

# NEW HORIZON

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## TECHNICAL ADVISORY GROUP (TAG) MEETING ON GENDER

1

A Technical Advisory Group (TAG) meeting on Gender was held on 15th December 2023 at SDGCC, Tamil Nadu, to convene expert stakeholders and discuss a vision and roadmap to achieve SDG 5. This meeting was attended by nine delegates representing Academia, Non-Governmental Organisations (NGOs), Civil Society Organisations (CSOs) and Think Tanks, in addition to SDGCC representatives.

From the discussion, three strategic areas were prioritized for immediate consideration: (1) Increasing women's economic empowerment in Tamil Nadu (2) Ending violence against women and girls (3) Enabling increased women's participation in leadership and representation in governance. Suggestions that arose from these areas are highlighted below:

### Increasing women's economic empowerment:

Addressing demand and supply side gaps in recruiting women in the labour force; addressing enabling environment to retain women in the labour-force through the provision of facilities such as childcare, flexible work policy, working women's hostels and ensuring equitable pay etc.; addressing women's needs in industries (manufacturing) and agriculture.

### Ending violence against women and girls:

Spearheading an integrated mechanism to prevent and address violence against women; strengthening capacity of OSCs and All Women Police Stations to adopt a "survivor-centric approach" to cases; engaging men and boys in training on gender norms.

### Increasing women's participation in leadership and representation in governance:

Developing pathways for women's participation from Panchayat level governance to state / assembly level governance; strengthening adoption of gender responsive budgeting.

A policy document with these strategic areas is forthcoming.

## TAG MEMBERS OF GENDER



*Ms. Swarna Rajagopalan*  
Independent Researcher  
Krea University, Prajnya trust



*Ms. Meera Sundararajan*  
Gender, Monitoring and  
Evaluation (Gender lab)



*Ms. Vanessa Peter*  
Social Activist/Policy  
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*Ms. Lekha S. Chakraborty*  
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Associate Professor  
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## 2

## HAQDARSHAK – ENSURING DELIVERY OF SERVICES AT THE DOOR-STEP

A Meeting was conducted on 4th October 2023 to interact with officials with Haqdarshak Empowerment Solutions to understand their various activities related to providing citizen centred services. SDGCC learned that Haqdarshak facilitates the marginalised people to access services/schemes/programmes offered by Government and empowers them

to get their benefits. SDGCC is discussing with Haqdarshak on development of model village framework. For this purpose, SDGCC may tap the strength of Haqdarshak in engaging with community through participatory approach, partner with local Government Organisations, other development partners at panchayat level.

# 3

## UNDERSTANDING TIDCO

An interactive meeting was held with the Managing Director of Tamil Nadu Industrial Development Corporation (TIDCO) on 9th October 2023. Discussion majorly happened around the theme of Environment, Social and Governance (ESG) and the importance of sustainability and Inclusiveness in Industries. Also, SDGCC gained insight into the Logistics Policy being prepared by TIDCO. Further, SDGCC discussed the scope for collaboration in areas such as sustainability, innovation, industry that TIDCO work with.



**TIDCO – A Government of Tamil Nadu enterprise. It facilitates large industrial and infrastructure projects in Tamil Nadu involving large investments and huge employment potential. TIDCO is the Nodal Agency for the development of Chennai Bengaluru Industrial Corridor (CBIC), Chennai Kanyakumari Industrial Corridor (CKIC), Western Corridor (Kochi – Bangalore Industrial Corridor) and Defence Industrial Corridor projects (<https://tidco.com/>)**

# 4

## WORKSHOP ON URBAN INFRASTRUCTURE AND SOCIAL INFRASTRUCTURE

A Workshop was organized by the Chennai Metropolitan Development Authority (CMDA) on 2nd November 2023. SDGCC representative participated in the Workshop. During the Workshop, it was observed that CMDA is preparing a Master Plan 2047 for Chennai to develop the city into a more inhabitable, economically viable and socially constructive with sustainability. During the meeting, various Government departments, NGOs and academic organisations participated and provided various recommendations for CMDA to consider in the preparation of Chennai Master Plan – 2047.



**Chennai Metropolitan Development Authority (CMDA) – A statutory body responsible for preparing Master Plans, land use maps, carrying out surveys etc., in the Metropolitan areas of Chennai. (<https://www.cmdachennai.gov.in/index.html>)**



## **PARTNERSHIP DIALOGUES**

SDGCC had a meeting with Ms. Merin Devassia, Director, Confederation of Indian Industry (CII) and her team on 17th October 2023 to explore TN-SDGCC partnership options.

In a meeting with Ms. Divyadarshini, IAS, Managing Director of TN Corporation for Development of women and CEO of TN SRLM on 25th October 2023, SDG Vision document for Skilling, Employment & Livelihoods was presented and comments requested.

SDGCC explored synergies with Mr. Hansraj Varma, IAS, Chairman, TIIC about SDGCC initiatives on 20th November 2023. Especially on reskilling and upskilling MSME employees to adopt to green and digital transitions.

A Round Table Discussion was organized by TIIC on Industry 4.0/5.0 transitions on 20th November 2023 where thought Leaders from Academia including IIT Madras and Industry participated. SDGCC participated and presented its SDG vision for Skilling, Employment and Livelihoods and how it addresses some of these challenges.

SDGCC had a meeting with Ms E. Sundaravalli, IAS, Commissioner, Employment & Training on 22nd November 2023 to present the SDG Vision document for Skilling, Employment and Livelihoods and requested for her comments.

SDGCC conducted consultative meetings with Panchayat Presidents of Padur (Kanchipuram district) and Kovalam (Chengalpattu district)

along with Haqdarshaq on 14th November 2023 to finalize the interventions required to come out with Model Village Framework. During the meeting, the following points were discussed namely need for awareness of schemes and programs at Panchayat Level, more bottom-up planning in formulating schemes, area specific, family approach, etc.

SDGCC also conducted a consultative meeting with JPAL Researchers on 29th November 2023 to receive their inputs on the development of Model Village Framework.





# 6

## PARTICIPATION IN NATIONAL AWARD FUNCTION OF TIIC, COIMBATORE

Representatives of SDGCC have participated in the Council of State Industrial Development and Investment Corporations of India (COSIDICI) at the 9th National Award Function organized by Tamil Nadu Industrial Investment Corporation (TIIC) at Coimbatore from 14th to 16th December 2023. SDGCC has also presented and proposed a Policy Note on “Tamil Nadu Centre for enablement of ESG and Green transitions” among Industries-Path towards creating sustainable enterprises and Green Jobs in Tamil Nadu. The presentation brought to light how SMEs can embed sustainable production and consumption (SDG 12) practices and some of the global best practices adopted by Governments to promote sustainability among SMEs.

**TIIC – A Government of Tamil Nadu undertaking, was established in 1949 as a state development financial institution to promote industrial development. TIIC provides financial assistance for purchasing land, machinery and constructing buildings. It also assists emerging entrepreneurs in venturing into enterprises (<https://www.tiic.org/>)**



# 7

## STATE INDICATOR FRAMEWORK (SIF) – 2.0 – AN OVERVIEW

Tamil Nadu Government came up with State Indicator Framework (SIF) – 1.0 in 2019 with 314 indicators covering all 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and 30 Secretariat Departments (Govt. of TN Departments). The SIF 1.0 has enabled the State Government to monitor the progress of State on SDGs performance, thereby improving the rank of Tamil Nadu on SDGs at the National level. As per the SDG India Index 3.0 released by NITI Aayog, Tamil Nadu ranks second on SDGs progress close behind Kerala. The Departments / Working Groups during the last meeting of the HPC had presented a list of indicators that required modification, addition and deletion and hence it was decided to evolve the State Indicator Framework (SIF) – 2.0. SDGCC has been assigned to work on evolving State Indicator Framework (SIF) – 2.0. In this context, SDGCC has assessed the importance of the

indicators given in SIF – 1.0, and compared the indicators with SDG India Index – 3.0, National Indicator Framework (NIF) – 4.0, District Indicator Framework (DIF) – 1.0, Aspirational District Programme (ADP), Aspirational Block Programme (ABP), etc., Based on the comparison, relevant and outcome-based indicators were chosen for SIF – 2.0 framework. The framework options were presented to the State Planning Commission (SPC), Govt. of Tamil Nadu on 7th December 2023 for getting their valuable inputs. SDGCC presented the SIF 2.0 in joint consultative meeting with Planning and Development Department (P&D), Department of Economics and Statistics (DoES) & State Planning Commission (SPC) on 23.02.2024. Based on the inputs from the meeting SDGCC is to submit a revised template for placing in the meetings of the relevant working groups.





# 8

## EMPOWERING WOMEN FOR BETTER LIVELIHOODS— A CASE OF ANEW

Representatives of SDGCC met officials of Association for Non-traditional Employment for Women (ANEW) on 18th December 2023 to understand its various activities related to training of women to earn better income and sustain their livelihoods. ANEW was started as an NGO in 1997 which capacitates women from marginal communities in three areas namely (i) Home Nursing; (ii) IT Training and (iii) Car/ Auto Driving. ANEW gets its funding support through Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) funds from various organisations in Tamil Nadu. Therefore, it can provide training support free of cost to the enrolled candidates. SDGCC has also explored the future areas of collaboration in various capacity-building activities and finding avenues for employment generations.



# 9

## EV CONCLAVE

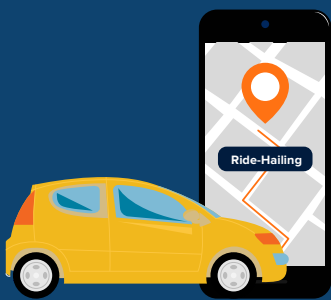
SDGCC team participated in the EV conclave, which was organised by GUIDANCE, Tamil Nadu on 21st November 2023. It was learned that the EV market in Tamil Nadu has steadily grown after the implementation of FAME-II, State EV policy and other incentives. Also, the rate of EV adoption and growth trend of EV are increasing

due to better regulation. It was observed that investment in battery recycling for a greener future; thermal management, exploring new battery materials and Investment trade-offs such as large batteries or dense charging infrastructure are increasing in Tamil Nadu.



India's women labour force participation is lower than men due to a variety of gender barriers such as the burden of household responsibilities, inhibitory social norms, safety concerns and challenges in mobility. Safe, flexible, reliable, and last mile connected transport options can enable women to participate more freely in the workforce. A survey conducted by Oxford Economics and funded by Uber, researched the challenges mobility poses to women's participation in the economy and the role that

ride-hailing can play in overcoming women's mobility challenges. Results showed that women preferred ride-hailing since it provided a safer commuting option and helped save time. The report predicts that access to ride-hailing can encourage an additional 5,00,000 more women to join the Indian workforce by 2028 and boost the GDP of five Indian metro city economies by over 1%.



The report and its summary can be accessed here: **“Ride-Hailing: A Platform for Women’s Economic Opportunity in India”** <https://www.oxfordeconomics.com/resource/ride-hailing-a-platform-for-womens-economic-opportunity-in-india/>

## ZERO TICKET BUS TRAVEL SCHEME

Considering the importance of savings and female workforce participation, Government of Tamil Nadu (GoTN) launched “Zero Ticket Bus Travel” on 7th May 2021. A study undertaken by State Planning Commission (SPC) shows that the scheme has helped a woman save INR 888 per month. These savings have resulted in increase on household expenditure and economic empowerment. Further, the scheme will lead to

an increase in Female Workforce Participation in the State, which in turn, contribute to healthy lifestyles and increased women empowerment in the State.

The report and its summary can be accessed here: [https://spc.tn.gov.in/IPT\\_studies/ZTBT\\_phase1.pdf](https://spc.tn.gov.in/IPT_studies/ZTBT_phase1.pdf)