

Tamil Nadu's youth transition from education to employment emerged as a critical development challenge, with nearly 28 per cent of young people classified as Not in Education, Employment or Training (NEET) in 2021–22, alongside rising unemployment among those aged 20–29. While multiple skilling, employment, and entrepreneurship programmes existed across departments, young people often struggled to navigate fragmented systems and access pathways aligned with their aspirations.

In response, the Government of Tamil Nadu initiated efforts to develop a more integrated and youth-centred approach to skills, employment, and livelihoods. This process was supported by the Sustainable Development Goals Coordination Centre (SDGCC) under the Department of Planning and Development, which provided technical, analytical, and coordination support. Drawing on global good practices such as the European Union Youth Guarantee, SDGCC helped frame a Youth Guarantee Framework suited to the state context, focused on strengthening coordination, accountability, and access across existing programmes rather than introducing a new standalone scheme.

As part of this support, SDGCC articulated the framework in its Vision Document on Skill, Employment and Livelihood, outlining how district-level Youth Service Centres, integrated data systems, and inter-departmental convergence could provide young people with clear pathways to training, employment, apprenticeships, or entrepreneurship. These recommendations helped inform government decision-making, leading to the designation of the Tamil Nadu Skill Development Corporation (TNSDC) as the nodal agency and the formal launch of the initiative as "Thiran Agam" through a Government Order dated 7 July 2025.

By playing a catalytic and enabling role, linking data, policy, and institutions, SDGCC supported the Government of Tamil Nadu in embedding Sustainable Development Goals into youth-focused governance. The Thiran Agam framework reflects this approach, strengthening progress towards SDG 4 (Quality Education), SDG 8 (Decent Work and Economic Growth), and SDG 10 (Reduced Inequalities), while reinforcing the state's commitment to ensuring that no one is left behind.

[Letter from the Government on setting up of Thiranagams as District Skill Centres](#)