



MADRAS SCHOOL OF SOCIAL WORK CENTRE FOR SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EQUITY

(Established by the Adi Dravidar and Tribal Welfare Department, Govt. of Tamil Nadu)



NEWSLETTER

JANUARY & FEBRUARY 2026



EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This newsletter for the months of January and February 2026 presents the various activities carried out by the Centre for Social Justice and Equity (CSJE). The “சமத்துவம் காண்போம் (Samathuvam Kanbom)” Public Campaign was organised in collaboration with the Adi Dravidar and Tribal Welfare Department, Government of Tamil Nadu, at Kallakurichi District on 08–09 January 2026, followed by the Samathuva Pongal Celebration on 13 January 2026. A State-Level Training on the Tamil Nadu Development Action Plan for Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes Act, 2024 was conducted on 21 January 2026, and another Samathuvam Kanbom Public Campaign was held at the Tamil Nadu Dr. Ambedkar Law University, Perungudi Campus, on 23 January 2026. The Centre also organised a symposium on “Elimination of Global Caste and Analogous Systems of Social Hierarchies” on 28 January 2026, followed by the valedictory function of the campaign at Voorhees College, Vellore, on 31 January 2026. In February, CSJE conducted an interactive session with Mr. Sinthanai Selvan, MLA, Kattumannarkovil Constituency, on the SC/ST Sub Plan Act on 06 February 2026, and held consultation meetings with members of the Irula and Narikuravar communities on 12 and 19 February 2026 at VC Hall, MSSW. The Centre also organised a panel discussion on “Union Budget 2026–27 through the Prism of Inclusive Growth” on 16 February 2026, followed by a research presentation by Dr. T. R. Kanmani (NIMHANS) on “Accessibility of Social Entitlements for Transgender Communities in Tamil Nadu” on 18 February 2026. The Centre further observed International Mother Language Day on 21 February 2026 at the Anna Centenary Library, Chennai, under the theme “Safeguarding Linguistic Diversity,” featuring exhibitions, discussions, video screenings, a book launch from the Tholkudi Digital Archives Project, and the launch of a Tribal Language Certificate Course highlighting indigenous languages and tribal cultural heritage.



PROGRAMME

Samathuvam Kanbom: Public Campaign - Kallakurichi

- The “சமத்துவம் காண்போம் (Samathuvam Kanbom)” Public Campaign was organised by the Centre for Social Justice and Equity (CSJE), Madras School of Social Work, in collaboration with the Adi Dravidar and Tribal Welfare Department, Government of Tamil Nadu.
- The programme was held at Kallakurichi District on 08-09 January 2026.
- The campaign focused on promoting social equality, constitutional values, and community awareness among Adi Dravidar and Tribal communities.

Samathuva Pongal Celebration

- The Samathuva Pongal Celebration was organised by the Centre for Social Justice and Equity (CSJE), Madras School of Social Work, on 13 January 2026.
- The celebration was conducted within the college premises, where centre staff members and project research members collectively prepared Pongal in the traditional manner.
- The event reflected the spirit of Tamil cultural traditions, with participants coming together to cook and celebrate the harvest festival.
- The celebration promoted social equality, unity, and cultural harmony among the members.

State-Level Training on SC/ST Development Action Plan Act

- A State-Level Training on the Tamil Nadu Development Action Plan for Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes Act, 2024 was conducted on 21 January 2026.
- The training programme was held at Radisson Blu Hotel, Egmore, Chennai.
- The session focused on creating awareness and strengthening the implementation of the Act among government officials and participants.
- The programme provided a platform for discussion on policy frameworks, implementation strategies, and inclusive development for Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes.



PROGRAMME

Samathuvam Kanbom: Inaugural Ceremony

- A public campaign on “சமத்துவம் காண்போம் (Samathuvam Kanbom)” was jointly organised by the Adi Dravidar and Tribal Welfare Department, Government of Tamil Nadu, the Centre for Social Justice and Equity (CSJE), MSSW, on 23 January 2026 at the Perungudi Campus of Tamil Nadu Dr. Ambedkar Law University (TNDALU). The campaign reaffirmed the commitment to social justice and equality.

Event Highlights:

- Welcome Address: Dr. V. Gajendran, Member, Dr. B. R. Ambedkar Centre for Excellence in Social Legal Research (CESLR), TNDALU
- About the Centre (CESLR): Prof. Dr. D. Jaisankar, Director, Dr. B. R. Ambedkar CESLR, TNDALU
- About the Campaign: Dr. S. Raja Samuel, Principal, MSSW
- Presidential Address: Prof. Dr. Gowri Ramesh, Registrar, Dr. B. R. Ambedkar CESLR, TNDALU
- Inaugural Address: Chief Guest Thiru K. S. Kandasamy IAS, Managing Director, Tamil Nadu Adi Dravidar Housing Development Corporation
- Chief Guest: Gowthama Raja, Film Director
- Vote of Thanks: Ms. M. Priya Chithra, Programme Assistant, CSJE, MSSW

Symposium on Elimination of Global Caste – 28 January 2026

- A symposium on “Elimination of Global Caste and Analogous Systems of Social Hierarchies” was held on 28 January 2026, from 2 PM to 6 PM at the TAG Auditorium, Madras School of Social Work (MSSW), Chennai. The event brought together speakers and participants to discuss caste, discrimination, and strategies for achieving equality.

Panel Speakers:

- Dr. Paul Divakar Namala – CDWD & Dalit Rights Advocate; Global Convenor, GFOD
- Dr. Thol. Thirumavalavan – Member of Parliament; Former Chair, Asia Parliamentarian Forum on Dalit Concerns
- Ms. Queen Bissend – UN Programme Specialist (Africa), GFOD
- Dr. Asang Wankhede – Grassroot Organiser; Lawyer Specialising in Anti-Discrimination Law
- Ms. Beena Pallical – Dalit Feminist Leader; General Secretary, NCDHR; Chair, ADRF



PROGRAMME

Samathuvam Kanbom – Valedictory Function, 31 January 2026

- The valedictory function of the “Samathuvam Kanbom” campaign was held on 31 January 2026 at 10 AM at Voorhees College, Vellore. The event celebrated the successful completion of the campaign and highlighted its impact in promoting social justice and equality.

Programme Highlights

- *Welcome Address: Dr. J. Annie Kamala Florence, Principal i/c, Voorhees College*
- *Introductory Remarks: Dr. R. Pavananthi Vembulu, Director, CSJE, MSSW*
- *Presidential Address: Thiru S. R. N. Madhuchezhiyan, District Adi Dravidar and Tribal Welfare Officer*
- *Valedictory Address: Thiru Dhanush Kumar, IPS, Assistant Superintendent of Police*
- *Felicitation: Dr. S. Caleb Noble Chandar, Bursar, Voorhees College*
- *Vote of Thanks: Prof. D. Thirumaran, Assistant Professor & Head of Defence and Strategic Studies*

Interactive Session on SC/ST Sub Plan Act

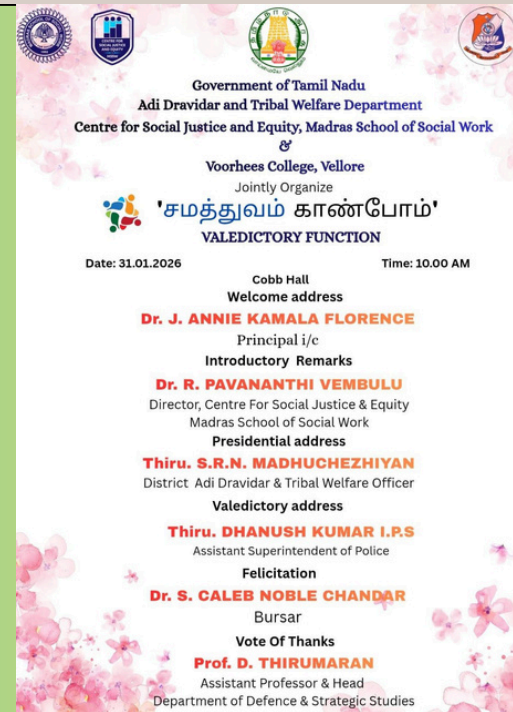
- The Centre conducted an interactive session with Mr. Sinthanai Selvan, MLA, Kattumannarkovil Constituency, on the SC/ST Sub Plan Act on 06 February 2026.

Consultation Meeting with Irula Community

- A consultation meeting with members of the Irula tribal community was held on 12 February 2026 at VC Hall, Madras School of Social Work, to discuss the upcoming Maasimagam programme.

Panel Discussion on Union Budget 2026–27

- A panel discussion on “Union Budget 2026–27 through the Prism of Inclusive Growth” was organised on 16 February 2026 at VC Hall, MSSW, bringing together experts to examine the budget with a focus on inclusive growth and social equity.



Government of Tamil Nadu
Adi Dravidar and Tribal Welfare Department
Centre for Social Justice and Equity, Madras School of Social Work
&
Voorhees College, Vellore
Jointly Organize
'சமத்துவம் காண்போம்'
VALEDICTORY FUNCTION
Date: 31.01.2026 Time: 10.00 AM

Cobb Hall
Welcome address
Dr. J. ANNIE KAMALA FLORENCE
Principal i/c
Introductory Remarks
Dr. R. PAVANANTHI VEMBULU
Director, Centre For Social Justice & Equity
Madras School of Social Work
Presidential address
Thiru. S.R.N. MADHUCHEZHIAN
District Adi Dravidar & Tribal Welfare Officer
Valedictory address
Thiru. DHANUSH KUMAR I.P.S.
Assistant Superintendent of Police
Felicitation
Dr. S. CALEB NOBLE CHANDAR
Bursar
Vote Of Thanks
Prof. D. THIRUMARAN
Assistant Professor & Head
Department of Defence & Strategic Studies



PROGRAMME

Research Presentation on Transgender Social Entitlements

- As part of its research initiatives, a presentation by Dr. T. R. Kanmani from NIMHANS on “Accessibility of Social Entitlements for Transgender Communities in Tamil Nadu” was held on 18 February 2026.

Consultation Meeting with Narikuravar Community

- A consultation meeting with members of the Narikuravar community was held on 19 February 2026.
- The meeting took place at VC Hall, Madras School of Social Work (MSSW), Chennai.
- The session provided a platform for interaction and discussion on community issues, concerns, and development initiatives.
- The meeting aimed to strengthen engagement with the Narikuravar community and understand their perspectives and needs.

International Mother Language Day – 21 February 2026

- Theme: Safeguarding Linguistic Diversity
- Venue: Anna Centenary Library, Mini Hall, Kotturpuram, Chennai
- Organized by CSJE, MSSW in collaboration with the Department of Anthropology, University of Madras, Yakkai, Keystone Foundation, and The Heritage Foundation
- Focus on indigenous languages, cultural heritage, and the Alu Kurumba community
- Key Highlights & Schedule
- 10:00 AM – 10:30 AM: “Ajil Bottu” Alu Kurumba Art Exhibition and In Memoriam tribute to Padma Shri R. Krishnan
- 10:30 AM – 11:15 AM: Intergenerational Dialogue on Alu Kurumba lives and art experiences
- 11:30 AM – 12:30 PM: Panel Discussion on Tribal Cultural Heritage
- 12:15 PM – 1:30 PM: Screening of Short Videos and reflections on Padma Shri R. Krishnan
- 3:00 PM – 4:00 PM: Launch of Tribal Tales for Children book from the Tholkudi Digital Archives
- 4:15 PM – 5:00 PM: Launch of Tribal Language Certificate Course (Toda Language, Culture, and Worldview)

A celebration of linguistic diversity, tribal culture, and intergenerational knowledge



GALLERY

Samathuvam Kanbom - kallakurichi



Samathuva Pongal CSJE



GALLERY

State-Level Training on SC/ST Development Action Plan Act



Samathuvam Kanbom: Inaugural Ceremony



GALLERY

Symposium on Elimination of Global Caste



International Mother Language Day – 21 February 2026

EXHIBITION



GALLERY

International Mother Language Day – 21 February 2026

KURUMBA TRIBES



TRIBUTE TO PADMA SHRI R. KRISHNAN



GALLERY

International Mother Language Day – 21 February 2026

THOLKUDI BOOK RELEASE AND CERTIFIED COURSE LAUNCH



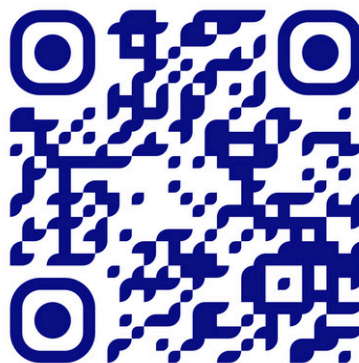
GALLERY

UNION BUDGET DISCUSSION





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