

PRESS RELEASE

**Workshop on NITI Aayog's upcoming SDG India Index (4.0) 2021-22 and
Multidimensional Poverty Index: Focus on the State**

The Planning and Development Department, Government of Tamil Nadu, organised a two day "State level workshop on NITI Aayog's upcoming SDG India Index (4.0) 2021-22 and Multidimensional Poverty Index based on 2019-20 (NFHS 5): Focus on the State" on 4th and 5th January, 2022 at Chennai.

The Workshop is part of the consultative process by NITI Aayog that looks at the iterative process of bringing forth the next edition of SDG India Index 4.0 and Multidimensional Poverty Index for improving outcomes in a collaborative manner.

Ms. Sanyukta Samaddar, I.A.S., Nodal Officer – SDG Division, headed the team from NITI Aayog. The Secretaries to Government of Tamil Nadu, of the departments concerned, Heads of Department, Members of State Planning Commission, representatives from UNICEF, J-PAL, Public Affairs Centre and GIZ among others took part in the deliberations. The District Collectors and other stakeholders joined the workshop virtually through web link provided.

The workshop commenced with Tamizh Thai Vazhthu and lighting of Kuthu Vilakku.

Thiru T.S. Rajsekar, I.A.S., Member-Secretary, State Planning Commission gave the welcome address.

Thiru Vikram Kapur, I.A.S., Additional Chief Secretary to Government, Planning and Development Department gave the Key Note address, wherein he elaborated on the State Government's commitment towards achieving Sustainable Development Goals in Tamil Nadu and also on State's commitment to provisioning all services for everyone which underpins the concept of leaving no one behind in the development process.

He emphasized the significance of recently introduced schemes viz., "***Makkalai Thedi Maruthuvam***" that takes SDG 3 – Good Health and Well being, particularly in addressing the Non-communicable diseases to the doorstep of the needy people of the State; "***Innuvir Kappom***" particularly looks at one of the SDG targets that addresses reducing deaths due to traffic accidents; the "***Illam Thedi Kalvi***", "***Meendum Manjappai***" initiatives reflect our educational and environmental concerns. The COVID war room built with State-of-the-Art Technology helped the State track the flow of emergency care for COVID related infections. He informed that these are just a snapshot of how the State Government is working on *internalizing* the SDGs.

In his Special Address, Prof. R. Srinivasan, Full Time Member, State Planning Commission pointed out that the State Government's firm policies towards Social Justice is addressing the Sustainable Development Goals. He emphasized that various flagship schemes of Tamil Nadu, viz., Noon Meal Programme to school children, various poverty reduction programmes, Maternity Benefit Scheme, Marriage Assistance Schemes, providing houses to those who are living in slums, etc., are very well aligned with SDGs - No Poverty, End Hunger, Good Health & Well Being, Quality Education to all, Women Empowerment, Clean Water and Sanitation, as such. Further, he informed that as per the able guidance of Hon'ble Chief Minister, new policies on primary sectors viz., Health, Education, Industry, Poverty alleviation, Housing, Equality are being formulated by the State Planning Commission.

In the technical sessions, Ms. Sanyukta Samaddar, I.A.S., Nodal Officer – SDG Division, NITI Aayog elaborated on the upcoming SDG India Index (4.0), the State's performance, progress and areas of improvement, which were interspaced with detailed deliberations. This was followed by Goal and Indicator-wise presentations by NITI Aayog, which was deliberated upon in detail.

Members of the State Planning Commission and officials of various departments put forth various inputs and suggestions on the indicators proposed for SDG India Index (4.0).

The Additional Chief Secretary to Government, Planning and Development Department requested the departments to take up issues on indicators, data and data source, if any, pertaining to their department with the concerned Ministries at Government of India level to be sorted out prior to the release of SDG India Index (4.0) so that the State's ranking is not adversely impacted.

On 05-01-2022, Dr. M. Karunakaran, I.A.S., Commissioner, Department of Economics and Statistics made a presentation on State and District Indicator Framework on SDGs.

The Nodal Officer, SDG Division, NITI Aayog gave an overview on Multidimensional poverty measurement, reduction, and State action required, which was followed by a presentation by NITI Aayog team on basics of Multidimensional Poverty Index, its parameter and Reform Action Plan.

Additional Chief Secretary to Government, Planning and Development Department reiterated the importance of prompt data entry in the SDG dashboard by the departments concerned and also on the formulation of Reform Action Plan for the departments with regard to multidimensional poverty.

The workshop ended with a vote of thanks by the Commissioner of Economics and Statistics.

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