

2024 Half-Yearly Diary Social Watch – Tamilnadu

JANUARY

On 2nd January 2024, SWTN organized an Online meeting with key Women Leaders to create a push to the Government to Finalize the State Women Policy Draft 2021. As a follow-up, we filed a RTI demanding the release date of the final policy and to get the revised policy for public opinion. With 92 endorsements from various stakeholders, we have escalated the issue to all 234 MLAs, Minister and Secretary of Department of Social Welfare and Women Empowerment, GoTN. We have restarted the discussion with Chairperson of TN State Women Commission. The same was reflected in Indian Express and DT Next newspaper, dated 7th January 2024.

As a success to our joint efforts, on 23rd January 2024, Tamil Nadu Cabinet approves Policy for Women; and promised constitution of a State-level committee headed by Chief Secretaries and district-level committees headed by Collectors to monitor the implementation of the policy and to address any issues of discrimination.

On 8th January 2024, SWTN in collaboration with Dept of Social Work, Madras Christian College organized the **10th Micro Level Plan meet for Chengalpattu Irulars**; at MCC-Tambaram.



On 9th January 2024, Ms. Rajeshwari extended solidarity to the **Training for Solidarity Interpreters** of the 'Nilgiris Particularly Vulnerable Tribal Groups Federation' (NPVTG); Organized by 'South Asian Solidarity Interpreting Collective' at ICSA Paripurna Training Hall, Chennai.

On 10th January 2024, SWTN, as a token of appreciation, presented gifts to the CAFOWA sanitary workers and securities.

On 10th January 2024, SWTN, Paalam and 'Tribal Friends, Educational and Charitable Trust' jointly organized an **Online Discussion on "Kaatunayakar Tribes Higher Education and Business Opportunities"**.

On 12th January 2024, Ms. Kamatchi shared to women leaders - a key information on "Government's orientation programme towards formation of Gender Budget cell across all departments" . This served as an alert to submit our department wise ALTERNATE BASKET OF SCHEMES to the respective department's Gender Budget Cell (GBC) - to both existing and to be formed GBCs.

On 12th January 2024, Ms. Kamatchi filed 'Right To Information' - RTI requesting:

1. Details of Officers in-charge of Gender Budget Cells of respective departments
2. How the "assumed sector-wise 30% in PART-C of Gender Budget Statement will be audited based on performance.

On 19th & 22nd January 2024, Ms. Kamatchi was the facilitator in the **Thoduvaanam** series - a capacity-building initiative, intended for women who work in the social sector. The online workshop on "**Understanding Gender Budgeting**" was organized by Prajnaya.

On 24th January 2024, Fr. Kumar chaired a session on "Social Investment of MLA, MP fund in Alliance with Local Level NGOs"; during "**South Investment Conclave 2024**"; Organized by 'G CARE COUNCIL' and Department Of Social Work - Madras School of Social Work.

On 27th January 2024, Ms. Kamatchi was invited as a Guest Speaker to deliver a lecture on "**Women Policy and Gender budgeting connecting Sustainable Development Goal 5**" ; during the ONE-WEEK INTERNATIONAL ONLINE TRAINING PROGRAMME ON GENDER DISCOURSE IN SOCIETY; organized by 'Asha Paras for Peace and Harmony Foundation - India' & Centre for Women's Studies - Pondicherry University'

On 31st January 2024, Ms. Kamatchi presented a session on 'Decentralized and Intersectional Gender Budgeting' during the "VII Annual Convention on Women and Sustainable Development Goals"; Organized by 'SDG-Watch TamilNadu' at Vestin Park, Chennai.

FEBRUARY

On 2nd February 2024, Ms. Kamatchi presented a session for TN Government Officials during the 'Workshop on Gender Responsive Budgeting' Organised by "Arun Jaitley National Institute of Financial Management (AJNIFM) - (Nodal Centre at Central Level for Women Development & Gender Studies, Ministry of Women and Child Development, Govt. of India"; In Collaboration with Anna University; at Internal Quality Assurance Cell (IQAC), Anna University, Chennai.



Workshop On

Gender Responsive Budgeting Organised by

Arun Jaitley National Institute of Financial Management (AJNIFM)
(Nodal Centre at Central Level for Women Development & Gender Studies,
Ministry of Women and Child Development, Govt. of India)

In Collaboration with

Anna University, Chennai

On
(February 1st - 2nd, 2024) at

Venue: Sivalingam Hall, Internal Quality Assurance Cell (IQAC), Anna University, Guindy Chennai-25

Inaugural Session
Minute to Minute Programme: Day 2

Day 2	2 nd February 2024
	Technical Session- III
09:45 AM – 10:30 AM	Topic: Role of State Officials in the GRB Space (Online session). Speaker: Dr. Sanghamitra Dhar, Programme Lead – Gender Responsive Budgeting, UN Women.
10:35 AM – 12:15 PM	Topic: Gender Budgeting in Tamil Nadu; Achievements and wayforward Speaker: Ms. Kamatchi Sundaramurthy, Assistant Director, SocialWatch, Tamil Nadu

On 5th February 2024, Ms. Rajeshwari oriented the SC/ST girls of Queen Mary's College and Madras University towards availing Post Matric Scholarship; Organized by SHEROES.



During 5-7 February 2024, Ms. Kamatchi was invited for a session to represent People's Response on "Gender-Sensitive Performance and Outcomes" to all departments' officials, Gender Specialists - State Hub, One Stop Centre Officers and CSO representatives. The Gender Budgeting Workshop was organized by Department of Social Welfare and Women Empowerment, Government of Tamilnadu; in Collaboration with Ministry of Women and Child Development, Government of India.



From,
Tmt.V Amuthavalli IAS,
Commissioner of Social Welfare,
Commissionerate of Social Welfare,
Kamarajar Salai,
Chennai – 600 005

To,
Ms.S.Kamatchi,
Social Watch

Roc.no.05633/SRCW/2022

Date 29.01.2024

Sub : Social Welfare & Women Empowerment - State Hub for Empowerment of Women- To organize 3 days training/workshop programme on Gender Budgeting for the year 2023-24 – regarding.

Ref : 40. Ministry of Women and Child Development, New Delhi Ref. No.GB- 21/1/2022-O/o DD(E-98782) Gol, dated 21.03.2023
41. Social Welfare & Women Empowerment, Director of Social Welfare, Roc.No.10639/SRCW/2023, dated 20/04/2023
42. Ministry of Women and Child Development, New Delhi Ref.GB- 12/1/2023 – Gender Budgeting [Comp.No.108422] dated 18/12/2023

The undersigned is directed to state that the Ministry of Women and Child Development being the nodal Ministry for Gender Budgeting has been providing financial assistance to organize training programmes and workshops to facilitate capacity building of Government officials on Gender Budgeting at State level. The purpose of the Gender Budgeting Schemes is to provide grand-in-aid- for training of various stakeholders including officials of Central and State Government, PSUs, Corporate sector, PRIs and NGOs

On 6th February 2024; SWTN, Confederation of Affirmative Industry and PAALAM organized an Online Discussion for BUSINESS EXPANSION for Participants of TAHDCO's TN BEAT Expo which had over 350 stalls exhibiting almost 5,000 products of SC/ST Entrepreneurs.

On 7th February 2024, SW-TN and Arunodhaya organized a Lecture-Discussion on 'Annual Status of Education Report (ASER) 2023 Beyond Basics' by G.Kumaresan- ASER TN Team member; held at Egmore, Chennai.



On 7th February 2024, SWTN and PAALAM sent Specific Recommendations towards sustainable empowerment of TN Aandrors (STs) to our ST-MLAs.

On 7th February 2024, SWTN and PAALAM facilitated an online discussion exclusively for SC/ST Healers Forum – to expand their business interventions towards Setting up various health facilities like Nursing Home, Diagnostic centre, Individual speciality clinics like Dentistry, ENT etc.,

On 8th February 2024, SWTN organized a core group online meeting with Women Organizations to strategize our demands on “Intersectional, Decentralized, Participatory and Outcome-based Gender Budgeting in TN”. We received nearly 115 endorsements for the Joint Statement and the same was reflected in the Indian Express dated 12th February 2024. The same was sent as Voice of Women in TN to all MLAs, TN Women’s Commission and concerned line departments.

Tamil Nadu

Women groups demand outcome-based gender budget from TN govt

The statement also called for the release of a 'status report of marginalised women in Tamil Nadu 2024' by the gender budget cell, in collaboration with the state planning commission.



Image of a calculator used for representational purposes onlyPexels

Express News Service

Updated on: 12 Feb 2024, 10:50 am

1 min read

Source: <https://www.newindianexpress.com/states/tamil-nadu/2024/Feb/12/women-groups-demand-outcome-based-gender-budget-from-tn-govt>

CHENNAI: Women's groups and organisations, in a joint statement, have urged the Tamil Nadu government to prioritise an intersectional, participatory, decentralized, and outcome-based approach to gender budgeting in the state.

On 9th February 2024, Ms.Rajeshwari presented a session on “Utilizing Administrative charges in meaningful ways as contained in PMS Guidelines Para 19 through establishing helplines” during the Consultation Meeting on ‘Enhancing Gross Enrolment Ratio Through Maximizing the Implementation of Post Matric Scholarship (PMS for SCs & STs) in TN’; organized by Child Rights and You – CRY in association with Department of Criminology and Criminal Justice Administration – Tamilnadu Open University; at Saidapet, Chennai.



During 16-17 February 2024, Fr.Kumar extended solidarity to the WORLD SOCIAL FORUM – Nepal.



On 16th February 2024, we had a discussion at SWTN office with Ms. Sandra - ALBOAN and Ms.Maria Jones – UN WOMEN Policy Specialist, Government of Tamilnadu.



On 20th February 2024, Ms. Rajeshwari was the resource person on Post Matric Scholarship in programme organized by Social Action Centre at Pathai Centre, Vallam.



On 21st February 2024, Ms. Kamatchi's view on TN Gender Budget Statement 2024-25 was flashed in Indian Express Newspaper in the title "Part-C of gender budget statement inflated amount spent on women's welfare".



'Part-C of gender budget statement inflates amount spent on women's welfare'

SUBASHINI VIJAYAKUMAR
@Chennai

THE gender budget statement released on Monday stated that ₹1.22 lakh crore was allocated for welfare of women under various schemes in which the women beneficiaries ranged from 30-100%.

This includes ₹27,915 crore under Part A - schemes that are targeted only for women, ₹31,576 crore in Part B - schemes where the women beneficiaries

range from 40-99% and ₹55,739 crore in Part C - schemes in which at least 30% beneficiaries are women. However, no list or details about the schemes under Part C were mentioned.

"The gender budget statement of the central government as well as several other state governments has only parts A and B. The Part C introduced by the Tamil Nadu government only inflates the amount spent on the welfare of women in the state without re-

flecting the reality, as it is much higher than the first two parts," said S Kamatchi from Social Watch, Tamil Nadu.

Endorsing the view, Bimla Chandrasekaran, director of Ekta Resource Centre for Women, said gender budgeting serves no purpose if one of the major sections does not have any specifics and is used just to inflate numbers.

Activists have also demanded the government to release an

exclusive document for the gender budget statement which is now part of the appendices to the budget memorandum.

Across the country, at least 11 states have been releasing it as a separate document.

They also want the state government to make a performance-oriented statement with details on the number of women beneficiaries to ensure schemes are not added to categories without

any basis. Earlier this month, more than 87 activists signed a joint statement pressing for these demands.

According to the standard operating procedure released by the central government for gender budgeting, the government has to conduct situational analysis of women in the state, following which the departments have to conduct pre-budget consultations with the stakeholders to bring out a performance-based gender budget

statement. Recently, the Comptroller and Auditor General had advised the Kerala government to bring out performance-based gender budgeting statements, failing which the objective of gender budgeting would be defeated.

However in Tamil Nadu, the government is yet to form gender budgeting cells in many departments which are responsible for analysing the schemes. Despite a government order re-

leased in July, 2022, only five including the social welfare department out of more than 40 departments have gender budgeting cells, as of December, 2023, according to an RTI reply.

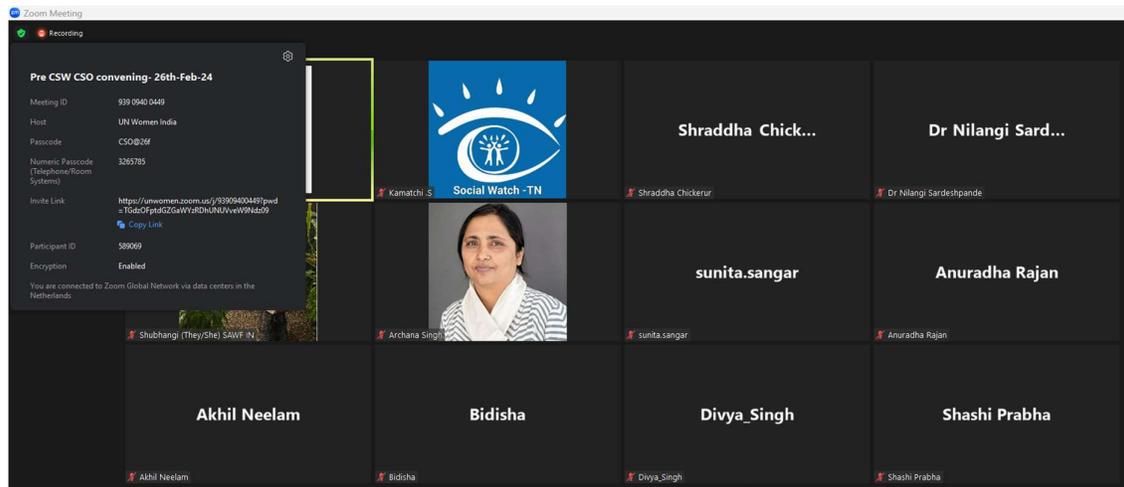
However, the women's groups have welcomed the move to include the accounts, budget estimates and revised estimates of 2023-24 in the statement as the previous six statements had only the budget estimates of that single financial year.

On 21st February 2024, SWTN and PAALAM organized a consultation on “Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes Development Fund (SCSP & TSP)” at TAISHA, Virugambakkam.

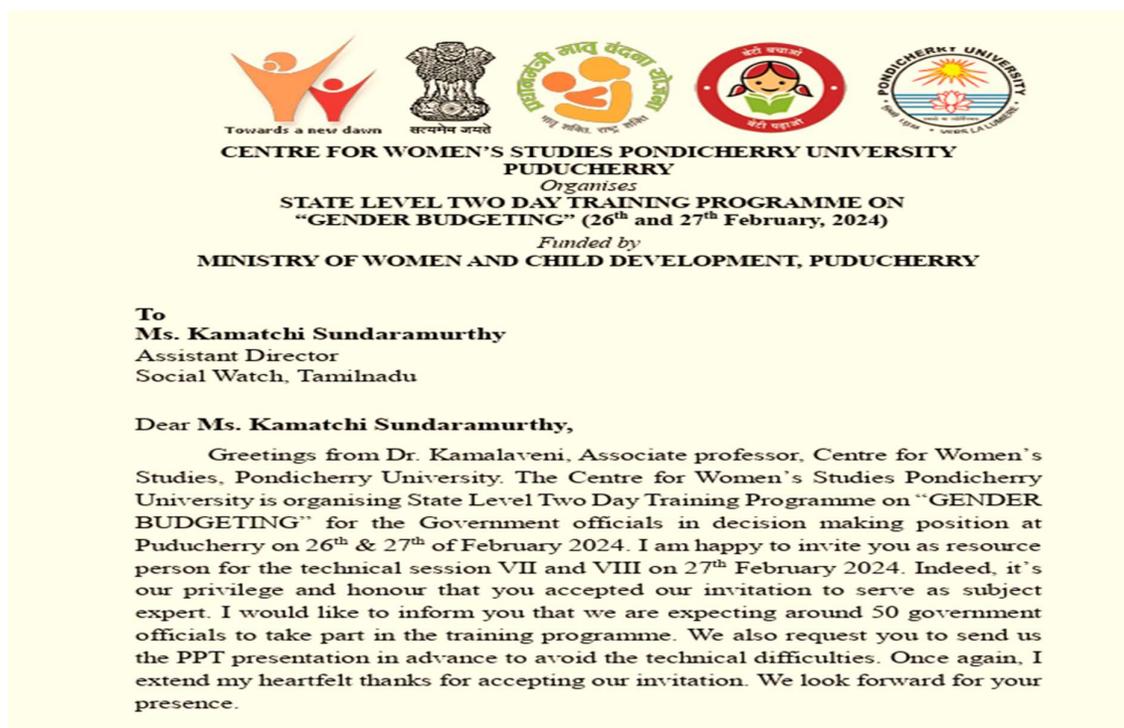


On 26th February 2024, Ms. Kamatchi, virtually participated in the Hybrid programme on “Pre-CSW Consultation with Civil Society Partners in India towards 68th Commission on the Status of Women (CSW); held at UN House, New Delhi.





On 27th February 2024, Ms. Kamatchi was invited to handle two technical sessions on Application of Gender Budget Techniques and Gender Budget Statement during the State Level Two Day Training Programme On “Gender Budgeting”, Organized by Department of Women and Child Development, Government of Puducherry in Collaboration with Centre For Women’s Studies-Pondicherry University; Funded By Ministry Of Women And Child Development; held at Puducherry.





On 29th February 2024, Ms. Kamatchi's recommendations were incorporated in *The Hindu* Newspaper article on "Gender budgeting requires more robust and intersectional process".

Gender budgeting requires more robust and intersectional process, finds study

February 29, 2024 12:32 am | Updated 11:52 am IST - Chennai

MEGHNA M.

Source: <https://www.thehindu.com/news/cities/chennai/gender-budgeting-requires-more-robust-and-intersectional-process-finds-study/article67896608.ece>

The Gender Budget Statement (GBS) released by the Tamil Nadu government shows a need for an intersectional and decentralised gender budgeting process, according to a fact file on the statement conducted by the Information and Resource Centre for the Deprived Urban Communities (IRCDUC).

Drawing a parallel to the Punjab government's Gender Budget, which also includes a Part C, S. Kamatchi, assistant director, Social Watch said "The Punjab government's gender budget, which has a Part C, has scheme-supported narration. How can Part C in the Tamil Nadu GBS be more when compared to the other two parts?"...

Women's group activists also pointed out that pre-budget consultation, sectoral reviews, gender performance audit or analysis of previous GBS to assess adequacy of estimation. "There needs to be a way for the civil society organisations to be part of the discussion so that beneficial schemes can be formulated. Further there is also a need for a decentralised gender budget which can address issues regarding women from all classes," added Ms. Kamatchi.

Citing the example of the Punjab government where the Finance Department and Social Security, Women and Child Development Department prepare the GBS, she further added the departments could work together where the Social Welfare department could implement the scheme.

MARCH

On 6th March 2024, Ms. Kamatchi gave training on “Women’s Political Participation Rights and Gender Budget Workshop” to Scheduled Caste Women Leaders around Arakonam; Organized by Society for Rural Education and Development [SRED]; held at Kallaru, Ranipet District. (About 36 participants – 32 women and 4 men)



During 7th to 12th March 2024, Ms. Rajeshwari participated in the “Training on Social Advocacy and Lobbying” organized by IDEAS (Institute of Development Education, Action, and Studies); held at Madurai. Around 25 youth from various organisations participated (5 Women and 20 Men).



On 8th March 2024, Ms. Kamatchi presented a session on ‘Gender Budgeting and Sustainable Development Goals’ to about 500 girl students ; during the International Conference on ‘Women as Catalyst for Sustainable Development’; jointly organized by Centre for Women’s Studies, International Centre for University of Madras and Regional Association for Women’s Studies; held at Ethiraj College for Women.



On 8th March 2024, Ms. Kamatchi extended solidarity to the 'Discussion Towards Gender Responsive Climate Action: Integrating Perspectives in Tamilnadu's Policies' during the International Women's Day Celebration jointly organized by UN WOMEN, UNDP, British Council and TN SDGs; held at British Deputy High Commission, Chennai.



On 17th March 2024, two online discussions were organized by SW-TN and PAALAM for Eklavya School Teachers and Members of TN Scheduled Tribe Commission.

On 18th March 2024, Fr.Kumar extended solidarity to the 'Experience Sharing Meet of the participants of the World Social Forum – Nepal' and to devise Plan of Action based on this experience; held at Reporters Guild, Chepauk.



On 21st March 2024, Fr.Kumar represented as a Panel Discussant on “Administrative and Policy Dialogues: Community Engagement & Awareness Programmes - International Perspective and Best Practices” during the State Level Seminar on ‘Confronting Honour Killing’; Organized by Social Work Forum in collaboration with Centre for Social Justice and Equity; held at Madras School of Social Work.

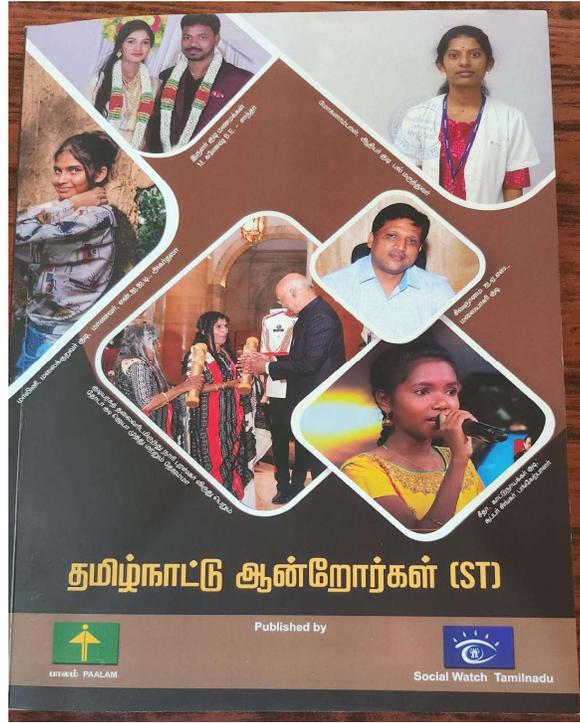
During 25th and 26th March 2024, Social Watch – Tamilnadu (SW-TN) in collaboration with National Campaign on Dalit Human Rights (NCDHR), Institute for Sustainable Development and Governance (ISDG) and Centre for Budget and Policy Studies (CBPS) jointly organized the South Indian Budget Conclave with representatives from Tamil Nadu, Kerala, Karnataka, Telangana, Andhra Pradesh and Pondicherry to review and assess whatever been achieved over the years with regard to budget-policy-advocacy work, its significance and relevance to take it forward; held at Bodhigram-Kerala.





April:

SWTN and PAALAM compiled a Dossier on “TamizhNaatu Androorgal (ST)”.



On 5th April 2024, Ms. Kamatchi extended solidarity to ‘Prajnya Equality Colloquium Series – First Session was on “Invisible Intersection – Gender, Caste & Disability” by Dr. Aishwarya Rao.

On 21st April 2024, SWTN hosted the Zoom meeting on “Higher Education for Uplifting SCs – Guidance on Medical and Paramedical admissions in India and abroad”, Organized by R.Christudos Gandhi IAS (Retd) and AKAM.

May:

On 3rd May 2024, Ms. Kamatchi participated in the hybrid meeting on “68th Commission on the Status of Women – CSW De-brief and Discussion with Civil Society in India”, Organized by UN WOMEN at UN House, New Delhi.

On 17th May 2024, Ms. Kamatchi presented a session on Child Budgeting for Children Panchayat Representatives from various districts under Tamilnadu Women’s Collective at Kolathur.

During May 2024, due to our continuous support, another student Mr. Gokulraj Venkatesan got TN Adi Dravidar Welfare Scholarship – under’

Overseas Scholarship Scheme’ for pursuing “Master in Public Health” in University College Cork, Ireland.

On 19th and 26th May 2024, SWTN and PAALAM organized an Online Discussion with Saandror (SC) and Aandror(ST) Faculties of Colleges and Universities for dialoguing on: 1. Backlog recruitment in TN ; 2. Strengthening Post Matric Scholarship ; 3. Seeking new schemes from Governments; 4. Framing syllabus contents relevant to Saandror and Aandror; 5. Establishing a hand holding centre for the affected by a variety of proceedings.

On 29th May 2024, Ms. Kamatchi participated in the Virtual Event : “Headwinds and Tailwinds: Launch of the Open Budget Survey 2023; Organized by the International Budget Partnership - the only independent, comparative, and regular measure of budget transparency and accountability around the world assessing around 125 countries including India.

June:

On 3rd June 2024, Ms. Kamatchi participated in the online Panel Discussion on ‘Evaluating Gaps in Women Empowerment Indices and Strategies to bridge them’; Organized by ‘Institute for What Works to Advance Gender Equality’(IWWAGE).

On 4th June 2024, Ms. Kamatchi was invited to felicitate the 30th year anniversary of TN Women’s Collective at Kolathur.

On 5th June 2024, Fr.Irudaya Raj A, took incharge as Director of Social Watch – Tamilnadu.



On 7th June, we invited Dr. Victor P. Karunan, 'Faculty of Political Science, Chulalongkorn University- Thailand and An International Expert on Child Participation' for a dialogue on Child Budgeting; at our office.



On 7th June 2024, Social Watch-TN in collaboration with Arunodhaya; organized a 'Lecture - Discussion on Challenges in the protection and promotion of Children's Rights in the Asia-Pacific Region' by Dr. Victor P. Karunan at Egmore.



On 12th June 2024, Ms. Kamatchi participated in the programme to Release the Report on "Women Led Safety and Infrastructure mapping in the resettlement sites of Kannagi Nagar, Semmancherry and Perumbakkam"; organized by 'Information and Resource Centre for the Deprived Urban Communities (IRCDUC) at Chetpet.

On 13th June 2024, Ms. Kamatchi was invited as a resource person to handle a session on “Empowerment, Gender Equality and Gender Budgeting” to the Mission Sakthi Staff of Pondicherry, Karaikal, Mahe and Yanam; Organized by Department of Women and Child Development, Govt of Puducherry; held at Saram.



During June 27-28 2024, SWTN along with PAALAM - “13th Micro Level Planning Meeting for STs” at St. Xavier’s College, Thirunelveli.

On 29th June 2024, Ms. Kamatchi, Assistant Director got relieved from Social Watch – TN.