

NEW HORIZON

VOLUME 1 | ISSUE 2



HIGHLIGHTS

- 1 Cover Story –
Re-envisioning Tamil Nadu
- 2 TAG Meeting
- 3 Welcoming New Additional
Chief Secretary
- 4 Workshop/Meeting
- 5 Fostering Partnership
- 6 SDGCC, Tamil Nadu –
A New Generation Model
- 7 Best Practices
- 8 Inauguration of New Office
Space for SDGCC
- 9 Knowledge Corner

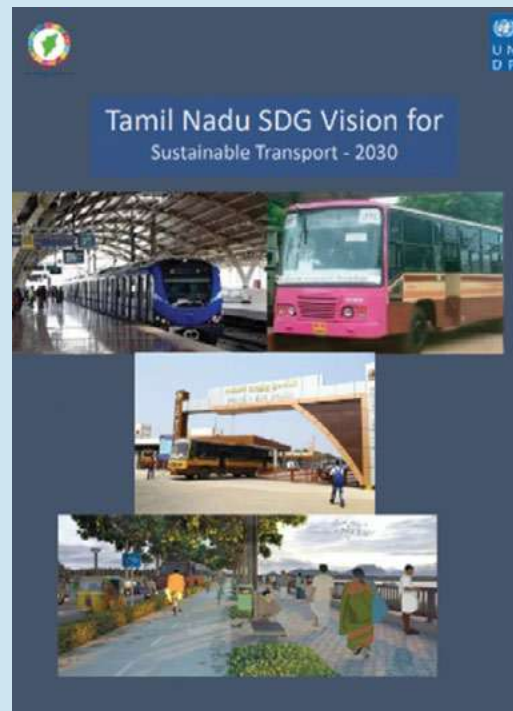


RE-ENVISIONING TAMIL NADU

The Sustainable Development Goals Coordination Centre (SDGCC) with guidance from the Planning and Development Department (P&D), Government of Tamil Nadu is focusing on improvement of four priority areas, namely: (i) Sustainable Transport and Mobility; (ii) Skill, Employment and Livelihoods; (iii) Nutrition and (iv) Gender. To start with, SDGCC has come out with two vision documents, namely Tamil Nadu SDG Vision for Sustainable Transport – 2030 and Tamil Nadu Vision for Skill, Employment and Livelihoods – 2030 to better realize Tamil Nadu Government's mandate of Everything for Everyone, also to enable the state to achieve SDGs by 2030. The salient features of both vision documents are covered in this Newsletter.

Salient Features of SDG Vision Document of **SUSTAINABLE TRANSPORT – 2030**

The draft vision document of Sustainable Transport – 2030 discusses the details of the present scenario of the mobility system in Tamil Nadu, schemes and programmes that are implemented to provide seamless connectivity to commuters. It also assessed the existing gaps in the present mobility system and suggested various action plans that can be implemented in the short, medium and long term across the state, in different levels such as urban, peri-urban, regional, district and rural areas. The interventions will be implemented at (i) State and Regional levels; (ii) Urban and Peri-urban levels; and (iii) Rural level are as follows. Thereby, it will allow the state to holistically address the challenges in the transport system.



Interventions will be implemented at



State and Regional Levels



Urban and Peri-urban Levels



Rural Level

State and Regional Levels: Road Safety Policy; issuance of new bus operation permits (Inter/ Intra-City); regulation of online aggregator services; adoption of electronic vehicle (EV) in public transport (PT) operations; regulation of auto-rickshaw permits including fare revision mechanism; development of disabled-friendly mobility; and use of drones for movement of lightweight goods; fare revision; implementation of Socio-Benefit Schemes; Transit-Oriented Development Policy; improvement of rural connectivity; and preparation of Logistics Policy as well as improvement of water transport may be considered.

Urban and Peri-urban Levels: City Mobility Plan including Parking Policy and Master Plan, Street Vendor Policy and non-motorized Transport (NMT) Policy; City Master Plan; Micro Master plan; implementation of organized On-Street and Off-Street Parking facilities for both public transport and private vehicles; implementation of NMT facilities as per the standards; improvement in Public Transport System; improvement in Multi-Modal Integration Facilities; organizing the intermediate public transport (IPT) facilities within the corporation limits; preparation of Operation and Management Plan for Public Transport Systems including Route Rationalization; development of road facilities including signages as per Urban

Standards may be promoted; Logistics Master Plan; implementation of Passenger Information System/Incident Management System; implementation of disabled-friendly facilities for seamless mobility; formation of Unified Metropolitan Transport Authority; Transit-Oriented Development Plans are proposed.

Rural Level: Ensuring the public transport connectivity to nearby Taluk headquarter (HQ); ensuring the road safety may be the need of the hour; preparation of logistic plan for moving the agricultural goods.

Overall, the proposed interventions will be presented to working group – 5 (Innovation, Industrialization and SDGs – 7, 8, 9 and 11). Based on their inputs, a High-Power Committee meeting will be called with relevant stakeholders to mainstream the proposed action plans with the line departments that are relevant. Appropriate finance and resources will be mobilized for promotion.

To improve transport system both passenger and logistic master plans are fulcrum, alongside the implementation of Passenger Information System; On-Street and Off-Street Parking facilities; street vendor policy and NMT Policy.



Salient Features of Vision Document of **SKILL, EMPLOYMENT AND LIVELIHOOD – 2030**

To promote evidence-based contextualize relevant global best practices and policies, the draft vision document of Skills, Employment and Livelihood – 2030 was prepared by SDGCC, Tamil Nadu. The overarching vision is to make Tamil Nadu, the skill capital of the world and the most preferred destination for global and national investors seeking quality talent across sectors thereby boosting local employment and livelihoods. It has focused on key reforms that are categorized into four various levels, namely: (i) Administrative-level reforms; (ii) Ecosystem-level reforms; (iii) Industrial-level reforms (Policy and Incentives) and (iv) Individual-level access reforms (aspirant).





The implementation of the suggested reforms will be contributing to the achievement of SDGs, namely: **SDG-1 (No Poverty), SDG-4 (Quality Education) SDG-8 (Decent Work and Economic Growth) and SDG-9 (Innovation, Industry and Infrastructure).**



Administrative-level reforms: (a) Adopting the European Union (EU) Youth Guarantee framework for Tamil Nadu; (b) Integrated Employment Policy for Tamil Nadu as in countries like United Kingdom; (c) Revamping Employment Exchanges and Overseas Development Corporation and (d) Piloting a Social Impact Bond (e.g., Portugal, EU Social Innovation Fund).

Ecosystem-level reforms: (a) Local Economic Advancement Approach; (b) Model Centre of Excellence with a dedicated University for Skills and Entrepreneurship Development; (c) Policies/Initiatives to raise women participation in the paid work; (d) Incentivize new investments based on employment generation potential; (e) Strengthen Academia – Industry Linkage; and (f) An open-source web platform for livelihood advancement.

Industry-level reforms: (a) Training grant to companies to offset training costs especially to micro, small and medium-sized enterprises (MSMEs, Ireland); (b) SkillsFuture Singapore (SSG) grant funding to subject-matter experts (SMEs) up to 90 percent of the course fee subsidy and 80 percent absentee payroll funding when an employer sponsors employee for a high skills course.

Individual-level access reforms: (a) Skill Voucher Scheme targeted at low skilled (France), unemployed (Greece), employed persons at risk of unemployment (Estonia), temporary workers (Germany); and (b) Skill Future credit (Singapore) of S\$ 500 to eligible citizens with an expiry date to redeem through training provider for skilling in their areas of interest for beginners and mid-career individuals.

2

TECHNICAL ADVISORY GROUP (TAG) MEETING ON SUSTAINABLE TRANSPORT AND SKILLS, EMPLOYMENT AND LIVELIHOOD

To further add value to both the vision documents namely Tamil Nadu SDG Vision for Sustainable Transport – 2030 and Skill, Employment and Livelihood - 2030, the TAG members with relevant SMEs belonging to academia, national/international organizations, NGO/CSO, etc., were identified. Accordingly, five members each for (i) Sustainable Transport and (ii) Skill, Employment and Livelihoods were selected.



TAG MEMBERS OF SDG VISION FOR SUSTAINABLE TRANSPORT



Dr. O.P. Agarwal
IAS, Senior Public
Transport Expert



Ms. Shreya Gadepalli
Founding Manger,
Urban Works Institute



*Dr. Gita Krishnan
Ramadurai*
Professor, IIT Chennai



Dr. Shalini Sinha
Professor, CEPT
Ahmedabad



*Mr. Sumanth
Koorapati*
ITS Expert

TAG MEMBERS OF SKILLS, EMPLOYMENT AND LIVELIHOODS



Mr. Josh Foulger
Country Head and
Managing Director
Bharat Foxconn India



*Mr. Suresh
Sambandam*
CEO Kissflow



*Dr. Gita Krishnan
Ramadurai*
Professor, IIT Chennai



Dr. Manish Kumar
IAS, Ex. CEO National
Skill Development
Council



Mr. Nagaraja Prakasam
Social Enterprise
Investor, Mentor
and Co-Founder
NATIVELEAD

The first-ever TAG meeting was held on 21st August 2023 at Hotel Hyatt Regency in Chennai to get valuable insights and suggestions from the experts on the selected themes. This meeting was attended by TAG members of both Sustainable Transport and Skill, Employment and Livelihood. The Additional Chief Secretary (ACS), the Planning and Development Department chaired the

TAG meeting and set the context with his opening remarks. The TAG members of both themes provided their inputs and suggestions to be incorporated into the vision documents. Based on their recommendations, the vision documents were modified and submitted to the Planning and Development Department for further processing.

Technical Consultation Meeting on **NUTRITION**

The SDGCC, Tamil Nadu is also focusing on the enhancement of nutrition among the most deserving people in Tamil Nadu. Against this backdrop, SDGCC convened an online meeting on 15 September 2023, with experts representing organizations such as the Banyan Academy of Leadership in Mental Health; M.S. Swaminathan Research Foundation (MSSRF); Lakeside Education Trust and United Nations International Children Emergency Fund (UNICEF), Chennai Office and International Food Policy Research Institute (IFPRI). During the meeting, few innovative solutions that can be taken up to improve the nutrition status/

health of all walks of life were suggested. For example, a nutrition voucher system (NVS) for the improvement of nutrition (wherein deserving/vulnerable people will be paid a voucher that can only be used for treating/improving health), establishment of nutrition data intelligence/surveillance unit for tracking and monitoring the health of an individual regularly including migrant population, food system pathway; cash transfer, lifestyle orientation, sidewalks to improve the health of every individual among others can be taken up to complement the efforts of the state government of Tamil Nadu in creating a healthy state.

A NVS for improving nutrition wherein deserving/vulnerable people will be paid a voucher that can only be used for treating/improving disease/health. This can be piloted before implementing at scale.

TAG Meeting on **GENDER**

The SDGCC convened a meeting on 30 August 2023, with Gender Expert Organizations such as the International Foundation for Crime Prevention and Victim Care (PCVC); the Gender and Policy Laboratory of Greater Chennai Corporation (GCC); National Institute of Public Finance and Policy (NIPFP); Information and Resource Centre for Deprived Urban Communities (IRCDUC) to brainstorm the emerging technologies/interventions on gender. During the meeting, experts suggested a few interventions such as development of Tamil Nadu Domestic Violence Integrated Response (TDVIR); community/institution-based multi-agency response to Domestic Violence (DV); survivor-centred approach; data-based facilities such as categorization of women travellers, infrastructural safety system in mobility transit point and among others. These



interventions if considered for implementation may be helpful for the implementing agencies/line departments to overcome the challenges faced by women to a desired extent.



WELCOMING NEW ADDITIONAL CHIEF SECRETARY

Dr. K. Gopal, IAS has assumed the charge as ACS of the Planning and Development Department, Government of Tamil Nadu. The SDGCC is very happy to welcome him as ACS. His past legacy and experience will guide SDGCC to spearhead the implementation of various innovations on SDGs and put Tamil Nadu on the front stage in achieving SDGs at the global level. With his foresight, SDGCC

is preparing a series of Concept Papers of (i) Tamil Nadu SDG Vision for Sustainable Transport – 2030; (ii) Skill, Employment and Livelihoods, (iii) Nutrition and (iv) Gender, wherein the emerging and cutting-edge innovation/technology/policy/interventions are discussed with benefits to the people of Tamil Nadu.



WORKSHOP/MEETING

Workshop on Political and Economic Analysis, Chennai

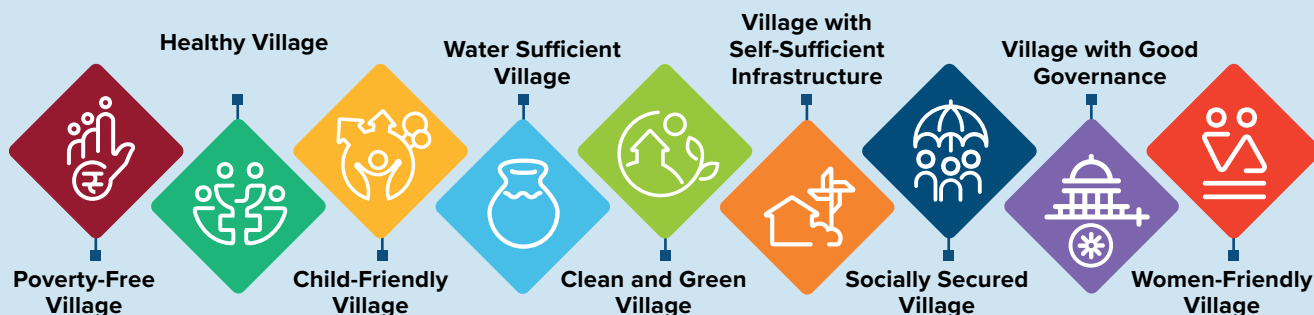
The SDGCC team attended a Workshop on Political and Economic Analysis organized by the UNICEF and the Planning and Development Department, Government of Tamil Nadu at Anna Institute of Management, Chennai on 12 July 2023. The major objective of the Workshop was to sensitize the stakeholders working on children's health on various interventions that are focused on the alleviation of child poverty and foster collaboration among the stakeholders to achieve this massive task. It was highlighted that in the Multi-Dimensional Poverty Index (MDPI), Tamil Nadu has shown a good performance as it has reduced its MDPI from 4.89 percent to 1.57 percent. However, strikingly, out of all age categories under MDPI, 50 percent of them belonged to children. Also, about 90 percent of the budget spent on children that go to their education and very little is invested in their Early Childhood Development (ECD) stages wherein, 50 percent of the brain development takes place. Hence, allocating more budget in the ECD stage is essential to make children manifest their fullest potential in the later stages. It was observed that monitoring indicators that assess the performance of children at every stage of their lives is essential to cater to evidence-based needs.

In the MDPI, Tamil Nadu has shown a good performance as it has reduced its MDPI from 4.89% to 1.57%.

Writeshop on Panchayat Development Index (PDI), New Delhi

To further localize SDGs at the Gram Panchayat level, across the country, a Writeshop was organized by the Ministry of Panchayati Raj (MoPR), Government of India from 10 to 11 August 2023 at Dr. Ambedkar International Centre, New Delhi. Representatives from SDGCC participated in the Writeshop. The outcomes of Writeshop show that MoPR has developed a PDI portal with the help of the National Information Centre (NIC) to track and monitor the progress of each panchayat on 577 indicators which are categorized into nine themes. Also, to contextualize PDI, the indicators have been mapped with the State Indicator Framework (SIF) to facilitate the monitoring at the grassroots level through the SDG lens. This will help the state to assess the progress of various indicators at all levels including Panchayat on a similar scale.

NINE THEMES OF PDI



Media Workshop on EV PROMOTION FOR JOURNALISTS, CHENNAI

To enhance the outreach and awareness of the growing importance of EVs among various stakeholders, a one-day Workshop was organized by the Institute for Transportation and Development Policy (ITDP) at Chennai office on 31 August 2023. The objectives of the Workshop were to inculcate the EV ecosystem, its prospects and challenge in the adoption of

EVs among journalists; and to sensitize them about media and communication plans to create awareness among the public on the importance of adopting EVs. Representatives from SDGCC, Tamil Nadu attended the Workshop as special guests and facilitated it.

Participation as Jury for CSRBOX to identify best practices in skills and employment

The SDGCC participated as Grand Jury Member in The Dalmia Bharat – CSRBOX CSR Impact Awards 2023 in the Skill Development Category, on 22nd September 2023. Objective is to identify and recognize corporates delivering innovative skill development projects all across India by adopting a multi-stakeholder approach leading to excellence in project impacts.

Participated as Jury for SSN Sustainability start-up fest to identify best social enterprises contributing to SDGs

The SDGCC participated as Jury Member in the Sustainability Pitch Fest for start-ups, themed “Advancing Sustainable Solutions,” organized by SSN College on 27th September 2023. The pitch fest attracted eclectic mix of innovative start-ups focusing on SDGs ranging from Health, Agriculture, Livelihoods, Mobility, etc., for the sustainability pitch fest. It was interesting to note the stated SDG missions with inclusive tech and business innovations in their pitches.

Participated in the book launch of ‘Back to Bharat’ organized by IITMRP with a focus on strengthening rural economy and rural entrepreneurship

The SDGCC participated in the book launch of ‘Back to Bharat’ by Mr. Nagaraja Prakasam, SDGCC, the TAG member for Skills, Employment and Livelihoods on 15th September 2023 at IIT Madras Research Park (IITMRP) aligned with Mr. Naga’s initiation towards strengthening Rural Economy.

Site Visit on **UNDERSTANDING PUBLIC CHARGING INFRASTRUCTURE PLANNING, BENGALURU**

A site visit was organized by ITDP, Chennai on 4 August 2023 to understand the public charging points at various locations in Bengaluru (Karnataka). This helps the team to understand the localization of EV policy frameworks towards the demand side. Also, this site visit sanitizes the demand-side requirements and challenges faced towards the implementation of EV policy.



Workshop on **CAPACITY BUILDING POWER-TO-X TRAINING COURSE ON GREEN HYDROGEN, KOCHI**

A workshop on Capacity Building Power-to-X (PtX) Training Course on Green Hydrogen was organized by GiZ on 22–25 August 2023. During the workshop, it was learnt about key terminology related and to understand main drivers of PtX; required inputs and processes for sustainable PtX products, like sustainable carbon; gained in knowledge about sector-specific PtX demand markets and value chains, PtX pathways and business cases; and understand crucial instruments to foster PtX infrastructure in the political and institutional framework.



FOSTERING PARTNERSHIP

In the last quarter, the SDGCC team met the stakeholders such as Guidance; International Foundation for Crime Prevention and Victim Care (PCVC), Chennai; Gender and Policy

Laboratory, GCC and Information and Resource Centre for Deprived Urban Communities (IRCDUC) to understand the various activities and interventions.

HAQDARSHAK EMPOWERMENT SOLUTIONS: Leading Innovation on Social Enterprises



The SDGCC team interacted with the Haqdarshak Empowerment Solutions on 4 October 2023, which focuses on creating awareness among public on the availability of various government schemes available to them and enabling them to avail their benefits. Its thrust areas include leveraging the technology to assist in improving the awareness about the scheme; appointing trained cadre of women

entrepreneurs at the field level and utilizing the tech platforms to improve the accessibility of schemes and, the support services such as Haqdarshak App; Yojana Card; Yojana Kendra and linking Yojana card with banks in order to help Haqdarshak to reach out to many people at large and teach them about the various schemes for which they are eligible.

As on 11 October 2023, Haqdarshak is operational in 24 states benefiting around 28 lakhs citizens, 37,396 micro businesses, and enabled the beneficiaries to receive monetary benefits of value accounting to INR 4,200 crores.



Efforts towards LOCALIZATION OF SDGS

Among many initiatives, localization is an important focus area of SDGCC. Therefore, to better understand the various localization efforts that are happening at Panchayat levels, the SDGCC team made a visit to two villages, namely Kovalam and Padur on 25th July 2023.

Localization efforts of Kovalam Panchayat

- ▶ 24X7 digital-based redressal system to ensure that the issues of the residents are solved within 24 hours – SDG-9 (*Innovation, Industry and Infrastructure*);
- ▶ Fully digitized officer space to gather, record, monitor and track the performance of various interventions – SDG-9 (*Innovation, Industry and Infrastructure*).

Localization efforts of Padur Panchayat

- ▶ Promotion of mushroom production units and kitchen gardening among the village residents to provide a local based economy and employment opportunities, thereby generating income for the residents – SDG-8 (*Decent Work and Economic Growth*); SDG-1 (*No Poverty*); SDG-2 (*End Hunger*); SDG-9 (*Innovation, Industry and Infrastructure*); and SDG-13 (*Climate Action*);
- ▶ The skills and capacities of women in particular are enhanced to enable them to venture into new business opportunities – SDG-5 (*Gender Equality*) and SDG-10 (*Reduced Inequalities*).

The best practices towards the localization of SDGs adopted by both of these villages may be replicated at scale with modifications that suit the locale by all 12,525 Gram Panchayats (GPs) in Tamil Nadu.

6

THE SDGCC, TAMIL NADU – A NEW GENERATION MODEL

Ms Shoko Noda, the Resident Representative of UNDP-India reviewed the activities undertaken by SDGCC, Tamil Nadu on 29 July 2023 and interacted with staff of the Planning and Development Department, Government of Tamil Nadu. She expressed her happiness with the progress of SDGCC, Tamil Nadu in the past and appreciated the team for their committed efforts. She further articulated that the coordination and support extended by the Planning and Development Department, Government of Tamil Nadu will enable SDGCC to foster collaboration with various line departments in localization of SDGs. She also mentioned that SDGCC, Tamil Nadu can be a new generation SDGCC and a unique model. The lessons/best practices can be shared with other SDGCCs in the country for them to emulate.



7

BEST PRACTICES – TIME TO EMULATE

Innovations that stem from the pursuits of solving the challenges that society faces are happening at scale in general and, related to SDGs in particular. In the recent visit to the Workshop organized by the Administrative Staff College of India (ASCI), Hyderabad from 13 to 15 September 2023, SDGCC learnt the innovative strategies that were adopted nationally in improving “Water and Sanitation” status. The adoption of such innovations at scale can directly contribute to the achievement of SDG-6 (*Clean Water and Sanitation*). Some of the innovations found to be successful in the

states like Telangana and Andhra Pradesh include Faecal Sludge Treatment Plans (FSTP); Smart Water Supply without Leakage/wastage; Climate-Friendly Water Harvesting; Robots as an Alternative to Manual Scavenging; Conversion of Sewage into Potable; Conversion of Waste into Sustainable Products; Renewable Energy for Decarbonization; Plastic Crockery – Ensuring Sustainability; i-Toilets for Healthy Lives; One Stop Social Enterprise for Wastewater Treatment; Biodegradable Park out of Waste Tyres; Green Public Toilet and Sustainable Degradation of Sanitation Pad.

Faecal Sludge Treatment Plants

The FSTP is promoted in the states of Andhra Pradesh and Telangana with the support of ASCI. The first-ever FSTP was set up in Narsapur (Andhra Pradesh) and Warangal (Telangana). This pilot project led to the establishment of 141 and 76 FSTPs in Telangana and Andhra Pradesh, respectively. FSTP is thermal-based innovation capable of processing/treating faecal through Pyrolysis treatment (capacity 15 KLD) and Geo-tube technology (10 KLG). Key features of this innovation include remote monitoring capability, bio-safe process in a modular/scalable configuration, quick set up process and also adaptable to all weather conditions.

8 INAUGURATION OF NEW OFFICE SPACE FOR SDGCC



Providing a good ambience for employees will directly contribute to the improvement of productivity and efficiency while carrying out any activities. Against this backdrop, a new office space for SDGCC was set up at the Department of Economic and Statistics (DoES), Government of Tamil Nadu. It was inaugurated

on 5 July 2023 by former ACS, Planning and Development Department, Government of Tamil Nadu. The SDGCC team members are thankful to the Planning and Development Department for providing a well-furnished office space along with essential resources to carry out the duties efficiently.

On 5 July 2023, the new office space for SDGCC was inaugurated by the former ACS, Planning and Development Department, Government of Tamil Nadu.

9 KNOWLEDGE CORNER

It is the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, adopted by all United Nations Member States in 2015. A total of 17 goals are covered under this Agenda (refer to <https://sdgs.un.org/goals> for knowing all 17 goals). India is also one of the signatories to participate in the international review of the progress of SDGs on a regular basis. To this end, India has committed to monitor the state-wise progress of SDGs. In the previous issue (Newsletter, Volume-1 and Issue-1), it was indicated that Tamil Nadu ranked second in the overall progress of SDGs at national level for the year 2021–2022 (based on the NITI Aayog SDG India Index 3.0). On SDG-7 (*Affordable and Clean Energy*), Tamil Nadu has achieved its 100 percent mark. However, in the remaining SDGs, it has yet to achieve the 100 marks. Therefore, concerted efforts are essential to enable the state to become pioneering in all the SDGs.

