# **2023 - SWTN Diary**

#### **JANUARY**

On 6<sup>th</sup> January 2023, SW-TN organized an E-Meet on "**Pre-Budget GENDER Discussion 2023**". We created connect with the Key Women Leaders in Tamilnadu and Mr.Javits Rajendran, State Technical Coordinator – TN, UN Women – who provides technical advisory to the GoTN on integrating gender in planning, budgeting and auditing & strengthens coordination and implementation of State Women's Policy and Government of Tamil Nadu's initiatives to promote gender equality. Each organization shared their inputs on alternate basket of schemes for the forthcoming TN Budget and shared their ideas for the three year action plan for UN-Women in Tamilnadu.

On 7th January 2023, SW-TN extended solidarity to the hybrid (online & offline) programme on 'Civil Society Meet to Strengthen State Human Rights Institutions' organized by the 'Civil Society Coalition in solidarity with the SHRIs in Tamilnadu' held at LS Hall, Loyola College. During the programme, a "Manual for State Human Rights Institutions (SHRIs) compiled by 'All India Network of NGOs and Individuals Working with National and State Human Rights Institutions (AiNNI).

On 7<sup>th</sup> January 2023, Safai Karamchari Andolan, Social Awareness Society for Youth (SASY) along with Social Watch–Tamilnadu and other network partners... jointly organized a 'STATE LEVEL CONSULTATION and Release of the Study Report on the Status of the implementation of the Prohibition of Employment as Manual Scavengers and their Rehabilitation Act, 2013 in Tamilnadu: held at Asha Nivas. Chennai.

On 9th January 2023, Ms. Kamatchi participated in the Symposium on 'Integrating Values at all levels of Education'; Organized by Pennurimai Iyakkam, Centre for Child Rights and Development (CCRD) and Department of Social Work (SMC); held at Stella Maris College, Chennai.

On 10<sup>th</sup> January 2023, Fr.Kumar participated in the 'Annual Solidarity Meeting for Convenors of Civil Society Campaigns and networks in Tamilnadu'; convened by Human Rights Advocacy and Research Foundation (HRF) at Tiruchirappalli.

On 12<sup>th</sup> January 2023, Ms. Kamatchi highlighted the Demand on **PARTICIPATORY GENDER BUDGET CELL** during the 'Stakeholders Consultation on **ADDRESSING HOMELESSNESS** – **Finalize Wishlist for TN Budget 2023-24**';

organized by Information and Resource Centre for the Deprived Urban Communities (IRCDUC) held at ICSA, Chennai.

During 19<sup>th</sup> - 21<sup>st</sup> January 2023, Fr.Kumar, SW-TN along with 'Social Awareness Society for Youth (SASY)' and Cornerstone organized a "3 days EXPOSURE VISIT for TN MLAs to study Telangana's initiatives towards Scheduled Caste Development". Mr.Sinthanai Selvan, MLA, Kattumannarkoil Constituency, Floor Leader, VCK Party and Mr. S.S. Balaji, MLA, Tiruporur Constituency, VCK Party actively involved and promised to represent the learnings during the forthcoming TN Budget session.

During 23<sup>rd</sup> to 25<sup>th</sup> January 2023, Ms. Rajeshwari and Ms. Kamatchi participated in the "**Workshop on Photo and Video Documentation**"; jointly organized by Jesuit Chennai Province, Province Development Office and Youth Communication Commission; for Jesuit Chennai Province Social Action Centres and Schools; held at Province Office.

On 30th January 2023, Ms. Kamatchi and Ms.Sophie completed the **Online** survey on the roles and responsibilities of women working with the Society of Jesus; conducted by the Women's Commission and IPC Research Team through Jesse Claudio, a researcher from the Ateneo de Manila University, Philippines.

On 30th January 2023, Fr.Kumar was invited as resource person to extend solidarity to the Commemoration of Mahatma Gandhi Memorial Day as DAY AGAINST BIGOTRY (மகாத்மா காந்தி நினைவு தினம் - மதவெறி எதிர்ப்பு தினம்); Organized by 'Tamilnadu Platform for People's Unity (TNPPU - தமிழக மக்கள் ஒற்றுமை மேடை); at Press Club, Chepauk.

On 31st January 2023, the learnings of the Photo & Video Workshop held during 23rd to 25th January 2023 at Province Curia was shared to SWTN team: Ms.Sophie, Fr.Packiaraj SJ and Fr.Kumar SJ by Ms. Rajeshwari and Ms. Kamatchi at SWTN Office.

#### **FEBRUARY**

On 6<sup>th</sup> February 2023, Ms. Kamatchi participated in the' **The Budget Dialogue - A Webinar on Union Budget 2023-24'**; Organized by Centre for Budget Governance and Accountability with the Launch of publication on "Walking-the-Tightrope-An-Analysis-of-Union-Budget-2023-24".

On 10th February 2023, Ms. Kamatchi participated in the State-level Consultation and Release of the Study Report of "A study on Children on the Move"- to enrich our recommendations and to advocate for policy-level changes and necessary

actions to be taken by the government of Tamil Nadu for protecting the rights of the Children on the Move; Organized by Centre For Child Rights And Development (CCRD). The suggestions given by Social Watch – Tamilnadu on "Budgeting for Children on Move" was well received by the "TN Child Rights Watch' Coalition.

On 12<sup>th</sup> February 2023, Fr.Kumar participated in the **District Consultation on the challenges faced by single women**; Organized by Human Rights Advocacy and Research Foundation; held at Krishnagiri district.

On 16th February 2023, 20th year celebration of SOCIAL WATCH - TAMILNADU, we felicitated **Dr. ASHWINI KP, UN Special Rapporteur on contemporary** forms of racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance. It was great pleasure having our **Rev.Fr.Jebamalai Irudayaraj**, Provincial, Fr.Ilanko Xavier, Socius, Fr.Yesumarian, Coordinator- Dalit Commission, Fr.Irudaya Raj, Coordinator-Communication Commission and Fr.Justin Prabhu, House Minister. The celebration was a nostalgic get-together with the legends in the social field: Ms. A.S.Kumari, Chairperson, TN State Commission for Women; Mr. Henri Tiphagne, Executive Director, People's Watch - Tamilnadu; Ms. Burnad Fatima, Executive Director, Society for Rural Education and Development; Mr. Nicholas, Convener, Dalit Mannurimai Kootamaippu, IRDS, Villupuram; Ms. Sheelu Francis, President, Tamilnadu Women's Collective; Ms. Virgil D Samy, Arunodhaya Centre for Street and Working Children; Ms. Sornalatha, Director, Adivasi Social Service Education Trust; Mr.Bernard D Samv. Coordinator. LISSTAR: Prof. S. Packiaraj, Mentor, SW-TN; Mr. Christudas Gandhi IAS (Retd), Advisor, SW-TN and Co-Founder of PAALAM. During this celebration, we released a Note on "I may not get rid of caste; but can stop caste getting rid of me".





The same day, we were also part of the Interaction among like-minded IAS officers with Dr.Ashwini, UN Special Rapporteur, at IAS mess.



On 20<sup>th</sup> February 2023, Ms. Kamatchi met Ms. Akila, Social Policy Specialist and Mr.K.L.Rao, Chief-Social Policy at UNICEF office; to discuss about strategies **towards CHILD BUDGETING in Tamilnadu**.

On 20<sup>th</sup> February 2023, Fr.Kumar participated in the 'Consultation to Draft a State Legislation for domestic Workers'; organized by Tamil Nadu Domestic Workers Welfare Trust in collaboration with 'Tamilnadu State Women Commission' and State Human Rights Commission; held at State Planning Commission.

On 21st February 2023, Ms.Kamatchi was invited by the Ministry of Women and Child Development for the 'National Stakeholder Consultation on the Gender Budget Statement' at India Habitat Centre, New Delhi.

On 21st February 2023, Fr.Packiaraj participated in 'Stakeholders Consultation on Migrant Workers Rights and Protection' organized by 'TN State Human Rights Commission' in collaboration with TN Domestic Workers' Welfare Trust; at SHRC Auditorium, Greenways Road, Chennai.

On 24th February 2023, Social Watch–Tamilnadu and Arunodhaya jointly organized the 'Consultation on INTERSECTIONAL CHILD BUDGETING in TN' at Madras School of Social Work – with the Online Inputs from Centre for Budget and Governance Accountability and special address by Dr.K.L. Rao, Chief- Social Policy, UNICEF Office for TN & Kerala.





On 28th February 2023, Fr.Kumar was invited as a panelist for the 'State Level Conference for Civil Society Organisations on the State Legislation for SCP TSP', Organized by Social Awareness Society for Youth (SASY) at Asha Nivas, Chennai.

#### MARCH

On 1st March 2023, Social Watch – Tamilnadu along with PAALAM organized a 'Consultation for Particularly Vulnerable Tribal Groups (PVTG)' at AICUF, Chennai.



On 6th March 2023, Social Watch - Tamilnadu along with PAALAM had a 'Focus Group Discussion with Kaadar & Paliyar Tribes from Vaalparai' - at AICUF, Chennai.

On 9th March 2023, Social Watch – Tamilnadu organized a **Consultation with Irular Tribes from five districts (Chengalpattu, Kanchipuram, Thiruvallur, Ariyalur and Krishnagiri**)at AICUF, Chennai - To evolve alternate basket of schemes to advocate during the forthcoming discussions.



On 14th March 2023, Social Watch – Tamilnadu (SW-TN) and PAALAM jointly organized the 'Discussion on Post Matric Scholarship for Saandrors (SCs) & Aandrors (STs)'; at AICUF, Chennai. The programme was felicitated by Rev.Fr.Jebamalai Irudayaraj SJ, Provincial and Rev.Fr.Ilanko Xavier SJ, Socius Jesuit Chennai Province. The resource team were Mr.Marimuthu Bharathan, State Organizer, Ambedkar Kalvi Centenary Movement (AKAM) and Ms. Sabaritha, Naan Mudhalvan Scheme. Special Address was rendered by Mr.Akila Radhakrishnan, UNICEF Office for Tamilnadu & Kerala. We had participants from Jesuit Social Action Centres: PALAVAI, AHAL, PARAN, ARCALI, AICUF, LIFT, LokManch, IDEAS. We had representatives from Child Rights Organizations: CCRD, Arunodhaya, Thozhamai, Hope, SRED and Action Aid.





On 25th March 2023 - ASSET, SW-TN and Udhavum Karangal jointly celebrated the Women's Day for Irular Women at Sembakkam.

On 28<sup>th</sup> March 2023, Mrs.Kamatchi was invited to render special address on 2023 Theme for International Women's Day: "DigitALL: Innovation and Technology for Gender Equality"; Organized by Good Shepherd Health Education Centre, Coimbatore.

On 29th March 2023, Ms.Rajeshwari participated in the Discussion on "TN Budget 2023-24 and the SCs and STs Development" Organized by Madras Institute of Development Studies (MIDS) at Adyar, Chennai.

On 30<sup>th</sup> March 2023, Ms.Kamatchi participated in the Online Core Group Discussion on CHILD BUDGETING, Organized by 'Tamilnadu Child Rights Watch'.

## **APRIL**

Based on our continuos - back & forth discussion with Ms. Vanessa Peter, IRCDUC - a detailed news article on "TN's GENDER BUDGET breaks barriers, but still trips up" flashed in Editorial of Times of India Newspaper, dated 4th April 2023 - highlighting the Intersectional and decentralized Gender Budgeting.



On 17<sup>th</sup> April 2023, Fr.Kumar chaired a session of the STUDY RELEASE event on "Tamil Nadu State Disaster Relief Norms-A Critical Appraisal from Social Inclusion Perspective"; Organised by 'National Dalit Watch - NCHDR Delhi and COSCO - Madurai Tamilnadu': held at Vestin Park. Chennai.



On 19<sup>th</sup> April 2023, Ms.Rajeshwari presented a session on **Career Guidance and Government Scholarship** for around 300 students; Organized by Loyola Students Support Services (LSSS), Chennai.



On 21st April 2023, Ms.Kamatchi chaired a session on "SPEAK OUT – Rise! Resist! Restore!" for about 150 grassroots women leaders; Organized by Tamilnadu Dalit Women's Movement at CSI LITE Auditorium, Kilpauk, Chennai.



On 25<sup>th</sup> April 2023, SW-TN collaboratively organized **Commemoration of 86<sup>th</sup> Birthday of Fr. STAN SWAMY**; at Sauliere Hall, Students Hostel, Loyola College, Chennai.









On 28th April 2023, Ms.Rajeshwari presented information about **Post Matric Scholarships for 110 SC/ST students to the folk artist children's camp**; organised by Alternate Media Centre at the Corporation School Office in Mogappair West, Chennai.



# **MAY 2023**

On 11<sup>th</sup> May 2023, Ms.Kamatchi handled a **session on GENDER BUDGETING for Elected Representatives** during the Refresher Training Programme; Organized by State Institute for Rural Development & Panchayat Raj, Government of Tamilnadu, Maraimalainagar. (50+ Women Panchayat Leaders across various districts in TN)



On 15<sup>th</sup> May 2023, Fr.Kumar and Ms. Rajeshwari along with Mr. R.C. Gandhi Retd IAS met Justice. Murugesan (Retd), Chairperson - State Education Policy Committee to present the Recommendations to implement 'State Education Policy' effectively.



On 16<sup>th</sup> May 2023, SW-TN along with Christodas Gandhi IAS (Rtd) organized a meeting to submit a delegation to the Chief Minister of Tamilnadu by the group of senior retired officers to smoothen the functioning of Post Matric Scholarship (PMS); held at SAF Games IAS Mess.



# **JUNE**

On 2<sup>nd</sup> June 2023, Fr.Kumar had an online discussion with National Dalit Watch (NDW)-National Campaign on Dalit Human Rights (NCDHR) and COSCO – to plan to organize a budget training with the community leaders, activists, and members of the State Level Task Force of Tamilnadu on the State budget in terms of climate change budget and budget for disaster relief and resilience in the coming month. It is aimed to train participants on Union and State Budget on disaster and climate change, fund devolution to the Panchayat level; budget entry, and budget analysis. This meeting was planned to finalize the content of the training and sessions. Fr.Kumar was invited as a resource person in one session.

On 7<sup>th</sup> June 2023, SW-TN hosted zoom meeting for the DISCUSSION with District Selection Committee members of CAI - Confederation of Affirmative Industries; chaired by R.Christodas Gandhi IAS (Retd).

On 9<sup>th</sup> June 2023, SW-TN team had a discussion with Fr.Maurice from France and Fr.Maria Joe Mahalingam; discussed about our budget research and Advocacy work.



On 13<sup>th</sup> June 2023, SW-TN sent an official communication to Secretary, Planning Dept, Government of Tamilnadu - Requesting the Department of Evaluation and Applied Research (DEAR) to provide an access to the study reports of Adi Dravidar and Tribal Welfare.

On 14<sup>th</sup> June 2023, SW-TN hosted zoom meeting on "Post Matric Scholarship"; Organized by AKAM – Ambedkar Kalvi Centenary Movement.

On 16<sup>th</sup> June 2023, Ms. Kamatchi participated in the Webinar on "Structural Violence on Rural Women Workers" - Organised by Feminist Policy Collective (FPC) and Mahila Kisan Adhikaar Manch (MAKAAM).

On 18<sup>th</sup> June 2023, Fr.Kumar and Ms. Rajeshwari extended solidarity to the protest to protect Rights of STs in Manipur – Demanding the BJP Government to stop violence against the tribals in Manipur; Organized by Humanity Democratic Party (MJK); at Egmore Chennai. Followed by this Rally, Fr.Kumar rendered a Talk at the Conference organized by 'TamilNadu People's Platform for Unity' at Royapettah, Chennai.





On  $26^{th}$  June 2023, Fr.Kumar and Mr. Christudas Gandhi IAS (Retd) met Commissioner of TN SC/ST Commission to discuss about key issues to be taken forward to empower SC/ST people in TN.

On 27<sup>th</sup> & 28<sup>th</sup> June 2023, SWTN as Knowledge Partner trained 28 participants from 8 districts during the two days workshop on "TN State Budgets for Disaster Risk Reduction, Climate Resilience & SC/ST Rights"; Organized by National Dalit Watch-Swadhikar/ NCDHR; in Collaboration with COSCO Tamilnadu.

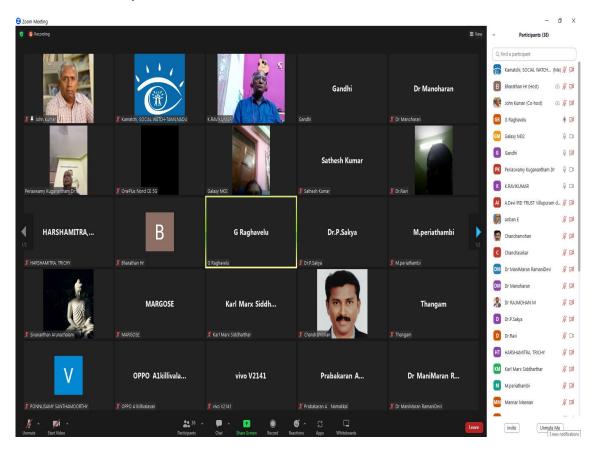




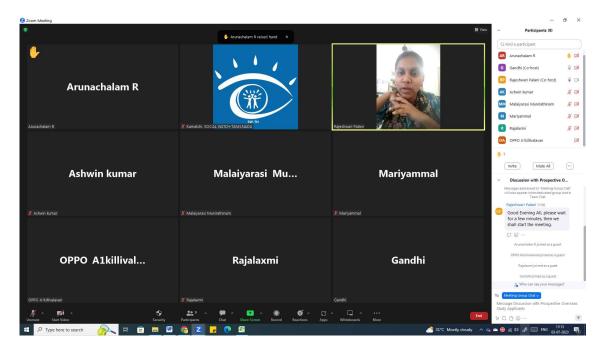
During June 2023, Ms. Anuvarshini, Law student from Christ College-Bangalore did her one-month internship at SWTN.

On 1<sup>st</sup> July 2023, Ms. Kamatchi participated in the Talk on 'Intersectional and Interdisciplinary Approaches in Women's and Gender Studies' by Dr Sujatha Modi, Professor & Chair, Department of Women's & Gender Studies, California State University; Organized by Research and Interdisciplinary Networking – RAIN, Dept of English & Sociology, Loyola College Chennai.

On 3<sup>rd</sup> July 2023, SWTN along with AKAM organized Online Meeting for MBBS admission for SC/ST students.



On 3<sup>rd</sup> July 2023, SWTN and AKAM organized a focus group online discussion for aspirants of Overseas Education through SC/ST scholarship.



On 5<sup>th</sup> July 2023, SWTN extended solidarity in commemorating "Fr.STANSWAMY Day" collaboratively organized by Viragalur People; Fr.StanSwamy People's Collective and Human Rights Defenders Federation; held at Trichy.



On 7<sup>th</sup> July 2023, SWTN and AKAM presented DEMANDS ON PMS to Tmt. Lakshmi Priya IAS, the newly posted Secretary for Adi Dravidar and Tribal Welfare Department, Government of Tamilnadu.

On 8<sup>th</sup> July 2023, Fr.John Kumar and RC Gandhi presented their demands on "Rejuvenating Post Matric Scholarship in Tamilnadu" to Thiru Sibi Adhithya Senthil Kumar IAS, Secretary to Government (Expenditure), Finance Department

and to Thiru. N. Muruganandam, Additional Chief Secretary to Chief Minister & Development Commissioner, Secretariat, Chennai.

On 18<sup>th</sup> July 2023, Fr.John Kumar's Article on "Will Marginalized get Justice through Special Component Plan?" was published in Tamil Hindu Daily Newspaper.

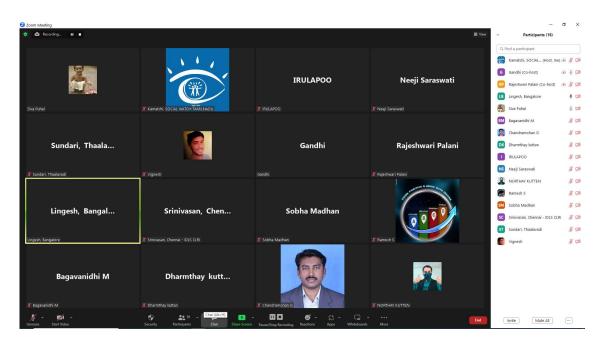




On 23<sup>rd</sup> July 2023, SWTN in collaboration Tamilnadu Tribal Council organized an Online Planning Meeting with Tribal Leaders to understand the deeper repercussions of Manipur Violence and to protest against it.



On  $23^{\rm rd}$  July 2023, SWTN along with AKAM organized an online meeting on Scope for Higher Education for "Ooty Thodar & Koththar BEs & Graduates".



On 28<sup>th</sup> July 2023, Ms. Rajeshwari participated and extended solidarity to the "State Level Public Hearing on Abolition of Manual Scavenging in Tamilnadu";

Organized by Social Awareness Society For Youth (SASY), held at RamNagar, Coimbatore.

On 30<sup>th</sup> July 2023, SW-TN along with PAALAM and AKAM organized a Consultation for Particularly Vulnerable Tribal Groups from Coimbatore, Nilgiris, Erode and Tirupur Districts; held at Jeeva Jyothi Ashram, Coimbatore.





As an outcome of joint collaborative advocacy and lobby of 'Confederation on Affirmative Industries', SWTN through R.Christudas Gandhi IAS (Retd); achieved the futuristic goal of getting five percent reservation for SC/ST in all tenders of Tamilnadu. First victory in getting the TN Civil supplies MD circular to have been circulated to all 39 locations in Tamilnadu. The first victory is getting the TN Civil Supplies MD circular circulated to all 39 locations in Tamilnadu.

Office of the Managing Director, Tamil Nadu Civil Supplies Corporation, Head office, Chennai 600 010.

# Rc.No.MT10/018188/2023

Dated:02.08.2023.

Circular No.32/2023 (Marketing Section)

#### **CIRCULAR**

Sub: TNCSC - H.O - Marketing Section - Appointment of Transport Contractors FCI & Non-FCI, Sugar and PTMGRNMP Movement for the period from June 2023 to July 2025 - e-Tender floated in all 39 Regions - Opening of Price Bid scheduled on 10.08.2023 - Latest amendments of Tamil Nadu Tender Transparency Act 2000 & Rules to be followed by Regional Heads - Certain instructions - Issued - Reg.

"(aaa) domestic enterprise owned by scheduled castes or scheduled Tribes" means.

(i) any domestic enterprise located in the state, which is owned by any person belonging to Scheduled Caste or a Scheduled Tribes; or

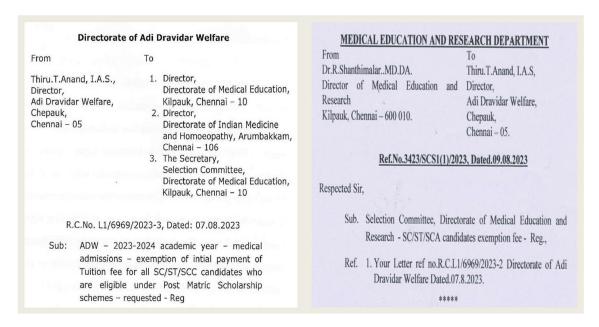
(ii) any domestic enterprise, which is a firm or limited liability partnership, having its registered office and place of business in the state, where not less than three-fourths of the partners belong to the Scheduled Castes or Scheduled Tribes; or

(1) more than fifty per cent of the ordinary shareholdings pertain to persons belonging to the Scheduled Castes or Scheduled Tribes; and

On  $6^{\rm th}$  August 2023 forenoon, SWTN along with AKAM organized Online Discussion on Higher Education exclusively for Adhiyar Graduates.

On 6<sup>th</sup> August 2023 evening, SWTN, AKAM along with Mr. Kaliamoorthy – Adhiyar leader organized Online Discussion on Development Opportunities for all Adhiyar leaders.

On 7th August 2023, SWTN through R.Christudas Gandhi IAS (Retd) along with AKAM raised concerns on the 'issues of MBBS/BDS admission process for SC/ST candidates in TN' to the attention of Secretary of ADTW & Director of ADW. As an outcome of this discussion, on the same day evening, the Director of ADW sent the directions on 'Exemption of initial payment of Tuition fee for all SC/ST/SCC candidates' was sent to Directorate of Medical Education and Directorate of Indian Medicine. The directions were accepted and the response communication was sent within two days.



On 7th August 2023, following the request of Ms. Dona from 'Indian Institute for Human Settlements' (IIHS); Ms. Kamatchi gave an Orientation on Gender Budgeting in Tamilnadu to their team through online mode.

On 13<sup>th</sup> August 2023, SWTN along with AKAM organized an online meet to disseminate the new order released by Govt of Tamilnadu regarding MBBS admission without paying first time tuition fees for SC/ST candidates.

On 14<sup>th</sup> August 2023, SWTN presented an overview of our organization to the National AICUF students who represented several states from India.

On 16<sup>th</sup> August 2023, SWTN presented a fervent appeal to Thiru.Shivdas Meena IAS, Chief Secretary, Government of Tamilnadu to:

- i. Ensure Post Matric Scholarship be released by the ADTW Department before the end of the academic year;
- ii. Entrust an exclusive Secretary for STs;
- iii. Enact necessary rules for appointing only STs in Tribal Schools.

On 18<sup>th</sup> August 2023, Fr.John Kumar and Ms. Kamatchi participated in the Independence Day Book Exhibition; Organized by Madras Institute of Development Studies (MIDS) at Adyar.

International Day of the World's Indigenous People 2023; was commemorated on 19<sup>th</sup> August 2023 by Adivasi Social Service Education Trust (ASSET), Social Watch – Tamilnadu and Helping Hands; at Nellikuppam.



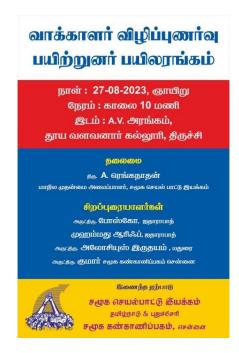




On 25<sup>th</sup> August 2023, Fr.Kumar and Ms. Rajeshwari participated in the Consultation on "Social Justice and Equity among Marginalized Communities"; inaugurated by Ms.G.Laxmi Priya, Secretary, Adi Dravidar and Tribal Department; organized by Madras School of Social Work, Egmore.



On 27th August 2023, Along with Social Action Movement, SWTN co-organized the "Voter Awareness Trainer Workshop" at AV.Arangam, St.Joseph College Trichy.





# Successful Outcomes of our Lobby & Advocacy

- 1. 32 Adhiyar Tribes got admitted in higher education (10 BE admissions). This can be claimed as direct outcome of advocacy meetings held with Aadhiyars at Kallakurichi, Nagalapuram, Nagapattinam, Vadalur and Ginjee; along with other online zoom meetings.
- 2. A Separate WhatsApp group has been formed to coordinate and organize Adhivar Tribes
- 3. Aadhiyar girls got admitted in Chettinad Dental College in BDS without insistence of any upfront payment.
- 4. Road Formation in 7 places. (Eg. Two km Thar Road Kannagi Mundu Ooty; 6 km Road in Javadhu malai, Thiruvannamalai got flashed in newspaper as well)
- 5. 62 units of modern flats allotted to Irulars in Kayarampedu
- 6. (First of its kind in country unique scheme for Irulars– 400 sqft, 1+3 flats, gated community with all basic amenities, mosaic flooring
- 7. Eklavya school established in Chengalpattu districts.
- 8. As an outcome of liaison with Thiruvallur Member of Parliament and MLA Mr.Balaji → A Irular leader Mr. Gunasekaran has been appointed

- as Member of Rural Development Monitoring Committee.
- 9. Crucial needs of Irulars were discussed with MLA Mr. Balaji and the same has been approved by the Govt.
- 10. Constant interaction with Irulars and Tribes, they have gained confidence in administration both locally and at National level.
- 11. President of India has given a special invitation to Tribes for a personal meeting both at Rashtrapati Bhavan, New Delhi and at Raj Bhavan, Chennai.
- 12. Separate Association for ST entrepreneurs Confederation of Affirmative Industries (CAI-ST), has been formed under the leadership of Mr.Irulapoo Selvakumar.
- 13. Four business loans have been obtained.
- 14. Two startup grant worth more than 1 Crore have been sanctioned to Erode & Kothagiri under 'TN StartUp SC/ST Scheme'.
- 15. As an outcome of joint collaborative advocacy and lobby of 'Confederation on Affirmative Industries', SWTN through R.Christudas Gandhi IAS (Retd); achieved the futuristic goal of getting five percent reservation for SC/ST in all tenders of Tamilnadu. First victory in getting the TN Civil supplies MD circular to have been circulated to all 39 locations in Tamilnadu. The first victory is getting the TN Civil Supplies MD circular circulated to all 39 locations in Tamilnadu.
- 16. SC /ST மாணவ மாணவிகளுக்கான MBBS /BDS மருத்துவ படிப்பு சேர்க்கையில் மருத்துவக் கல்வி சேர்க்கை தேர்வுக் குழுவில் இருந்த சில குளறுபடிகள் அதனால் மாணாக்கர்களுக்கு ஏற்படும் பாதிப்பு பற்றியும் அகம் & SWTN சார்பாக 07.08.2023 அன்று காலை ஆதிராவிட நலத்துறை செயலர், மற்றும் இயக்குனர்கள் கவனத்திற்கு கொண்டு சென்றோம்.

On 30<sup>th</sup> & 31<sup>st</sup> August 2023, our team participated in the General Body Meeting of SOCIAL ACTION COMMISSION at Dhyana Ashram.

On 1st September 2023, Ms.Kamatchi participated in the Webinar on Civic Engagement with G20, G7 and BRICS – 2023 and Beyond; Organized by People's 20 and 'Asia Civil Society Partnership for Sustainable Development'.

On 3<sup>rd</sup> September 2023, Fr.Kumar extended solidarity to the "Discussion on Issues of Social Discriminations & Violations of Reservation Norms in Central Universities, IITs, IIMs other Institutions of higher learning in India"; held at Anna Centenary Library, Guindy, Chennai.

On 3<sup>rd</sup> September 2023, Fr.Kumar was invited as panelist in the Tamil Book Release event of Dr.Kafeel Khan's 'The Gorakhpur Hospital Tragedy'; Organized by Tamilnadu Platform for People's Unity at Devaneya Paavanar Main Library Hall, Chennai.

On 4th September 2023, SW-TN in Collaboration with Department of Sociology-Loyola College; Organized a One-Day National Seminar on "The Anti-Caste Pedagogy of Dalit Politics" at LS Hall. Dr.Thol.Thirumavalavan, Member of Parliament delivered the Inaugural Address; Followed by sessions by Prof.Soumyabrata Choudhury, Associate Professor, School of Arts and Aesthetics, Jawaharlal Nehru University, New Delhi and by Ms.V. Geetha, Independent Scholar and Activist.





On 6<sup>th</sup> September 2023, Mr. Christodas Gandhi IAS (Retd), our Guide was invited as the Guest of Honour by Vanavil Trust and Centre for Social Justice and Equity, MSSW for the Release of the Status of Nomadic Report. Fr.Kumar and Ms. Rajeshwari participated in this collaborative event. Vanavil Trust along with Praxis and with the support of the 'Research Organization for Social Action' (ROSA) and 'The Empowerment Centre of Nomads & Tribes' (TENT) conducted a comprehensive participatory study of four Nomadic Tribes in Tamilnadu, namely Narikuravar, Boom Maatukarar-Aadiyan, Lambadas, and Kattunayakars, across eight districts. DMK MP Kanimozhi Karunanidhi formally released the report to the public.



On 10<sup>th</sup> September 2023, PAALAM and SWTN organized an Online Discussion with Saandror Associate Professors of Annamalai University to discuss on the recent High Court Order on Selection for Professor Posts.

On 15<sup>th</sup> September 2023, Ms. Kamatchi participated in the Release Event on the Report on "Implementation of the World Bank financed Housing Projects in Tamilnadu and its impact on the Deprived Urban Communities"; Organized by 'International Accountability Project' and 'Information and Resource Centre for the Deprived Urban Communities'; at ICSA, Chennai.

On 19<sup>th</sup> September 2023, Ms. Kamatchi participated in the Online Lecture on Peace and Gender; Organized by Sansristi and Prajnya.

On 21<sup>st</sup> September 2023, Ms. Kamatchi participated in the webinar presented by 'The Urban Catalysts' on "Moving Towards Gender Responsive Public Transport in a Post-Covid World"; Organized by 'Institute of What Works to Advance Gender Equality (IWWAGE)'.

'Social Watch-TN', PAALAM and 'International Ambedkar Mission (IAM) together organized a "Civil Society Dialogue on Recommendations to be made for the proposed **ACT on 'Development Action Plan for Scheduled Castes** (DAPSC)' formerly known as Scheduled Castes Sub-Plan" on 24th September 2023 at IAS Officer's Mess, SAF Games, Koyambedu, Chennai. The draft kept for deliberation was approved to be sent to the Government. The main features are:

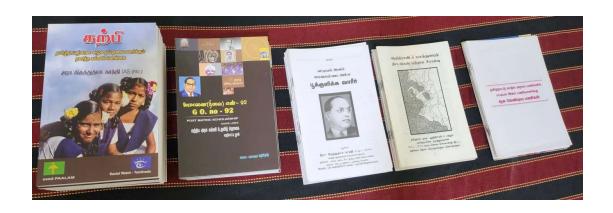
- 1. The Act should not bear the name of SC or ST on it. Therefore "ஓங்குயர் சட்டம்" in Tamil has been proposed. English version can also use the same terminology.
- 2. The objective spells out growth orientation and not just a pacifying share in common schemes.
- 3. In order to usher in innovations year after year, two-way allocation has been recommended.
  - a. One allocation will be on the same formula as existing that will be the proportion based on previous census out of the bundle of welfare schemes.
  - b. The second will be a 3% allocation from the total budget size.
- 4. Allocation made under 3(b) will be utilized only for the new schemes with Saandror (SC) focus only.
- 5. All the funds should be routed through Saandror and Aandror Panchayats only.
- 6. District level disaggregated allocation and utilization should be shown in annual audit.



























On 25th September 2023, Ms. Kamatchi as Resource Person handled a half-day session on "TN State Women Policy and Gender Budgeting in SDG lens"; during the '16th Feminist Capacity Building Course on Gender, Sustainable Livelihoods and Peace; Organized by SANGAT & EKTA at Pillar Centre, Madurai.

During September 2023, SWTN and PAALAM released the book on கற்பி -தமிழ்நாட்டிற்கான சமூக ஒப்புரவை வளர்க்கும் தனித்த கல்விக் கொள்கை". [EDUCATE - A Unique Education Policy for Tamilnadu to Promote Social Equity].



## 26.09.2023

சிவகங்கை, மன்னர் துரைசிங்கம் அரசு கலைக்கல்லூரி நலன் காக்க விரும்பும் சமூக ஆர்வலர்களே, நண்பர்களே வணக்கம்!

சமீப காலமாக பெரும்பாலான அரசு கல்வி நிலையங்களில் நிலவும் சாகீயப் பாகுபாடு மற்றும் ஒடுக்கு முறைகள் குறித்து அரசின் கவனத்திற்கு எடுத்துச்செல்வதற்காகவும் அதைத்தடுத்து ஏழை எளிய ஒடுக்கப்பட்ட மாணவர்கள் இடையூறின்றி கல்வி பயில வழிவகை வைப்பதற்காகவும் செய்ய வேண்டுகோள் ஓய்வுபெற்ற ஜஏஎஸ் அதிகாரி திரு. கிறிஸ்துதாஸ் காந்தி ஐயா அவர்களின் தலைமையில் உயர் கல்வித்துறை முதன்மைச் செயலாளர் திரு . கார்த்திக் ஐஏஎஸ் அவர்களைச் சந்திக்க நேரம் பெறப்பட்டிருந்தது. அதனடிப்படையில், நேற்று (25.09.2023) பெரும்பாலானக் கல்வி நிலையங்களில் இருந்து பட்டியல் பிரிவு செயற்பாட்டாளர்கள் மற்றும் பேராசிரியர்கள் ஐயா திரு. கிறிஸ்துதாஸ் காந்தி அவர்களின் தலைமையில் தலைமைச் செயலகத்தில் உயர்கல்வி (முதன்மைச் செயலாளர் அவர்களைச் சந்தித்தோம். அது சமயம், சிவகங்கை மன்னர் துரைசிங்கம்

கலைக்கல்லூரியில் நிலவும் சாதிப் பாகுபாடு மற்றும் பொருளியல் துறைத்தலைவர் முனைவர். கா.கிருஷ்ணன் அவர்களின் மேல் எடுக்கப்பட்ட முறையற்ற நடவடிக்கை மற்றும் பணியிட மாற்றம் ஆகிய பொருள் குறித்துத் தெரிவிப்பதற்காக விலங்கியல் குறைப் ஆகிய அ.இராமலிங்கம் பேராசிரியர் நானும் பொருளியல் துறைத்தலைவர் முனைவர். கா.கிருஷ்ணன் அவர்களும் மேற்கண்ட குழுவுடன் சென்று உயர்கல்வித்துறை (முதன்மைச் செயலாளர் திரு.கார்த்திக் ஐஏஎஸ் அவர்களைச் சந்தித்து மேற்கண்ட பொருள் குறித்து விவாதித்தோம். அவரிடம் சம்பந்தப்பட்டவர்கள் கொண்டு விடயங்களைச் சொன்னோம். செல்லாத நிறைய முனைவர்.கா.கிருஷ்ணன் சார்ந்த நீதிமன்ற வழக்கு மற்றும் நீதிமன்ற வழக்கு ஆகியவற்றை உயர்கல்வித்துறை முதன்மைச் செயலாளர் அவர்களிடம் எடுத்துரைத்தோம். நிச்சயமாக நல்ல முடிவை எடுக்கிறேன் என்று அவர் கூறினார். அதன் பிறகு, தலைமைச் செயலகத்தில் சமூக சீர்திருத்தத் துறைச் செயலாளர் திரு. ஆபிரகாம் ஐஏஎஸ் சந்தித்து சாதீயப் பாகுபாடு அடிப்படையில் அவர்களைச் தவறான நடவடிக்கை எடுத்தவர்கள் மீது சட்டப்படி நடவடிக்கை எடுக்க வேண்டும் என்று கேட்டுக் கொண்டோம். அவரும் பரிசீலனை செய்வதாக உறுதியளித்தார். முனைவர். கா.கிருஷ்ணன் பணியிட மாற்றத்திற்கான காரணம் சாதீயப் பாகுபாடு காட்டியது என்று கல்லூரி முதல்வரால் கல்லூரிக் கல்வி இயக்குநருக்கு தெரிவிக்கப்படிருக்கும் கல்லூரியில் கல்<u>ல</u>ூரி நிலையில் தற்போது சிலர் நிர்வாகச் செயல்பாட்டை நியாயப்படுத்த கல்லூரியில் சாதிப் பாகுபாடே இல்லை என்ற நிலையை எடுக்கப்போவதாக நேற்றே கேள்விப்பட்ட நாங்கள் முரண்பாட்டையும் இரு ஐஏஎஸ் அதிகாரிகளிட (மம் இந்த மேற்கொண்ட எடுத்துரைத்தோம். நாங்கள் இரண்டு ஜஏஎஸ் அதிகாரிகளுடனான சந்திப்புகள் மிகுந்த மனநிறைவைத் தந்தன. இந்த இனிய நிகழ்வை ஏற்படுத்தித் தந்த ஐயா திரு. கிறிஸ்து தாஸ் காந்தி அவர்களுக்கு மனமுவந்த நன்றியுடன் கூடியப் பாராட்டுகள்!

அடுத்தச் சந்திப்புகள் மாண்புமிகு உயர் கல்வித்துறை அமைச்சர் மற்றும் மாண்புமிகு முதலமைச்சர் ஆகியோருடன் இருக்கும்!!

நன்றி!

முனைவர். அ.இராமலிங்கம் சிவகங்கை 26.09.2023



## **October**

On 1<sup>st</sup> October 2023, SW-TN and PAALAM jointly organised the Second 'Micro Level Aandror (ST) Consultation', at IDEAS Centre, Madurai. Aandrors (STs) from Kaniyaar, Paliyar, Kaattunayakkar, Kaanikarar, Narikuravar, and Malaikuravar communities participated. Around 70 Members (15 women) participated including representatives from various civil society organizations and institutes. New strategies and policy proposals were developed.















On 3<sup>rd</sup> June 2023. SW-TN filled in the ALBOAN survey on 'Child Protection Policy'.

During 4-7 October 2023, SW-TN extended solidarity to the Hybrid programme on – 'Responding to Poverty and Inequalities' of the  $13^{\rm th}$  World Human Rights Cities Forum, Gwangju, South Korea.

On 10<sup>th</sup> October 2023, SW-TN team had an in-depth strategic plan discussion along with Mr. Amal Xavier Raj, Consultant – Loyola College Society.

On 12<sup>th</sup> October 2023, Ms. Kamatchi participated in the 'Consultation on Integration, Coordination and Partnerships – Government Services for Victim-Survivors of Violence'; held at Residency Hotel, Chennai; Organized by Chaitanya – The Policy Consultancy.

On 18<sup>th</sup> October 2023, Ms. Kamatchi participated in the web meet on 'Ecological Justice: Understanding Human Rights in the Asian Context'; Organized by LSIA-CAREJ.

On 19<sup>th</sup> October 2023, Ms. Kamatchi participated in the Online Consultation on ALBOAN's Gender Equity Plan.

On 23rd October 2023, as part of cross-learning SW-TN team visited EN OORU-TRIBAL HERITAGE VILLAGE – which reflects the indigenous culture and traditional lifestyle of the Ethnic Community of the place; with indigenous architecture coupled with tribal customs and traditions. Opened at Pookode in Wayanad district by the State Government, En Ooru is spread across 25 acres of land. This is an initiative of the Government of Kerala to create an exclusive and permanent platform for the heritage & indigenous skills of the tribes domiciled in Kerala.

Social Watch - Tamilnadu along with 'Ambedkar Kalvi Centenary Movement (AKAM)' organized the Consultation on "KARPI - New Education Policy for TN's Social Equity"; on 28th October 2023, at St. Xavier's College of Education, Palayamkottai, Thirunelveli. About 30 professionals from teaching fraternity along with social activists evolved action plans towards inclusive education.













On 28<sup>th</sup> October 2023, Ms. Rajeshwari and Ms.Kamatchi extended solidarity to 'World Social Forum –Tamilnadu'; Organized by Tamilnadu Social Forum – held at Patrician College of Arts and Science, Chennai.

During 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> November 2023, Ms. Rajeshwari participated in the 'Two days South India Workshop of Feminist Activists to promote Climate Justice for Gender Equality'; Organized by Tamilnadu Women's Movement, at Kings Hotel, Egmore, Chennai.



On 7<sup>th</sup> November 2023, Fr.Antony Robinson SJ, Rector of Chennai Province visited SWTN team for an understanding of past, present and future of the organization.



On 7<sup>th</sup> November 2023, SW-TN extended solidarity in remembering Mr.S.Thomas Jayaraj on his 66<sup>th</sup> Birth Anniversary and 25 years of Centre for Child Rights and Development – CCRD; with the special address on 'Towards Healthy Society for the Healthy Childhood" by Dr. Amalorpavanathan Joseph, a Member of the TN State Planning Commission.



In Commemoration of Janjatiya Gaurav Divas 2023, during 15<sup>th</sup> and 16<sup>th</sup> of November 2023, 'Centre for Dalit and Subaltern Studies (CDSS) - Rajiv Gandhi National Institute of Youth Development' in association with SOCIAL WATCH – TN, PAALAM and AMBU; Organized a "Capacity building on Tribal Leadership and Tribal Welfare Programmes" at RGNIYD, Sriperumbadur.

- Thiru. Abraham IAS, Secretary of Social Reforms inaugurated the first day session and Tmt. Dr.Aruna Basu IFS Chief Conservator of Forests (Retd) was the Chief Guest for the second day.
- Session on **Tribal Leadership** was facilitated by Thiru. Irulappoo Selvakumar, General Secretary TN Adivasi Federation (TAF) and Tmt. Sornalatha, Managing Trustee, Adivasi Social Service Educational Trust (ASSET).
- Session on **Post Matric Scholarship**, **Ph.D and Overseas Scholarship** were presented by Mr. Chandramohan from Ambedkar Kalvi Centenary Movement and Ms. Rajeshwari from SW-TN
- Panel on Start-Up TN, Dr.Annal Ambedkar Business Championship Scheme and other Entrepreneurship schemes were discussed by Mr. Navaneetha Sivakumar from Confederation of Affirmative Industries; Mr.Vignesh, Asst. Professor, LIBA and Ms.Venkateshwari from TN Start-up & Innovation Mission.









On  $17^{\text{th}}$  November 2023, Friends of Fr.Manu had a commemoration gathering at IDCR.



During 17<sup>th</sup> & 18<sup>th</sup> November 2023, Commemorating Janjatiya Gaurav Divas 2023, SW-TN along with PAALAM and Kaanikaarargal MagaaSabhai organized 'Training on Forest Rights Act'; at Forest Department Training Centre, Pechipaarai.







During 21st & 22nd November 2023, SW-TN in association with PAALAM and AKAM organized "Capacity Building on Tribal Leadership Programmes" at Moonjikkal, Kodaikanal. Special address was rendered by Thiru. R.Christudas Gandhi IAS (Rtd) followed by input sessions by Palani Paliyar Federation, ARUDECS, Arokiyagam & SW-TN.









On 27th November 2023, SW-TN and Loyola Institutions organized Celebration of Constitution Day; presided over by Thiru.Peter Alphonse, Chairperson, Minority Commission, Govt of Tamilnadu; keynote address rendered by Thiru.Raja MP, Former Union Minister, Govt of India; at LS Hall, Loyola College, Chennai. Listen to the speech in the below links:

https://youtu.be/REifqHviVw4?feature=shared; https://youtu.be/V8A bRRKJ3g?si=7esKnCUDL6bmV66G































On 29<sup>th</sup> November 2023, SW-TN extended solidarity to the 'National Consultation on Crime against Women migrant workers' organized by 'Tamil Nadu State Commission for Women (TNSCW)', in collaboration with 'Migrant Forum in Asia', Women Migrant Forum and 'Tamil Nadu Domestic Workers Welfare Trust (TNDWWT) at Hotel Ramada, Egmore.



On 3<sup>rd</sup> December 2023, PAALAM and SWTN organized an exclusive micro-level planning for Development of KaatuNaayakkars (ST) at TAISHA Hall, Chennai. More than 20 graduates were oriented for

- 1. Organizing Job Fair;
- 2. Entrepreneurship programmes through Confederation of Affirmative Industries (CAI-ST) &
- 3. Advocacy efforts towards 5000 houses for KaatuNaayakars like 'Kayarambedu housing allotments for Irulars'.

SWTN had the Revisor Team visited SWTN on 4<sup>th</sup> November 2023.

On 7<sup>th</sup> December 2023, Social Watch – Tamilnadu team shared our recent work and future plans to Fr. Provincial and Fr. Socius.



On 8<sup>th</sup> December, Journalist team from Digital Daily Thanthi came to our office and made a story on Social Watch –TN Budget-Advocacy work, Gender Budgeting and Post Matric Scholarship.

During second week of December, SWTN coordinated with Action Aid India to provide relief materials to Michaung affected Irulars in Pazhaverkadu.

On 11<sup>th</sup> December, Ms.Kamatchi was invited as a delegate for the International Conference on "Emerging trends in Crime against Women"; Organized by Tamilnadu State Women's Commission; supported by 'International Justice Mission' at Taj Coromandel, Chennai.

On 14<sup>th</sup> December, Mr. Christodas Gandhi IAS (Retd), Research Guide of SWTN presented an online session on "Let's Move Forward – Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes Sub Plan - Bridging Gaps for Inclusive Development"; Organized by Ambedkar King Study Circle, California.

On 15<sup>th</sup> December, Fr.John Kumar was invited as Chief Guest for the inauguration and Ms. Kamatchi for the Valedictory Session – of the SOCIO-FEST 2023 – Roles of Youth in Sustainable Development; Organized by Department of Sociology – Loyola College, Chennai.

On 18<sup>th</sup> December 2023, SW-TN was one of the co-organizer of the "State Level Seminar for Youth and Students – HUMAN RIGHTS 75 – TN" – coordinated by Human Rights -75 TN Committee, School of Human Excellence – Loyola College, Human Rights Defenders Alert -TN (HRDA), Joint Action Against Custodial Torture – TN & Puducherry (JAACT – TN & PY)

On 21st December, SWTN coordinated for the GBM- Dalit Commission at Dhyana Ashram.

On 23<sup>rd</sup> December, Fr. John Kumar extended solidarity to the felicitation of Mr. Balaji, ASSET for being selected as a 'Member of ST Advisory Council, Government of Tamilnadu'; at Sembakkam Village, Thiruporur, Chengalpattu District.



On 27<sup>th</sup> December, SWTN along with PAALAM organized a discussion with 'Members of ST Advisory Council, GoTN' to discuss on ST Development at Anjappar Arangam, Triplicane.

