₹57 crore sanctioned for the free milch cow scheme – 10,000 rural women; G.O. issued

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News

The Tamil Nadu Government issued a G.O. giving administrative and financial sanction of ₹57 crore for 2026–27 to give free milch cows to 10,000 eligible women in rural areas (reported 27 Oct 2026). Each beneficiary gets one healthy crossbred cow able to yield at least 8 litres of milk a day; each cow is expected to give 3–4 calves in five years. The scheme was announced in the 2026–27 State Budget presented on 5 Aug 2026 – '10,000 women every year'.

Key facts

Outlay	₹57 crore – administrative & financial sanction (2026–27)
Beneficiaries	10,000 eligible rural women (every year)
Cow	One crossbred cow each; at least 8 litres/day
Announced	2026–27 State Budget (5 Aug 2026)
Aim	Women's income, milk output, stronger milk co-operatives, family nutrition
Same Budget	'Vetri Magalir' goat-rearing scheme – 5 goats/sheep, ₹110 crore

Background

- History: the free milch cow and goat/sheep schemes were first launched in 2011 under CM J. Jayalalithaa. The target was 60,000 crossbred cows over five years, 2011–12 to 2015–16 (12,000 a year). Aavin collected milk daily from the beneficiary villages through its milk routes.
- Economy: India is the world's largest milk producer. 'Operation Flood' (1970), the 'White Revolution', was implemented by the National Dairy Development Board (NDDB, Anand, Gujarat) under Dr Verghese Kurien; his birthday, 26 Nov, is National Milk Day.
- Structure: Tamil Nadu's apex dairy co-operative is the Tamil Nadu Co-operative Milk Producers' Federation (TCMPF), brand 'Aavin' – a three-tier 'Anand pattern' of village primary milk producers' societies, district unions and the State federation.
- Polity: 'Preservation, protection and improvement of stock' is in the State List (Entry 15). Article 48 (DPSP) – organise agriculture and animal husbandry on scientific lines and prohibit slaughter of cows and calves.

Tamil Nadu link: native cattle breeds of Tamil Nadu – Kangayam (Tiruppur, Erode, Coimbatore, Karur), Umblachery (Thanjavur, Tiruvarur, Nagapattinam – Cauvery delta), Bargur (Erode), Pulikulam (Madurai, Sivaganga), Alambadi (Dharmapuri, Salem). Aavin's average daily procurement had slipped to about 31.5 lakh litres (Aug 2026); the scheme is meant to raise milk output.

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