



# TAMILNADU TELECOM ACCOUNTS AND FINANCE OFFICERS' WELFARE TRUST

(Registered No: 54/2014)

Website: <https://www.tnafsoatrust.org>

Email: [afsoatrust@gmail.com](mailto:afsoatrust@gmail.com)

A meeting of Trustees and Special invitees was held on 05-01-2025 at Hotel VASANTHA BHAVAN, Mylapore, Chennai-4 at 14:00 hrs. to discuss the **following agenda**:

1. Prayer
2. Welcome address / Presidential address of Managing Trustee
3. Approval of Minutes of meeting dated 18-08-2024
4. Secretary's Interim report
5. Financial Secretary report and adoption of audited accounts for the year ending 31<sup>st</sup> March 2024
6. Discussion regarding grant of educational assistance to higher education
7. Discussion regarding WhatsApp group
8. Donation to NGOs - consideration and approval
9. Discussion regarding next year activities 2025
10. Any other item with permission of chair
11. Vote of thanks
12. National Anthem

The following Trustees and Special invitees attended the meeting:

S/Shri

P. Santhakumar	K. Balasubramanian	K. Raajaram
C. Duraiarasan	R. Guruprasad (Chennai)	C. Arumugam
S. Thiripurasundari	M. Munusamy	R. Guruprasad (Vellore)
P. Mohan	A. Thomas	S Ramakrishnan
C.P. Ravikumar	K. Ramasamy	S. Rajamanickam
V. Karthikesan	G. Muthukumaran	S. Sudha
K. Ravi	S.S.M. Jamaluddin	R. Rajeswaran
V. Sekar	P. Koteeswaran	A. Aravazhi
T R S. Sriram	S.V. Raju	T.S. Krishnamurthy
C. Sathyamurthy	S. Gunasekaran	M.Angamuthu
R. Ragothaman	K.Suseela	V Dakshinamoorthy
A.S.Vasanthi	V.Sivaraman	C.Chandragopal
M.Palanivelu	G. Hariharababu	P. Manimuthu

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Secretary requested Shri. P. Santhakumar, Managing Trustee to preside over the meeting and conduct the proceedings. Managing Trustee read out the agenda for the meeting which was approved. The meeting started with *Thamizh Thai Vazhthu*, after which Shri. P. Santhakumar, Managing Trustee welcomed all the Trustees and Special Invitees and requested the members to observe two minutes silence as a mark of respect to the following departed souls:

S/Shri

Dr. Manmohan Singh, Ex. P.M.	S.M. Krishna, Ex. Central Minister
Sitaram Yechury, CPM Leader	M.P. Velusamy, Retd., CGM
Srihari, Retd. CAO TF, Bombay	S. Jaganbabu, Retd. DGM. CHTD
R. Dayalan, Retd., DGM. BG	S. Balakumar, Retd. DGM, Bangalore
C.N. Raman, Retd., CAO MTNL Bombay	Vasanth, Retd AO, Madurai
A.S. Kothandaraman	Arumugam, Retd. AO CHTD

Secretary read out the minutes of last Trustees' meeting held on 18-Aug-24, and the same was approved by the members.

## **Secretary's interim report covered the following:**

**MEMBERSHIP:** As on 5-Jan-2025, the total members are 481, adding 6 new members since the last meeting. The target fixed by our Managing Trustee to achieve 500 members strength before the end of December 2024 could not be achieved, though. Secretary suggested to plan visits to Erode, Trichy and Coimbatore in the coming months to conduct an enrolment drive. Three new members joined our Trust on the meeting day, bringing the total members as on date to 485.

Following were our activities during the period from 28-Aug-2024 to 05-Jan-2025:

**Wayanad Landslide Relief Fund:** As decided in the last Trustees meeting, donations were made as detailed below:

Kerala Chief Minister Distress Relief Fund Rs.2,00,000-00 on 20-Aug-24

Wayanad Social Service Society - NGO Rs. 30,000 on 20-Aug-24

Shreyas - NGO Rs.30,000-00 on 23-Aug-24

Seva Bharathi - Kerala - NGO Rs.30,000 on 26-Aug-24

Educational Assistance for higher education given to all nine students approved in the last meeting, paying a sum of Rs.78,000/-

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Donation to all NGOs except one approved in the last Trustees meeting made as detailed below:

Online transfer -- 3 cases

Cheque handed over in person in their premises -- 7 cases

The Secretary conveyed special thanks to S / Shri S Venkatraman (Vadhyar), S Ramakrishnan, V Dakshinamoorthy, C Sathyamurthy and R Guruprasad (Chennai) for having spared their Valuable time to visit the NGO premises and spending time with inmates to bring smile on their faces. Special thanks to Shri K Raajaram for driving us in his vehicle for almost a day to different nooks of Chennai. This also indirectly gave us confidence that the NGOs are doing real service and we can say with confidence that our donations are well spent.

### **Educational Assistance to BPL Students:**

A total amount of Rs.3,78,000-00 was disbursed to 252 deserving students in the year 2024, comprising of 165 girls and 87 boys. Out of 252 students, 157 are unparented / single parent students.

We have donated Rs.1,05,000-00 to the NEWS i.e., Narikurava Education Welfare Society, continuing the financial assistance to meet the salary of one teacher @ Rs.7,500/- per month from January 2024 to December 2024, which amounts to Rs.90,000-00. In addition, we paid Rs.15,000-00 to a student to help him participate in the national boxing championship held at Jammu during June 2024.

**Recurring Monthly donors:** Secretary mentioned that “மாதத்தின் முதல் செலவு சேமிப்பு என்பது பழமொழி; மாதத்தின் முதல் செலவு தர்மம் / நற்செயல் என்பது புதுமொழி”. He recalled that we have many monthly donors now who send their donation as the first activity when pension is received. He fondly remembered that this initiative was actually started without any request or appeal by Ms. R Radhika, Retd AO Pondy way back in May 2020. Ms. S Lakshmi, Retd JAO Salem joined the list from Jan 2021, followed by Shri M G Sridhar (from March 2022) Retd DGM Bengaluru and many others. Currently, 11 members who are monthly donors. He requested those present to emulate the select band of donors and join the list. Shri R Rajeswaran Retd DGM TN and the Secretary himself joined the list on the meeting day. With these two, Trust receives a committed 18,500/- month after month.

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**Corpus Fund:** Our Trust received a total amount of Rs.2.52 lakhs towards Corpus Fund in the year 2024. The major donors are:

Shri. M. Sankaran, Coimbatore -- donated 1 lakh

Shri. C. Satyamurthy, Chennai -donated 50,000/-

Shri. P. Santhakumar has been donating @ Rs.3,000/- every month from September 2024.

**Finance Secretary Report:** Shri R Guruprasad Treasurer presented the Audited Accounts for the financial year 2023-24. Query of Shri C Sathyamurthy about the pending investment out of corpus fund receipts was answered by the Treasurer. We have Rs.42 lakhs stashed in interest earning deposits as of now.

To a query by Smt. S Thiripurasundari as to why the membership fee is not in multiples of 3000 (which is the amount paid by each member at the time of joining), Treasurer explained a few annual members converted as life members and hence the difference. He added that during the F.Y. 2023-24, 54 members joined our Trust. He highlighted the fact that meeting expenditure was on the higher side because of two big events held during 23-24 i.e., fifth AGB held at Salem on 05.11.23 and tenth year foundation day function held at Hotel Ashoka, Chennai on 24.03.24.

For the observations made by Internal Auditor on acquittance for disbursement, Treasurer clarified the position one by one. In the +2 project, after obtaining the sign of students, the Project coordinators have to sign at the appropriate place indicating the total amount disbursed by them. Obtaining signature of HM may not be possible always and hence is not mandatory. Raajaram added that the Acq Roll has provision for the coordinator to certify and sign and that the coordinator is the final authority to certify about the payments made.

Secretary responded to the Auditor and informed that the acquittance from the beneficiary student is sufficient in addition to the coordinator.

Shri Guruprasad informed the Trustees that he and Secretary met the statutory Auditors on 9.12.24 and as required by them we have submitted all the documents (13 items) required for getting 80-G extended. He conveyed thanks to all the Trustees for their immediate response for providing the required information, which enabled him to submit the documents to Audit firm in time. At this stage Secretary intervened and informed the members that he met the Auditor yesterday i.e., on 4.1.25 and enquired about the status of our case. Auditors informed that they have not received

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any information and we have to expect delays as even older cases are yet to be decided by the IT Department.

Shri P. Santhakumar Managing Trustee asked to clarify whether our Trust is availing the 80-G exemption for our donation to various NGOs. Secretary replied that individual can avail the benefit but the Trust cannot. For the trust they are supposed to spend the entire donation received within the financial year, and if there is any unspent amount, tax @ 30% is to be made. He further explained, though our Trust has received donation to the tune of Rs.23,87,000/- during 2023- 24 we have paid tax only for the unspent amount of Rs.88,950/-.

Secretary further informed the members that if we want to entirely avoid payment of taxes, we have to submit form 9! to IT Department, stating that we would spend the unspent amount in the ensuing financial year. It is a cumbersome process, he added.

At this stage, Managing Trustee intervened and informed our members that our Trust has received donation to the tune of 90 lakhs so far, which enabled our trust to carryout lot of charitable activities. He thanked all the donors for their generosity. Then the Secretary informed, the entire donation of Rs.23.87 received during 23-24, was contributed by 232 members, which actually mean that nearly 250 Members have not taken part in the charitable activities of our Trust directly. Managing Trustee and Secretary appealed to the remaining members to contribute as little as possible, even less than Rs.500/- according to their choice and take part in the noble activities of our Trust.

After the discussion, the audited accounts for the financial year 2023-24 was approved by the Trustees and Special invitees. Guruprasad Treasurer made an appeal to our Webmaster Shri. Rajaram to consider issue of E-receipt once the donation is received and send the same to the Donor's Email. Shri Raajaram replied that he will implement this at the earliest.

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Educational Assistance for Higher Education: Secretary placed proposal to give educational assistance to the following students (all fresh cases) and the same was approved by the Trustees.

V. Yuvathika B.E.	S. Mahalakshmi B.E. (Architecture)	V. Sanjay B.E.	J. Jothilakshmi B.E.
S. Lalitha B.E.,	P. Natchathra B.Tech.,	E. Bavadharani B.Sc., Nursing	S. Gayathri B.Sc.
S. Swetha B.Sc.	K.Pavithra B.Com.	M.Prema B.A. (Visually impaired girl)	P.Narayani Occupational Therapy
Pragalya M.Sc.	P.Mathubala B.A.	M.Durgadevi B.Com.	

In addition to the above, Board of Trustees approved financial assistance to Ms. M. Prema, who is studying B.Sc., Medical Lab Technology at Thanjavur Medical College at the rate of Rs.2,000/- (Rupees two thousand only) per month for one year to meet the food expenses.

**Donation to NGOs:** The following 8 cases placed by the Secretary for donating Rs.10,000/- each was approved by the Trustees and Special invitees:

Atchayam Trust - Erode	Vela Institution for Social Action & Development - Villupuram
Amar Seva Sanga - Ayikudi - Tirunelveli	United Orphanage for Disabled - Coimbatore
Deenabandhu Ashram - Vellore	Karunai Trust - Chennai
Gedilam Salesion Society - Ulundurpet - Kallakurichi	Medical Assistance to Subramanian - Kandarakottai Pudukkottai District

In addition, the following were approved:

- BSNL FTTH connection to 6 students costing 21,000/-
- Fuel expenses @ Rs.3,000/- per month for an Auto rickshaw to bring students from remote localities to Meyyur Government Higher Secondary School, Tiruvallur District.

Then the next item in the agenda viz., discussion regarding activities to be taken up during 2025 was taken up.

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**Educational assistance to +2 toppers:** Secretary informed that the +2 exam is likely to commence in the first week of March 2025. Hence, we may have to issue letter to HMs in the last week/first week of February 2025. As was done in the previous year, our Managing trustee will call for volunteer/coordinators, in the third week of January 25. After discussion, it was agreed by the Trustees, that the Trustees / Project coordinators will identify 6 or 7 school in each district covering at least one ADW school / Tribal residential school / differently abled school / remote and rural area school. Once the schools are identified, Raajaram, Additional Managing Trustee will take action to prepare personalized letters to HMs and share with the coordinators for issue.

To a query as to whether HMs will allow our Trust to conduct function in the Schools, Secretary informed that +2 award function was conducted centrally at Chennai for the schools in and around Chennai in the year 2018 and 2019, and was decentralized due to Covid pandemic afterwards. This year, we can think of conducting centralized function covering many districts, he said. This was approved by all present. Secretary further informed that like last year, award functions can be planned by coordinators covering more than one district and requested coordinators to take appropriate action to conduct the same in a central location. This was readily agreed to by S / Shri Muthukumar, DuraiArasan and Ramakrishnan. At this juncture, Managing Trustee also assured to extend all possible help to conduct the functions centrally to the coordinators.

**Educational assistance to School Education BPL students studying X, XI, XII Standards:** In 2024, we extended this benefit to 252 students. During this year 2025, we will plan to extend the benefit to not less than 350 students. The actual process like identifying students, receiving application, verification, submission and decision can be planned in the month of June 2025, after reopening of Schools.

**Educational assistance to Higher Education:** Secretary informed that the education assistance to students pursuing higher education is steadily increasing. As against 26 students in 2023, the number of beneficiary student in the year 2024 was 43, including approvals in this meeting. We propose to increase the number of beneficiaries at least to 50 students in the year 2025. Application from the eligible students for the payment of second, third and fourth instalments may be collected by the coordinators and sent to Secretary in the month of June / July 2025 to seek approval of the trustees. For fresh cases, application from deserving students may be collected along with all supporting documents and sent to Secretary in the month of August / September 2025.

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To a query about condition / criteria being applied for renewal cases by Smt. Thiripurasundari, Shri Raajaram replied that the student has to pass the previous year exam with at least 60% marks to avail the continued assistance in the subsequent year of study.

**Financial Assistance to NEWS:** Managing Trustee informed that he has received request from the Secretary NEWS to continue our salary support every month this year also. After discussion, it was decided to continue our salary support @ 7500/- per month for another three months. Then we will review the same in the next trustees meeting.

**Educational assistance to 10<sup>th</sup> Standard toppers:** Some trustees requested to consider giving meritorious award to 10<sup>th</sup> standard also. Secretary replied, for implementing the 3 educational assistance schemes, our budget requirement will be around 20 lakhs. Hence in the year 2025, it is not possible to take up any new project / scheme and once our resource situation increases, we will consider to extend this scheme in a small way (say few districts) next year.

**Discussion regarding WhatsApp group:** There were repeated queries / concerns from many corners about the moderation of our WhatsApp group in general and on the following in particular:

- Members are allowed to change message retention time, which affects storage in individual's device;
- Flooding of generic messages which engulf important information at times;
- Spate of arguments for and against, sometimes running for a prolonged time; and
- Avoidable deletion of controversial messages by Admin.

The concern raised unanimously was the lose of importance of Trust related messages amidst other messages. The issue was discussed threadbare, and after discussion, the following decisions are taken by the Trustees/special invitees:

**Disappearing messages setting:** This will be set as 7 days and only Admin will have powers to change the same.

**Making important messages stand out for members to consume:** To ensure that important Trust related messages like MoM, meeting notices, reports of activities etc., are not missed and read by every member of the group, it was decided to temporarily set message insertion to only Admin, to avoid getting the above important messages not lost in the plethora of generic messages. This

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temporary restriction will be in vogue for a day. We will review the effectiveness of this starting with insertion of this minutes itself.

**Birthday greetings:** Secretary mentioned that though Shri Raajaram is spending a lot of time compiling write up for every birthday celebrity and presenting the same with a lot of seriousness, only 25 to 30 members post greetings and wishes. He felt that we have to ensure participation from many members to greet their ex-colleagues and friends on birthdays to create a bond of comraderie. Inasmuch as insertion of information in the groups, it was decided to restore the old practice of posting the greetings message with photos in the WhatsApp groups as desired by many members. Posting of only short information was introduced to induce website visits on experimental basis. Since no effective change was observed, we are reverting to the old procedure.

**Any other items:**

Secretary suggested to conduct the next trustees meeting at Madurai. Shri Palanivelu, informed that he will discuss with friends at Madurai and convey the decision.

Suggestion received from Mrs. Thirupurasundari, Trustee, to organize Eye donation camp in association with a rotary club or a reputed Eye hospital was discussed. It was decided to plan the same in the next meeting allotting sufficient time. Before that we will issue an appeal to our members on the importance of eye donation. (கண்ணாடல்), and the process involved for the same and call for the list of donors to ascertain the number of prospective donors. Eye donation can restore eyesight to two persons. Shri Rajamanikkam informed that he has already signed for eye donation, which was applauded by all.

Shri Duraiarasan submitted a request from Headmaster, Akkur Government Higher Secondary School for improving the infrastructure at Chemistry lab. 112 students studying in class XI and XII. It was decided to request HM to provide necessary estimate for placing before the Trustees to consider and take decision.

After vote of thanks proposed by Shri C Sathyamurthy, the meeting ended with singing of National Anthem.

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Snaps clicked during the deliberations:



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