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Volume 2, Issue 4

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POLICY ADVOCACY AND PARTNERSHIP DISCUSSIONS

Promotion of SDG clubs in Tamil Nadu

SDGCC has conceptualised the 'SDG Club' a hub for youth empowerment, equipping students to be proactive agents of change in building a sustainable and equitable future. SDG Clubs are aimed to be institutionalised in Higher Education Institutions (HEIs) and among Schools.

Vision: To inspire and empower the next generation of leaders to drive sustainable change and create a better Tamil Nadu by achieving the United Nations' Sustainable Development Goals.

Mission: To engage, educate and mobilize students across Tamil Nadu to take action on the SDGs through dynamic programs, innovative projects and meaningful partnerships, fostering a culture of sustainability and social responsibility on campus and beyond.

While the concept is going through the approval process for adoption in Schools and Colleges in Tamil Nadu, SDGCC Team on request from the Hindustan University in Chennai conducted a workshop to create awareness among students and staff on Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and how to create and manage SDG Club in their University. SDGCC guided the students on Standard Operating Procedures(SOPs) for creation of SDG Clubs and also engaged them through SDG games to demonstrate how Team work supports achievement of SDGs.

Next Step: ▶▶

SDGCC plans to conduct such orientation Programmes to Colleges interested in setting up SDG Clubs.

Leveraging Digital Technology in Agroforestry for Sustainable Land Use Management: Empowering Farmer Communities

SDGCC collaborated with the State Planning Commission to prepare a Research paper on "Leveraging Digital Technology in Agroforestry for Sustainable Land Use Management: Empowering Farmer Communities". Subsequently, SPC nominated representatives from SDGCC Team to present the paper at the India Land and Development Conference, conducted by Flame University, Pune on 5th November 2024. SDGCC's involvement in preparing this paper helps to work out the strategies for addressing the challenges of tree cover increase in the State of Tamil Nadu which also is more aligned with SDG target of 33%. Imbibing Digital Technology strategies may be one of the critical areas for disseminating information to farmers to adopt Agroforestry.

This will in turn help increase land area under tree coverage and also, serve as a better adaptation and mitigation strategy to climate extreme events.

The strategies suggested in this Research paper may also provide a direction for the policy makers to advocate better implementation plans to promote Agroforestry in the State.

Economics Conclave 2024: Future-Ready Transit: Sustainable and Smart Solutions for Tamil Nadu

SDGCC, Tamil Nadu participated in the Economics Conclave 2024 at Kumaraguru College of Liberal Arts and Science (KCLAS), wherein Development Goals Specialist for Sustainable Transport & Mobility, (SDGCC, TN) delivered the keynote speech on the importance of Urban Mobility and its role in shaping the future of Policy makers and Economists. In addition to the keynote, Development Goals Specialist for Sustainable Transport & Mobility, took part in a

Roundtable discussion on Integrating Public Transport Solutions in Tamil Nadu, addressing several key points, including:

Policy frameworks: The current frameworks support the integration of Bus systems, Metro, Autos and Non-Motorized Transport systems in Tamil Nadu, and the challenges of integration.

Urban-Rural Mobility: How Public Transport policies can bridge the gap between Urban and Rural areas, ensuring equitable access to mobility for all.

Private Sector Integration: Assessing the role of the private sector in Tamil Nadu's mobility ecosystem.

Sustainable Transport for Tier-2 Cities: Envisioning changes for cities like Coimbatore and the measures Transport bodies can take to ensure their Public Transport systems are environmentally sustainable.

DATA ANALYTICS, MONITORING AND EVALUATION

Working Group Meetings for Finalisation of State Indicator Framework (SIF) – 2.0

Working Group – 8

Meeting of Working Group – 8 (Promotion of Peace and Partnership) covering Sustainable Development Goals 16 (Peace, Justice and Strong Institution) and 17 (Partnership for the Goals) was conducted on 19th November 2024. Thiru Dheeraj Kumar, IAS, Additional Chief Secretary (ACS) to the Government of Tamil Nadu, Home, Prohibition and Excise Department Chaired the meeting in which the Head of Division (IPT), State Planning Commission (SPC) is the Member Convenor of the Working Group. During the meeting, SDGCC presented the performance of Tamil Nadu on SDG India Index – 4.0; the performance of State Indicator Framework (SIF) – 1.0 covering Goals – 16 and 17 and the draft indicators of Goal – 16 and 17 under SIF – 2.0. Additional Chief Secretary (Home, Prohibition and Excise Department) reviewed the indicators along with respective line departments and provided insight and directions on way forward. The Chairman instructed the Departments to make necessary interventions for trailing indicators of Goals – 16 and 17 in particular to crimes against women, missing children etc., Also, 'in principle' approval was given to the suggested indicators of Goals – 16 and 17 under SIF– 2.0.

Working Group – 8 (Promotion of Peace and Partnership)				
Goals	SIF - 1.0	SDGII-3.0	NIF - 4.0	Total Indicators (SIF - 2.0)
16	25	1	1	**27**
17	5	0	1	**6**

Working Group – 5

Meeting of Working Group (WG) – 5 (Innovation, Industrialisation and Sustainable Development) conducted on 21st November 2024. WG – 5 covers Sustainable Development Goals 7 (Affordable and Clean Energy), 8 (Decent Work and Economic Growth), 9 (Industries, Innovation and Infrastructure) and 11 (Sustainable Cities and Communities). Secretary to Government, Industries, Investment Promotion and Commerce Department chaired the Working Group. Head of Division, Industries, Power and Transport (IPT), State Planning Commission (SPC) is the Member Convenor of the Working Group.

During the meeting, SDGCC presented the performance of Tamil Nadu on SDG India Index – 4.0; the performance of State Indicator Framework (SIF) – 1.0 covering Goals – 7, 8, 9 and 11; and draft indicators of Goal – 7, 8, 9 and 11 under SIF – 2.0. Secretary (Industries, Investment Promotion and Commerce Department) reviewed the agenda, deliberated the need for indicators considered under SIF – 2.0 and instructed indicators that need to be included in SIF – 2.0 with the consensus of concerned departments and conveyed 'in-principle' approval to indicators of Goals – 7, 8, 9 and 11 for SIF 2.0.

Working Group – 5 (Innovation, Industrialisation and Sustainable Development)					
Goals	SIF - 1.0	SDGII-3.0	NIF - 4.0	FBDP (Focus Block Development Programme)	Total Indicators (SIF - 2.0)
7	06	0	1	0	**7**
8	24	0	8	0	**32**
9	08	5	2	0	**15**
11	09	2	3	1	**15**

CAPACITY DEVELOPMENT

Policy Round Table on Increasing Apprenticeship Engagement in Tamil Nadu

SDGCC in collaboration with the Southern India Chamber of Commerce and Industry and the National Skill Development Corporation (NSDC) organised a half-day Workshop on "Increasing Apprenticeship Engagement in Tamil Nadu" on 25th October 2024.

This Policy Round Table was chaired by Mr Ganapathi, Former Managing Director, SICCI, with Tmt. J Innocent Divya IAS, Managing Director of Tamil Nadu Skill Development Corporation, Government of Tamil Nadu as the Chief Guest for the event. The event focused on addressing the rising challenges of unemployment and unemployability among educated youth in Tamil Nadu. This strategic forum highlighted the need for

targeted policy interventions to increase apprenticeship uptake and bridge skill gaps, reinforcing the Tamil Nadu Government's commitment to empowering the youth of Tamil Nadu through enhanced Skill Development opportunities. Delegates and stalwarts from top Industries and key Government stakeholders, Tamil Nadu Skill Development Corporation, the Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship, Government of India and the Board of Apprenticeship Training (Southern Region), Ministry of Education, Government of India discussed strategies for enhancing apprenticeship engagements in the State.

Major suggestions/outcomes emerged from Policy Round Table.

One Nodal agency for the State to converge all apprenticeship schemes through a portal to facilitate Industries, Students and Government subsidies for seamless co-ordination; Adoption of strategies to improve awareness on apprenticeship opportunities; Apprentices should be able to connect with MSMEs; Documentation of Best practices success story which makes the apprenticeship inspirational; Training of Trainers.

Strategies to diversify apprenticeship in sectors such as Tourism, Hospitality, BFSI, Food Processing, IT, Apparel, EV, Government Departments and widen geographies beyond Metropolitan areas

'Top-up' from State Government for payroll subsidy to Companies beyond the Central Government payroll subsidy component

Promoting apprenticeship embedded degree programme

Providing mandatory apprenticeship for students who didn't get campus job placements

Policy Round Table on "Improving School Learning Outcomes"

SDGCC, organized a Policy Round Table on "Improving School Learning Outcomes" in collaboration with UNICEF on 5th December 2024. Tmt. S. Madumathi, IAS, Secretary to Government of Tamil Nadu, School Education Department chaired the day long Policy Round Table discussion. Experts from both private and public sectors invited across the Country presented and deliberated on the three major topics namely (1) "What works in Curriculum, pedagogy and assessment for improved learning outcomes"

(2) "Optimizing Teaching-Learning Process: Use of Digital Technology and AI" and (3) "Innovations and New Niche Areas for Making Schooling Effective. Secretary, School Education Department, Government of Tamil Nadu Tmt. S. Madumathi, IAS concluded with a recommendation to create a Task Force on 'Transformation of Teachers' to create strategies and action plans for empowering Teachers and their well-being that creates a conducive environment for Teachers to adopt Best practices in content, pedagogy, holistic development, use of technology and innovations to improve school learning outcomes. The task force will also pave the way for a transformed SCERT in Tamil Nadu.

Policy Round Table on "Energy Transition and Industrial Development"

A Policy round table on 'Energy Transition and Industrial Development' was held on December 6th, 2024 at the Anna Centenary Library, Chennai. The event was organized by MIDS in collaboration with SDGCC. The round table focused on understanding India's need to implement creative and effective strategies to address the combined impact of economic growth, development and energy transition, particularly to achieve SDG 7 (ensuring access to affordable, reliable, sustainable, and modern energy for all.) & 9 (supporting R & D that promotes industrial diversification and value addition to commodities) with special focus on protecting livelihoods, offering alternative job opportunities, and ensuring that vulnerable communities are not adversely impacted.

The event comprised three-panel discussions that featured several eminent academicians luminaries, entrepreneurs and PhD scholars from the energy transition sector.

One of the major outcomes that emerged from the Policy Round Table includes EV Task Force under the Department of MSME. MSME has proposed to undertake a study with support from SDGCC, GoTN to quantify the skill gap in the EV sector including green hydrogen technologies in Tamil Nadu.

Tamil Nadu Electric Vehicle Task Force
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Much enjoyed the session. The focus of the discussion was Skilling for the EV Transition. It is essential for all government departments, institutions, NGOs and the Industry to work together in this regard. The TN EV Task Force is getting great support in its effort to build a strong EV eco-system in the state of Tamil Nadu.

#EV, Office TN EV Task Force, WRI India, UNDP in India, International Forum for Environment, Sustainability & Technology (iFOREST), RMI India, SEPA - Sustainability and Energy Practitioners Association, Alagappan Ramanathan, Managing Director TNSDC, TN AutoSkills, Somarajaswaran Somasundara, Naan Mudhalvan - TN Skill

IV ABOUT THE ISSUE

The Vol: 2 and Issue – 4 Newsletter covers the major activities that the Sustainable Development Goals Coordination Centre (SDGCC) under the Planning and Development Department, Government of Tamil Nadu had undertaken from October to December 2024.

SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS
TAMIL NADU

Sustainable Development Goals Coordination Centre (SDGCC)

Unit of Planning, Development and Special Initiatives Department, Government of Tamilnadu

5th Floor State Planning Commission, Ezhilagam, Chepauk, Chennai- 600005.