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A Field study on Localisation of Sustainable Development Goals in Tamilnadu



◆ Submitted to

**The Director,
Directorate of Rural
Development & Panchayat
Raj,
Government of Tamil Nadu**

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ISBN No : 978-81-976868-8-7

Preface

The Centre for Research in Schemes and Policies ([CRISP](#)) is an organisation established by a group of civil servants and those in public service professionals with over three decades of experience. CRISP aims to give back to society by helping state governments design, redesign, and implement better schemes and policies. The organisation collaborates with central and state governments, CSR funds, and large NGOs with significant social impact.

Tamil Nadu has adopted an inclusive development policy across all its initiatives, emphasizing the principle of "அனைவரையும் உள்ளடக்கிய வளர்ச்சி" or "Leaving No One Behind." This commitment ensures that the benefits of development reach every section of society, particularly marginalized and vulnerable groups, thus reflecting the core of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

CRISP conducted a field visit to identify gaps and challenges in Localising Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) in Tamil Nadu as part of a Memorandum of Understanding with the Directorate of Rural Development, GoTN. This dipstick study explores strategies for strengthening the localisation of SDGs at the grassroots level to ensure the achievement of these goals by 2030. The strategy and action plan of CRISP has included in the way forward section.

The Directorate of Rural Development and Panchayati Raj facilitated the field visits and provided the necessary databases, which were essential inputs for this report. The guidance of Mr Ponniah IAS Director of Rural Development, Mr Arunmani, ADRD (PRI), Mrs Sridevi, Joint Director, Mr Nakeeran, JD (SIRD) and Mr S. Roopesh Kumar, Assistant Director, was invaluable in preparing this report.

We would like to extend special appreciation to Mr. S.M. Vijayanand, I.A.S (Retd.), Mr. R. Subrahmaniam, I.A.S (Retd.), Dr. C. Chandramouli, I.A.S (Retd.), and other CRISP mentors for their invaluable guidance and support.

This report was Prepared by the Centre for Research in Schemes and Policies (CRISP)Tamil Nadu Team led by Dr Vijaya Raghavan, State Lead and the report writing spearheaded by Mr Prakash Palanivel, Research Fellow at CRISP.

“True democracy cannot be worked by twenty men sitting at the centre. It has to be worked from below by the people of every village.” – Mahatma Gandhi

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Abbreviations

1. **AGAMT II** - Anaithu Grama Anna Marumalarchi Thittam II
2. **ANC** - Antenatal care
3. **AWH** – Anganwadi Helper
4. **AWW** – Anganwadi Worker
5. **BDO** – Block Development Officer
6. **CBO** – Community Based Organisation
7. **CRISP** - Centre for Research in Schemes and Policies
8. **GPPFT** – Gram Panchayat Planning Facilitation Team
9. **HPC** – High Power Committee
10. **LSDG** – Localisation of Sustainable Development Goals
11. **MGNRGA** – Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act.
12. **MLN** – Multi-Level Nurse
13. **MTM** – Makkalai Thedi Maruthuvam (Medication at doorstep)
14. **NGO** – Non-Government Organisation
15. **OSR** – Own Source Revenue
16. **PHC** – Primary Healthcare Centre
17. **PLF** – Panchayat Level Federation
18. **PRI** – Panchayat Raj Institutions
19. **RIRD** - Regional Institute of Rural Development
20. **RGSA** - Rashtriya Gram Swaraj Abhiyan
21. **SDG** - Sustainable Development Goals
22. **SHG** – Self Help Group
23. **SIRD** – State Institute of Rural Development
24. **SMC** – School Management Committee
25. **UBA** – Unnat Bharat Abhiyan
26. **UN** – United Nations
27. **UNDP** - United Nations Development Programme
28. **UNICEF** – United Nations Children's Fund
29. **VPDP** – Village Panchayat Development Plan
30. **VPRC** – Village Poverty Reduction Committee
31. **VPRP** – Village Poverty Reduction Plan
32. **WHV** – Women Health Volunteer

Executive Summary

This document provides an in-depth study of the ongoing efforts to Localize Sustainable Development Goals (LSDG) at the Gram Panchayat level in Tamil Nadu. It presents key findings, identifies existing gaps, and offers preliminary recommendations for enhancing implementation and training to effectively integrate LSDG into grassroots governance. For that, the CRISP Tamilnadu team conducted the field visit in 3 districts (Chengalpattu, Ariyalur and Kallakurichi), 6 Blocks and 14 villages. The villages were chosen in consultation with DRD and include those in Aspirational Districts and Blocks, as well as Beacon Villages, Tribal Villages, and Coastal Villages. The document outlines CRISP's upcoming Action Plan to create beacon villages that can serve as models for LSDG success at the community level.

Objectives of the Report:

- To study the current status of LSDG implementation at the state, district, block, and Gram Panchayat levels in Tamil Nadu.
- To identify governance challenges, training gaps, and technical resource constraints that hinder the effective implementation of LSDG at the Panchayat level.

This report analyses key challenges observed in the field, such as:

1. **The functionality of Gram Panchayat Planning and Facilitation Teams (GPPFTs):** Despite initial formation, many GPPFTs have become inactive, creating a significant gap in collaborative planning at the local level. The lack of awareness among many GPPFT members regarding their roles and responsibilities negatively impacted in the creation of Village Panchayat Development Plans (VPDP),
2. **Participation in Gram Sabha meetings:** Community involvement in Gram Sabha meetings remains significantly low. Line department officers often fail to attend meetings and provide updates on the implementation and delivery of schemes to beneficiaries.

- 3. Preparation of Village Panchayat Development Plans (VPDPs):** Panchayat secretaries frequently fail to monitor and follow up on VPDP activities regularly. The responsibility of uploading VPDP activities primarily falls to the BDO office rather than Gram Panchayat. There is a lack of focus on no-cost and low-cost activities that could provide significant local impact.
- 4. Issues related to interdepartmental convergence:** Line department officers rarely attend inter-departmental meetings, hindering the planning process. Frontline officers often provide inadequate support to Panchayats unless specifically directed by their higher offices. There is no visitor registration system at the Panchayat level to track participation or grievances.
- 5. Functioning of Grassroot level institutions:** The Panchayat often fails to address issues raised by Anganwadi, Schools, PHC & SHG institutions. There is a notable lack of coordination among these grassroots institutions, and their participation in Gram Sabha meetings remains low.
- 6. Training:** Training was conducted two years ago in RIRD, but participants found it difficult to retain and apply the knowledge due to the absence of continued support.
- 7. Awareness:** There is a lack of beacon or award-winning villages in the blocks. Some Panchayat Presidents are unaware of the full range of activities they could undertake, including initiatives that do not require substantial financial resources.

The report emphasizes the need to:

1. Strengthen the Standing Committees and GPPFT: Panchayats should appoint members to various standing committees and ensure that their recommendations are actively considered in the preparation of the Village Panchayat Development Plan (VPDP) and selection of LSDG themes. Committee members must undergo mandatory training to fully understand their roles and responsibilities, with regular follow-ups to assess the effectiveness of the training. Meetings of these committees should be documented, and all actions recorded for transparency. Additionally, activities should be aligned with the Localizing Sustainable Development Goals (LSDG), leveraging support from Panchayat Raj Institutions (PRIs) to enhance implementation and impact.

2. Gram Sabha Scheduling: Currently, Gram Sabha nodal officers from line departments plan their participation independently, leading to mismatched schedules and poor coordination. To address this, a centralized structure should be introduced for scheduling nodal officers' attendance at Gram Sabha meetings. This will eliminate conflicts, improve inter-departmental coordination, and lead to more efficient outcomes.

3. SHG – VP Partnership: The convergence of Self-Help Groups (SHGs) with Village Panchayats has become crucial in localizing SDG planning, particularly through the Village Panchayat Development Plan (VPDP) and the Village Prosperity and Resilient Plan (VPRP). This collaboration enhances the identification and prioritization of beneficiaries, making it easier to achieve goals like Poverty-Free, Women-Friendly, and Child-Friendly Villages. This partnership enables faster and more efficient attainment of development goals.

4. Convergence – Whole-of-Government Approach in Service Delivery: A whole-of-government convergence approach is essential for integrating resources, staff, and program implementation across departments. Cooperation among village-level departments (e.g., Health, ICDS, Agriculture, Civil Supplies) is key to achieving SDG targets, such as improved nutrition under SDG 2 (Zero Hunger).

5. Capacity Building and Training: There is a need to shift from quantitative monitoring of training to a focus on qualitative outcomes. Reduce the traditional Training of Trainers (ToT) model, multi-modal approaches using digital platforms and social media apps should be adopted to make training more engaging and effective. Capacity building should target elected representatives, standing committees, VPDP facilitation teams, and the community, aiming to bring about lasting mindset shifts that are essential for sustainable development.

6. Encourage No-Cost/Low-Cost Activities: Gram Panchayats can undertake numerous no-cost or low-cost activities to drive development. These include community mobilization campaigns on sanitation, school enrolment, and environmental conservation. Initiatives like village plantations and social forestry require minimal financial resources but can have a significant impact. A list of no-cost/low-cost activities can guide Panchayats in effectively planning these initiatives.

7. Panchayat Development Report: Panchayats should prepare a Panchayat Development Report once every election cycle (five years). This report assesses development progress in

relation to the SDGs and key thematic areas, highlighting achievements, gaps, and priorities. It also facilitates convergence across departments and optimizes development efforts. Issues requiring higher-level attention are identified, ensuring that they are addressed effectively by relevant authorities.

8. Monitoring for LSDG: Effective monitoring of LSDG progress is critical. Panchayats should implement a Panchayat Level Dashboard, conduct annual assessments to compare progress against baseline data, and evaluate progress towards set targets. This regular monitoring ensures that the Panchayats remain on track to achieve their development goals.

9. PDI Index: The Panchayat Development Index (PDI) data should be regularly updated and analysed to inform data-driven decision-making. For example, if a district scores low on infrastructure, targeted schemes should be implemented to address these gaps. Regular updates and interventions based on PDI analysis will improve overall development outcomes.

10. Appoint Local Resource Persons: The current reliance on part-time block-level resource persons limits ongoing support to Panchayat members. Appointing full-time local resource persons would improve coordination, capacity building, and the effective implementation of development plans at the Panchayat level.

11. Transparency: To enhance transparency, Panchayat budgets should be prominently displayed at Gram Sabha meetings. Additionally, Panchayats should prepare a Citizen Charter detailing the services they provide, contact persons, and expected service delivery timelines. This will ensure greater accountability and public awareness of Panchayat activities.

12. Awards and Beacon Villages: Each block should aim to create at least one Beacon Village per development theme to serve as a model for others. Training should be provided to Panchayat Presidents and Secretaries on award criteria, motivating them to participate in competitions and further enhance their performance.

13. Comprehensive State Guidelines: Comprehensive state guidelines are essential for ensuring convergence among departments to achieve SDG targets. These guidelines should outline department roles, scheme mapping, and roadmaps at the state and district levels, improving communication and collaboration across departments.

14. Augmentation of Own Source Revenue (OSR): Enhancing Gram Panchayats' OSR is critical for enabling them to invest in social infrastructure and development projects. By

increasing OSR, Panchayats can fund necessary services and infrastructure improvements, reducing their reliance on state and central grants.

15. Communication Strategy and IEC: A robust communication strategy is essential for raising awareness and tracking SDG progress. Celebrating key events, appointing SDG champions, and establishing learning circles in schools and communities will promote SDG goals. Thematic IEC campaigns should highlight relevant schemes and encourage public engagement. For example, Panchayats can adopt theme-based names like "Good Governance Panchayat" to build awareness and ownership of development initiatives.

16. NGOs and CSOs: NGOs and Civil Society Organizations (CSOs) play a vital role in localizing SDGs at the Panchayat level. The government should foster partnerships with these groups to enhance innovation, share best practices, and extend the reach of development initiatives.

17. Communitise the LSDG: Localizing SDGs at the community level requires integrating global goals into everyday practices. Youth clubs, SHGs, and community groups can lead this effort through educational programs, workshops, and local initiatives. Developing a behaviour-change module focused on achieving SDGs and promoting it through community channels will create lasting sustainable development in Panchayats.

CRISP's Action Plan for Beacon Villages:

1. **Selection of Gram Panchayats:** The initiative will establish Beacon Villages by selecting 10 clusters, each consisting of 5 Gram Panchayats, focusing on priority regions in Kanchipuram, Chengalpattu, Tenkasi, Tirupathur, and Kallakurichi districts.
2. **Preparation of SDG status reports and village profiling:** An SDG status report will be prepared for each Gram Panchayat, assessing their current situation using the Panchayat Development Index (PDI). Insights will be gathered through focus group discussions and stakeholder interviews.
3. **Strengthening standing committees at the Panchayat level:** Training will be provided to Panchayat standing committees and GPPFT on their roles, responsibilities, and planning activities. This will raise awareness about the Village Panchayat Development Plan (VPDP), its steps, theme selection, and monitoring.

4. **Resource mobilisation and VPDP creation:** The team will assist Gram Panchayats in identifying natural, human, and financial resources for the planning process.
5. **Conducting stakeholder consultations:** A combined meeting will be held with Frontline officers from line departments SHGs, PRI members, AWW, school teachers, and local experts to select a theme (Sankalp) by aligning and finalising all plans for the Panchayat.
6. **Gram Sabha / Special Gram Sabha:** A Gram Sabha will be held to discuss ward-level demands, prioritising funded activities for each ward based on Gram Sabha discussions.
7. **Implementing low-cost/no-cost activities:** Theme-based activities will be implemented in the Gram Panchayats based on the chosen Sankalp, ensuring the alignment of all plans for the village's overall development.
8. **Coordination Between SHGs, NGOs, and the Panchayat:** The CRISP team will establish strong partnerships and coordination mechanisms between Self-Help Groups (SHGs), Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs), and the Panchayat. These groups will work together to promote community-driven development, ensuring that resources and efforts are aligned towards achieving the Localizing Sustainable Development Goals (LSDG) targets.
9. **Award nominations to recognize best Practices:** The team will assist Gram Panchayats in uploading their activities on the panchyataaward.gov.in portal and support their nomination for the Uttamar Gandhi Award by guiding them in meeting award criteria.

This report serves as a detailed study on the localisation of SDGs at the grassroots level and outlines CRISP's actionable steps toward creating sustainable and replicable development models in Tamil Nadu.

Chapter Flow:

This report provides a comprehensive overview of the status and challenges related to the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and Localizing SDGs (LSDG) in Tamil Nadu. It begins with an Introduction to SDGs and a detailed section on how these goals are being localised within the state's governance framework. The Field Observation section is a critical part of the report, where key challenges encountered in various areas are discussed. These include issues related to Gram Sabha participation, the functioning of the GPPFT (Gram Panchayat Planning Facilitation Team), the involvement of Self-Help Groups (SHGs), VPDP (Village Panchayat Development Plan) preparation, coordination with line departments, and gaps in training and capacity building, as well as awareness levels. The suggestions and actionable recommendations for addressing these issues are provided in the next chapter. The report concludes with a strategic plan, offering insights into creating Beacon Villages and fostering convergence to achieve SDGs at the village level.

1. Introduction

The Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) represent a historic and universal agenda to create an equitable, just, and secure world for all by 2030. The United Nations General Assembly adopted the document titled "Transforming our World: The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development"¹ during its 70th session in September 2015. This document comprises 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and 169 associated targets. Known as the Global Goals, the SDGs are a blueprint for achieving a better and sustainable future for the planet and its people while promoting prosperity, peace, and partnership.

These goals serve as a comprehensive blueprint for fostering sustainable development across all dimensions—economic, social, and environmental. The SDGs are designed to address the most pressing challenges facing humanity today, including poverty, inequality, climate change, environmental degradation, and peace and justice. Although the SDGs are not legally binding, they have become *de facto* international obligations with the potential to reorient domestic spending priorities until 2030. Countries must take ownership and establish national frameworks to achieve these goals. The success of the SDGs depends on each country's sustainable development policies, plans, and programs.

India has integrated these 17 goals into its national development strategy, aligning them with its policy framework and initiatives aimed at fostering inclusive growth, reducing poverty, and addressing environmental challenges. According to the United Nations' Sustainable Development Report 2024², India ranks **109th out of 193 countries** in terms of overall performance in achieving the Sustainable Development Goals and **scored 71 in 2023-24**. This ranking reflects both progress and areas requiring further attention to meet the 2030 targets. As part of this implementation process, The NITI Aayog, India's policy think tank, has carried out a mapping of all SDGs, Central Ministries and the centrally sponsored scheme and is instrumental in monitoring the progress through the SDG India Index, which tracks the country's performance with key indicators. The country's performance varies regionally, with significant efforts required to address disparities and enhance overall outcomes.

¹<https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/content/documents/21252030%20Agenda%20for%20Sustainable%20Development%20web.pdf>

² <https://dashboards.sdgindex.org/rankings>

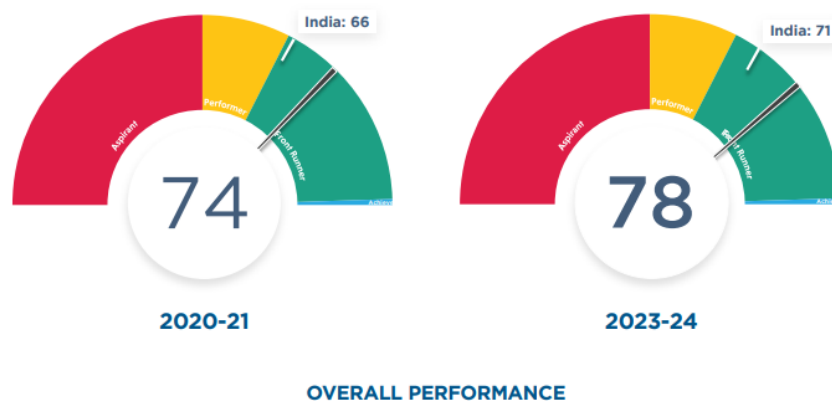
1.1 Current Status of Tamil Nadu in Sustainable Development Goals:

Tamil Nadu is recognised as a pioneer and front-runner in the pursuit of Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), consistently demonstrating its commitment to these global objectives. According to the SDG India Index 2023-2024³, Tamil Nadu is ranked **third** in the country for Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), with a **composite score of 78**, reflecting the state's robust efforts towards sustainable development.

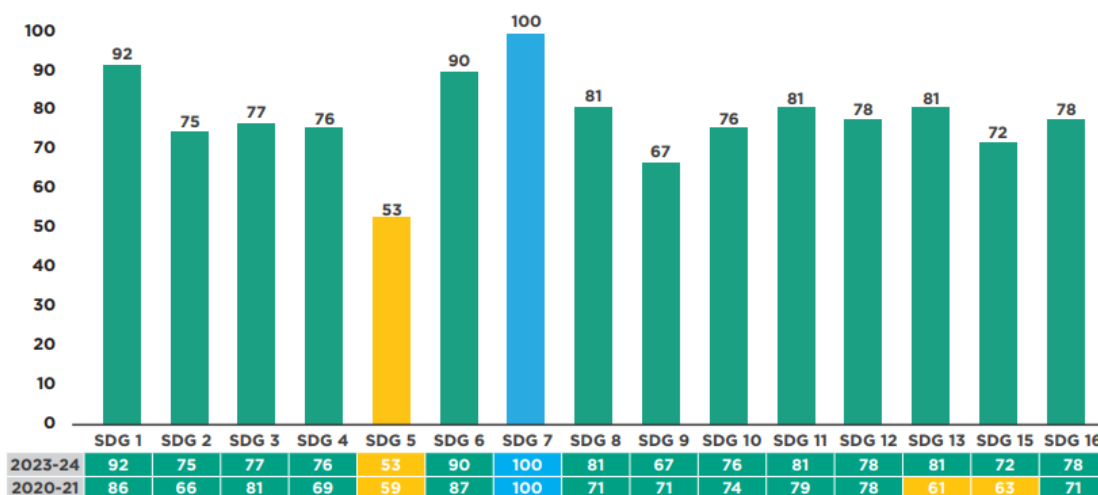
Tamil Nadu has adopted an inclusive development policy across all its initiatives to emphasise the principle of "Leaving No One Behind." This commitment ensures that the benefits of development reach every section of society, particularly the marginalised and vulnerable groups, thus embodying the essence of the SDGs.

In the 2020–21 SDG India Index report, Tamil Nadu scored 74, which is notably higher than India's overall score of 66. This strong performance placed the state among the front-runners in the country. By 2023–24, Tamil Nadu further improved its standing, achieving a score of 78 and securing 3rd place in the overall performance rankings.

Tamil Nadu



³ <https://sdgindiaindex.niti.gov.in/#/ranking>



PERFORMANCE BY SDGs

There remains significant room for improvement, particularly at the grassroots level, to ensure achieves success across all SDG goals. For instance, Tamil Nadu's score in SDG 5 (Gender Equality) dropped from 59 in 2020–21 to 53 in 2023–24, and it also scored low, signalling the need for targeted interventions to improve the indicators. These Goals are directly influenced by grassroots institutions. For example, Self-Help Groups (SHGs) serve as a flagship mechanism to address gender inequality, and both SHGs and Panchayats play a critical role in ensuring gender equality. The state has also underperformed in SDG 13 (Climate Action) and SDG 15 (Life on Land), areas that require urgent attention. To achieve these goals, the SDGs must be integrated into grassroots institutions and localised among communities for sustainable progress.

1.2 Localisation of Sustainable Development Goals:

The Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) present a comprehensive way of thinking about diverse facets of development; the goals are interconnected and interdependent. To turn these ambitious goals into reality, countries worldwide must adopt innovative perspectives, acquire new knowledge, and develop the necessary competencies. Recognising this imperative, each nation has crafted its own strategies and initiatives to integrate the SDGs into their national policies and practices. As a signatory to the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, India has proactively undertaken efforts to incorporate these goals across various government ministries and departments.

In alignment with these national efforts, the Ministry of Panchayati Raj in India has taken a pivotal role in localizing the SDGs within the rural context, acknowledging that grassroots-level implementation is crucial for the success of the SDGs. To this end, the Ministry constituted an Expert Group headed by Jayasree Ragunathan IAS, tasked with providing recommendations and a roadmap for embedding the SDGs into the functioning of Panchayati Raj Institutions (PRIs). Based on the insights and suggestions of this group, the Ministry has streamlined the 17 global goals into nine thematic areas, facilitating their integration into local governance and development planning. (The report link has been included in the footnotes)⁴

These nine themes have been meticulously designed to reflect the local needs and priorities of Panchayats, ensuring that the global objectives are translated into actionable policies at the grassroots level. This thematic approach plays a central role in the localization of SDGs, particularly through the Village Panchayat Development Plan (VPDP), which is tailored to the specific needs, priorities, and resources of local communities. By adopting this localized strategy, the government aims to ensure that the benefits of sustainable development reach even the most remote rural areas, embodying the principle of **‘No one is left behind and no village is left behind’**.

The three tiers of Panchayati Raj systems—Zilla Parishads, Intermediate Panchayat (Block), and Gram Panchayats play a pivotal role to support and enhance this implementation of the localisation of SDGs. Because a key strength of Local Governments is its participatory governance. Unlike Central and State governments, Panchayats are designed to encourage direct involvement from local citizens, including women, marginalized communities, and vulnerable people. This inclusivity provides platforms for these groups to voice their concerns and contribute to development planning for achieving SDGs. Panchayats, as constitutionally mandated institutions ensure that development efforts are sustained over time. This is particularly important for the SDGs, which are long-term goals requiring sustained commitment. By integrating SDGs into the Village Panchayat Development Plans (VPDP), Panchayats ensure that development is not just a one-time effort but an ongoing process that evolves with the changing needs of the community. This participatory model ensures that local strategies are both inclusive and representative, directly supporting goals like SDG 1 (No Poverty), SDG 2 (Zero Hunger), SDG 3 (Health), and SDG 5 (Gender Equality).

⁴ The expert committee report: <https://panchayat.gov.in/document/report-on-localization-of-sdgs-through-pris-vol-ii/>

1.3 Localisation of Sustainable Development Goals in Tamilnadu:

Tamil Nadu follows a robust three-tier Panchayati Raj system designed to decentralise governance and bring decision-making closer to the people. It has 38 rural districts, 388 blocks, 12525 village panchayats, and 79395 habitations where the SDGs have to be localised. The Government of Tamil Nadu earmarked seven important sectors (Agriculture, Drinking Water, Education and Health, Sub Urban Development, Rural Infrastructure, Social Justice, Economy) for development since coming into action, and these have been linked these sectors schemes to the SDGs.

The Tamil Nadu Panchayats Act, 1994, under Section 240, every Village Panchayat in Tamil Nadu is mandated to prepare an annual development plan. This participatory planning process is crucial for ensuring that resources—both financial and physical are utilised in a fair, transparent, and effective manner, addressing the unique needs of each community.

To operationalise these constitutional provisions, the Government of Tamil Nadu enacted the Tamil Nadu Panchayats Act, 1994 (Tamil Nadu Act 21 of 1994).⁵ This act, along with the rules and government orders issued (*G.O.(Ms) No.34 Rural Development and Panchayat rai (PR-1) Department Dated: 02.03.2016*)⁶, lays the foundation for decentralised planning and governance, empowering PRIs to play a pivotal role in the state's development process. Through this framework, Tamil Nadu has institutionalised a bottom-up approach to development, ensuring that local needs and priorities drive the planning and implementation processes. The implementation of Sustainable Development Goals in Tamil Nadu is carried out in association with all the departments.

⁵ TN Panchayat Act 1994: https://www.tnrd.tn.gov.in/pract/pract_draft.pdf

⁶ https://tnrd.tn.gov.in/project/go_files/4_535_2016_MS34.pdf

1.4 Organizational Setup in Tamilnadu for Localizing SDGs:

The Government of Tamilnadu has constituted a High Power Committee⁷ with the chairmanship of the Chief Secretary to the Government to oversee the implementation of SDGs. A High-Power Committee (HPC) was constituted with Chief Secretary, Vice Chairman (State Planning Commission) and other department secretaries as Chairman. Under HPC, eight thematic based working groups were formed. Each of these groups is headed by the Secretaries of the Nodal Department and Member Convenors of Heads of Divisions.

The Heads of Departments are members in the Working Groups constituted to review and monitor the achievement of goals and targets of Sustainable Development Goals. State-specific indicators pertaining to the goal and target have been identified in consultation with the departments. Relevant departments provide details regarding their schemes mapped to the relevant targets and indicators. The departments provide data for the indicators. *Achieving the goals/ targets is possible only with the cooperation of all departments.*

Eight Working Groups (WGs) and their Heads

WG 1 : Poverty and Hunger - SDG 1 & 2 Headed by RD Secretary

WG 2: Health Care and Sanitation - SDG 3 & 6 Headed by H&W Secretary

WG 3: Inclusive and Equitable Quality Education - SDG 4, Headed by Secretary, Education Department

WG 4: Women Empowerment and Issues of Inequality - SDG 5 & 10, Headed by Secretary, SW & NMP

WG 5: Innovation, Industrialization and Sustainable Development - SDG 7, 8, 9,11 Headed by Secretary, Industries department.

WG 6: Sustainable Consumption and Production - SDG 12 Headed by APC, Agriculture Department

WG 7: Environment and Climate Change - SDG 13, 14, 15 Headed by Secretary, Environment and Forests

WG 8: Promotion of Peace and Partnerships - SDG 16, 17 Headed by Secretary, Home

⁷ <https://tnsdg.tn.gov.in/static/portal/resources/G.O.Ms.No.73.pdf>

Tamil Nadu has established the Sustainable Development Goals Coordination Centre (SDGCC) to facilitate further the localisation, monitoring, and implementation of SDGs. This initiative is led by the Planning and Development Department (P&D) in collaboration with the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP).

At the district and local levels, elected representatives of Panchayati Raj Institutions, Urban Local Bodies, district administration, and frontline functionaries play a crucial role in implementing SDG actions. The heads of various departments remain responsible for their respective SDGs. **However, unlike at the state level, there is no proper setup at the local level.**

1.4.1 Training and Capacity Building:

The State Institute of Rural Development (SIRD) plays a vital role in this decentralized governance framework. SIRD is tasked with conceptualising, designing, organizing, and coordinating comprehensive training and capacity-building programs for the elected representatives of the three-tier Panchayati Raj Institutions, officials of the Rural Development and Panchayati Raj (RD&PR) Department, and other line departments. These programs are also extended to Community-Based Organizations (CBOs) and the general public, aiming to enhance awareness and understanding of the Localisation of Sustainable Development Goals (LSDGs) and their significance in rural development.

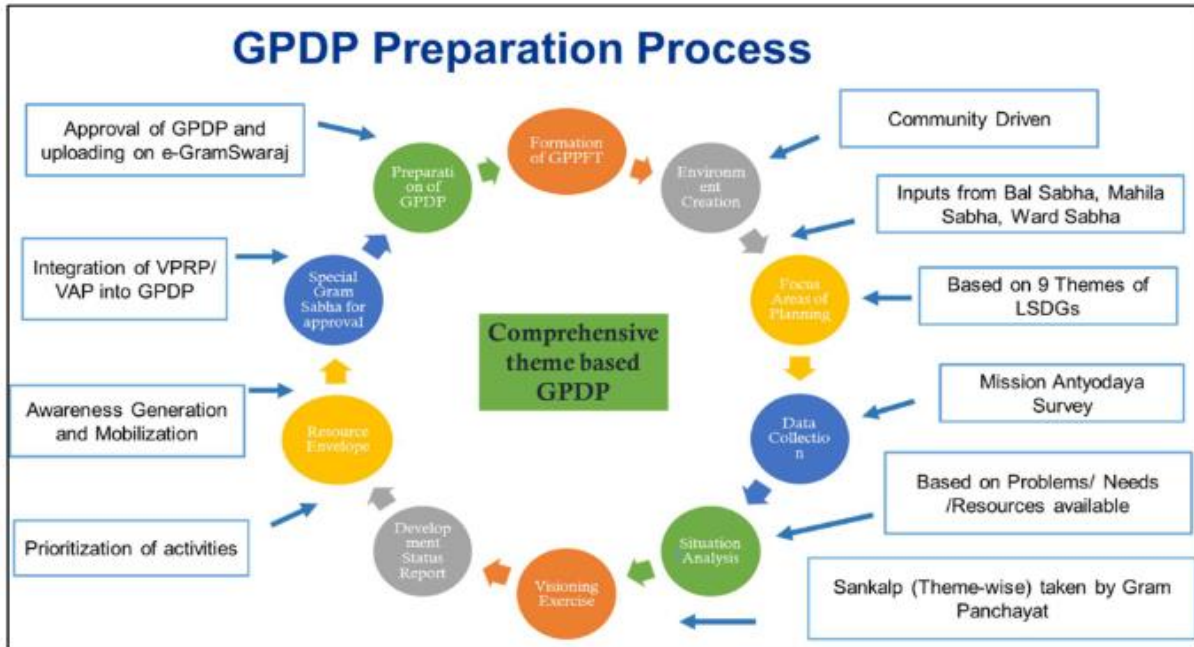
1.5 Village Panchayat Development Plan and LSDG integration

The Constitution of India, under Article 243G, mandates that Panchayats create and implement annual plans that foster economic development and social justice within their jurisdictions. This mandate necessitates the convergence and integration of various schemes and programs from both Central and State Governments, particularly those addressing the 29 subjects listed in the Eleventh Schedule of the Constitution⁸. Such convergence is crucial for ensuring the holistic and sustainable development of rural areas, aligning local governance with broader developmental goals.

In this context, the Village Panchayat Development Plan (VPDP) plays a pivotal role in translating the principles of Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) into actionable strategies

⁸ <https://pib.gov.in/newsite/PrintRelease.aspx?relid=11575>

at the grassroots level. Each Village Panchayat is responsible for preparing its VPDP, which is structured around the nine thematic areas identified for effectively localising the SDGs.⁹ This planning process is conducted annually during the People’s Plan Campaign (PPC), ensuring that development initiatives are responsive to the evolving needs of the community.



The preparation of the Village Panchayat Development Plan (VPDP) is a collaborative process led by the Gram Panchayat Planning Facilitation Team (GPPFT). This team includes PRI members, ASHA workers, influential community members, and Community-Based Organizations (CBOs) such as the Panchayat Level Federation (PLF) and the Village Poverty Reduction Committee (VPRC). Additionally, standing committees and relevant field functionaries from various departments, like the School Management Committee (SMC), Village Health Sanitation and Nutrition Committee (VHSNC) and the Village Water and Sanitation Committee (VWSC), actively contribute to the planning process. The combined efforts of these stakeholders ensure that the VPDP is comprehensive, inclusive, and aligned with the community's priorities.

⁹ https://tnrd.tn.gov.in/project/go_files/1_12_2016_34.pdf

The Gram Panchayat will prepare VPDP using a thematic approach based on the following 9 key themes:

1. Poverty-Free and Enhanced Livelihoods Village
2. Healthy Village
3. Child-Friendly Village
4. Water-Sufficient Village
5. Clean and Green Village
6. Village with Self-Sufficient Infrastructure
7. Socially Secured Village
8. Village with Good Governance
9. Women-Friendly Village

Each theme encompasses a variety of activities, including both funded and non-funded initiatives. To finance these activities, Panchayats utilise resources such as the Central Finance Commission (CFC) funds, State Finance Commission (SFC) funds, Assigned Pooled Revenues, Own Source Revenue, and various grants. Additionally, Panchayats can implement "no-cost, low-cost" activities, such as community outreach programs like rallies, Awareness camps, and Capacity-building workshops to help achieve the SDG goals.

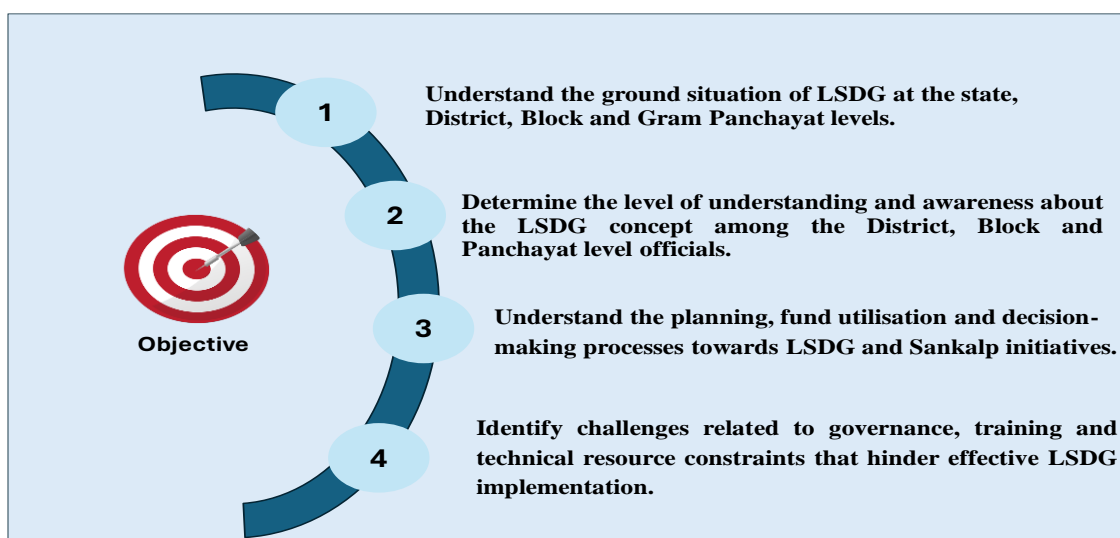
Primary and secondary data should be collected to prepare VPDP at the grassroots level. For primary data collection, methods such as Participatory Rural Appraisal (PRA), Focus Group Discussion (FGD), Household Survey, and Neighbourhood Survey will be used. Regarding secondary data, information from Mission Antyodaya (MA), the Socio-Economic Caste Census (SECC), Census, and data from various line departments can be utilized. The data collected can be utilised to assess and analyse the current situation of the Gram Panchayat (GP) and to identify gaps in order to prepare a plan to address issues at the grassroots level. The Village Poverty Reduction Plan (VPRP) prepared by SHG federations can also be considered for analysing the situation. The situation analysis serves as the basis for setting priorities for addressing issues, which can be further incorporated into the VPDP.

Through this structured and participatory approach, the VPDP becomes a critical tool for actualising the localisation of Sustainable Development Goals (LSDGs) at the village level. This ensures that development is inclusive, sustainable, and responsive to the specific needs of each rural community.

2. Field Study

This section provides an in-depth analysis of the challenges encountered in Localising Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) across various Gram Panchayats. This section draws from direct observations made during field visits and interactions with local stakeholders, including Panchayat officials, community members, and field-level officers from different departments.

2.1 Objectives of the study



2.2 Research Methodology

The research methodology involved a multi-faceted approach, combining both qualitative and quantitative data collection techniques. The team prepared a detailed questionnaire¹⁰, which was a primary tool for structured interviews with various stakeholders. The CRISP team interacted with a variety of stakeholders during the course of each visit; The stakeholders included the Assistant Director (Village Panchayats), Block Development Officers (Village Panchayats), Zonal Deputy BDOs, DRCP (Master Trainer), BRC (ToT), Panchayat Presidents, Panchayat Secretaries, SHG members, and community. Each of these

¹⁰ Questionnaire has been attached in the Annexure I.

participants plays a crucial role in the governance and development processes at the Panchayat level, making their insights invaluable for the study.

In addition to the interviews, the study employed observational methods to document the practical aspects of LSDG implementation. The team closely observed five grassroots-level institutions, the functioning of the Panchayats, the decision-making processes, and the interaction between different levels of governance and the community. These observations were supplemented by informal conversations with the stakeholders, providing a richer, more nuanced understanding of the local dynamics and the on-ground realities of LSDG implementation.

2.3 Reason for Selecting Blocks and Panchayats

To achieve the objectives of this study, the CRISP team undertook an extensive field visit across multiple levels of local governance in Tamil Nadu. The team visited 14 Gram Panchayats, 6 Blocks and 3 Districts to gain a comprehensive understanding of the implementation of LSDG at the grassroots level. **The purposive sampling method** was followed to select specific villages or communities based on their unique characteristics, ensuring that the sample adequately represents diverse contexts.

The field visits were focused on various locations across Tamil Nadu, Kattankulathur and Thiruporur Blocks in Chengalpattu District, Andimadam and Jayamkondam Blocks in Ariyalur District, and Ulundurpettai and Kalvarayan Hills in Kallakurichi District. These areas were selected to represent diverse geographic and socio-economic contexts, providing a broad perspective on the challenges and successes in LSDG implementation.

Table 1

District	Block	Gram Panchayat
Chengalpattu	Thiruporur	Kovalam
	Kattankulathur	Singa Perumal Koil
		Mannivakkam
		Thiruvadisoolam
Ariyalur	Andimadam (Aspirational Block)	Vilanthai
		Periyathukurichi
		Vilunthudaiyan

		Koovathur
	Jeyamkondam	Kundaveli
		Muthuservamadam
		Elayaperumanallur
Kallakurichi	Ulundurpettai	Pali
	Kalvarayan Hills (Aspirational Block)	Kottanputhur
		Vellimalai

The villages were selected in consultation with the SIRD, focusing on a diverse range of locations, including Aspirational Districts and Blocks, Beacon Villages, SC community-dominated villages, Tribal Villages, and Coastal Villages. Andimadam and Kalvarayan Hills blocks come under the Aspirational Block and Focus Block Development Program (FBDP). Thiruporur, a coastal block, includes the Gram Panchayat of Kovalam, a well-known tourist spot and an award-nominated village. Singa Perumal Koil and Mannivakkam are identified as Peri-Urban Villages in Chengalpattu district. Kundaveli and Vilunthudaiyan in Andimadam Block have the highest population density but are located at a significant distance from the Block and District headquarters. Thiruvadisoolam and Periyathukurichi Panchayats, situated near the highway yet distant from the Block and district centres, were also part of the study. Additionally, Elayaperumanallur, Muthuservamadam, and Pali village, which are plain area villages with a significant SC community presence, were chosen. Kalvarayan Hills, an Aspirational Block with relatively poor performance across various indicators and predominantly inhabited by the Hindu Malayali Tribal community, was also visited.

4. Field Findings

The Field findings section is a critical part of the report, where key challenges encountered in various areas are discussed. These include issues related to Gram Sabha participation, the functioning of the GPPFT (Gram Panchayat Planning Facilitation Team), the involvement of Self-Help Groups (SHGs), VPDP (Village Panchayat Development Plan) preparation, coordination with line departments, and gaps in training and capacity building, as well as awareness levels. The suggestions and actionable recommendations for addressing these issues are provided in the next chapter.

4.1 Gram Panchayat Planning Facilitation Team (GPPFT) and Standing Committee:

4.1.1 Functioning of the (GPPFT):

The Gram Panchayat Planning Facilitation Team (GPPFT) is designed to play a pivotal role in both the preparation and implementation of the Village Panchayat Development Plan (VPDP). The GPPFT is also responsible for monitoring the progress of the VPDP to ensure that the plan effectively addresses the community's needs. The team typically comprises key local stakeholders, including the Panchayat President, Panchayat Secretary, representatives from the Social Activity Committee, village-level committees, Self-Help Groups (SHGs), ASHA and Anganwadi workers, and youth groups. This broad representation is intended to make the planning process inclusive, ensuring that the voices of all community segments are heard.¹¹

In Mannivakkam Gram Panchayat, the Gram Panchayat Planning Facilitation Team (GPPFT) holds regular meetings on the second Friday of every month. During these meetings, the planning and ongoing work of the Panchayat are reviewed by committee members. A ward member highlighted that these meetings have been particularly **beneficial in ensuring that employment opportunities are consistently**

However, the GPPFT is not consistently functional across all Gram Panchayats. In some instances, the team was initially formed during the Gram Sabha meeting on 26th January 2019, following the election of Panchayati Raj Institution (PRI) members in the local body elections.

¹¹ <https://panchayat.gov.in/document/preparation-of-panchayat-development-plan-2024-25/>

Despite this initial formation, the GPPFT in many areas has since become inactive, resulting in a significant gap in collaborative planning.

In the absence of an active GPPFT, decision-making often falls solely on the Panchayat President, who independently allocates the Gram Panchayat's funds and prepares the VPDP. This lack of teamwork diminishes the effectiveness of the Social Activity Committees, which are intended to support various aspects of the VPDP. Moreover, crucial stakeholders like SHGs, ASHA workers, and Anganwadi workers, who are vital in achieving goals related to Child-Friendly and Women-Friendly Villages, are not being actively involved in the planning process.

The GPPFT's role in monitoring and executing the plan is critical, yet **its inactivity in Panchayats hinders the overall effectiveness of the VPDP.** The suggestions for the challenges are provided in the next chapter.

4.1.1 Functioning of Standing Committees in Panchayats:

The Tamil Nadu Panchayats Act of 1994 mandates the formation of standing committees within Gram Panchayats to assist in the effective implementation of development plans.¹² These committees are entrusted with the responsibility of protecting local resources and achieving specific development indicators. When functioning as intended, standing committees play a crucial role in supporting Panchayats and ensuring that various initiatives are carried out efficiently.

Kovalam Gram Panchayat, a coastal village, has successfully formed an Environment Committee comprising local shopkeepers, fishermen, and community members. This committee is actively engaged in monitoring the cleanliness of the beach and has organized events such as a "Cleanliness Day" for beach clean-up activities. Additionally, the committee has been involved in Information, Education, and Communication (IEC) activities to raise awareness about environmental issues. However, the experience is not uniform across all Gram Panchayats.

In Pali village, located in the Ulundurpet Block, an Agriculture Committee was established by the Agriculture Department, consisting of local farmers. Unfortunately, **this committee is largely inactive, with members being unaware of their roles and responsibilities.** This lack of functionality is not isolated to Pali village; similar issues have been observed in other villages as well.

¹² https://www.tnrd.tn.gov.in/pract/chapter_VI.htm

For standing committees to be truly effective and supportive of the Village Panchayat Development Plan (VPDP), they require proper training and guidance. By equipping committee members with the necessary skills and knowledge, these committees can become instrumental in introducing innovative ideas and enhancing the overall effectiveness of Panchayat to achieve all the 9 themes in LSDG.

4.2 Gram Sabha:

Gram Sabha meetings are conducted regularly in every Gram Panchayat six times a year. Proper invitations and notices are shared with all departments at the Block level, as well as grassroots institutions at the Panchayat level. Even though the notices are communicated to the community and displayed in public places, **the participation of people in the Gram Sabha remains quite low.** The participation of Women and marginalised communities may potentially augment the efficacy of Panchayat functioning. But their participation was very low.

In the Gram Sabha, nodal officers from **the respective departments do not present their reports or provide updates** on the schemes delivered by their departments to the beneficiaries. As a result, some departments never visit the villages. If it becomes mandatory for department nodal officers to explain their activities during the Gram Sabha, it would empower the people with information and improve accountability.

In Vilunthudaiyan Panchayat, nodal officers from other departments were unable to participate in the Gram Sabha meeting. The Agriculture Extension Officer (AEO) from the Agriculture Department was **responsible for attending six Gram Sabha meetings simultaneously.** As a result, he chose **to attend the meetings in the more populated and central Gram Panchayats, excluding others.** This issue was also observed with the Revenue and Health Departments. The Village Administrative Officer (VAO) of Vilunthudaiyan Panchayat arrived only after the Gram Sabha had concluded because he was attending the meeting in the nearby, more populated Periyathukurichi Gram Panchayat.

4.3 GDPD Preparation:

The process of creating the Village Panchayat Development Plan (VPDP) involves the PRI and community, which prepares a plan based on the available funds and uploads it to the egramswaraj portal by the Panchayat secretary. However, it was observed that the actual uploading of the VPDP onto the Gram Swaraj portal is carried out by the Computer Assistant working at the Block Development Office. This is happening in all the visited Gram panchayat.

For example, in Kalvarayan Hills Block, the Panchayat Secretary of Kottanputhur Panchayat mentioned that his role is primarily focused on planning for funded activities, which are intended to utilise State Finance Commission (SFC) or Central Finance Commission (CFC) funds. Once the plan is prepared, he sends the Planning Document to BDO. The Computer Assistant selects the corresponding themes on the portal based on the planned activities. Once the VPDP is finalised and uploaded in March, the Panchayat Secretary often does not revisit the portal to monitor the implementation of the planned activities, particularly the no-cost or low-cost initiatives. This disconnect between planning and monitoring is partly due to the fact that the selection and management of activities on the portal are handled exclusively by the Computer Assistant at the union office, limiting the Secretary's oversight. **The selection and management of these activities are entirely managed by the Computer Assistant, leaving the Panchayat Secretary largely unaware of the details.**

The Panchayat Secretary also indicated that they had not received specific training on uploading the VPDP onto the egramswaraj portal, which further contributes to gaps in the implementation of no-cost and low-cost activities at the ground level. While the Panchayat Secretary is generally aware of all the thematic areas, the lack of direct involvement in the portal management and the focus on funded activities often results in the **incomplete implementation of the VPDP themes on the ground**. This process has led to a situation where certain themes, such as "Poverty-Free Village" or "Women-Friendly Village," are sometimes not selected or adequately addressed. It is crucial that the Panchayat Secretary or Computer Operator uploads the VPDP to the eGramSwaraj portal. This enables effective monitoring of all planned activities for the year, ensuring timely implementation.

4.4 SHG's Participation in Gram Sabha

Out of 14 Gram Panchayats, 10 Gram Panchayat Presidents reported that Self-Help Group (SHG) participation in Gram Sabha meetings was notably low. So, the voice of women participants is becoming very low. President mentioned that even though they circulate invitations to all SHG groups, the participation of women is quite low.

The Secretary of Singa Perumal Koil Gram Panchayat highlighted that SHG members tend to participate in the Gram Sabha only if their names are listed in the Village Poverty Reduction Plan (VPRP) or if they are beneficiaries of certain schemes. However, **under normal circumstances, they do not regularly participate in these meetings.**

4.5 Selection of Sankalp Themes:

Sankalp activities are selected based on the needs raised during the Gram Sabha meetings. Typically, either the Panchayat President or the Secretary, or both are aware of the theme-based activities. Themes are often changed periodically every year; however, there is currently no mechanism to measure whether the Panchayat has successfully achieved the objectives of the chosen themes. In some Panchayats with large populations and multiple habitations, the implementation of activities can be inconsistent.

Thiruvadisoolam Gram Panchayat, which comprises nine habitations and is quite populated, often struggles to implement activities across all habitations. The Panchayat Secretary mentioned that the prioritization of beneficiaries is supposed to be decided during the Gram Sabha meetings. However, **in practice, these decisions are often made independently by the Panchayat President and the Ward members.**

In the Andimadam and Jayam Kondan Blocks, many SC and ST habitations were excluded from the planning process. For example, in Kundaveli Gram Panchayat, all other habitations have well-constructed Anganwadi centres, but the Anganwadi in the SC habitation is not properly managed. This Anganwadi operates out of a Village Poverty Reduction Committee (VPRC) building, which is poorly maintained and lacks basic facilities such as a water connection. Community members expressed that the Anganwadi should have been allocated within their settlement, but due to the influence of the Ward member and the Panchayat President, it was constructed in Meensurutti habitation instead. As a result, children from the SC habitation have to travel 1 kilometre to reach the nearest well-constructed Anganwadi, even though it does not function well. This situation directly impacts the health and well-being of the children in these communities.

A community member from Chinnathukurichi mentioned that funds are primarily utilized in the main habitation rather than in the outer habitations. She expressed concern that they do not have a proper healthcare center in their Panchayat, despite having the same number of households as the Periyathukurichi habitation. However, the healthcare centre was constructed in Periyathukurichi due to the **independent decision of the Panchayat President**. This decision has left the Chinnathukurichi community without adequate healthcare facilities, highlighting the need for more balanced and inclusive resource allocation.

The lack of proper planning and equitable resource allocation in these habitations highlights the need for more inclusive decision-making processes that genuinely reflect the needs and priorities of all community members, particularly those from marginalized groups.

4.6 Convergence with other Departments:

There needs to be more convergence among different departments within the Gram Panchayat. Currently, there is a significant lack of coordination among the five grassroots-level institutions that serve as service delivery points within the Gram Panchayat: Schools, Anganwadis, Primary Health Centers (PHCs), Self-Help Groups (SHGs), and the Panchayat office. Line department officials, who are supposed to collaborate with rural development, **often fail to provide necessary support to the**

Panchayat unless they receive specific instructions from their respective departments.

The Block Development Officer (BDO) stated, “We strive to achieve convergence and coordination with line departments. However, factors such as egoism, rigid administrative structures, and **there is an absence of regular joint meetings with line departments** lead to insufficient coordination between Rural Development and other line departments. Additionally, there is a lack of awareness regarding the localization of Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and the importance of convergence in achieving these goals among other department

Furthermore, activities under the "Poverty-Free Village" theme will be carried out through convergence with departments such as Agriculture, Tamil Nadu State Rural Livelihood Mission (TNSRLM), and Fisheries. Nevertheless, achieving this convergence at the village level poses significant challenges.

Ward member in Pali village highlighted that although Agriculture department conduct daily activities such as soil health tests, organic farming initiatives, and crop insurance coverage, these efforts are not adequately reflected in the VPDP. The Agriculture Extension Officer mentioned that the Panchayat provides support in organizing meetings and processing documentation for scheme beneficiaries, yet **the integration of these other department activities into the VPDP remains insufficient.**

Similarly, for the "Healthy Village" theme, the Panchayat has the potential to conduct health camps, organize awareness programs, and take necessary actions to address communal diseases. The Panchayat could support the Primary Health Center (PHC) and the Health Department in terms of infrastructure development. However, facilitation through the Health Department is lacking, resulting in limited support for the Panchayat in implementing these initiatives effectively.

Another critical issue is the **absence of a visitor registration system at the Panchayat level.** Maintaining a visitor register that records interactions with other departments would facilitate a better understanding of available schemes and enable the efficient distribution of brochures and notices about these schemes to all residents of the panchayat.

5. Functions of Grassroots level Institutions:

Anganwadi, schools, primary health centres, Panchayat offices, and self-help groups (SHGs) are the five major grassroots-level institutions that serve as key service delivery points at the grassroots level. The effective functioning of these institutions is critical for ensuring the delivery of essential services to communities, particularly in rural areas. However, the lack of convergence and coordination among these institutions often hinders their potential to bring about impactful change. One of the primary reasons for this disconnect is the scheme-based vertical approach, where each institution operates within its own specific mandate, resulting in isolated efforts and a lack of holistic development. These are the preliminary observations made during the field visit and key insights gathered from interactions with the community.

5.1 Anganwadi

During the field visit, 15 Anganwadis were visited. out of 15, 7 were found to be not functioning effectively. Some were either poorly maintained or operating in alternate (VPRC) buildings. There is a noticeable lack of coordination between the Panchayat and the Anganwadi centres within the Gram Panchayat. The Panchayat President showed minimal involvement in Anganwadi's functioning, improvement of Anganwadi services, and community-based activities. The child-friendly village, Healthy village and Women Friendly village themes will be achieved only through the coordination with Anganwadi, Primary Health Care Centre and Panchayat.

In Vilandai Gram Panchayat, the Thilak Nagar Anganwadi was inadequately maintained, and there was only one Anganwadi worker. Anganwadi worker stated that the Panchayat President has not supported the Anganwadi center. Although the Panchayat is responsible for providing the necessary infrastructure, it does not provide care about maintenance. While Anganwadi workers regularly attend Gram Sabha meetings to voice their concerns, **the Panchayat has consistently failed to take appropriate action to resolve the issues raised. Also, if the Panchayat could appoint an Anganwadi helper, it would greatly benefit the Anganwadi and improve its functioning.**

5.2 Primary Health Centre:

The coordination with PHC and Panchayat will enhance the effective implementation of health programs, infrastructure development, and the mobilisation of community resources. PHCs can provide essential healthcare services while Panchayats facilitate local support, raise awareness, and address the unique health needs of the population. This collaboration not only strengthens the public health system but also contributes to the overall socio-economic development of rural communities.

In Muthuserva Madam Gram Panchayat, the women Panchayat President actively participates in every community-based activity conducted by the Anganwadi. Despite the absence of a Primary Health Centre (PHC) within the Gram Panchayat, she coordinates with the MTM (Makkalai Thedi Maruthuvam) team and nearby PHC to organise anaemia awareness camps. She also encourages the Anganwadi worker to monitor anaemic adolescent girls. **Over the next six months, due to the Panchayat's continuous support and monitoring in collaboration with the PHC, all affected girls recovered from anaemia.**

5.3 School:

The partnership between schools and Panchayats plays a vital role in improving education quality and community welfare. Schools, as educational institutions, focus on delivering academic content, while Panchayats, as local governance bodies, address community needs. In the Child-Friendly Village theme, both schools and the Panchayat should work together to create a supportive and welcoming environment for students. The Panchayat needs to take proactive steps to prevent student dropouts and ensure adequate facilities in schools. This includes providing access to toilet facilities, ensuring sufficient classrooms, and the availability of teachers.

In Kottanputhur Gram Panchayat, the SMC members passed a resolution to construct toilet facilities and clean the school campus. This resolution was discussed in the Gram Sabha. The Panchayat President took steps to implement the resolution, successfully completing the construction of toilets in schools under the Clean and Green

Village theme. The effective functioning of the School Management Committee (SMC) plays a crucial role in ensuring adequate facilities for students.

In Vellimalai Gram Panchayat in Kalvarayan Block, school students frequently take leave or irregularly to the classes, particularly during December and January when many families migrate to Karnataka or Kerala to work in tea estates. When their parents migrate, the students often stay at home to care for livestock. School teachers are unable to visit all households periodically. However, **Self Help Group members and ward members knows about them since they are SHG members. If Ward members or Standing Committee members were to identify these students, it could help in reducing dropout rates.**

5.4 Libraries:

Out of the 14 Gram Panchayats, 10 GP have libraries, but they are inoperative. Many of these libraries are either locked or poorly maintained by the Panchayats. One of the key concerns is the absence of librarians, as the Panchayats have not deployed anyone to manage the libraries and books

In Vellimalai Panchayat, the president mentioned that they could recruit retired officers as librarians for a nominal salary of ₹2000 per month, **but no one is willing to take the position due to the low pay.** As a result, **the rural libraries are in an unusable condition.**

In Kulandai village, a new library was recently constructed through the AGAMT – II scheme, but it remains non-functional due to a lack of funding for hiring a librarian, even though it has a good infrastructure.

In Kovalam Gram Panchayat, the Panchayat President took the initiative to renovate the library building and She sourced books from foundations, local NGOs, and nearby colleges. Additionally, the President hired a librarian through the Village Poverty Reduction Committee (VPRC) and arranged for the librarian's salary through the VPRC.

There is also a broader issue with community engagement, as no campaigns have been conducted to attract people to the rural libraries. These challenges highlight the need for better resource allocation and community outreach to revive rural libraries.

5.5 Training:

The training of Panchayat Presidents and ward members on LSDG is an essential component of capacity building at the grassroots level. Out of the 10 Gram Panchayats, 8 Panchayats Presidents had received at least one round of training on LSDG. These trainings were conducted at either the Regional Institute of Rural Development (RIRD) or the State Institute of Rural Development.

Gram Panchayat M. S. Madam, the Panchayat President, shared her insights on the training she received at the Bavani Sagar Regional Institute of Rural Development (RIRD). She emphasised that the training enhanced her understanding of the LSDG. In addition to attending Block-level training, she found the RIRD training particularly valuable due to the inclusion of real-time success stories and exhibitions.

The training at RIRD was enriched with various resources, including pamphlets, handbooks, and study materials that detailed the activities associated with LSDG. These resources allowed her to visualise the potential of her own village in achieving these goals. Inspired by the training, she initiated efforts to develop a "Child-Friendly Village," demonstrating the practical impact of the training.

Panchayat Presidents generally reported that the training received at RIRD or the State Institute of Rural Development (SIRD) was effective in enhancing their understanding of the Village Panchayat Development Plan (VPDP) process, the selection of thematic areas, and other topics related to LSDG. For example, the President of Vilunthudaiyan Panchayat shared that the training was her first introduction to the full scope of her role and responsibilities. However, she also noted that the **training took place two years ago, and over time, she found it challenging to retain and implement the knowledge due to a lack of ongoing support.**

At the Block level, training sessions were conducted by Trainers of Trainers (ToT). A two-day training program was organized for ward members, covering the basics of SDG and LSDG, integration of the nine themes into VPDP, and the activities associated with each theme, including both funded and non-funded initiatives. Additionally, ward members were taken on field visits to nearby model villages to gain a deeper understanding of the practical application of these activities.

The Block Resource Person (BRP) of Andimadam Block stated that there was a **lack of a beacon or award-winning village within the blocks**. This limitation made it difficult for participants to visualize how their Panchayats could effectively implement the thematic activities, reducing interest in attending the training sessions. This impacted the participants' level of engagement and interest in the training.

Furthermore, it was observed that the **training sessions predominantly focused on selected themes that involved funded activities**. These themes include "Clean and Green Village," "Water-Sufficient Village," and "Village with Self-Sufficient Infrastructure," which are emphasized due to their association with funded projects such as drainage construction, water connections, and infrastructure development.

However, there appears to be a gap in the understanding of the broader scope of activities under these themes, particularly concerning no-cost or low-cost initiatives. Even **some Panchayat Presidents were not fully aware of the range of activities that could be undertaken within these themes, including those that do not require significant financial resources**.

5.6 Awareness:

Knowledge is a necessary component of taking effective action. A thorough understanding of the thematic concept is essential to achieve Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) at the grassroots level. While **Block-level officers** in the Rural Development (RD) department have a basic grasp of the concept, **a deeper understanding of indicators, targets, and inter-departmental convergence is necessary**.

Each indicator is tied to specific schemes aimed at achieving the targets. Yet, awareness of the SDG and LSDG concepts, the related indicators, and thematic areas among field-level officers from various line departments remains very low. the implementing agency officers lack

a clear understanding of the indicators and often have no access to or knowledge of the data related to beneficiaries. This gap in awareness and understanding among officials significantly hampers the effective achievement of the SDGs.

In Elayaperumal Koil Gram Panchayat, the Makkalai Thedi Maruthavam (MTM) team visited households. The team member was unfamiliar with the preparation of VPDP focus on the Healthy Village theme and the responsibilities associated with it. While she mentioned that health camps are conducted in schools and remedies are provided to affected children.

The Makkalai Thedi Maruthavam team struggles to gather people in one place to organise such medical camps at the Panchayat level as well as she mentioned **that does not conduct health camps without an internal circular from the department.**

If the Panchayat wishes to conduct such camps, the Panchayat President should inform the Block Medical Officer (BMO). However, the Elayaperumal Koil Panchayat Secretary mentioned that the support from the BMO for conducting camps is minimal. The BMO typically permits camps only in response to severe communal diseases or receive any circular. Consequently, the Panchayat President hesitates to select the Healthy Village theme due to a **lack of awareness and poor coordination with the department.**

6. Suggestions

6.1 Strengthen the Standing committees and GPPFT:

Panchayats should appoint members to various committees and actively consider their suggestions and discussions when preparing the Village Panchayat Development Plan (VPDP) and selecting themes. Committee members must receive training to understand their roles and responsibilities fully. This training should be mandatory, with regular follow-ups to ensure effectiveness. The meetings of these committees should be registered, and Actions taken should be documented. Additionally, activities for the committees should be designed to align with the Localizing Sustainable Development Goals (LSDG), leveraging support from Panchayat Raj Institutions (PRIs) to enhance implementation and outcomes.

6.2 Gram Sabha scheduling:

The participation of Gram Sabha nodal officers from line departments is currently planned by their respective departments, leading to mismatched timings and coordination issues among departments. To address this, it is recommended that the scheduling and planning of nodal officers' attendance at Gram Sabha meetings be managed through a centralized structure. This approach will help to avoid conflicts and improve coordination across departments.

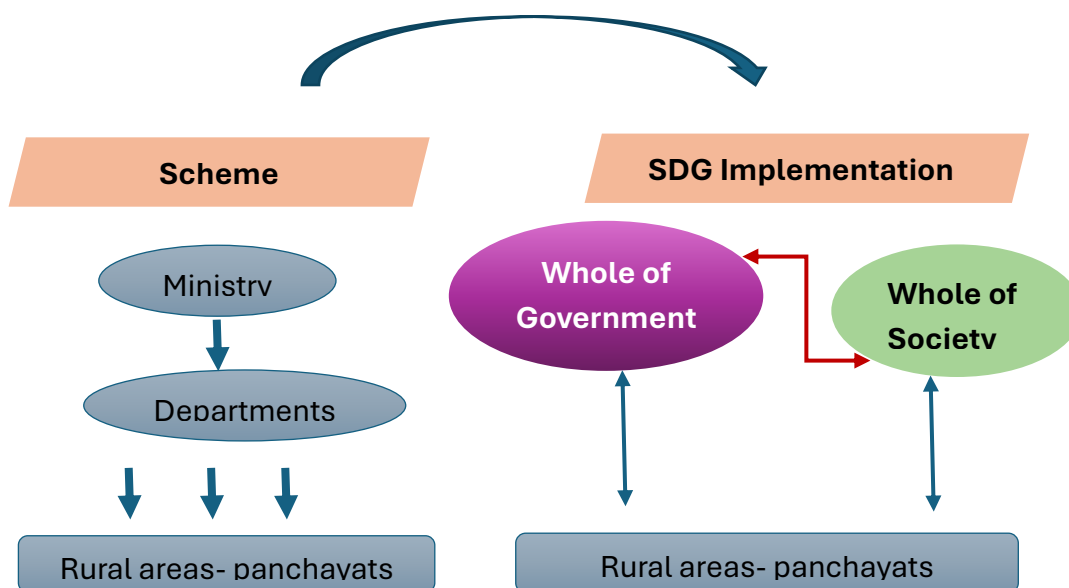
6.3 SHG – VP Partnership:

The convergence of Self-Help Groups - Village Panchayats has become increasingly significant in recent years for localising SDG planning, particularly in the preparation of the Village Panchayat Development Plan (VPDP) by interlinking Village Prosperity and Resilient Plan (VPRP). This collaboration is instrumental in identifying and prioritizing beneficiaries effectively. Such convergence enhances the ability of Panchayats to achieve goals such as Poverty-Free Village, Women-Friendly Village, and Child-Friendly Village more efficiently. By working together, both institutions can more swiftly and effectively attain their goals and targets.

6.4 Convergence – Whole-of-Government Approach in Service Delivery:

A convergence approach involves integrating funds, functionaries, and program implementation across departments, focusing on physical, institutional, and IEC aspects, along with monitoring and evaluation. Cooperation among various line departments, especially at the village level, is essential for effective service delivery. For example, mapping schemes to achieve nutrition outcomes under SDG 2 (Zero Hunger) requires this unified approach from the Health Department, ICDS, Agriculture and Civil supplies.

Localisation of SDGs through various schemes with the PRIs is in a whole of government approach to encompass the whole of society in a manner that leaves no one behind. This is presented in the figure below where implementation of the schemes leads to realization of the SDG targets and indicators at the panchayat level, combine to reach better block, district and State level indicators.



To improve implementation, field personnel and PRIs should be engaged through special joint ventures, webinars, and district-level meetings, beyond paper communication. This approach ensures comprehensive service delivery and adheres to the principle of leaving no one behind.

6.5 Capacity Building and Training:

A shift from quantitative monitoring of capacity building and training to a focus on qualitative outcomes for SDGs is required. This involves moving away from the traditional Training of Trainers (ToT) cascade model to multi-modal training approaches that leverage

contemporary digital technologies, social media apps, and tools for more effective and engaging training experiences.

Effective capacity building and training are essential for fostering significant positive changes in the mindset of both executive functionaries and PRI representatives. The design of capacity building, training, and IEC initiatives should include comprehensive capacity building for elected representatives, standing committees, VPDP facilitation teams, the community, and those serving as resource persons throughout the process.

6.6 Encourage No cost Low-cost activities:

Many activities that Gram Panchayats can undertake are not cost-intensive and may require little to no funds. In fact, Panchayats can initiate numerous mobilisation activities that are primarily low-cost or even no-cost, especially during the environment creation process. Community mobilisation and ownership are crucial for driving these low-cost or no-cost development initiatives. Activities such as campaigns on Swachhta (cleanliness) and sanitation, school enrollment for dropouts, ensuring the enrollment of pregnant women for institutional delivery, village plantation, and social forestry are examples of such initiatives. An illustrative list of low-cost or no-cost activities can guide Panchayats in planning effectively. Many planned activities taken up by Gram Panchayats do not need to be cost-intensive, making it feasible to implement them with minimal financial resources.

6.7 Panchayat Development Report:

As panchayats have their elections once in 5 years, the panchayat development plan can be prepared once every tenure. It serves as a vital tool for assessing the development status of Village Panchayats with reference to the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and the nine specific themes.

This report helps to understand achievements, limitations, and gaps in the Panchayats' development efforts. It also facilitates the convergence of strategies and optimization of development initiatives by prioritizing the development agenda according to specific themes and timelines. Furthermore, the report identifies issues requiring attention from various authorities and institutions, including the Line department ensuring that critical concerns are addressed effectively.

6.8 Monitoring for LSDG:

Effective monitoring by Panchayats is crucial and will be supported through the implementation of a Panchayat Level Dashboard. Annual assessments should be conducted to evaluate progress by comparing current performance against baseline levels and benchmarks. This will involve measuring changes over time, from the initial baseline to the achievements at the time of the annual assessment, and assessing progress towards set targets.

6.9 PDI Index:

The collected PDI data should be analyzed, and appropriate actions must be taken based on the findings. The data should be updated at regular intervals to ensure that the analysis remains accurate and useful for data-driven decision-making. For instance, the DRPC has noted that Ariyalur District scored low on the village infrastructure indicator. In response, specific schemes should be planned at the district and block levels to address this shortfall and improve the relevant indicators. Regular updates and targeted interventions will enhance the effectiveness of monitoring and contribute to achieving the desired outcomes through PDI.

6.10 Appoint Local Resource Person:

At present, block-level resource persons provide training to ward members, Panchayat Secretaries, and Panchayat Presidents. However, these resource persons are not full-time trainers, which limits their ability to provide ongoing support. Appointing a full-time local resource person would help PRI members ensure better coordination, follow-up, capacity building, day-to-day challenges, and the effective implementation of development plans.

6.11 Transparency

It is recommended to mandate that the Panchayat budget be displayed prominently on a banner during Gram Sabha meetings. Additionally, Gram Panchayats should be encouraged to prepare a Citizen Charter that includes a disclosure of information on the services provided by the GP, along with the contact person and the expected time for the delivery of such services. These measures will enhance the transparency of Panchayat activities.

6.12 Award and Beacon Village:

The number of Beacon Villages and Panchayat Learning Centres across the state is currently quite low. Therefore, it is necessary to create at least one Beacon Village in each block for each theme. This approach will enhance the effectiveness of training and facilitate the spread of information, thereby motivating nearby Panchayat Presidents. Additionally, Panchayats should be encouraged to participate in award competitions, and training should be provided to Panchayat Presidents and Secretaries on the criteria for becoming award-winning Panchayats.

6.13 Comprehensive State Guideline:

The development of comprehensive guidelines can play a crucial role in addressing the challenges in creating effective convergence among various departments to achieve SDG. These guidelines would provide clear direction to all department officials, outlining the key themes, roles, and responsibilities of each stakeholder involved. The guideline should include the SDG-related scheme mapping, roadmaps of the state and district, and steps for convergence with line departments and schemes. It will be helpful to better communication and collaboration between departments, leading to more efficient use of resources and more effective implementation of activities at the grassroots level.

6.14 Augmentation of Own Source Revenue

Enhancing Gram Panchayats's Own Source Revenue (OSR) is essential to enabling them to invest in social infrastructure development. Many Gram Panchayats face financial constraints, with the grants from the Central Finance Commission (CFC) and State Finance Commission (SFC) often insufficient to cover the costs of funded activities across all habitations. By improving OSR, Panchayats can allocate additional funds towards enhancing the quality of services, maintaining infrastructure, and addressing the unique needs of their communities.

6.15 Communication Strategy and IEC

A comprehensive communication strategy is essential for effectively promoting and tracking SDGs. This includes celebrating important days and events related to SDGs, appointing SDG champions for each goal or target, and establishing learning circles in schools, universities, and other educational institutions. The goals should be popularized,

and progress tracking should be made visible. Best practices should be documented and showcased, and this information should be circulated among Gram Panchayats and relevant line departments.

The communication strategy should also involve thematic IEC activities. The nine themes should be prominently featured in IEC initiatives related to relevant schemes. For example, Panchayats can be identified by theme-based names such as "**Good Governance Panchayat Kovalam**" or "**Child Friendly Village Kottanputhur.**" This approach will enhance awareness and engagement with the themes and support the effective implementation of SDG-related activities.

6.16 NGOs and CSOs:

NGOs and Civil Society Organizations (CSOs) play a crucial role in localizing Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) at the Gram Panchayat level. The government should promote and establish policies that encourage NGOs and CSOs to collaborate with departments, leveraging their expertise and resources. This partnership can foster innovation and integrate best practices, enhancing the effectiveness and reach of development initiatives at the grassroots level.

6.17 Communitise the LSDG:

Communitising Sustainable Development Goals involves integrating global goals into the fabric of local communities. This process is essential to ensure that citizens are not only aware of LSDG themes but are also empowered to adopt sustainable practices in their day-to-day lives. Local groups, youth clubs, and Self-Help Groups (SHGs) are pivotal in this effort. Through targeted educational programs, workshops, and community-driven initiatives, these groups can become the pioneers of sustainable development. Developing a module focused on fostering behavioural changes related to achieving the SDGs and promoting it through youth clubs, SHG meetings, and Gram Sabha.

Limitations in the eGramswaraj Portal:

In the eGramswaraj portal, it is mandatory to select 25 corresponding activities related to selected themes. However, what often happens is that the Block Computer Officer randomly selects a number of activities and uploads them to the website without proper planning by the respective departments. Even though some activities fall under the categories of low-cost or no-cost, there is a lack of coordination with the respective departments or NGOs.

Additionally, the total number of beneficiaries must be mentioned in the portal, but the numbers entered often do not reflect the reality on the ground. The number of beneficiaries should be updated once the event is completed to ensure accuracy.

Once the Village Panchayat Development Plan (VPDP) is prepared, it is sent directly to the Block Officer and uploaded to the portal. As a result, the Panchayat Secretary does not consistently monitor the planned activities. If there were a feature in the portal to upload photos and attendee details, it would be easier to monitor low-cost and no-cost activities, encouraging the Panchayat Secretary to engage with the portal more frequently.

The next section outlines the action plan of CRISP, which will address the identified challenges and practical actionable at the grassroots level.

7. Strategies and Action Plan of CRISP

7.1 Selection of Beacon Villages:

The first step involves selecting 10 clusters (one cluster consisting of 5 Gram Panchayats) to serve as Beacon Villages. It will be done through consultation with the Directorate of Rural Development (DRD) and will focus on several key criteria, such as geographical diversity, population density, and the inclusion of tribal and coastal villages. A detailed analysis of the Panchayat Development Index (PDI) will guide the selection, with priority given to villages that have lower PDI scores, particularly those located in aspirational blocks.

The districts of Kanchipuram, Chengalpattu, Tirupattur, Tenkasi, and Kallakurichi are identified as priority regions for this initiative. The local body election for this district was conducted in 2022 after the bifurcation.

Kanchipuram and Tenkasi will be pilot districts for integrating Unnat Bharat Abhiyan (UBA) with Panchayat Raj Institutions. Kallakurichi, as a newly formed district, will be a focus area for new development strategies. Chengalpattu, being a coastal and Urban district, will focus on addressing the unique challenges of these areas. Tenkasi, located in the southern part of the state, will prioritise the development of villages with a significant SC community population.

7.2 SDG Status Studies:

An SDG status report will be prepared to assess the current status of each Gram Panchayat, using the Panchayat Development Index (PDI) as a key evaluation tool. This report will provide a comprehensive analysis of the village's performance in relation to specific SDGs, highlighting the indicators that need improvement and identifying which SDGs should be prioritised for developing the VPDP (Village Panchayat Development Plan).

The CRISP team, with the support of UBA coordinators and students, will develop this SDG status report. The report will assist the Panchayats in selecting relevant themes and activities to be included under each theme for effective planning and implementation.

7.3 Village Profiling:

To assess the current infrastructure status in the village, the CRISP team will carry out a comprehensive village profiling exercise in collaboration with the Panchayat President, Secretary, Ward Members, SHG members, and the local community. This profiling will cover key infrastructure elements such as Anganwadi centres, libraries, VPRC (Village Poverty Reduction Committee) buildings, schools, and their distance from main hamlets, along with any other related infrastructure issues.

The team will gather insights through focus group discussions and interviews with relevant stakeholders. Additionally, data from the Mission Antyodaya survey will be utilised to prepare this report.

7.4 Enabling the Standing Committee and GPPFT:

After the selection of villages, the next priority is to strengthen the Panchayat Committees (GPPFT), which are essential for implementing SDG-based activities with the support of PRI members. These committees will be instrumental in coordinating and overseeing the execution of the development plan. The size of the committee may vary in each panchayat. The (G.O. (Ms.) No. 102 Rural Development (C4) Department, dated 12th July 2005.)¹³ mentioned the formation of a committee with the following members.

The committee will include the following members:

- The Panchayat President,
- Panchayat Secretary,
- Ward Members,
- Anganwadi Workers,
- Auxiliary Nurse Midwives (ANMs),
- ASHA Workers,
- Healthcare staff from the Primary Health Centre (PHC),
- Headmaster, who will act as the SMC (School Management Committee) convener.
- local NGO volunteers,
- Youth Club members,
- PLF (Panchayat Level Federation) and SHG (Self Help Group) members will also be part of the committee.

¹³ https://www.tnrd.tn.gov.in/Pt_Raj/linkfiles/go_rd_102_05_pg070.pdf

7.5 Training for Standing Committee and GPPFT

Therefore, the first activity in the VPDP process is to organize meetings at the Panchayat to kick-start the planning process by creating awareness among the villagers.

The team will provide training to the Standing Committee and Gram Panchayat Planning Facilitation Team (GPPFT) on their roles, responsibilities, and the activities they are expected to undertake. This training creates awareness about the need for VPDP, the step-by-step activities that would be taken up in the planning process, theme selection, VPDP process and monitoring. This will be done with the support of Block Resource Persons and use the training materials provided by SIRD.

7.6 Resource Envelope:

Resources are not limited to financial means alone. Gram Panchayats (GPs) should be aware of the various resources at their disposal to effectively carry out activities through the VPDP. Identifying these key resources is a crucial part of the planning process.

Broadly, these resources can be categorised into three main types:

1. **Natural Resources:** Common Land, forests, water, air, and all other naturally available resources.
2. **Human Resources:** People residing in the GP area, those associated with the area in any capacity, members of the GPPFT (Gram Panchayat Planning Facilitation Team), and SHG women and youth clubs.
3. **Financial Resources:** Funds available from Central and State Governments, Own Source Revenue (OSR), and contributions from the community. Innovative financing methods, such as contributions from local philanthropists, NRIs, the corporate sector, and NGOs, should also be explored.

7.7 Preparation of the Village Panchayat Development Plan (VPDP)

The committee and Panchayati Raj Institutions (PRI) will work together to conduct a needs assessment to include the demands of the wards in the VPDP. They will use methods such as social mapping, Participatory Rural Appraisal (PRA), and the Mission Antyodaya questionnaire to collect data. This process will be carried out by committee members and the Panchayat Secretary. The team will support the conduct of the needs assessment and PRA. The drafted report will be integrated with the VPDP to ensure alignment. Simultaneously, the VPDP

should also be prepared by Self-Help Groups (SHGs) with the support of the Panchayat Level Federation (PLF).

7.8 Conducting Combined Meetings with all stakeholders:

A combined meeting will be conducted with committee members, SHGs, PRI members, Anganwadi Workers (AWW), school teachers and experts from the village. The selection of the Sankalp (theme) will be made by interlinking all the plans and finalising the theme for the Panchayat. This will help to include the expert perception and data statistics in the VPDP.

7.9 Gram Sabha / Special Gram Sabha

A special Gram Sabha or regular Gram Sabha will be held to discuss the demands raised at the ward level. Priority will be given to funded activities at the ward level, as decided during the Gram Sabha. In this meeting, nodal officers from the respective line departments should participate, and the Action Taken Report will be shared with the Union office and line departments. The community's perception of the selected theme should be discussed here.

7.10 Finalization and Uploading of VPDP

The final VPDP will be drafted based on the discussions and decisions from the Gram Sabha and then sent to the Union office. After approval, the plan will be uploaded to the eGramSwaraj portal. This process should be done by the Panchayat Secretary with the support of the Block Resource person.

7.11 Strengthening Coordination Between SHGs, NGOs, and the Panchayat:

CRISP team will build strong partnerships and coordination mechanisms between Self-Help Groups (SHGs), Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs) and the Panchayat. These groups collectively play a critical role in fostering community-driven development, ensuring that resources and efforts are aligned toward achieving LSDG targets.

7.12 Theme-Based Activities in the Gram Panchayat

The following theme-based activities will be carried out in the Gram Panchayat according to the selected Sankalp, ensuring the alignment of all plans for the comprehensive development of the village. The activity will contain a specific timeline to conduct with the support of other department frontline employees. The activity will be done coordinately with the Line department officials.

Community mobilization and ownership are essential for promoting low-cost or no-cost development initiatives. Activities such as campaigns on Swachhta (cleanliness)/sanitation, school enrolment drives for dropouts, ensuring the enrolment of pregnant women for institutional deliveries, and village plantation/social forestry are a few examples. An illustrative list of low-cost or no-cost activities is provided below. Many of the activities planned by Gram Panchayats may not be cost-intensive.

7.13 Healthy Village:

1. Mobilise the Gram Sabha

Objective: Engage the community to identify health-related needs and involve them in health planning and monitoring.

- a. Organize special Gram Sabha meetings with active participation from all sections, especially women, youth, and marginalized groups.
- b. Raise awareness about available health schemes such as NHM, Take Home Ration and the importance of immunisation, sanitation, and nutrition.
- c. Facilitate discussions on public health challenges specific to the village, such as vector-borne diseases, maternal health, and mental health services.

2. Set Panchayat-Specific Targets

Objective: Establish clear, measurable health-related goals specific to the Panchayat's needs.

- a. Conduct a baseline health survey in the village to assess the overall health status of the population.
- b. Set targets for immunisation coverage, maternal and child health (MCH) care, sanitation improvements, and awareness of non-communicable diseases (NCDs).
- c. Set specific targets for reducing infant and maternal mortality, improving sanitation, and ensuring 100% coverage under health insurance schemes.

3. Coordinate with Government and Non-Government Agencies

Objective: Build a network of support to implement health programs effectively.

- a. Collaborate with health workers like ASHAs, Auxiliary Nurse Midwives (ANMs), and Anganwadi workers to deliver health services.
- b. Partner with local NGOs and community-based organisations to raise awareness on issues like substance abuse, family planning, and maternal health.
- c. Establish regular communication with the Health Department to ensure timely access to health services and referral mechanisms.

4. Ensure Services Reach the Community

I. Objective: Guarantee that health services are accessible to all, particularly vulnerable groups.

- a. Ensure the effective functioning of Village Health, Sanitation, and Nutrition Committees (VHSNCs) to monitor and improve local health services.
- b. Facilitate home-based care for palliative patients and the elderly through ASHAs and other healthcare workers.

II. Promote

- a. Early Diagnosis and Timely Treatment: Encourage early diagnosis and treatment of diseases, ensuring that villagers access healthcare at the first sign of illness.
- b. Family Planning Services: Ensure that family planning services are available and promoted through ASHAs and health workers.
- c. Vector-Borne Disease Prevention: Implement community-led initiatives to reduce the spread of diseases like malaria and dengue by promoting the use of mosquito nets, cleaning water sources, and regular fogging.

III. Support Groups

- a. Auxiliary Nurse Midwives (ANMs) and Doctors: Provide essential maternal and child healthcare services, monitor disease outbreaks, and offer early diagnosis and treatment.
- b. ASHAs and Anganwadi Workers: Serve as key health influencers, promoting health awareness and providing essential healthcare services at the grassroots level.
- c. Self-Help Groups (SHGs) and Local Experts: Mobilize the community for health-related campaigns and conduct social audits to ensure accountability in health service delivery.

The activities have been mapped in the Excel spreadsheet for reference. **The table includes stakeholders, facilitators, and the relevant month for each activity.** This format will also be followed for the other themes as well. [Mapped Low cost - No cost Activities under Healthy village theme.xlsx](#)

Mapped Low cost - No cost Activities under the Healthy village theme

Activity	Stakeholders	Facilitators	Month
Ensure the availability of resources in PHC or Health Wellness Centre and Anganwadi	Community, SHGs	Anganwadi workers, PHC nurses	Every Month
Ensure 100% malnutrition-free gram Panchayat through screening the children	Children, ANC, PNC Mother	Anganwadi workers, Village Health Nurse (VHN)	Every Month
Ensure screening of communal diseases like malaria, Dengue, and cholera	Community	PHC nurses, ANM	Monsoon Months (November, December)
Organize regular health camps for check-ups, vaccinations, and screenings for preventable diseases and malnutrition in children	Community	Local Hospital, Village Health Nurse (VHN)	Yearly Twice
Implement vaccination drives to ensure all children receive necessary immunisations on time	Children, Parents	ANM, PHC nurses	Every Month
Implement maternal and child health programs to support pregnant women and new mothers	Pregnant women, New mothers	Anganwadi workers, PHC nurses	SHGs Meeting
Promote breastfeeding awareness programs	Mothers, Pregnant women	Anganwadi workers, Local NGOs	August (Celebrate Breastfeeding week)
Facilitate mental health workshops	Community	Local NGOs	July
Set up support groups for chronic illnesses	Chronic illness patients	Local NGOs, Village Health Nurse (VHN)	August
Facilitate training on first aid and emergency response	Community	Local Hospital, ANM	December
Formation of community caregiving groups for bedridden patients	Community, Health volunteers	Local NGOs, Village Health Nurse (VHN)	October
Encourage regular physical check-ups in schools	Community	VHN, Local Health Clinics	July, January
Implement programs for substance abuse prevention	Students, Youth, Community	Local NGOs	December
Celebrate World Health Day	Community	Local NGOs	April

- Ensure the availability of resources in PHC or Health Wellness Centre and Anganwadi to enhance services in the village.
- Ensure 100% malnutrition-free gram Panchayat through screening the children
- Ensure screening of communal diseases like malaria, Dengue, and cholera.
- Organize regular health camps for check-ups, vaccinations, and screenings for preventable diseases and malnutrition in children.

- Implement vaccination drives to ensure all children receive necessary immunisations on time.
- Implement maternal and child health programs to support pregnant women and new mothers with education and resources.
- Promote breastfeeding awareness programs, educating mothers and pregnant women about its benefits for infants' health.
- Facilitate mental health workshops focusing on stress management, coping strategies, and emotional well-being with support of local NGOs
- Set up support groups for chronic illnesses, providing a platform for sharing experiences and resources.
- Facilitate training on first aid and emergency response for community members to enhance preparedness.
- Formation of community caregiving groups for bedridden patients through awareness creation and mobilisation.
- Encourage regular physical check-ups by providing incentives or free services at local health clinics.
- Implement programs for substance abuse prevention, focusing on education about the risks of drugs and alcohol.
- Establish walking or cycling paths in the village to encourage active transportation among residents.
- Encourage participation in local health fairs, providing information on health services and wellness resources.
- Promote healthy lifestyle choices through community challenges focused on diet, exercise, or wellness goals.
- Facilitate training for local health workers, improving their skills in community health promotion and disease prevention.
- Organize family wellness days, offering activities that promote physical activity, nutrition education, and mental well-being.
- Encourage the establishment of a private pharmacy or clinic, improving access to essential medications and healthcare services.
- Create a feedback mechanism where villagers can voice concerns regarding health services or needs in the community.
- Celebrate World Health Day or similar events with community activities focused on raising awareness about various health issues.

7.14 Clean and Green Village:

1. Ensure regular waste segregation at the source by providing separate bins for biodegradable and non-biodegradable waste.
2. Establish a waste segregation plant to convert organic waste into compost for local agriculture.
3. Ensure 100% coverage under the Swachh Bharat Mission (SBM) to provide toilets in every household.
4. Conduct awareness campaigns on the importance of cleanliness and environmental conservation.
5. Organize regular cleanliness drives involving community members to clean public spaces, roads, and water bodies.
6. Promote tree plantation drives by encouraging villagers to plant trees in their homes and public areas.
7. Create community gardens and nurseries where villagers can grow fruits, vegetables, and flowers while promoting biodiversity.
8. Implement rainwater harvesting systems in households and public buildings to conserve water.
9. Facilitate workshops on sustainable farming practices, including organic farming and permaculture techniques.
10. Encourage the use of eco-friendly materials by promoting alternatives to single-use plastics.
11. Establish a village recycling program to collect and process recyclable materials effectively.
12. Create awareness about air pollution and its health impacts, encouraging practices that improve air quality.
13. Organize nature walks and eco-tours to educate students about local flora and fauna while fostering appreciation for nature.
14. Implement solar energy solutions in public buildings to promote renewable energy use.
15. Encourage the construction of eco-friendly houses using sustainable materials and techniques.
16. Facilitate training on waste management techniques, including recycling, composting, and waste reduction strategies.
17. Organize workshops on water conservation techniques, such as drip irrigation and mulching in agriculture.

18. Establish a monitoring system for local environmental issues, allowing villagers to report problems like littering or pollution.
19. Conduct educational programs in schools focusing on environmental awareness and sustainability practices.
20. Promote installing biogas plants in households to utilize organic waste for energy production.
21. Organize competitions for the best-kept gardens or cleanest homes, incentivising cleanliness and greenery in the village.
22. Facilitate partnerships with local NGOs or environmental organizations for support in sustainability initiatives.
23. Celebrate and take an oath on environmental days (e.g., Earth Day, World Environment Day) with community events focused on sustainability practices.

7.15 Child-Friendly Village:

1. Mobilize the Gram Sabha

Objective: Ensure active community involvement in addressing hunger and promoting food security.

- a. Organize Gram Sabha meetings to identify drop outs and nutrition-related issues faced by the community.
- b. Raise awareness about government schemes like ICDS, and Tamil Puthalvan, Puthumai Penn.
- c. Engage marginalized groups such as Pregnant women, children, and the Parents in discussions on improving nutrition and reducing drop outs.

2. Set Panchayat-Specific Targets

Objective: Establish localized and realistic targets for improving nutrition

- a) Conduct a baseline survey to assess hunger levels, food security, and nutritional status.
- b) Set targets for 100% enrollment of eligible families under the Public Distribution System (PDS), and children, pregnant women, and adolescent girls under the Integrated Child Development Scheme (ICDS).
- c) Set specific goals for improving agricultural productivity, promoting resilient agricultural practices, and enhancing access to nutritious food.

3. Action Plan Components

Growth Monitoring and Nutritional Support:

- a. Conduct regular health check-ups and growth monitoring for children under 6 through the Anganwadi system.
- b. Provide take-home rations to children under 3, pregnant and lactating women, ensuring their nutritional needs are met.
- c. Ensure that mid-day meals provided in schools are of high quality and meet the prescribed nutrition standards.

7.15.1 No cost Low-cost Activities:

1. Ensure nutritious and hygienic meals in schools through the Midday Meal Scheme.
2. Facilitate discussions on health topics, such as nutrition, exercise, and mental health awareness.
3. Organize health camps for regular check-ups and vaccinations.
4. Create child-friendly toilets that are accessible and hygienic.
5. Facilitate access to quality education by improving school infrastructure.
6. Encourage the establishment of Bal Sabhas (Child Parliament) to involve children in decision-making.
7. Provide clean drinking water in schools and public areas.
8. Organize campaigns for using libraries, promoting literacy and reading habits among students.
9. Establish safe play areas with sports equipment and supervision.
10. Implement skill development programs for older children, focusing on vocational training.
11. Organize cultural events that celebrate local traditions and involve children.
12. Promote environmental education through tree planting and waste management initiatives.
13. Support after-school tutoring programs (Illam Thedi Kalvi) to help children with their studies.
14. Create community gardens where children can learn about nutrition and agriculture.

15. Conduct sports tournaments to promote physical fitness and teamwork among children.
16. Provide training for parents and SHGs on positive parenting practices and child development.
17. Initiate programs for mental health awareness focusing on children's emotional well-being.
18. Encourage participation in local governance by allowing children to present their views during Gram Sabha meetings.
19. Develop safe transport systems for children commuting to school.
20. Implement programs against child labour, raising awareness about its impact on children's futures.
21. Create art and music programs that allow children to express themselves creatively.
22. Facilitate workshops on hygiene practices, including handwashing and sanitation education.
23. Organize field trips to educational sites, enhancing learning through real-world experiences.
24. Provide resources for digital literacy, helping children access technology safely.
25. Conduct storytelling sessions that promote literacy and imagination among young children.
26. Establish mentorship programs, connecting older youth with younger children for guidance and support.
27. Encourage community service projects, allowing children to contribute positively to their village.

Information, Education, and Communication (IEC) for Nutrition Education:

- a. Develop a comprehensive IEC strategy for promoting breastfeeding, healthy eating practices, and the benefits of locally grown nutritious food.
- b. Organize community workshops and use local media to educate families about nutrition and food security.

7.16 Women-Friendly Village

1. Ensure access to quality healthcare services for women, including maternal and reproductive health.
2. Organize health camps focused on women's health issues, including screenings and preventive care.
3. Facilitate access to education for girls and women through scholarships (Puthumai Pen) and adult literacy programs.
4. Establish self-help groups (SHGs) to promote savings, entrepreneurship, and financial independence.
5. Provide vocational training programs tailored to women's skills and local market demands.
6. Conduct awareness campaigns on women's rights and legal protections available to them.
7. Create safe spaces for women to gather, share experiences, and support each other.
8. Implement programs against domestic violence, providing resources and support for survivors.
9. Encourage women's participation in local governance by promoting leadership training.
10. Facilitate workshops on nutrition and health, focusing on women's dietary needs and wellness.
11. Promote women's participation in agriculture by providing training on sustainable farming practices.
12. Create platforms for women entrepreneurs to showcase their products and services in local markets.
13. Conduct skill development workshops in areas such as handicrafts, tailoring, or food processing.
14. Establish mentorship programs, connecting young women with experienced female leaders in the community.
15. Organize community dialogues addressing gender stereotypes and promoting gender equality.
16. Facilitate access to microfinance options for women-led businesses through local banks or NGOs.
17. Conduct workshops on financial literacy, empowering women with knowledge about budgeting, saving, and investing.

18. Promote awareness of health issues such as breast cancer and cervical cancer through education campaigns.
19. Create a feedback mechanism where women can voice concerns regarding community issues or development plans.
20. Encourage women's involvement in community service projects, fostering a sense of responsibility and leadership.
21. Facilitate training on digital literacy, helping women access technology for personal and professional growth.
22. Organize cultural events that celebrate women's achievements, recognizing their contributions to the community in the Gram Sabha.
23. Promote safe transportation options for women traveling to work or educational institutions.
24. Encourage the formation of women's cooperatives to enhance collective bargaining power in markets.
25. Facilitate discussions on family planning options, ensuring informed choices regarding reproductive health.
26. Promote gender-sensitive policies within local governance frameworks to address women's specific needs.
27. Create awareness about sexual harassment laws, ensuring women know their rights and available resources for support.

7.17 Month-wise Activities Implementation:

These activities will be implemented based on the specific needs of each Panchayat and the resources available. All initiatives will be divided into minor goals for the Panchayat to reference with the SDG status report. The activities will be scheduled month-wise to align with relevant themes and ensure real-time impact. For example, awareness campaigns to combat school dropout rates will be conducted in June, while Breastfeeding Week will be celebrated in August.

The initiatives will be carried out through partnerships between Self-Help Groups (SHGs) and Village Panchayats (VPs), with support from local NGOs, experts from hospitals, UBA institutions, line department officials, and CSR funds. The Gram Panchayat Planning Facilitation Team (GPPFT) will play a key role in organising and facilitating these initiatives

at the Panchayat level. We will collaborate with UNDP and UNICEF in these activities. SIRD handbook and training materials will be used for providing training and capacity building.

7.18 Development Status Report (DSR):

As panchayats have their elections once this year, the panchayat development plan can be prepared this tenure. After completing a situation analysis, a draft Development Status Report (DSR) will be presented to the Panchayat to make the community aware of the real-time status of development in key focus areas.

The DSR helps the villagers and stakeholders to identify the following:

- Current development status of the Gram Panchayat (GP) across various thematic sectors, highlighting achievements, limitations, and gaps in the GP's development efforts.
- Convergence strategies that can be employed to optimise and align development goals for the GP.
- Prioritization of development activities to be undertaken annually over the next five years compare with past five years.
- Issues needing attention from various authorities and institutions, including the GP itself, for more effective development outcomes.

7.19 Monitoring and Evaluation

- a. CRISP Team will support the creation of a monitoring system through community involvement to track progress on poverty reduction.
- b. Periodic review meetings with government agencies and local leaders to assess the impact of schemes and address gaps in implementation.

7.20 Award nomination:

The team will help panchayats to know about themes like local targets, local indicators, what the panchayats have to do and how to attain these targets, statistics needed, the theme-wise Gram Panchayat Development Plan format recommended by the Central government, the criteria for panchayats to get awards at the national level.

The team will help Gram Panchayats upload their activities to the *panchyataaward.gov.in* portal and support their nomination for the *Uttamar Gandhi Award*. The team will support Gram Panchayat in taking initiatives to fulfil the award-winning parameters.

Categories of Awards by Central Government:

1. **Deen Dayal Upadhyay Panchayat Satat Vikas Puraskar.**
Top 3 GPs under each of 9 award themes
2. **Nanaji Deshmukh Sarvottam Panchayat Satat Vikas Puraskar**
For top 3 best GPs, BPs and DPs with the highest average score under all themes combined
3. **Gram Urja Swaraj Vishesh Panchayat Puraskar**
For 3 GPs for their performance regarding the adoption and usage of renewable sources of energy
4. **Carbon Neutral Vishesh Panchayat Puraskar**
For 3 GPs towards achieving Net-Zero carbon emissions
5. **Panchayat Kshamta Nirmaan Sarvottam Sansthan Puraskar**
For 3 Institutions who has provided institutional support to GPs in achieving LSDGs
6. **Nanaji Deshmukh Sarvottam Panchayat Satat Vikas Puraskar**
One GP which qualifies and gets shortlisted for National Panchayat Awards during the subsequent years

Interlink the Unnat Bharat Abhiyan in VPDP through Community Outreach programmes to localising the SDGs:

Unnat Bharat Abhiyan (UBA), a flagship program launched by the Ministry of Education in 2014, aims to drive rural transformation by utilizing the knowledge and resources of higher educational institutions (HEIs) for rural development.

UBA institutions work closely with local communities by adopting five villages to co-create sustainable solutions based on their needs, identified through participatory rural appraisals.

To effectively integrate UBA into the Village Panchayat Development Plan (VPDP) and community outreach programs, a pilot initiative will be launched in two districts, with plans to scale up to other districts based on success.

This initiative will be monitored and supported by CRISP and IIT Madras (Regional coordinator), which will provide hand-holding support to UBA institutions, both in training and at the field level.

Modus Operandi:

1. Pilot Phase Implementation:

- The pilot will begin in three districts of Tamil Nadu, with the support of regional coordinators from institutions like IIT Madras, TNAU, and Gandhigram Rural University (GRU).

2. Orientation and Capacity Building:

- Conduct an orientation program for UBA participating institutions on Localizing Sustainable Development Goals (LSDG) to align their efforts with the VPDP creation.

3. Theme-Wise Activity Planning:

- Develop theme-based activities for selected Gram Panchayats, with training materials prepared for UBA institutions in collaboration with SIRD.

4. Consultation and Resource Development:

- Hold consultation meetings with stakeholders to develop resource materials and guidelines during the implementation phase, ensuring alignment with both UBA and VPDP objectives.

5. Help Desk forum:

Create a Help desk forum with the Regional Coordinator and other UBA colleges to address the real-time challenges and peer learning. The monitoring framework for tracking the progress and effectiveness of the pilot initiatives, with specific indicators for scaling up successful practices to additional districts.

This integrated approach will leverage the expertise of educational institutions and the participatory nature of VPDP, ensuring sustainable development at the grassroots level.

8. Conclusion:

The report on the Localisation of Sustainable Development Goals (LSDG) in Tamil Nadu underscores the critical role that Panchayati Raj Institutions (PRIs) play in achieving sustainable development at the grassroots level. Through field studies and stakeholder consultations, it has become clear that Tamil Nadu has made significant efforts to integrate SDGs into its Panchayat functions, planning processes, institutional capacity, and community engagement.

The objective of "Leaving No One Behind" is Tamil Nadu's approach, emphasising inclusivity of all people and equity in development initiatives. However, the findings reveal that many Panchayats still lack a thorough understanding of how to operationalise SDGs within their local contexts. This knowledge gap can hinder effective planning and implementation, making it necessary to enhance training and capacity-building efforts for local leaders and community members.

As Tamil Nadu continues its journey towards sustainable development, the establishment of Beacon Villages as models for best practices can serve as a catalyst for broader community engagement and awareness. By fostering inter-departmental collaboration and enhancing the participatory planning process, Panchayats can effectively mobilise resources and implement initiatives that resonate with both local priorities and global goals.

In conclusion, while Tamil Nadu is a front-runner in achieving SDGs, ongoing efforts are essential to bridge existing gaps and empower local governance structures. By adopting a holistic approach that encompasses training, resource mobilisation, and community participation, Tamil Nadu can further its commitment to sustainable development, ensuring that all citizens benefit from these transformative goals by 2030.

Annexure - I

Questionnaire

Localisation of Sustainable Development Goals (LSDG)

Purpose of the Study

The purpose of this study is to identify and understand the gaps in the implementation of the Localization of Sustainable Development Goals (LSDG) within Gram Panchayats, focusing on insights from Panchayat Secretaries, Panchayat Presidents, Self-Help Groups (SHGs), and the community.

Section - A

Basic Details (To be collected from the Panchayat)

1. Name of District
2. Name of Block
3. Name of the Panchayat:
4. Name of Hamlets:
5. Distance of Hamlet from Main habitation :
6. Population: M___F___
7. No. of elected members: M___F___
8. President: M/F
9. School: Pr___Mid___Sec___Hr Sec___
10. If not distance at which available: Pr___Mid___Sec___Hr Sec___(hamlet wise)
11. Anganwadi Centre (hamlet wise):
12. If not distance at which available:
13. Health Facility (hamlet wise):
14. If not distance at which available:
15. Public Transport (hamlet wise): Bus___Rail___
16. If not distance at which available: Bus___Rail___
17. Ration shop (hamlet wise):
18. If not distance at which available:
19. Main occupation (hamlet wise)
20. No. of SHGs (hamlet wise):
21. No. of members in each SHG:

Section - B

1. Gram Sabha and Standing Committee Activities

- 1.1.1. How active are women and SHG in Gram Sabha meetings?
- 1.1.2. How do you interlink VPRP and VPDP in the Gram Sabha?

- 1.1.3. Describe the process of selecting the beneficiary.
- 1.1.4. What activities are undertaken by the standing committee in your panchayat?
- 1.1.5. Have the members of the standing committee received any training?
- 1.1.6. How often do officers from other departments visit the Gram Sabha?
- 2. Village Panchayat Development Plan (VPDP) Preparation**
 - 2.1 Describe the process of preparing the Village Panchayat Development Plan (VPDP) in your panchayat.
 - 2.2 What steps are taken to ensure community participation in the VPDP process?
 - 2.3 How have the priorities for the VPDP been decided?
 - 2.4 Has anyone supported you in the creation of the VPDP?
 - 2.5 Who is responsible for uploading the VPDP on the portal?
 - 2.6 What difficulties are you facing in the portal while uploading in the VPDP?
- 3. Panchayat Theme and Objectives**
 - 3.1. What initiatives has the Panchayat implemented to achieve the theme that interlinks with the Village Panchayat Development Plan (VPDP)?
 - 3.2. Do the themes remain consistent each year? If the themes have changed, what were the reasons for the changes? What are the themes selected this year?
 - 3.3. What is the process of identifying the themes in your panchayat?
 - 3.4. Why did you select this theme for your panchayat?
 - 3.5. How was the theme selected? Have you discussed this in the Gram Sabha?
 - 3.6. How do you monitor and evaluate the progress of the VPDP?
- 4. Training and Capacity Building**
 - 4.1. How many training sessions have you attended related to SDG implementation?
 - 4.2. Who conducted the training sessions?
 - 4.3. What was the nature of the training sessions?
 - 4.4. What steps have you taken after receiving the training?
 - 4.5. What is the procedure for selecting participants for the training sessions?
 - 4.6. What are the Low-cost – No-cost activities you have done?
- 5. Awareness of LSDG Indicators**
 - 5.1. Do you know your status on the LSDG indicators?
 - 5.2. Are you familiar with all the highly relevant indicators (water, health, sanitation, etc.) for your Gram Panchayat?
 - 5.3. Have you collected any data to make data-driven decisions?

Theme-Based Questions to Anganwadi Worker / SHG Member / Panchayat President
- 6. Poverty-free village**
 - 6.1 What steps has the Panchayat taken to identify the destitute and vulnerable families?
 - 6.2 What specific measures has the Panchayat taken to reduce poverty in the village?
 - 6.3 What awareness or campaigns have been conducted to inform the villagers about poverty alleviation schemes?

- 6.4 How are skill development and vocational training programs implemented and monitored?
- 6.5 Does the Panchayat provide any infrastructure support to Self-Help Groups (SHGs)?
- 6.6 How do SHGs utilize this infrastructure to enhance their activities and outcomes?
- 6.7 How does the Panchayat collaborate with other government departments or NGOs to implement poverty alleviation programs?

7. Healthy Village Theme:

- 7.1 What steps has the Panchayat taken to identify and address malnutrition among children and pregnant women?
- 7.2 How is the nutritional status of children monitored in the Panchayat?
- 7.3 How often have vaccination camps been conducted?
- 7.4 What does the Panchayat do for individuals with mental illness and those needing palliative care?
- 7.5 Are there any community-led initiatives to improve nutrition awareness and practices? How are these initiatives implemented and monitored?
- 7.6 What are the common health issues you encounter in the village, and how do you address them?
- 7.7 What training or awareness programs have been conducted to educate the community about nutrition and anaemia prevention?
- 7.8 What partnerships or collaborations exist with local health centres or NGOs to combat malnutrition?

8. Women friendly village:

- 8.1 How does the Panchayat support pregnant women, especially those who are vulnerable?
- 8.2 What initiatives have been undertaken to reduce the infant mortality rate in your Panchayat?
- 8.3 How is maternal health education being promoted in the community?
- 8.4 Are there any cultural or social barriers to accessing maternal healthcare, and how are they being addressed?
- 8.5 How does the SHG group do Physical and mental violence towards women?
- 8.6 How does the Panchayat support women's participation in local governance and decision-making?

9. Child Friendly Village:

- 9.1 How does the panchayat ensure the school enrolments and attendance rate?
- 9.2 Have you participated /supported the School Management Committee / PTA?
- 9.3 How does the panchayat support school infrastructure and maintenance?
- 9.4 What support systems are in place for children with special needs?
- 9.5 How do you monitor and support children's educational progress and well-being?

10. Water sufficient village:

- 10.2 What steps are taken to ensure all households access sufficient and clean water?

10.2 How does the village promote water conservation practices such as rainwater harvesting?

10.3 Has any convergence happened between the Panchayat and other departments regarding achieving a water-sufficient village?

11. Clean and Green village:

11.1 What waste management systems are in place in the village?

11.2 How is waste management handled in the village, including waste segregation and disposal?

11.3 What initiatives are in place to promote tree plantation and the maintenance of green spaces?

11.4 What environmental awareness programs are conducted in the village?

12 Socially Secured Village

12.1 How does the Panchayat support vulnerable groups like the elderly, differently-abled, and marginalized communities?

12.2 How effective are the social security measures and programs in the village?

12.3 How does the Panchayat ensure transparency and accountability in its activities?

12.4 What mechanisms are in place for community participation in decision-making processes?

13. Additional Feedback

13.1 How are other departments supporting your efforts to achieve the LSDG in your Gram Panchayat?

13.2 What challenges are you facing in the implementation of SDGs?

13.3 What suggestions do you have for improving your panchayat's SDG localisation and VPDP preparation?

13.4 Do you have additional comments or thoughts on the SDG implementation, VPDP process, or Gram Sabha activities?

13.5 Are there any success stories or lessons learned that you would like to share?

14. Observe and note down the IEC activities of the Panchayat.



ABSTRACT

Localisation of Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) - Report of the Expert Group – Constitution of State Level Steering Committee – Orders - Issued.

PLANNING, DEVELOPMENT AND SPECIAL INITIATIVES (SP) DEPARTMENT

G.O.(Ms).No.60

Dated: 09.05.2022

சுபகிருது – சித்திரை – 26,
Thiruvalluvar Aandu 2053.

READ:

From the Secretary, Ministry of Panchayati Raj, Government of India, D.O.No. M-11015/124/2021-CB, dated: 22.12.2021 and 31.01.2022 addressed to the Chief Secretary.

* * * * *

ORDER:

In the D.O. letter read above, the Secretary, Ministry of Panchayati Raj, Government of India had shared the Report of the Expert Group on Localisation of Sustainable Development Goals. The key feature of the recommendations of this report is the Thematic approach towards Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) with the following nine themes:

- i) Poverty free and enhanced livelihoods village
- ii) Healthy village
- iii) Child friendly village
- iv) Water sufficient village
- v) Clean and Green village
- vi) Self-sufficient infrastructure in village
- vii) Socially secured village
- viii) Village with Good Governance
- ix) Engendering Development in village

..2..

2. As the themes cut across and cover most of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), the Ministry of Panchayati Raj has requested that a Steering Committee under the guidance of Chief Secretary or a very senior officer may be constituted having the Secretaries of relevant line departments as members.

3. After careful consideration, the Government constitute a State Level Steering Committee (SLSC) with the composition of the following members:

1.	Chief Secretary	Chair person
2.	Additional Chief Secretary, Planning and Development Department	Member
3.	Principal Secretary, Rural Development and Panchayat Raj Department	Member
4.	Director, Rural Development and Panchayat Raj Department	Member
5.	Additional Chief Secretary / Commissioner Rural Development and Panchayat Raj (Training)	Member
6.	Additional Chief Secretary, Social Welfare and Women Empowerment Department	Member
7.	Additional Chief Secretary, Municipal Administration and Water Supply Department	Member
8.	Principal Secretary, Adi Dravidar and Tribal Welfare Department	Member
9.	Principal Secretary, Health and Family Welfare Department	Member
10	Principal Secretary, School Education Department	Member

4. The terms of reference for the State Level Steering Committee is to monitor the progress made on

- Institutional Mechanism
- Implementing Mechanism
- Monitoring Mechanism and Dash Board
- Incentivisation
- Capacity Building and Training
- Vision and Road Map

..3..

5. The format of structured presentation by States is detailed in Annexure I. The Committee is to regularly monitor the progress made on items mentioned in Annexure I.

(BY ORDER OF THE GOVERNOR)

Vikram Kapur
Additional Chief Secretary to Government.

To

The Chief Secretary to Government, Secretariat, Chennai-9.

The Principal Secretary to Government,
Rural Development and Panchayat Raj, Secretariat, Chennai-9.

The Director,
Directorate of Rural Development and Panchayat Raj,
Panagal Building, Chennai-15.

The Additional Chief Secretary to Government/Commissioner,
Rural Development and Panchayat Raj (Training),
Panagal Building, Chennai-15.

The Additional Chief Secretary to Government,
Social Welfare and Women Empowerment Department,
Secretariat, Chennai-9.

The Additional Chief Secretary to Government,
Municipal Administration and Water Supply Department,
Secretariat, Chennai-9.

The Principal Secretary to Government,
Adi Dravidar and Tribal Welfare Department,
Secretariat, Chennai-9.

The Principal Secretary to Government,
Health and Family Welfare Department,
Secretariat, Chennai-9.

The Principal Secretary to Government,
School Education Department,
Secretariat, Chennai-9.

The Member Secretary,
State Planning Commission,
Chepauk, Chennai-5.

Copy to

The Personal Assistant to Principal Secretary-I to Hon'ble Chief Minister

The Special Personal Assistant to

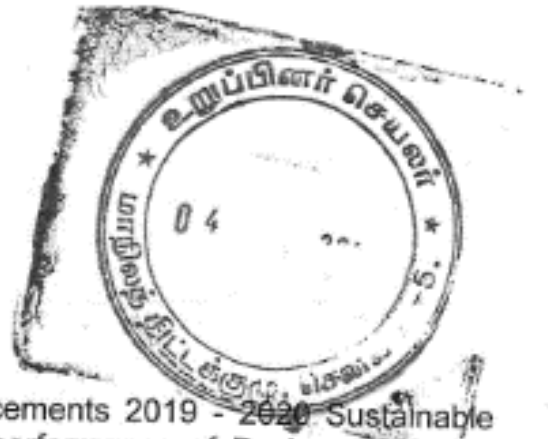
Hon'ble Minister (Finance and Human Resource Management),

The Principal Private Secretary to Chief Secretary to Government,
Secretariat, Chennai-9.

[Handwritten signature]



ABSTRACT



Planning and Development Department Announcements 2019 - 2020 Sustainable Development Goals – Award and Ranking the performance of Backward Blocks, Other Blocks and Districts in the State - Orders-Issued.

Planning, Development and Special Initiatives (SP.2) Department.

G.O.Ms.No. 109

Dated:30.09.2019,
விகாரி- புரட்டாசி - 13,
திருவள்ளூர் ஆண்டு -2050.

READ:

G.O.Ms.No.15, Planning, Development and Special Initiatives (SP-1) Department, dated: 21.3.2017 and subsequent amendments.

ORDER:

The State is actively pursuing various steps for the implementation of Sustainable Development Goals. On the occasion of the Independence Day on 15.08.2019, the Hon'ble Chief Minister had in his speech said –

“ ஐக்கிய நாடுகள் சபையின் மாநாட்டில் ஏற்றுக்கொள்ளப்பட்ட நீடித்த வளர்ச்சி இலக்குகள் 2030ஆம் ஆண்டுக்குள் எய்தப்பட்டு, அதன் மூலம் தமிழ்நாடு உலக அரங்கில் வளர்ச்சிப் பாதையில் சென்றிட மாண்புமிகு அம்மாவின அரசு உறுதியுடன் செயல்பட்டு வருகின்றது. இந்த நோக்கத்தினை செயல்படுத்தும் விதமாக பல்வேறு மக்கள் நலத் திட்டப் பணிகளை மாண்புமிகு அம்மாவின அரசு செயல்படுத்தி வருகின்றது.”

Further, the Hon'ble Deputy Chief Minister, while moving Demand No.36 for the year 2019-2020, on the floor of the Tamil Nadu Legislative Assembly made the following announcement:-

மாவட்டம் மற்றும் வட்டாரங்களின் வளர்ச்சிக்கான காரணிகளை, நீடித்த நிலைத்த வளர்ச்சி இலக்குகளின் இணையதள கண்காணிப்பு பலகையின் செயல்பாட்டுடன் இணைப்பதன் வாயிலாக, அவற்றின் செயல்பாட்டின் அடிப்படையில் மாதந்தோறும் தரவரிசைப்படுத்தவும் கண்காணிக்கவும் இயலும்.

மாநிலத்தின் பின்தங்கிய வட்டாரங்கள், ஏனைய வட்டாரங்கள் மற்றும் மாவட்டங்களின் வளர்ச்சியை அடிப்படையாகக் கொண்டு ஊக்கமும் உற்சாகமும் அளிக்கும் வகையில், மாதந்தோறும் தரவரிசைப்படுத்தி அதனடிப்படையில் சிறப்பாக செயல்படுவனவற்றைக் கண்டறிந்து, இதய தெய்வம் மாண்புமிகு புரட்சித் தலைவி அம்மா அவர்களின் நல்லாசியுடன், மாண்புமிகு முதலமைச்சர் அவர்களின் ஆணையின்படி ஆண்டுதோறும் விருது வழங்கப்படும்.

2. As per orders issued in the G.O. read above, State Level High Power Committee has been formed to oversee the implementation of SDGs under the Chairmanship of Chief Secretary to Government. Eight Working Groups for all 17 Goals have been formed to carry out the activities related to SDG implementation.

Each Working Group is headed by the Secretary of Nodal Department. The Working Groups have the tasks of Mapping of Goals and Targets, Developing monitorable indicators for each target, Collection of base line data and periodical data collection, Preparation of Vision Document, Capacity Building, Preparation of Annual Status Report on the progress, Convergence of resources for optimal use in achieving targets, Periodical review of targets and achievements, Reporting of achievements to High Level Committee, etc.

3. To further strengthen the process, implementation, monitoring and important role that each Department has in the achievement of SDGs in the State, it has simultaneously been announced that each Department at State level is to have a unit for SDG.

4. For the State to achieve SDGs, each District, is to achieve the SDG targets and indicators. To enable the district to work as a team for this, and bring in the requisite focus and approach of convergence of departments, in to its work, the Government had announced the formation of District Cell for SDG. The Terms of Reference for the District Cell amongst various aspects of SDG includes data collection, monitoring, analysis for the district, to assess its performance.

5. In order to collect data and monitor the progress of each target, a dedicated Web Site with online data monitoring system has been developed through Tamil Nadu e-Governance Agency. Provisions have been made to capture District level data for available indicators. This would facilitate capturing data from various line departments, periodical review of targets and achievements, facilitate reporting of achievements at District level, within the Department, to High Power Committee and preparation of Annual Status Report.

6. Localising of SDGs would require the correlation of the SDGs, Targets, Indicators that are identified at State level to that which applies at District level, Block level, Village level, City level. The indicators under SDG for Districts and Blocks, as applicable at District level, Block level, will be identified. Specific data is to be provided in the SDG dashboard.

7. The effectiveness of the work done at these different levels seen through the indicators would yield better results when there is a comparison of outcomes against targets to be achieved as well as when the progress is seen as against a baseline. Such comparisons will encourage and motivate performance, help identify beacons, and models for replication and expansion, focus on areas for improvement and thus provide a thrust to overall development across all sectors.

8. Considering the relative differences between blocks on various parameters that are relevant to development, the Government have already been implementing the special scheme for backward blocks (State Balanced Growth Fund). The identified backward blocks thereunder, it is expected would have received additional attention, including additional funding (such as under State Balanced Growth Fund). Consequently, they should have shown improvement. However, the process for assessment is yet to be systematised and regularly taken up. These Backward Blocks cannot be compared on progress and performance on same terms as other Blocks.

9. Considering all the above, the Government has decided to bring in a system of regular assessment of progress on parameters and indicators identified under the SDGs at Block level and District level and issue the following orders:

- i. SDG Indicators are to be identified for District level and Block level, including backward blocks.
- ii. These indicators will be identified through a consultative process.
- iii. Baseline data and periodical progress as per periodicity of the indicators shall be entered into the portal of the SDG Dashboard at District/Block level.
- iv. Seamless data transfer from the departments to the SDG Dashboard is to be ensured by the departments concerned, and TNeGA.
- v. Monthly ranking of Districts, Blocks and Backward Blocks would be done.
- vi. Annual progress would be assessed of the Districts including Blocks and Backward Blocks, within the district and best performers would be awarded.
- vii. Participatory monitoring, evaluations and third party checks on data entered would be taken up.

10. Detailed guidelines and executive instructions on this are to be issued separately.

(BY ORDER OF THE GOVERNOR)

**JAYASHREE RAGHUNANDAN,
ADDITIONAL CHIEF SECRETARY TO GOVERNMENT.**

To

1. The Additional Chief Secretary / Principal Secretary / Secretary to Government, All Departments, Secretariat, Chennai-9.
2. All Head of Departments through administrative department concerned.

