment Boards, through District Employment and Career Guidance Centres. These classes will now be extended to examinations conducted by the Staff Selection Commission (SSC), Railway Recruitment Board (RRB) and Institute of Banking Personnel Selection (IBPS). An allocation of Rs.3.38 crore is being made to conduct these additional coaching classes through all District Employment and Career Guidance Centres.

27. To ensure that the youth of Tamil Nadu are equipped with cutting-edge skills that make them employable and develop entrepreneurial interest, this Government will introduce the '**Vetri Skill Training Scheme**'. Under this scheme, the Government will provide industry-aligned skilling to 12 lakh college students and 1 lakh unemployed youth in this year. In addition, internship training programmes will be provided in collaboration with Government and private industries to 20,000 youth in the first phase. During the internship training period,

graduates and those with vocational education qualifications will receive a monthly stipend. Priority under this scheme will be given to youth from families without permanent employment. A sum of Rs.150 crore is being allocated towards the implementation of this scheme.

28. Recognising Artificial Intelligence as a pivotal driver of future economic growth and technological innovation, our Government is determined to position Tamil Nadu at the forefront of this digital transformation. To ensure our youth become the primary beneficiaries of this technology-driven revolution, I am pleased to announce the launch of the **AI Industry Development Program**. Under this programme, an expert committee of academic and industry leaders will curate specialised AI curricula tailored to higher education tiers. By leveraging state-of-the-art training infrastructure and strategic partnerships with premier institutions such as IIT Madras, we aim to skill and empower 5 lakh youth across engineering colleges, polytechnics and ITIs by 2031, building a world-class, future-ready workforce.

29. In an era where Artificial Intelligence, Robotics and other emerging technologies are

transforming the world, the **Tamil Nadu School Programme for Artificial Intelligence, Robotics and Knowledge of online tools (TN SPARK)** will be expanded to advance this vision. The programme will be extended during 2026-27 from the existing 5,000 Government schools to additional 2,600 schools. Under the newly restructured three-tier framework, students of Classes 6 to 8 will be introduced to the fundamentals of these emerging technologies; students of Classes 9 and 10 will receive intermediate-level training; and students of Classes 11 and 12 will be offered specialised elective courses. This initiative will directly enable students to innovate, develop leadership capabilities and strengthen Tamil Nadu's position in the global knowledge-driven economy.

30. In the Revised Budget Estimates, Rs.2,022 crore is being allocated for the Labour Welfare and Skill Development Department. Further, Rs.17,150 crore is being allocated for the Special Programme Implementation Department.

Youth Welfare and Sports Development

31. A vibrant sports culture serves as a powerful shield against social evils. To promote physical fitness, our Hon'ble Chief Minister himself ran

3 kilometre in the "**Start Run, Stop Drugs**" anti-drug run held at Marina Beach in Chennai, running shoulder to shoulder with thousands of youth to powerfully convey this message.

32. With the message "**Take Up Sports, Give Up Drugs**", this Government will launch an Integrated Youth Development Programme that will instil sporting discipline and civic responsibility among the younger generation instead of drug abuse. By integrating major youth organisations such as the National Cadet Corps (NCC) and the National Service Scheme (NSS) with the Health, Police and Social Welfare Departments, our Government will channelize the energy of the younger generation towards sports, community service and well-being. Through the vision of "**Sports for All, Sports Everywhere**," the campuses of our educational institutions will become safe and completely drug-free havens.

33. With the objective of winning gold medals at the Olympic Games, our Government is firmly committed to elevating Tamil Nadu to the pinnacle of the global sports arena. To nurture elite sporting talent, **10 Olympic Centres of Excellence** will be established across the State, with an allocation of Rs.50 crore. An allocation of Rs.5 crore is being made

to provide world-class training to select school students aged 8 to 18 who possess a passion and aptitude for sports. A further allocation of Rs.22 crore will provide financial assistance to 500 athletes excelling in national and international sporting events. To take traditional Tamil sports to the global stage, an allocation of Rs.42 crore is made to conduct the **Tamil Nadu Rural Sports Competition**, alongside an allocation of Rs.2 crore to upgrade the infrastructure of the Tamil Nadu Physical Education and Sports University.

34. True sports development rests on twin pillars: creating world-class champions, and fostering a culture of everyday health and fitness among our youth. Sports must begin right from our schools. Currently, Government and Government-aided schools allocate only two sports periods per week for each class. To change this, structured sports and physical exercise activities of one hour per day will be introduced after school hours, with the required sports equipment and facilities provided to all Government and Government-aided schools. This will strengthen students' physical fitness, cognitive development, teamwork and discipline, while also helping identify talent capable of achieving success at the state, national and international levels. Further, to bring

sports to the common people, Neighbourhood Sports Facilities, small gymnasiums and sports complexes will be created in all blocks and urban local bodies. By building decentralised sporting infrastructure within walking distance of every young citizen's home, we will build a healthy, active and disciplined generation.

35. In the Revised Budget Estimates, Rs.1,051 crore is being allocated for the Youth Welfare and Sports Development Department.

Social Justice

36. Our Hon'ble Chief Minister has always proclaimed that action, and action alone, is what matters, not just mere words. He has demonstrated this through the functioning of the Social Justice Department. A maximum of Rs.36 lakh per student is provided under the '**Annal Ambedkar Overseas Higher Education Scholarship Scheme**', for the benefit of students pursuing higher education in renowned international universities. In the current year, this scheme will benefit 362 students at an estimated cost of Rs.131 crore, the highest ever sanction provided under the scheme.

37. The '**Vetri Entrepreneur Scheme**' will be implemented to ensure sustainable development

and the upliftment of livelihoods among Adi Dravidar and Tribal people. Under this scheme, beneficiaries receive a capital subsidy and interest subvention on the total project cost. In the current financial year, an amount of Rs.75 crore has been allocated for this scheme.

38. Through the '**Annal Ambedkar Business Champions Scheme**', support through loans and capital subsidy is being provided to encourage entrepreneurship among Adi Dravidar and Tribal people, ensuring their economic development and self-sufficiency. An amount of Rs.165 crore is being allocated towards this scheme in the Revised Budget Estimates.

39. '**Mannin Magal Thittam**' will be implemented to make Adi Dravidar and Tribal women agricultural labourers into landowners. The scheme's beneficiaries will be trained in modern agricultural technologies to adopt advanced farming practices and improve productivity. In the Revised Budget Estimates, Rs.20 crore is allocated for this scheme.

40. The '**Iyothee Thass Pandithar Habitation Development Scheme**' will be implemented to ensure complete socio-economic

development in Adi Dravidar habitations, both urban and rural. This scheme focuses on comprehensively upgrading basic infrastructure in these habitations and improving the living standards of the people there. In the Revised Budget Estimates, Rs.300 crore is allocated for this scheme.

41. The '**Aandror Membattu Thittam**' scheme will be implemented to improve basic amenities in Tribal habitations, including houses, roads, drinking water, street lights, livelihood schemes, health infrastructure, education-related scholarship schemes, and school and hostel improvement works. Under this scheme, infrastructure in Tribal habitations will be upgraded with an allocation of Rs.250 crore in the current financial year.

42. Under the Special Components Plan for the Adi Dravidar, an allocation of Rs.25,225 crore has been made, while Rs.2,079 crore has been allocated under the Tribal Sub-Plan for the welfare of Tribal communities. In the Revised Budget Estimates, Rs.3,937 crore has been allocated to the Social Justice Department.

Backward Classes, Most Backward Classes, and De-notified Communities Welfare

43. Our Hon'ble Chief Minister is someone who has adopted Thanthai Periyar as his ideological leader. Our leader is not someone who deceives people in the name of social justice; rather he is someone who has embraced it from the bottom of his heart. That is why our Government, under his leadership, remains firmly committed to upholding social justice in Tamil Nadu, and is undertaking every possible effort to safeguard Tamil Nadu's 69 per cent reservation. To ensure that students of the Backward Classes, Most Backward Classes and De-notified Communities can pursue school and higher education without hindrance funds have been allocated in the Revised Budget Estimates; Rs.372 crore for pre-matric and post-matric educational scholarships, Rs.77 crore towards the tuition fees of students pursuing medicine and dentistry under the 7.5 per cent reservation, and Rs.13.41 crore as incentive to girl students to prevent dropout from education.

Minorities Welfare

44. As a **Secular Social Justice Government**, Tamil Nadu stands as a pioneering State in protecting the rights of minorities. This Government will continue to provide educational

scholarships to minority students. The subsidy of Rs.25,000 provided by the Tamil Nadu State Hajj Committee to first-time Hajj pilgrims will be increased to Rs.35,000. Additional Christian and Muslim Women Aid Societies will be formed with an allocation of Rs.1.05 crore, and a further Rs.34 crore will be allocated in the Revised Budget Estimates to improve the infrastructure of burial grounds and Kabarthans. The Government under the leadership of our Hon'ble Chief Minister will never compromise on the protection and welfare of minorities.

45. In the Revised Budget Estimates, an amount of Rs.1,700 crore has been allocated for the Welfare of Backward Classes, Most Backward Classes, and Minorities Department.

Welfare of the Differently Abled

46. Our Hon'ble Chief Minister sincerely believes that differently abled persons are individuals of great ability. Based on this Government's principle of equality, "**All lives are equal by birth,**" Tamil Nadu stands as a pioneer among States in ensuring the rights, equality and social security of differently-abled persons.

47. Financial assistance of up to 50 per cent of the cost of equipment, or a maximum of Rs.30,000, will be provided for purchasing modern AI-based assistive devices, not covered under the existing assistive devices distribution scheme, such as sports prosthetic legs, myoelectric signal-operated upper limb prostheses, other high-end assistive devices and cochlear implant batteries.

48. Government institutions for persons with intellectual disabilities under the name '**Nambikkai Illam**', will be established in Thanjavur, Tiruvannamalai, Salem, Cuddalore and Virudhunagar districts. These institutions will provide special education, early intervention services, rehabilitation and vocational training to children aged 3 years and above. In the initial stage, each institution will function as a day school with 50 students, later being upgraded to include residential facilities. For this, an amount of Rs.4 crore is being allocated in the Revised Budget Estimates.

49. In the Revised Budget Estimates, Rs.1,485 crore has been allocated to the Department for the Welfare of Differently Abled Persons.