NEW HORIZON

VOLUME 2 | ISSUE 1

HIGHLIGHTS

POLICY ANALYSIS AND PARTNERSHIP DISCUSSIONS

1. Panchayat Development Index (PDI) – Efforts towards localization of SDGs

The Ministry of Panchayati Raj (MoPR), Government of India (GoI) launched the PDI during the Workshop conducted at Dr. Ambedkar International Centre, New Delhi from 10 to 11 August 2023. A delegation from Tamil Nadu attended this national workshop which had all the States participating in it.

All Secretaries meeting on PDI was held under the Chairmanship of the Chief Secretary on 3 January 2024, to discuss and prioritize the indicators enlisted under PDI and to further implement PDI at the State level. Representatives from Sustainable Development Goals Coordination Centres (SDGCC) participated in the meeting. During the meeting, it was highlighted that the Rural Development and Panchayat Raj (RD&PR) Department will be the Nodal Organization for the implementation of PDI, ensure data collection points at the panchayat level and other relevant Secretariat Departments were mandated to validate the indicators covered under PDI concerning their relevance. The Secretaries of the connected departments agreed on the indicators to be finalized and ensured the collection of data at block and panchayat levels. SDGCC participated in the meeting.

a. Workshop on the PDI

Following this, a State-level Workshop on the PDI was organized by the RD&PR Department in collaboration with the MoPR, GoI on 31 January 2024, to sensitize the State officials representing key stakeholder departments on the importance of the PDI portal. Representatives of SDGCC, Tamil Nadu attended the Workshop.

The workshop focused on the need for department nodal officers at different levels who would be responsible for validation and freezing of the department data capture formats. The challenges regarding the identification of data nodal points at the panchayat level were expressed as for many department's data was available only at the block levels/department unit levels. The validation of data at different levels by the nodal officers as and when received was discussed. The process of the collection of data and its uploading on the PDI portal was left with the RD&PR department who were trained by the SIRD. It was observed from the Workshop that the PDI portal will facilitate better monitoring of the progress of social, economic and cultural development at the panchayat level. The Panchayat scorecard on the different themes would be useful to identify the low-performing areas and channel resources to the indicators listed under the nine themes.

Concerning updating the data on the PDI portal, the District Resource Persons (DRP) and Block Resource Persons (BRPs) were appointed to coordinate with the line departments at district and State levels respectively. The District SDG Executive Committee would coordinate the data validation at the district level. Department-level data is being validated by the respective department officials at that level. The data entry has commenced and completed up to 99% at Gram Panchayat level.

Healthy Village   Water-sufficient Village   Village with Self-sufficient Infrastructure   Village with Good Governance

Poverty-free Village   Child-friendly Village   Clean and Green Village   Socially Secured Village   Women-friendly Village

b. Model Village Framework

SDGCC has taken PDI as an integral part of the proposed Model Village Framework. By the 73rd and 74th Amendments, Panchayat is mandated as the fundamental stakeholders in the localized system of governance in India. As a mandate of SDG localization, SDGCC has initiated the discussion on the development of a Model Village Framework with senior officials of the Department of RD&PR. After consulting and including the inputs from the Department, a follow-up meeting was held with the Director, SIRD to strategize the piloting of the programme. As an outcome of the discussion, SDGCC improvised the concept and expanded the proposed pilot implementation in the identified Panchayat learning centres towards an all-encompassing systems approach with possible integration of the data from the PDI.

The PDI indicators could provide SDGCC with data to develop interventions and strategies that would best address the local issues. The kind of big data that is likely to emerge offers the potential for mapping and looking at spatial patterns in development and also identifying hotspots requiring attention.

Next Step: >>

SDGCC will further work with SPC to understand the district updates regarding PDI.

2. Fab Lab-based Skill Development Project

Optimum development of rural society is possible when the youth in rural areas are given a platform to achieve their dreams. What is required now is a platform for rural youth to access state-of-the-art technology tools to learn, prototype and pilot with mentor support that addresses the dual problem of nurturing employability and entrepreneurship. Understanding the importance of this, the SDGCC team had a consultative meeting with Mr. Amir Sultan, Ex-ADB Consultant and Vigyan Ashram, an non-governmental organization (NGO) in Pabal village in Maharashtra which had pioneered an innovative model to address this issue in partnership with Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT), USA. As an outcome of these discussions, SDGCC came out with a concept policy note on 'Technology Skills and Innovation Centres' for rural and tribal youth by setting up the time-tested Fab Lab-based facilities in rural clusters of Tamil Nadu with a Super Fab Lab set up in Chennai to increase their means to advance their livelihoods. The concept note was finalized and submitted to related departments of GoTN.

Next Step: >>

As a key step to further actions, SDGCC initiated discussions with the Department of Adi Dravidar and Tribal Welfare (AD&TW), with Indian Institute of Information Technology (IIIT) Kanchipuram and follow-up meetings with Vigyan Ashram, Pune to chart-out implementation plans. In the meeting with Secretary, AD&TW, broad overview of the project was shared for which *prima facie* interest received. This will be followed up in the subsequent meeting once the implementation plans are further firmed up with IIIT, Kanchipuram and Vigyan Ashram (MIT, USA).

3. SDGCC Project Steering Committee (PSC) Meeting

The SDGCC PSC meeting was held on 12 March 2024, under the Chairmanship of the Additional Chief Secretary (ACS) as per the G.O. Rt. No. 35, dated: 06.03.2024 (regarding the constitution of the PSC to review and monitor Tamil Nadu SDGCC project activities). During the PSC meeting, the Committee discussed on tasks achieved in 2023 and the SDGCC work plan for 2024 which included knowledge series, proposed studies, pilots, partnerships, etc. Some of the prominent discussion points that emerged from the PSC meeting included the launching of

Vision documents for: (i) Sustainable Transport – 2030 and (ii) Skill, Employment and Livelihoods; Allocation of additional resources/budget to scale up the activities; Inputs to the 2024 Annual work plan – possible expansion of SDGCC with additional thematic areas to expand the scope of the activities to achieve SDGs by 2030.
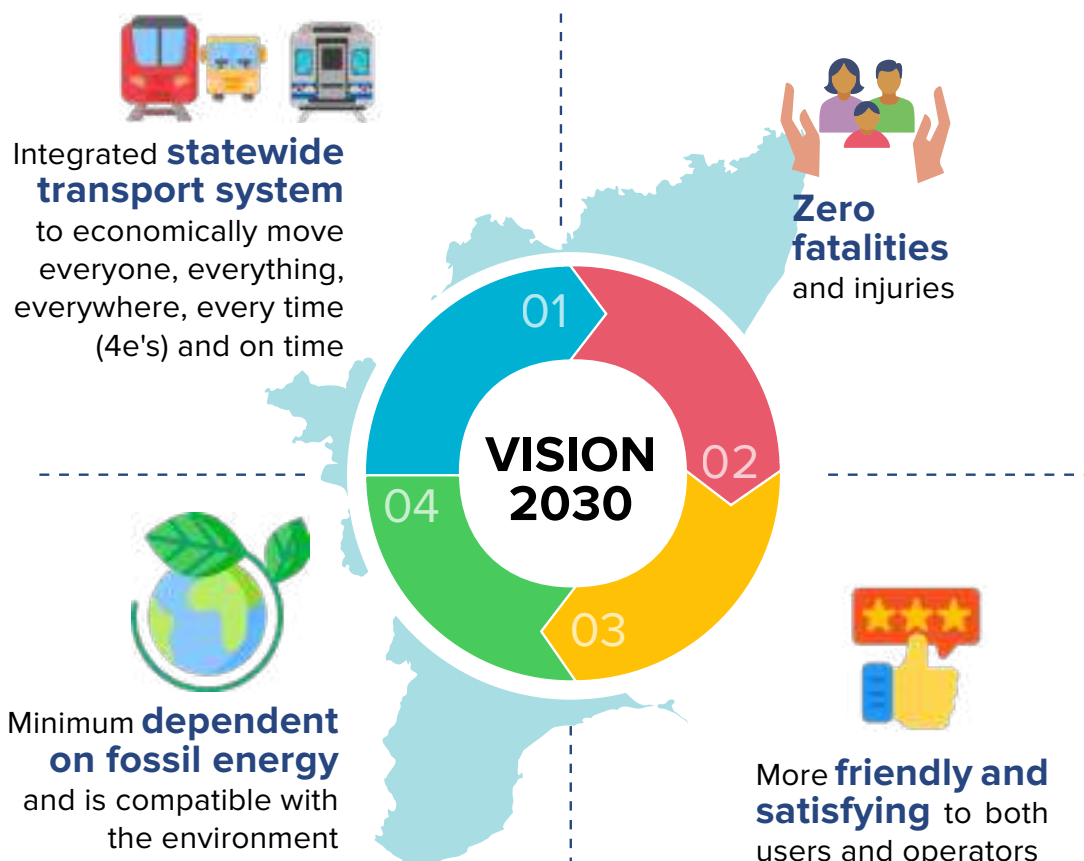
Key take away:

The Committee expressed the need to expand SDGCC with new thematic areas such as Energy, Circular Economy and SDG Financing.

4. Meeting with ACS, Transport Department

A meeting was held with the ACS Transport Department on 19 March 2024, to present the 'Tamil Nadu SDG Vision Document of Sustainable Transport – 2030' and quick action plans for Sustainable Transport. Important action

points that emerged from the meeting include Formation of State Transport Authority [Unified Metropolitan Transport Authority (UMTA)] for one unified institutional system for operation, maintenance and capacity-building activities. The need for preparing and adopting Mobility plans for all cities; Roadmap for improving gender participation rate (including Drivers and

Integrated **statewide transport system** to economically move everyone, everything, everywhere, every time (4e's) and on time

Zero fatalities and injuries

VISION 2030

01
02
03
04

Minimum **dependent on fossil energy** and is compatible with the environment

More **friendly and satisfying** to both users and operators

Conductors) in the Transport sector to ensure at least 33% representation at all levels were discussed. Discussion also focused on bringing Permit Issuance, and metro operations under the Transport Department for enhancing the operational efficiency of Transport services. Suggestions such as the Formation of a Sustainable Transport Fund to mobilize corporate social responsibility (CSR) funds for various activities of the transport sector like quick action plans for upgrading and development of Depot, for the standardization of bus terminals through CSR funds and creating awareness on various aspects of mobility and transport constantly to bring behaviour changes were discussed at length.

Next Step:

SDGCC will further follow up with the Transport Department, GoTN for preparing the Mobility Plans across the State. Also, coordinate with respective stakeholders such as CUMTA for Unified Fare System in Greater Chennai Region.

5. Discussions with Stakeholder Departments on SDG Vision Document for Skill, Employment and Livelihoods

Meeting with Secretary, Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSME) Department
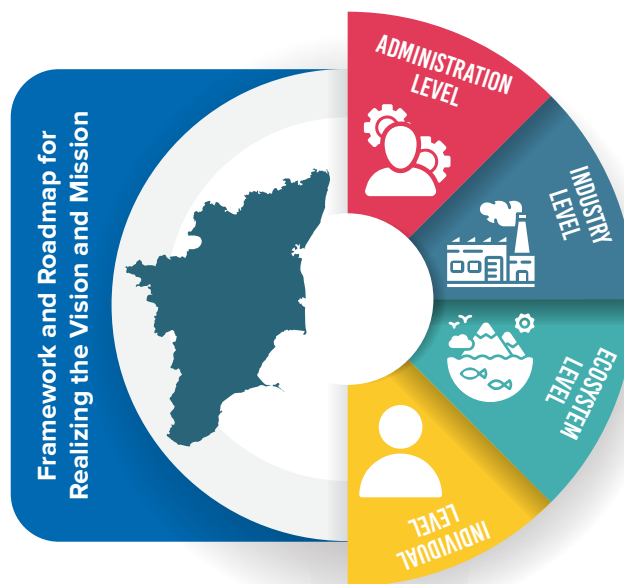
The Secretary, while appreciating the comprehensive approach taken to come out with the Vision Document also suggested to have a follow-on joint meeting with departments [Heads of Divisions (HoDs)] to seek inputs and chart out a plan of action to shape the reskilling and upskilling initiatives/schemes proposed for the MSME sector.

Meeting with the Secretary, Department of Industries, Investment Promotion and Commerce Department

It was suggested that SDGCCs continue to discuss with GUIDANCE Tamil Nadu regarding the policy-level interventions proposed to the department such as ways to increase female workforce participation, incentivize investments based on employment potential, etc.

Framework and Roadmap for Realizing the Vision and Mission

ADMINISTRATION LEVEL

INDUSTRY LEVEL

ECOSYSTEM LEVEL

INDIVIDUAL LEVEL

Meeting with the ACS Department of Labour Welfare and Skill Development

The ACS provided input on interventions specific to the department such as revamping employment exchanges, policy framework for gig workers, etc. and suggested further discussions on concept note specific to departments.

ACS, Department of Youth Welfare and Sports Development

In specific, Youth Guarantee Framework and its importance for the State of Tamil Nadu youth was discussed. As an outcome, the ACS suggested to add Youth engagement platform as part of the 'Youth Guarantee framework' for the 'Neither in Employment nor Education or Training (NEETs)' category youth of Tamil Nadu that the department can act as a nodal department to integrate all youth-related schemes/programmes from other departments and suggested that having a mobile app platform to start with.

6. Towards Sustainable Transport and Mobility

SDGCC interacted with Mr. Jeyapal, Senior Planning Advisor at Chennai Metropolitan Development Authority (CMDA), Chennai to get valuable inputs and possible areas of collaboration on Sustainable Transport and Mobility. Quick action plans for Sustainable Transport and Mobility were presented and areas of common interest were discussed. The potential of integrating sustainability into the Master Plans developed by CMDA for Chennai was deliberated.

Next Step: »

SDGCC will be coordinating with CMDA for mapping SDGs in their preparation of Master Plan.

7. Fostering Collaboration with British Deputy High Commission (BDHC), Chennai

BDHC Chennai, Tamil Nadu closely works with GoTN on various development activities that range from health and sanitation, gender empowerment, climate change mitigation and adaptation, etc. SDGCC held a meeting with BDHC on 2 February 2024, to improve the collaboration. The representatives namely Ms. Shalini Medepalli, Deputy Head; Kripa Ramachandran, Commission Advisor of the BDHC, Chennai visited SDGCC. During the visit, the potential areas of collaboration were discussed and it was broadly agreed that the initial focus area would be Gender and Transport.

Next Step: »

This collaboration will help SDGCC to tap the strength of BDHC in terms of resources in organizing Round Table on the emerging thematic areas related to Gender and Transport.

8. Learning from Startup – Y Square Technology on Transport and Mobility

SDGCC had an interaction with Mr. Yaseen, the founder member of "Y Square Technology", a budding Start-up in Transport and Mobility, working on delivering mobility services effectively and based out of Chennai. During the interaction, Mr. Yaseen highlighted that many areas in Transport and Mobility are not yet tapped to their fullest potential. He pointed out the imperative for fleet management, efficient ticketing and improving operational efficiency. Further, he mentioned that to improve workforce mobility, Sustainable Transport will hold the key in addition to the above-mentioned areas. Hence, SDGCC, Tamil Nadu has suggested "Y Square Technology" to focus and work on gaps in the existing Transport and Mobility sector and come up with quick action plans that would pave the way for improving efficiency and help to bring seamless connectivity with due focus on improving safety, affordability, efficiency and resilience.

Next Step: »

SDGCC invited this start up to come up with a model framework for mapping the travel pattern of road users, especially two-wheelers and cars in the Greater Chennai Region through Automatic Number Plate Recognition (ANPR) camera, which can be utilized for branding strategies for the public transportation system.

9. Technical Advisory to Safe Stops: Inclusive Bus Stops

SDGCC as a technical partner to Greater Chennai Corporation (GCC) is supporting the conducting of a study of "Safe Stops: Inclusive Bus Stops". The major objectives of the study are to map and analyse the existing infrastructure of 250 locations and 500 bus stops. The study also tries to do a comprehensive study of women's travel patterns, focusing on safety, accessibility and convenience; identify the first and last-mile connectivity challenges and propose solutions and actionable insights to enhance the design, safety and accessibility of bus stops.

Next Step: »

SDGCC will continue to provide technical advice to GCC which is conducting the study and finalize the report from sustainability point of view.

1. Development of State Indicator Framework (SIF) – 2.0

SDGCC, Tamil Nadu is working on the development of a draft SIF-2.0 to build a robust monitoring mechanism for assessing the performance of Tamil Nadu on the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). As directed by ACS, Planning and Development (P&D) Department, SDGCC had a meeting with the State Planning Commission (SPC) to get input for SIF-2.0 draft framework. A review meeting was chaired by the ACS on 7 February 2024, to discuss the proposed framework. The suggestions from the meeting have been considered to develop a comprehensive common database of indicators for SIF-2.0, by incorporating mutually exclusive indicators from SDG India Index-3.0, National Indicator Framework (NIF) – 4.0, Focus Blocks Development Programme (FBDP) , Aspirational Districts Programme (ADP) and Aspirational Blocks Programme (ABP). The template of SIF-2.0 has since been finalized for presentation in the Working Groups.

A series of consultations with key stakeholders, for the development of draft SIF-2.0. SIF-2.0 was developed based on the framework of 17 SDGs

with SIF-1.0 as the base indicator framework to comprehensively assess the State's performance on SDGs at the national level and promote interventions based on the indicator's performance. The following methodology was adopted wherein a comprehensive mapping exercise was undertaken to align the indicators with SDGs (17 Nos) and Targets (169 Nos) from different indices such as SDG India Index-3.0, NIF-4.0, ADP, ABP and FBDP. Accordingly, SDGCC created and submitted draft SIF-2.0 for all eight Working Groups and shared them with respective Heads of Divisions (HoDs) of SPC for review. Group – 1 as an example with all relevant indicators sourced from different indices for suggestions was first shared and on concurrence, SDGCC has standardized the template for the SIF-2.0 draft and started developing for the other seven Working Groups (refer to Tables 1 and 2).

SIF-1.0 was developed during 2018–19 by the State for referring to the Indices namely Global Indicator Framework (GIF), SDG India Index 1.0 and NIF-1.0. SIF-1.0 consists of a total of 314 indicators covering all 17 SDGs. SIF-2.0 is the evolution of SIF-1.0 to help Tamil Nadu monitor SDGs as per the State's priorities and enhance State SDGs' performance at the national level.

TABLE 1: Description of different indices referenced for developing draft SIF–2.0

S. No.	Name of indices	Description of framework
1.	NIF	⊙ Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation (MoSPI), GoI prepared the NIF in-line with GIF to achieve the SDGs by 2030. ⊙ India being a signatory member of United Nations (UN), has developed NIF since 2018. So far, 5 versions of NIF have been released. ⊙ The latest version, i.e. NIF-4.0 with 284 indicators was released in June 2023. NIF indicators can be considered as a guiding tool for States, wherein States are free to adopt the needed relevant indicators.
2.	SDG India Index	⊙ NITI Aayog is entrusted to prepare the SDG India index which is widely used for assessing the performance of states on SDGs progress. ⊙ A total of 3 editions have been released since 2019. ⊙ SDG India Index-3.0 was released in 2021, which consists of 17 goals and **115 indicators**. ⊙ Tamil Nadu ranks second in the SDG India Index-3.0 with a score of 74/100.
3.	ADP	⊙ ADP to create significant improvements in health, nutrition and education outcomes in 2018. ⊙ A total of 112 districts across the country are covered under the programme. ⊙ *Ramanathapuram* and *Virudhunagar* districts are covered under the programme in Tamil Nadu. ⊙ A total of **49 key performance indicators** are categorized under five broad themes, namely: *(i) Health and nutrition, (ii) Education, (iii) Agriculture and Water Resources, (iv) Financial Inclusion and (v) Skill Development and Infrastructure to monitor this programme.*
4.	ABP	⊙ The ABP was developed by NITI Aayog and launched in 2023. ⊙ The programme focuses on improving governance to enhance the quality of life of citizens and service delivery in the remotest and least developed blocks of India. ⊙ Around 500 blocks were selected by the GoI for implementation of the programme. In Tamil Nadu, a total of 16 blocks are covered under ABP. ⊙ ABP consists of **40 indicators** covering the five following themes, namely: *(i) Health and Nutrition, (ii) Education, (iii) Agriculture and Allied Sector, (iv) Basic Infrastructure and (v) Social Development.*
5.	FBDP	⊙ FBDP is implemented by the SPC, GoTN. ⊙ A total of 187 indicators were included in FBDP. ⊙ FBDP aims to identify blocks that require additional government assistance to improve public utilities and lives of the poor households. ⊙ FBDP facilitates in creating capacity in the block-level administrative mechanism to augment development resources and use them effectively to achieve faster development concerning other regions in the State.

TABLE 2: Number of Mutually Exclusive Indicators adopted from different indices for SIF-2.0

Goals	SIF-1.0	SDGII-3.0	NIF-4.0	FBDP	ADP	ABP	State Developed Indicators (for SIF-2.0 suggested by SPC/SDGCC)	Total indicators
1	19	1	3	4	0	0	0	27
2	20	2	7	0	0	0	0	29
3	27	1	6	3	0	0	0	37
4	13	2	8	4	0	0	0	27
5	23	1	9	0	0	0	0	33
6	17	1	0	2	0	0	0	20
7	6	0	2	0	0	0	0	8
8	31	5	12	0	0	0	0	48
9	11	3	11	0	0	0	0	25
10	10	4	1	0	0	0	2	17
11	14	5	5	1	0	0	0	25
12	13	4	4	0	0	0	0	21
13	7	1	3	0	0	0	1	12
14	13	1	2	0	0	0	4	20
15	13	2	5	0	0	0	2	22
16	28	1	3	0	0	0	0	32
17	9	0	3	0	0	0	0	12
Total	**274**	**34**	**84**	**14**	**0**	**0**	**9**	**415**

CAPACITY DEVELOPMENT

1. TN-RISE Women Start-up Mission Stakeholders Meet

SDGCC representatives attended the TN-RISE Women Start-up Mission Stakeholders Meet organized on 10 January 2024. During the meeting, the various challenges faced by women entrepreneurs were discussed in detail. Stakeholders expressed many interventions and amenities that were needed to be included in designing the physical spaces for women entrepreneurs. The "TN-RISE" Women Start-

"Vazhndhu Kattuvom" Project (formerly known as 'TNRTP') looks beyond poverty alleviation by building sustainable rural communities through enterprise promotion and include them in the existing enterprise ecosystem of the State.

up Mission is envisaged as a physical space, with conducive infrastructure and professional expertise, which will provide customized market linkages, financing and operational advice. It will build on existing platforms and bridge the gaps in the ecosystem to provide high-end business incubation services to women-led rural enterprises.

SDGCC team shared the challenges faced by women entrepreneurs such as widespread gender social norms often impacting their access to resources, partnerships and support. Securing initial capital and funding is particularly difficult for women due to a lack of resource ownership. Additionally, women's access to professional networks is limited as they are predominantly male-dominated.

Mobility limitations are a major issue for women entrepreneurs and balancing the multiple responsibilities as entrepreneurs, homemakers and caregivers makes time management and active involvement particularly challenging for them. In addition to all these challenges, there is workspace violence in different forms, including sexual harassment.

> **Key Highlight:**
>
> The proposed interventions in the SDGCC's Vision Document for Skill, Employment and Livelihoods address some of the challenges/ issues highlighted from concerned stakeholders.

2. Participation in the Nilgiris Economic Dialogue (NED)

NED was organized by Confederation of Indian Industry (CII), Tamil Nadu for 3 days from 2nd to 4th February 2024 as a multi-stakeholder consultation on policy action and reforms for inclusive and sustainable future. It brought together leaders from diverse worlds of Industry, Government, Academia, Planning and Social Work to engage on critical issues and current realities towards an optimistic future through topics of relevance. SDGCC representative participated in the technical roundtable sessions of the event and shared nuggets of the SDGCC's proposed interventions such as (i) the Tamil Nadu Centre for enablement of Environment, Social and Governance (ESG) and Green transitions among Industries and the (ii) fiscal incentives for reskilling and upskilling MSME employees for green and digital transitions and (iii) ways to improve Female Labour Force Participation (FLFP). This platform provided an opportunity for SDGCC to contribute to topics of SDG relevance, particularly SDG-8 (Decent Jobs and Economic Growth) and get inputs from the Industry on proposed Tamil Nadu SDGCC interventions such as reskilling and upskilling

NILGIRIS ECONOMIC DIALOGUE

02-04 FEBRUARY 2024 - OOTY

initiatives. The MSME sector's requirements for upskilling, increasing employability and reducing attrition would require inputs on moving to Tamil Nadu Green transition, ESG enablement centre, Digital Industry 4.0/5.0 transition and creating a learning and networking ecosystem in Tamil Nadu.

Next Step: »

As an extension of this dialogue, SDGCC and CII Tamil Nadu agreed to partner for the proposed CSR roundtable to leverage CSR resources to accelerate SDGs. Going forward, CII is planning to organize NEDs as an annual event, where SDGCC will continue the dialogue with key stakeholders for their active participation in the journey towards achievement of SDGs in Tamil Nadu.

3. Sensitization Workshop to Youth on SDGs

SDGCC representative participated as a speaker in the panel discussion on "SDGs-opportunities and challenges for the Youth" at M.O.P. Vaishnav College for Women organized on 9 February 2024. During the discussion, SDGCC sensitized youth on the importance of SDGs and the commitment that is required from today's youth to contribute to the achievement of SDGs. It was stressed that the collective effort including the voice and energy of youth will enable everyone to help achieve SDGs. It was learnt from M.O.P. Vaishnav College for Women that an SDG app had been developed for the exclusive use of students to track their carbon footprint as part of their day-to-day activities.

Next Step: »

SDGCC discussed with Principal of M.O.P. Vaishnav College and fellow panellists on the potential of a similar open-source platform for all students of Tamil Nadu providing informed choice options for sustainable life choices towards the attainment of SDGs.

4. Workshop on Tamil Nadu Heat Mitigation Strategy

A Workshop on Tamil Nadu Heat Mitigation Strategy was conducted on 14 February 2024, by the SPC in collaboration with the UK Government and World Resource Institute (WRI), India at Radisson Blu, Chennai. SDGCC team participated in the Workshop. During the Workshop, the panel members discussed the various mitigation measures covering the broader themes namely (i) Infrastructure and urban landscape, (ii) Livelihoods and Economy, Community participation, etc. The impact of heat waves on people specifically the vulnerable – pregnant women, children and also on agriculture, livestock, the city, and all other urban landscapes were discussed with probable solutions. Key takeaways included learning the best practices adopted by the health department such as the provision of ORS; organizing summer medical camps to address heat-related diseases, and creating awareness among medical practitioners on heat/heat wave-related health issues. Other issues that were discussed were on the adoption of cool proof materials; impact on gig workers, adopting of heat resistant/tolerant varieties in agriculture; ensuring water facilities for livestock, etc.

Many strategies have also been adopted by the GoTN to prevent heat strokes and other heat-related illnesses. For example, the Labour Welfare and Skill Development Department regulates the working hours and conditions

for employees during summer and heat wave periods. Also, the State is undertaking several measures to prevent heat-related illness and improved surveillance mechanism to prevent heat strokes. Directorate of Public Health (DPH) under the Health and Family Welfare Department has also issued advisory to District Health Officers on Heat wave preparedness such as prevention of heat-related illness such as health facilities, cooling appliances and ambulance for early management in line with national advisory, completion of immunization sessions before 11 AM, etc.

The Tamil Nadu Vision Document of Sustainable Transport – 2030 prepared to address the sustainability issues faced by the Tamil Nadu transport system and connectivity in urban areas also discusses developing climate-resilient cities, adoption of Electric Vehicle (EV) for public transport, etc., focusing on non-motorized transport to address the climate change risks and bring mitigation strategies in the mobility sector and ensure sustainable transport system.

Next Step: »

SDGCC, in the field of urbanization, the heat mitigation strategies such as compact city planning, reduction in trip length and increase in public transport utilization across the State got recommended for phase wise implementation. Further, to strengthen the recommendations, SDGCC will initiate focused discussion with the relevant stakeholders.

5. Workshop on 'Towards Gender-Responsive Climate Action'

A Workshop on 'Towards Gender-Responsive Climate Action: Integrating Perspectives in Tamil Nadu's Policies' was organized by the BDHC in collaboration with United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and UN WOMEN on International Women's Day held on 8 March 2024. This Workshop was attended by more than 50 participants representing various organizations including NGOs and Civil Society Organizations (CSOs). During the Workshop, the panellists from different sectors such as Academia, NGOs, National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD) and other CSOs expressed their views and activities taken up towards gender-responsive climate action. Important discussion points were mainstreaming adaptation funds for gender-responsive climate activities; encouraging women to be frontrunners in the conservation and preservation of the ecosystem inculcating knowledge and awareness of SDGs among students, especially among female students. Issues like ensuring safe and secure accessibility to all modes of public transport and public infrastructure for girls/women, etc. This partnership will further help SDGCC to institutionalize the potential activities such as the use of adaptation funds for creating safe and secure infrastructure for women during extreme weather events; providing training to women on resilience efforts; and enumerating contributions of women in tackling the effects of climate change and develop policies that best address the impact of climate change on women in Tamil Nadu.

Next Step:

SDGCC will collaborate with key stakeholders from the workshop as per deliberations in the development of gender-responsive climate action plans in the vision document.

6. Policy Framework to Support Gig Workers

In recent years, the rise of the platform-based gig economy has transformed the nature of work, offering flexibility and opportunities for individuals worldwide. However, alongside its benefits, this evolving employment landscape creates several challenges in their work, stemming from the nature of the gig economy platforms in the broader economic landscape. In cognizance of the challenges of these workers, both developed and developing nations have started prioritizing the establishment of frameworks that are aimed at issues of social protection for safeguarding the gig economy workers' interests.

In this regard, SDGCC is working with the SPC in coming up with a regulatory framework to mitigate the risks of exploitation and economic insecurity for gig workers in Tamil Nadu. This work of incorporating the legal, regulatory frameworks as outlined by International Labour Organization (ILO) for achieving the SDG Target 8.8 that aims to *"Protect labour rights and provision of safe and secure working environment for all workers, including migrant workers, in particular women migrants, and those in precarious employment"* is an initiative that SDGCC is working on. As a progressive State constantly benchmarking with global standards, SDGCC has submitted a policy note mapping national and global best practices and recommending contextually relevant framework options for the State of Tamil Nadu. Policy note included a framework with several socio-economic measurement tools such as:

1. **Economic protection support mechanisms:** Paid sick leave (including maternity benefits) insurance for health, life and disability cover;

2. **Mechanisms to improve the working environment of workers:** Fixed working hours, safe working space, which is disabled and women-friendly, and the right to collective bargaining;

3. **Occupational safety and health risks:** Support for road safety and physical assault and

4. **Support workers in a situation of irregularity of work:** Create corpus fund to support the workers at the time when "No/less work situation" and in sudden pandemic situations such as COVID-19.

> **Next Step:** »
>
> As a continuation to this, SPC is conducting a survey to evaluate the actual need from Tamil Nadu gig workers. SDGCC will continue to work with SPC in coming out with a robust policy framework for gig workers in Tamil Nadu.

IV. LEVERAGING PRIVATE SECTOR CSR RESOURCES FOR ACCELERATING SDGs IN TAMIL NADU

With CSR spending of more than INR 1,400 crores during Financial Year 2021–22, Tamil Nadu ranks 5th in CSR spending. We are rapidly approaching the timeline set for the achievement of the 2030 Agenda for SDGs, with just 7 years remaining. CSR in Tamil Nadu, if utilized optimally, could be an effective tool to accelerate the achievement of SDGs in the State.

With this background, SDGCC has started two initiatives:

1. To organize a multi-stakeholder consultation to initiate a discussion with the CSR ecosystem around the collective efforts towards the State's development priorities and achievement of SDGs.

2. Initiating an integrated CSR matchmaking web platform to connect all the stakeholders in a single window.

1. Multi-stakeholder Consultation on CSR

Against this backdrop, a series of meetings were held with the Planning and Development Department and SPC. CII and National Association of Software and Service Companies (NASSCOM) were proposed to be the industry network partners. SDGCC has mapped the CSR thematic activities of Corporates on SDGs for the Blocks under FBDP and line departments. SDGCC is in discussion with identified corporates through network partners to ensure their engagement with and contributions towards the implementation of the Sustainable Development Agenda for the State.

Next Step:

The proposed multi-stakeholder consultation with the CSR ecosystem in the form of a round table discussion is being planned in the coming months.

2. CSR Matchmaking Web Platform

The CSR matchmaking web platform will facilitate stakeholders in harmonizing their CSR objectives with the State's priorities. SDGCC has presented the concept. In this regard, a demonstration cum knowledge exchange meeting was organized with the SPC Tamil Nadu, the UNDP team and the Department of Planning and Development of the Government of Karnataka to get the user experience on 25 April 2024. With the positive outcomes, SDGCC is continuing the next steps.

Next Step:

It was decided UNDP-SDGCC will scope out the plans to have a dedicated CSR match making web platform for the State of Tamil Nadu.

ABOUT THE ISSUE

The Vol: 2, Issue: 1 SDG Newsletter, New Horizon presents the activities undertaken by the SDGCC under the guidance of the Planning and Development Department for dissemination to key stakeholders.