

## Policy Round Table on

# Energy Transition and Industrial Development

On 6 December 2024, 9.30 AM to 5.30 PM

At 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor Hall, Anna Centenary Library, Kotturpuram, Chennai

*Organized by*  
Madras Institute of Development Studies (MIDS)  
United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) Chennai  
Sustainable Development Goals  
Coordination Centre (SDGCC) of Tamil Nadu

### Concept Note

The recently concluded G20 summit agreed on tripling Renewable Energy capacity and voluntary doubling of the rate of energy efficiency improvement by 2030. However, this Delhi Declaration on climate question did not find consensus on the most contentious issue of phasing out fossil fuels, which is the root cause of the climate crisis. India's Nationally Determined Contributions (NDC) is expected to ensure that 40% of the total installed power generation capacity is clean energy. It has pledged to achieve net-zero emissions by 2070. Coal alone accounts for about 60 percent of total energy in India. This energy imbalance is compounded by premature deindustrialization, as India's manufacturing share in output and employment has been stagnant. Thus, any increase in energy prices is likely to lead to a contraction in manufacturing, which India cannot afford given its already low manufacturing base. India needs to devise creative and effective strategies to address the combined impact of economic growth, development and energy transition, particularly to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) of the United Nations, especially its Goal 7 on ensuring access to affordable, reliable, sustainable, and modern energy for all. And also, as SDG Goal 9 mandates, energy transition involves supporting research and development that promotes industrial diversification and value addition to commodities. Transitioning to renewables thus requires a deliberate focus on protecting livelihoods, offering alternative job opportunities, and ensuring that vulnerable communities are not adversely impacted.

The Madras Institute of Development Studies (MIDS), in collaboration with United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and Sustainable Development Goals Coordination Centre (SDGCC) of Tamil Nadu, proposes to organize a day-long policy round table discussion to deliberate on the following themes.

## Greening Development and Skilling Workforce

What are strategies available to resolve the apparent contradiction between industrial development and energy transition? The workshop will explore a combination of policy instruments, carbon auditing, and energy pricing mechanisms that allow technological leapfrogging for sustainable energy solutions while protecting vulnerable groups affected by the transition. Like other emerging economies, India does not need to tread the same path of fossil-fuel-led industrial development as richer countries have in the past two centuries. Embracing innovative and sustainable energy technologies can pave the way for a greener future.

In Tamil Nadu, it is essential to balance industrial growth with a transition towards sustainable energy, particularly in the MSME and EVs sector. This workshop aims to equip the workforce with the skills necessary for this transition while exploring policies such as carbon auditing, green pricing and compliance frameworks such as ESG to promote a green economy.

### Key Questions

1. What strategies can be employed to incentivize firms to adopt technological leapfrogging for sustainable energy solutions?
2. What specific skills are lacking in Tamil Nadu's current workforce that are critical for EVs manufacturing and operations sector especially in MSMEs?
3. What customized training programmes can be created for youth and mid-career professionals especially in MSMEs in Tamil Nadu to fill these skill gaps?
4. How can we mitigate job losses considering the differences in skill sets required and the employment elasticity between renewable energy and fossil fuel industries particularly in sectors like MSMEs?
5. How do we promote greening jobs—skilling, reskilling and upskilling workforce in renewable sectors?
6. What initiatives can support women and under-represented groups in entering the renewable energy sector?
7. Policy measures for TN MSMEs adopting ESG Frameworks including international country-specific compliances.

## Energy Divide and Green Federalism

Given the multilevel governance, India has to coordinate its strategies across the levels of governing units particularly at states. Its regional inequality correlates with the energy source divide. Coal—the cheapest energy source—is located in poorer regions in eastern and central India. While renewable energy hubs—powered by wind and solar PV technologies—are located in southern and western India. Given this correlation between regional economic inequality and the energy source divide in India, this workshop will explore policies and institutions that address these concerns.

### Key Questions

1. How can we address the potential loss of revenues and generate funds for state-specific programmes aimed at reskilling development and meeting local rehabilitation needs?
2. Is it feasible to explore the creation of a climate commission alongside the finance commission to serve as an arbiter in resolving emerging conflicts among regions regarding the pursuit of energy transition? Could such a commission work as a nodal agency to resolve conflicts, such as those related to projects like offshore wind, between states and the centre?

## Energy Transition and Inequality

As every policy, energy transition too has distributional aspects. As a result, any energy transition initiative must embrace two normative ideals: First, internalizing cost requires those who emit greenhouse gases to pay the social and environmental costs. Second, climate justice requires compensation for those who are harmed. Often, those who contribute to climate change are not the ones who are affected by it. Any mitigation effort, therefore, must invert this carbon injustice by making the well-off pay for the energy transition. This panel will:

### Key Questions

1. Identify strategies for India to reconcile its climate mitigation efforts with addressing inequality, balancing international commitments and economic development.
2. Explore Roles of communities and civil society in climate discussions and steps needed to establish a climate fund targeting climate-driven inequalities.

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6<sup>th</sup> December 2024, 9:30 AM to 4:00 PM  
2<sup>nd</sup> Floor Hall, Anna Centenary Library, Kotturpuram, Chennai

### Programme

Time	Agenda	Speakers
9:30–10:00 AM	Registration	
10:00–10:05 AM	Welcome Address	Mr Balasubramanian Munuswamy Chief Development Goals Specialist (i/c), SDGCC, TN
10:05–10:10 AM	Introduction	Prof M Suresh Babu Director, MIDS
10:10–10:20 AM	Guest of Honour – Keynote address	Mr Anshul Mishra IAS Member Secretary CMDA, Chennai
10:20–10:25 AM	Chief Guest Address	Mr Atul Anand IAS Principal Secretary MSME Department Government of Tamil Nadu
10:25–10:30 AM	Theme Address and Overview of Round Table	Dr A Kalaiyaran Assistant Professor, MIDS
<b>Panel Discussion 1: Decarbonizing Industrialization</b>		
Expected Outcomes: Strategies for Greening Development, Just transition and sustainable growth in India		
10:30–10:35 AM	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Context Setting / Moderator</li> </ul>	Mr Alagappan Ramanthan Development Goals Specialist SDGCC, TN
10:35–10:50 AM	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Current of technology in Decarbonization</li> <li>Approaches to generate funds needed for renewable energy and carbon capture</li> <li>Strategies to be adopted for addressing revenue loss from Decarbonization</li> </ul>	Mr Prakash Tiwari Former Director NTPC, Chhattisgarh
10:50–11:05 AM	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Combining growth with greening industries</li> <li>MSMEs and Decarbonization</li> </ul>	Dr Naveen J Thomas Associate Professor Jindal School of Government and Public Policy
11:05–11:20 AM	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Pathways for Net Zero Emission</li> </ul>	Mr Praveen Chandrasekaran Engagement Lead Council on Energy, Environment and Water (CEEW)
11:20–11:35 AM	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Regional divide in Energy Transition</li> <li>Impact of Phasing out Coal</li> </ul>	Ms. Sree Harica Devagudi IIT-Delhi
11.35–11.40 AM	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Concluding Remarks</li> </ul>	Mr Alagappan Ramanthan Development Goals Specialist SDGCC, TN
11.40–11.50 AM	Tea Break	

## Panel Discussion 2: Greening Development & Skilling Workforce

Expected Outcomes: Recommendations to Tamil Nadu to accelerate green transition, develop a future-ready workforce, and create a sustainable, inclusive economy as well as supporting MSMEs in adopting sustainable production aligned with ESG frameworks and SDG-12.

11:50–11:55 AM	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Context Setting/Moderator</li> </ul>	Mr Balasubramanian Munuswamy Chief Development Goals Specialist (i/c), SDGCC, TN
11:55 AM– 12:10 PM	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Potential of Green jobs and policy measures to boost green jobs in TN</li> </ul>	Mr Arpit Sharma CEO, Skill Council for Green Jobs
12:10–12:25 PM	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>EV transition skilling landscape in Tamil Nadu (Fresh skilling, reskilling and upskilling)</li> </ul>	Mr Thiru Srinivasan Lead, EV Task Force TN FaMe
12:25–12:40 PM	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Industry academia collaboration strategies for Greening Development</li> </ul>	Dr Raguram Arjunan President, Sustainability & Energy Practitioners Association
12:40–12:55 PM	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Strategies to enable MSMEs in the auto sector to diversify into EV and EV-component manufacturing</li> </ul>	Ms. Chaitanya Kanuri Associate Director WRI India
12:55–1:00 PM	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Concluding Remarks</li> </ul>	Mr Balasubramanian Munuswamy Chief Development Goals Specialist (i/c), SDGCC, TN
1:00–2:00 PM	Lunch	

## Panel Discussion 3: Energy Transition and Inequality

Expected Outcomes: Bridging silos and developing methodologies to address multidimensional inequalities.

2:00–2:05 PM	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Context Setting/Moderator</li> </ul>	Prof L Venkatachalam RBI Chair Professor, MIDS
2:05–2:20 PM	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>What are the methodological questions and innovations needed to address the impact of energy transition on inequality and job losses?</li> </ul>	Prof Kavikumar Professor, MSE
2:20–2:35 PM	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Politics and Institutions for Just Transition in India</li> </ul>	Dr Sarada Prasanna Das Sustainable Futures Collaborative
2:35–2:50 PM	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Bridging silos: Combining social science scholarship and technocratic policymaking</li> </ul>	Prof Sudhir Chella Rajan Professor, IIT-Madras
2:50–3:05 PM	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Global south's approach to addressing inequalities</li> </ul>	Prof Jayaraman Professor, MSSRF
3:05–3:10 PM	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Concluding Remarks</li> </ul>	Prof L Venkatachalam RBI Chair Professor, MIDS
3:10–3:15 PM	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Vote of Thanks</li> </ul>	Mr Jeya Chandran Regional Head-Southern India UNDP
3:15–4:00 PM	High Tea and Networking Session	