Annan Seer scheme: Tamil Nadu issues eligibility rules and guidelines

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News

Dinakaran and Dinamalar reported on 17 November 2026 that Tamil Nadu's Social Welfare and Women Empowerment Department has released detailed eligibility rules and guidelines for the 'Annan Seer' (elder brother's wedding gift) scheme, which gives an 8-gram (22-carat) gold coin and a silk saree for the weddings of women from poor families. The bride's family income must not exceed ₹2.5 lakh a year; both bride and groom must have reached the legal age of marriage; the bride's name must be on the family ration card; and those receiving benefits under other government marriage-assistance schemes are not eligible. Applications are verified through Aadhaar and ration-card numbers. Within 15 days of the wedding, the bride must submit proof of marriage registration in Tamil Nadu together with a copy of the wedding invitation. Applications are accepted only online, through e-Sevai centres or tnesevai.tn.gov.in, from 60 days before the wedding up to the wedding day. As a transitional arrangement, for weddings held or due between 5 October 2026 and 15 January 2027, applications are accepted until 15 January 2027. ₹812 crore has been set aside in 2026–27 for about 60,000 brides (DT Next). The Government Order for the scheme was issued on 5 October 2026.

Key facts for the exam

Point	Details
Scheme	Annan Seer Thittam – a wedding gift for the bride

Point	Details
Benefit	8-g, 22-carat (916) gold coin + pure mulberry silk saree
Department	Social Welfare and Women Empowerment Department
G.O.	5 October 2026; guidelines reported 17 Nov 2026
Income limit	Family income up to ₹2.5 lakh a year
Excluded	Beneficiaries of other govt marriage-aid schemes
Application	From 60 days before the wedding to the wedding day – e-Sevai only; transitional: weddings of 5 Oct 2026 – 15 Jan 2027 may apply until 15 Jan 2027
After wedding	Proof of marriage registration in TN + invitation copy within 15 days
Allocation	₹812 crore; about 60,000 brides (2026–27)

Background

- Legal background: the first major law against child marriage was the Child Marriage Restraint Act, 1929, known as the 'Sarda Act' after Har Bilas Sarda, who moved it. It was replaced by the Prohibition of Child Marriage Act, 2006, which keeps 18 years for women and 21 for men as the legal age of marriage. Because 'Annan Seer' insists on this age and on marriage registration, it also helps prevent child marriage.
- Constitution: Article 15(3) empowers the State to make special provisions for women and children; Directive Principles such as Articles 39 and 46 ask the State to protect the economic interests of weaker sections. 'Marriage and divorce' are in the Concurrent List of the Seventh Schedule (Entry 5), so both the Union and the States can legislate – the Tamil Nadu Registration of Marriages Act, 2009 is an example.
- Economy – gold standard: '916' means 91.6% purity, i.e. 22 carat. Hallmark certification of gold jewellery and artefacts is done by the Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS – BIS Act, 2016; Ministry of Consumer Affairs). Hallmarking was made mandatory in phases from 2021, and each piece carries a 6-character alphanumeric HUID code. The scheme's coin will bear the Tamil Nadu Government emblem on one side (DT Next, 5 Nov 2026).
- History: Tamil Nadu has long run marriage-assistance schemes. Fresh registrations under the earlier Moovalur Ramamirtham Ammaiyar marriage-assistance scheme ('Thalikku Thangam' – 8 g gold plus cash aid) stopped after 2021; from September 2022 it was converted into 'Pudhumai Penn' (Moovalur Ramamirtham Ammaiyar Higher Education Assurance Scheme), which pays ₹1,000 a month to girl students in higher education. 'Annan Seer' brings back gold-based marriage aid with revised eligibility rules.

Tamil Nadu link: This is entirely a Tamil Nadu scheme. Another kinship-named scheme, 'Thaimaaman Thanga Mothiram' (maternal uncle's gold ring), which gives a one-gram 22-carat gold ring to babies born in government hospitals, was launched by Chief Minister Vijay on 28 September 2026 at the Government Rajaji Hospital, Madurai. Annan Seer applications are auto-verified through Aadhaar and ration-card numbers on the TN e-Sevai portal.

Frequently asked questions

What is this news about?

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What are the key facts to remember for the exam?

Scheme: Annan Seer Thittam – a wedding gift for the bride; Benefit: 8-g, 22-carat (916) gold coin + pure mulberry silk saree; Department: Social Welfare and Women Empowerment Department; G.O.: 5 October 2026; guidelines reported 17 Nov 2026.

What is the background to this news?

Legal background: the first major law against child marriage was the Child Marriage Restraint Act, 1929, known as the 'Sarda Act' after Har Bilas Sarda, who moved it. It was replaced by the Prohibition of Child Marriage Act, 2006, which keeps 18 years for women and 21 for men as the legal age of marriage.

Practice questions (with answers)

1. Who moved the Child Marriage Restraint Act of 1929, India's first major law against child marriage?

A) Raja Ram Mohan Roy

B) Har Bilas Sarda

C) I.C. Vidyasagar

D) B.M. Malabari

Answer: B – Explanation: Har Bilas Sarda – hence the 'Sarda Act'. The 2006 Act that replaced it: 18 for women, 21 for men. Malabari – Age of Consent Act 1891.

2. Which body certifies the hallmark of purity on gold jewellery and coins in India?

A) Reserve Bank of India

B) FSSAI

C) MMTC

D) BIS

Answer: D – Explanation: BIS (BIS Act 2016) – hallmarking mandatory from 2021. '916' = 91.6% purity = 22 carat; the scheme's coin is of 916 standard.

3. Under Section 3 of the Prohibition of Child Marriage Act, 2006, what is the legal status of a child marriage?

A) Void from the start

B) Voidable

C) Fully valid

D) Valid once registered

Answer: B – Explanation: Voidable – at the option of the party who was a child, by petition to the district court within 2 years of attaining majority.

4. In which list of the Seventh Schedule do 'marriage and divorce' figure?

A) Union List

B) State List

C) Residuary powers

D) Concurrent List

Answer: D – Explanation: Concurrent List, Entry 5 – both Union and States may legislate, e.g. Hindu Marriage Act 1955, TN Registration of Marriages Act 2009.

5. Which Tamil Nadu scheme, launched in Sept 2026, gives a one-gram gold ring to babies born in government hospitals?

A) Thaimaaman Thanga Mothiram

B) Makkalai Thedi Maruthuvam

C) Naan Mudhalvan

D) Magalir Urimai Thogai

Answer: A – Explanation: Thaimaaman Thanga Mothiram – launched 28.9.2026 at Govt Rajaji Hospital, Madurai. Makkalai Thedi Maruthuvam – doorstep health care.

Sources: Dinakaran, Dinamalar, Dinamani and Daily Thanthi (17 Nov 2026 – guidelines); DT Next (5 Oct 2026 – G.O., ₹812 crore) – dtnext.in/news/tamilnadu/tn-govt-allocates-rs-812-crore-for-annan-seer-scheme; DT Next (5 Nov 2026 – 60,000 gold coins and sarees, BIS hallmark + HUID, IBJA rate, tender) – dtnext.in/news/tamilnadu/annan-seer-scheme-tn-invites-bids-for-60000-gold-coins-sarees; DT Next (Thaimaaman scheme) – dtnext.in/news/tamilnadu/cm-vijay-launches-thai-maaman-gold-ring-scheme-in-madurai; Bureau of Indian Standards – bis.gov.in (HUID). © Shanmugam IAS Academy.