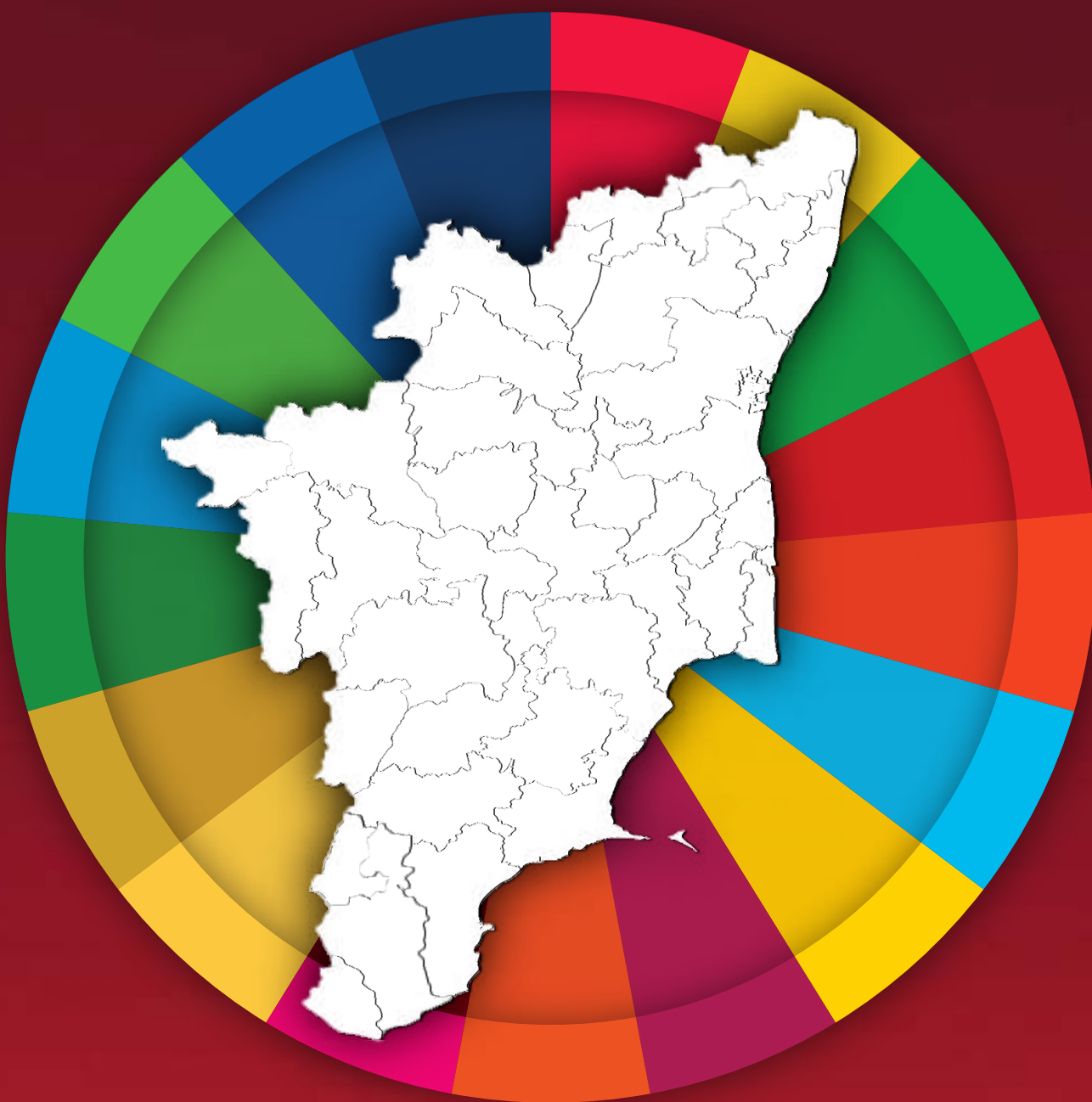




NEW HORIZON

VOLUME 3 | ISSUE 1



Sustainable Development Goals Coordination Centre (SDGCC)

Unit of Planning and Development Department, Government of Tamil Nadu



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About the Issue



Shaping the Future of Women's Economic Progress in Tamil Nadu:

Female Labour Force Participation is a multifaceted issue with implications for Economic Development, Gender Equality and Societal Progress. When it comes to gender-related indicators, Tamil Nadu routinely outperforms other States of India. Female Labour Force Participation Rates (FLFPRs) in TN are substantially higher (43%) than the average (32.5%) recorded for India, for both Rural and Urban areas. Though it appears progressive, FLFP in TN declined from 54% in 1993-1994 to 43% in 2020- 2021. This is despite substantial progress in raising the proportion of females with tertiary education (Female Gross Enrolment in Higher Education is 47% in TN). With a similar proportion of tertiary education, TN FLFP should be at least 53 % equivalent with benchmarking of Hungary.

This is an important consideration for the State as it strives to become a \$1 Trillion Economy has implemented several initiatives such as subsidising costs for Women's Mobility, Education, Health, Skill Development, Maternity Protection, Access to Microfinance etc. There are still several structural aspects that can be enhanced through a comprehensive approach to further improve Female Labour Force Participation (FLFP) in Tamil Nadu.

Building on the momentum of ongoing efforts to advance gender equality and economic empowerment, the State Planning Commission in collaboration with the Tamil Nadu

Sustainable Development Goals Coordination Centre (SDGCC), organised a high-impact roundtable discussion on 'SHAPING THE FUTURE OF WOMEN'S ECONOMIC PROGRESS IN TAMIL NADU' on 25th March 2025 aimed at fostering inclusive growth and ensuring greater economic participation for women in Tamil Nadu.

This roundtable was structured into three different sessions addressing key lifecycle challenges for Female Labour Force Participation namely :

1. Strengthening the Care Economy for Inclusive Growth.
2. Infrastructure support for Advancing Women's Economic Equity.
3. Breaking Barriers to facilitate women enter/re-entering into workforce.

These targeted sessions served as a strategic platform for dialogue, collaboration and policy innovation, with a diverse group of stakeholders, including Government representatives, Industry Leaders, NGOs, Policymakers, Academia, Development Organizations and subject matter Experts. The session focused on identifying key barriers, exploring best practices and co-developing targeted solutions to enhance women's economic equity. By leveraging insights from both the public and private sectors, the discussion paved the way for policy reforms, innovative programs and investment strategies that create sustainable employment opportunities and a more inclusive economic environment for women across Tamil Nadu.





State Indicator Framework (SIF) - 2.0 - for final approval from HPC :

The draft State Indicator Framework (SIF) - 2.0 has been finalised, after incorporating the suggestions and input given at all eight Working Group Meetings conducted on various dates. The list of Working Group meetings is given in the below table. The final draft has been reviewed by the Additional Chief Secretary (ACS), Planning and Development Department and the inputs and suggestions of ACS incorporated into the final draft of SIF - 2.0 indicators with 348 indicators (336 are unique indicators including 8 indicators repeated 20 times) to be placed before the High Power Committee for its approval.



List of Working Group Meetings

S.No	Working Groups	Theme of WGs	Chairman	Meeting Date
1.	Working Group – 1	Poverty and Hunger	Additional Chief Secretary(ACS) Rural Development & Panchayat Raj Department	19th August 2024
2.	Working Group – 2	Health Care and Sanitation	Additional Chief Secretary (ACS) Health & Family Welfare Department	09th September 2024
3.	Working Group – 3	Inclusive and Equitable Quality Education	Secretary School Education Department	01st August 2024
4.	Working Group – 4	Women's Empowerment and Issues of Inequality	Secretary Social Welfare & Women Empowerment Department	28th August 2024
5.	Working Group – 5	Innovation, Industrialization and Sustainable Development	Secretary Industries, Investment Promotion and Commerce Department	21st November 2024
6.	Working Group – 6	Sustainable Consumption and Production	Agricultural Production Commissioner & Principal Secretary Agriculture & Farmers Welfare Department	09th September 2024
7.	Working Group – 7	Sustainable Environment and Climate Change	Additional Chief Secretary (ACS) Environment, Climate Change & Forest Department	18th June 2024
8.	Working Group – 8	Promotion of Peace and Environment	Additional Chief Secretary (ACS) Home, Prohibition and Excise Department	19th November 2024

This section covers the major Capacity Development Workshops, represented by SDGCC staff from January to March 2025 and the major learnings therefrom.



Capacity Building Workshop on Monitoring Frameworks of Sustainable Development Goals, Compilation of Environment Accounts and Gender Statistics :



Organized by:

Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation (MoSPI), Government of India, in collaboration with Madhya Pradesh Rajya NITI Aayog (MPRNA), Planning, Economics and Statistics Department, Madhya Pradesh.



Theme:

Capacity Building on Monitoring Framework of Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs); Compilation of Environment Accounts and Gender Statistics.



Dates: 23rd – 24th January 2025

This workshop aimed to sensitize State officials about the SDG framework used to measure progress, the methodology for assessing performance through a unified index with common indicators and the sharing of Best Practices on SDGs from select States. Additionally, it focused on the methodology and Statistical Tools for compiling various Environmental and Gender Statistics in India. The event was attended by 200 Delegates from all States and Union Territories, working in various capacities.

The workshop featured three key sessions that focused on different aspects of SDGs and their implementation. The first session provided an overview of SDGs, including the SDG India Index, the State Indicator Framework (SIF) and the role and mandates of the Madhya Pradesh Statistical Commission. The second session shared experiences on SDG Best Practices, as well as the development and implementation of the District Indicator Framework (DIF) by select States. The third session focused on the alignment of Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) with SDGs, specifically in the development of sub-national levels, highlighting how CSR can contribute to local-level SDGs.

State Planning Commission (SPC), presented the Gender Statistics in Tamil Nadu in the Workshop. SDGCC gave input to the preparation of Gender Statistics.



Major Takeaways for SDGCC, TN :

01

Many States in India have adopted the State Indicator Framework (SIF), in alignment with the National Indicator Framework (NIF) and SDG India Index, with regular updates (at least annually). SDGCC, TN will also update the SIF regularly to ensure its relevance with the NIF and SDG India Index.

02

Several States have followed the MoSPI guidelines for preparing the SIF and SDGCC, TN in adherence to these guidelines has developed the draft SIF -2.0 and to prepare draft DIF – 2.0.

03

SDGCC, TN will explore CSR consultation opportunities to raise awareness among Corporates, encouraging them to channel CSR funds into Districts classified as performers or aspirants.

04

SDGCC, TN may explore ways to collaborate with TN Green Climate Company to enhance their understanding of Environmental Accounting and help assess environmental services in monetary terms, reflecting their true value.



UNDP workshop on Strengthening Participation of Persons with Disabilities (PwDs) in the Workplace:



Locations:

- Coimbatore (25th January 2025)
- Chennai (7th February 2025)



Theme:

Mainstreaming Persons with Disabilities (PwDs) into the Indian workforce through private sector engagement



Organized by:

United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) India



Funded by: Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation



Key Partners: Diversity and Equal Opportunity Centre (DEOC), Swarga Foundation (Coimbatore), Multiple Sclerosis Society of India (MSSI), Tamil Nadu Skill Development Corporation (TNSDC), CII-IBDN, Confederation of Indian Textile Industry (CITI)

The workshop aimed to sensitize Small and Medium Enterprises (SMEs), District Industry Associations and Chambers, promoting an inclusive work environment to enhance employment and participation of PwDs in the Coimbatore workforce. Over 40 participants from various Industries and Associations attended the event, which not only raised awareness about disability but also equipped participants with practical skills to implement inclusive practices in their workplaces.

Key Outcomes for SDGCC :

01

Potential partners identified for implementing UNDP-funded Child Care Centres in the Coimbatore Region to Improve Female Workforce Participation.

02

Potential collaboration opportunities with TNSDC Naan Mudhalvan Finishing School scheme, which Plans to offer 40 specific courses for PwDs.

03

A similar workshop planned in Chennai in partnership with TNSDC



Nilgiris Economic Dialogue (NED) :

The second edition of the Nilgiris Economic Dialogue (NED) was held from 7th to 8th February 2025, with SDGCC participating in the event. The main objectives of the event included expanding CSR networks, supporting the establishment of the CII Centre for Entrepreneurship and Livelihoods and partnering to create a Centre for the Enablement of ESG and Green Transitions for MSMEs, alongside backing proposed SDGCC Pilots and Research Studies. NED brought together Leaders from Industries, Government, Academia, Planning and Social Work to discuss critical issues and foster an optimistic future on relevant topics.



Location: Nilgiris, Tamil Nadu



Dates: 7th - 8th February 2025



Event: 2nd Edition of the Nilgiris Economic Dialogue (NED)

During the event, inputs were provided to the CII Centre of Excellence on Employment and Livelihood (CII CEL), which aims to transform India's micro-entrepreneurial landscape. Keynotes and panel discussions focused on themes like strengthening digital frontiers, India's role in the global economy, strategies for sustainable and inclusive growth and achieving a decarbonized, resource-efficient India. Participants engaged in in-depth roundtable discussions to devise actionable solutions. SDGCC supported the event by submitting concept notes as part of the Tamil Nadu SDG Vision for Skilling Employment and Livelihoods.

Major Takeaways for SDGCC, TN :

01

A one-stop platform for aggregating prototypes for micro-enterprise opportunities.

02

Decentralized growth through District Local Economic Development Approaches, paving the way for sustainable livelihoods.

The event successfully facilitated discussions on past and present models, while envisioning future possibilities with input from Intellectuals, Researchers, Experts, CEOs and Thought Leaders.



Meeting of Nodal Officers of Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) at DoES :



Location: DoES, Chennai



Organized by:
Department of Economics and Statistics
(DoES), Tamil Nadu



Dates: 19th – 20th February 2025 (Two Days)



Participants:
Nodal Officers for Sustainable Development
Goals (SDGs)

The meeting focused on expediting the data entry process for pending and unapproved entries in the SDG Dashboard and finalizing the Tamil Nadu SDG Fact Sheet 2023. The SDGCC team participated in the meeting and presented strategies to enhance Tamil Nadu's performance on critical indicators assessed in the SDG India Index – 4.0.

Key discussion points included :

01

Ensuring regular data entry in the SDG Dashboard.

02

Designating a single data nodal point for multiple indicators, linking various departments within the Secretariat.

03

Providing Dashboard access for District Officials, allowing them to view data for targeted interventions.

These suggestions aim to streamline data management and improve SDG monitoring in Tamil Nadu.



Stakeholder Consultation on Addressing Child Malnutrition :

Key discussion points included :

The current status of malnutrition and wasting among children, Interventions aimed at preventing malnutrition and addressing challenges children face from Birth, The importance of balanced nutrition, including the inclusion of fish and other healthy diets and success stories in preventing anaemia among school-going girls and the positive impact of ICDS (Integrated Child Development Services) in improving child nutrition. The consultation provided a platform for stakeholders to share insights and strategies to combat malnutrition and improve child health in the State.



Location: Ramada Hotel, Chennai



Date: 20th March 2025



Organized by:
State Planning Commission, Tamil Nadu



Event: One-day Stakeholder Consultation on
Addressing Malnutrition



Participants: Experts from:
▪ Government Departments
▪ Private Institutions
▪ Research Organizations
▪ Academic Institutions



Focus:
Collaborative discussions on critical aspects and
strategies to combat malnutrition

The major takeaways from the workshop :

01

Experts highlighted that anaemia and other health issues in mothers/pregnant women contribute to children developing malnutrition-related health issues. Despite efforts from the State and Development Organizations to address these challenges, malnutrition remains a significant concern.

02

The role of Anganwadis was emphasized as critical in tackling children's health issues, particularly stunting, wasting and underweight.

03

Fish powder has emerged as a valuable supplementary nutritional food and is increasingly promoted to combat malnutrition.

04

The Uthiram Uyarthuvom initiative, a cost-effective and convenient method for minimizing or preventing anaemia, is seen as a model that could be replicated in Districts across the Country to further address this health concern.





Workshop on Sustainable Peri-Urban Growth and Climate Resilience in Tamil Nadu :



Location: *Taj Club House, Chennai*



Date: *24th March 2025*



Organized by: *Tamil Nadu State Land Use Research Board (TNSLURB), State Planning Commission*



In Collaboration With: *World Resources Institute (India)*



Event: *One-day Workshop on Sustainable Peri-Urban Growth and Climate Resilience*

The workshop aimed to explore how Peri-Urban areas can become Centres of Sustainable Growth while adapting to Climate Challenges.

Key insights from the workshop include :

01

There is no clear demarcation defining Peri-Urban Areas, but in the current context, regions adjoining Urban Areas are increasingly being referred to as Peri-Urban.

02

As Peri-Urban Regions contribute significantly to the Urban workforce, it is crucial to develop Sustainable Transport and Mobility solutions to meet the commuting needs of workers in these areas.

03

There is no legally mandated document specifically aimed at the development of Peri-Urban Areas. However, most economic development initiatives in Tamil Nadu are emerging in these Regions.

04

The lack of a targeted approach for planning Peri-Urban Development is a key issue, largely due to the absence of clearly defined Peri-Urban Areas and strategic frameworks for their development.

These insights highlight the challenges and opportunities in Fostering Sustainable Growth and Resilience in Peri-Urban Areas, urging the need for more defined planning and infrastructure development.



Workshop on UK-TN Partnership for Accelerating Carbon-Neutral Transition :

SDGCC participated in the Workshop on UK-TN Partnership for Accelerating Carbon-Neutral Transition, organized by the British Deputy High Commission, Chennai, in collaboration with the Environment, Climate Change and Forests Department, Government of Tamil Nadu, on 26th March 2025. The Workshop marked the launch of two UK-Pact Projects :

1. PACT-Digi-PULSE Project
2. Climate-Resilient, Sustainable and Inclusive Urban Mobility in Erode through Data-Driven Policies and Innovative Financing.



Ms Supriya Sahu, IAS, Additional Chief Secretary, Environment, Climate Change and Forests Department, facilitated the launch of these Projects in Tamil Nadu.

During the Workshop, it was emphasized that the State's Master and Mobility Plans are evolving to meet the challenges of Climate Change, Environmental Sustainability and Inclusive Mobility. The delegates underscored that Climate Change measures should be legally mandated, similar to disaster management, to make informed decisions during the planning and implementation of Master Plans. At the National level, it was proposed that laws addressing Climate Change, adaptation and resilience should be drafted, akin to the Disaster Management Act, to guide Policymakers in integrating resilience into their planning and programming.

The major takeaways from the workshop :

01

Integrating environmental aspects into the preparation of City Master/Mobility Plans is essential to ensure Sustainable Urban Growth and Development – SDGCC is already in discussions with relevant stakeholders in integrating sustainability into City Master and Mobility plans.

02

Climate Change and its impact should be made legally binding, similar to the Disaster Management Act, to ensure that resilience-based interventions are effectively mainstreamed into the planning and implementation of programs.



Workshop on UNDP Business and Human Rights Academy (B+HR Academy) for the Automobile Industry in India :



Location: *Hablis Hotel, Chennai*



Dates: *6th - 7th February 2025*



Organized by: *United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)*



In Partnership With: *Confederation of Indian Industry (CII)*



Sector Focus: *Automobile Industry*



The workshop is part of UNDP's broader efforts to operationalize the UN Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights (UNGPs) through the B+HR Global Program, which engages various stakeholders to support responsible business practices across supply chains. The UNDP B+HR Project in India aligns efforts with the Government of Japan, JETRO and JCCII to define priority areas for capacity building during workshops and facilitate business participation.

The primary objectives of the workshop include:

01

Providing an in-depth understanding of the Global and National landscape of responsible Business Practices, particularly concerning challenges in the Automobile Industry.

02

Equipping participants with the ability to identify, assess and mitigate human rights risks within their supply chains in alignment with the United Nations Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights (UNGPs).

Major takeaways :

01

SDGCC will integrate the Best Practices of the Automobile Sector into its relevant concept papers on Sustainable Transport and Mobility.

02

SDGCC shall explore integrating principles of Human Rights in the proposed Centre for enablement of Green Transition and ESG among MSMEs in Tamil Nadu.



KNOWLEDGE CORNER

SDG Ranking in Higher Education - NIRF's New Initiative:



Sustainability Education aims to equip Students, Schools, Educational Institutions and Communities with the knowledge and skills to take meaningful action toward Sustainability. This concept is often referred to as Education for Sustainable Development (ESD). Existing NIRF ranking includes the parameters on SDGs for ranking of Institutions. E.g. Institutions with Publication and Citation on SDGs get 10 points.

In addition to this, the Ministry of Education, Government of India, through the National Institutional Ranking Framework (NIRF), plans to introduce a new category focused on Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

Educational Institutions that wish to participate in this SDG category can Register, with all institutions that previously participated in the India Rankings already Pre-Registered. Notifications have been sent to the Heads of these Institutions to confirm their details for the India Rankings 2025. The NIRF, launched in 2015, ranks Higher Educational Institutions in India based on objective criteria to encourage competitive excellence. The addition of the SDG category highlights the growing emphasis on sustainability within the educational landscape. Coincidentally, both the NIRF and the SDGs are celebrating their 10th year of advancement, highlighting a decade of commitment to promoting excellence in education and achieving Sustainable Development Goals.



Volume 3, Issue 1 of the Newsletter provides an overview of the major initiatives and activities carried out by the Sustainable Development Goals Coordination Centre (SDGCC) under the Planning and Development Department, Government of Tamil Nadu, between January and March 2025. It covers significant Workshops, Partnerships and Policy Advocacy efforts aimed at advancing the State's progress toward achieving the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).



SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS
TAMIL NADU