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# "Green politics to achieve sustainable growth in India"

**Ripima Narzary**
**PhD Scholar, Gauhati University**
**ripimanarzary19@gmail.com**

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## ABSTRACT

Over the past three decades, environmental policies have grown dramatically in India. The policies are sensitive to the evolving issues of both local and foreign origin. A wide variety of problems have been addressed by legislation, such as air and water emissions, waste control, biodiversity protection (The Policy Statement for Abatement of Pollution, 1992; The Forest Policy, 1988). However, policies have historically been directed at preserving the ecosystem and focused on reacting to local concerns. India faces economic growth problems that need to be tackled with limited capital, minimum externalities, and an environment of instability. The direction of sustainable growth is one of the methods to address this obstacle (SD). In addition to providing the potential to achieve co-benefits without undermining the national goal of improving social and economic growth, an exclusive climate-cantered focus will contribute to immense mitigation and adaptation costs. At the same time, a sustainable development pathway results in lower mitigation costs. Sustainable growth is the fundamental framework of development through which the Climate Change Plan works and must be retained in the future. Focusing on the Global Growth Program, politicians will be more preferred by strategic capitalists, and the Climate Change Initiative would be favorably oriented to its logical conclusion. We need to adhere to this simple concept and build a long-term plan for solutions to this impact. India is a complex country, stunningly diverse, full of seeming inconsistencies. It has a powerful ethic of schooling but still immense suffering and illiteracy. It is the biggest democracy in the world, and poor law enforcement and corruption remain prevalent.

## Introduction:

Green ideals are becoming more popular and influential and have been picked up by many both inside and beyond the green movement to different degrees. The word 'sustainable growth' was a significant threat to orthodox political and economic arrangements in its initial use. Its use, though, has been progressively narrower and has lost most of its progressive cutting edge in the process. It has

also been used by individuals to justify current policies, such as continuing global development rates and industrialization. The Brundtland Study, Our Shared Future, is probably the most well-known and often-quoted concept of sustainable sustainability:' development that meets the needs of the current without undermining the capacity of future generations to fulfil their own needs.' (WCED, 1987, p. 43).

Sustainable development is part of the universal political currency and may thus, paradoxically, be an asset, subject to the marketplace of political agreement and counter-definition. If political adherence to the concept of sustainable growth persists when both sides seek to use it to defend their own actions, greens should demand that the separate parties involved clarify their understanding and illustrate how the theory is reflected in their policies. Greens should point at and challenge alternate conceptions of the fundamental values it embodies, while reclaiming its progressive thrust. Multiple players will at least use the same language to challenge the topic and will face the challenge of defending their preferred meaning if they choose to continue to use the word in political debate.

Core ideals and themes within sustainable development

1. Economy–environment integration: economic decisions to have regard to their environmental consequences.
2. Intergenerational obligation: current decisions and practices to take account of their effect on future generations.
3. Social justice: all people have an equal right to an environment in which they can flourish.
4. Environmental protection: conservation of resources and protection of the non-human world.
5. Quality of life: a wider definition of human well-being beyond narrowly defined economic prosperity.
6. Participation: institutions to be restructured to allow all voices to be heard in decision making. (Adapted from Jacobs, 1995a, p. 1471

The paper aims to examine the underlying response of India to current and evolving environmental problems, which provides the framework for incorporating environmental issues into different sector policies. Against the context of environmental policy, this paper attempts to define the drivers behind developments in climate change problems on the policy agenda by reviewing the secondary source content.

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logical conclusion. We need to adhere to this simple concept and build a long-term plan for solutions to this impact. India is a complex world, stunningly diverse, full of seeming inconsistencies. It has a powerful ethic of schooling but still immense suffering and illiteracy. It is the biggest democracy in the world, and poor law enforcement and corruption remain prevalent.

**Legislative Framework**

In the umbrella Climate Conservation Act 1986, the Water (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act 1974, the Water Cess Act 1977, the Air (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act 1981, the current regulatory structure is broadly included. In the Indian Forest Act, 1927, the Forest (Conservation) Act 1980, the Wild Life (Protection) Act, 1972, and the Biodiversity Act, 2002, the legislation on forest and biodiversity management is included. Many other enactments complemented the laws of these specific enactments. The National Forest Policy, 1988; the National Protection Plan and Policy Statement on Climate and Development, 1992; Policy Statement on Emission Control, 1992, Several sectoral policies such as the National Agricultural Policy, 2000 National Population Policy, 2000 and the National Water Policy, 2002 are indeed contradictory to the existing national environmental protection policies. In their particular circumstances, both of these initiatives have acknowledged the need for sustainable growth and devised the requisite strategies to offer such awareness. In terms of present expertise and cumulative practice, the National Environment Policy aims to widen coverage and fill in holes that remain. It does not displace the prior initiatives but expands on them.

Drivers behind shifts in perceptions on climate change

There has been awareness across the country's political spectrum of the critical position natural resources play in supplying livelihoods and ensuring ecosystem services for life support. A need for a detailed policy declaration has been evident from this point of view for some time to infuse a shared approach to different sectoral and cross-sectoral approaches to environmental management, including fiscal ones. There is also a need to revisit the previous priorities, policy tools, and policies as our sustainability problems have changed, and our awareness of the centrality of environmental issues in development has improved. This dynamic involves an emerging and scalable regulatory structure, including a built-in control and evaluation mechanism and, where applicable, a review system. Sustainable development issues, narrowly formulated in the context of enhancing human well-being, are a recurrent trend in India's development theory. The current consensus expresses three universal aspirations: first, that human beings should be able to achieve a fair standard of existence; second, that humanity should be able to value the finiteness of the biosphere; and third, that the quest for greater fairness in the universe should not be precluded by either the desire for a healthy life or the acceptance of biophysical boundaries—regulation on the national climate.

There is a need for equilibrium and unity between the country's fiscal, social, and environmental interests for this to occur. India also plays an essential part in many major environmental-related foreign initiatives. It is a party to main multilateral negotiations and acknowledges the interdependencies between many environmental issues and their cross-border aspects. The National Environment

Policy (NEP) is also intended as a statement of India's contribution to contributing positively to foreign efforts. Responding to our national contribution to a clean climate, as required by the Constitution in Articles 48 A and 51 A(g), the National Environmental Strategy is confirmed by the judicial reading of Article 21. It is understood that it is not the state's duty only to keep a safe climate, but rather that of any person. Throughout the continuum of environmental protection in the region, a sense of cooperation should thus be realized. Although the state must galvanize its efforts, each person, whether natural or institutional, should also realize its duty to conserve and enhance the environment's nature. These considerations have been inspired by the National Environment Policy and are expected to integrate environmental issues into all construction activities. It briefly outlines the country's existing and future core environmental issues, environmental policy goals, normative concepts underlying policy action, strategic involvement themes, and broad indications of legislative and institutional progress.

**Green Economy for Sustainable Development**

A green economy supports renewable resources and invests in them. Ecosystem resources are better maintained, contributing to strengthened defensive lines for vulnerable agricultural areas and family incomes. For subsistence farmers, ecologically sustainable agricultural practices increase yields dramatically. Moreover, increases in access to fresh water and sanitation and non-grid technology technologies (solar power, wood stoves, etc.) contribute to the Green Economy Solutions portfolio that will further reduce poverty. A green economy substitutes fossil fuels with renewable energies and low carbon technology, tackling climate change while still providing better employment and reducing imports. New energy and resource management solutions create prospects for expansion in new ways, offsetting employment reductions from "the brown economy." Energy efficiency is a guiding proposition for improved waste control, more shared transit, green buildings, or reduced waste along the food chain, both for electricity and material usage.

To provide guidance, rules, norms, and goals are essential. Developing nations, though, must be able to advance at their own pace, following their growth targets, requirements, and restrictions. Developed countries have a vital role in emerging countries' expertise and capacity development and constructing a foreign market and legal framework for a green economy. Enabling requirements and sufficient resources for a sustainable move to a green economy must be handled, but all are eminently achievable. Subventions that are environmentally and socially damaging are deterrent and should be phased out.

However, the rational usage of subsidies will promote a green economy's shift in selected conditions and over established periods. To support the change, taxation and other market-based tools will be used to encourage the required expenditure and creativity. Moreover, although the funding scale needed for a shift to a green economy is enormous, good public policy and creative finance strategies will mobilize it.

A green economy will produce as much development and jobs as a brown economy and, in the medium and long term, outperform the latter, thus providing

considerably more environmental and social benefits. Of course, on the road, there are also dangers and obstacles. Moving for a green economy would involve collective participation by global leaders, civil society, and leading industries in this transformation. It would take a sustained attempt to reinvent and redefine conventional metrics of income, stability, and well-being on the part of decision-makers and their constituents. Nevertheless, with the status quo, the greatest danger of all could remain.

**Pathways to Sustainable Development**

The strategic policy agenda, which incorporates the greening of various key economic sectors, takes advantage of synergies and facilitates long-term development through mitigating scarcity. The linkages between them would not benefit from policies that concentrate only on specific sectors. Energy and GHG pollution reductions are a good illustration of how energy conservation initiatives in primary industries, such as homes, transport, and production, improve the usage of green energy on the supply side. By enhancing soil quality and growing water retention, additional forest land will significantly affect farm development and rural livelihoods. The need to increase waste management can be minimized by combining recycling and remanufacturing activities, enabling spending in that field to focus on areas such as waste and electricity. The need for water is strongly related to oil usage, and the opposite is valid as well.

"Green economy and inclusive growth," the summit's central agenda, is rapidly becoming a buzzword in India, with the Rio+20 Earth Summit only a few weeks away. In reality, following the lull that followed the UN Conference on Climate Change (COP 17) in December 2011, India's passion for a green economy and its possible position in a better future has been revived. India has a perfect profile at a glance for creating a low-carbon, green economy. In 2012, Ernst & Young assessed India as the fourth most promising country for green energy investment. The country still has the second-largest pool of scientists and engineers in the world who have instilled confidence in foreign investors searching for secure destinations for investment. India's successes in information technology, technical services, and communications have contributed to its profile over the past decade. However, India's rating dropped from fourth to eighth in 2013, owing to many obstacles, including high finance prices and entry barriers for foreign investors.

Nevertheless, the more significant point is that India does not afford to shift into a green economy. So far, the conventional economic model has helped India do well and amass capital in the economic field but has struggled to bridge the divide between the rich and the weak. In reality, growing industrialization has culminated in an increasing amount of different kinds of disputes. The conflict between farmers/forest dwellers and industrialists, mostly the miners, is the most disturbing of them. This struggle has reinforced violent rebellions, such as the Maoist insurgency, which is now reportedly the enormous challenge to India's internal stability. If these are not appropriate explanations, the Environment Disclosure Project says that if the existing business as normal climate scenario persists, then India's GDP growth will be around 9-13 percent negative by 2100. It would be triggered by the consequences of climate change on industry and livelihoods. This is not the ideal potential course for an emerging economic force. The immediate

need of the hour for India is, thus, a direction leading to sustainable growth. The degree of environmental consciousness will be increased, contributing to the introduction of additional environmental support laws. For example, India has just drawn up two new mining laws (The Mines and Minerals Production and Regulation Act 2013) and land acquisition for economic development (The Land Acquisition, Reconstruction and Relocation Act 2013), which are the product of this increased understanding of the climate. However, among these strong hopes, it will be naïve to conclude that India would be pushed into the League of Developing Nations by enthusiastic involvement in the Rio+20 conference or successful adherence to its agenda alone. The explanations are straightforward: the green economy is just a greener option, but not a magic wand.

Moreover, for India, where more than 300 million people live below the poverty line and where more than 50 percent of the population lack access to clean drinking water, medical treatment, and essential facilities such as toilets, the critical challenge is not to create a definition, but to enforce it systematically at ground level. India's solid waste management (SWM) industry is one instance of this. Urban India emits about 115,000 megatonnes of solid waste every day, according to the Government of India. There is already a national campaign to help handle this pollution, and the government has roped in many private sector firms with an impressive pool of SWM expertise. Both activities at the national level are centered on maintaining the country safe and green while building employment. However, this has threatened the livelihoods of at least 15 million vulnerable people at ground level who make a living by collecting waste but are not recognized for their talents. This is where, since there is no systematic solution to its application, the idea of a green economy and sustainable development struggles to solve hunger or unemployment.

"Sha Zukang, Under-Secretary-General for Economic and Social Affairs and Secretary-General of the 2012 UN Conference on Sustainable Development, who recently visited India, also emphasizes this holistic approach: "Sustainable development by definition is about combining the three pillars: social, economic and environmental, and maintaining their continuity. Yet, this is not simple since we do not specialize in our issues and difficulties. There is a need to put all three pillars together basically at Rio+20 because countries are assured that the social agenda, the environmental agenda, and the economic agenda are mutually reinforcing." Zukang also drew attention to another crucial point: the apparent disagreement between the "global north" and the "global south" that persists, a reason why the countries reached consensus on it."

India's Minister of Environment and Forests, Jayanthi Natarajan, claimed at a recent press conference in New Delhi that although India was highly involved in the green economy and inclusive growth problem, three factors will be essential for the agenda to function well on the ground. They are a. The Rio Values reaffirm They are striking a compromise between the three pillars of sustainable growth by developing national, regional, and local institutional capacities at all levels and, c. Prioritize the integration and improvement projects of socio-economically weaker parts of society. Also, if Rio+20 is to succeed, nations must work together, according to the minister. For India, the minister's comment sums it up nicely: the nation has a high degree of enthusiasm and a need for a green economy, but how it

will work on the ground should be practical. India, for example, is apprehensive about the final Rio+20 result. It is concerned that developing countries can seek to rewrite and renegotiate the Rio Principles, particularly the "Common, but Differentiated Duties" (CBDR) concept, which would be unacceptable to India. It is also concerned that developed countries that continue to place tariff and non-tariff barriers on developing countries' exports, help conditionalities, and fail to alter their current consumption patterns, which India considers necessary for sustainable growth to be achieved by developing countries. However, most critically, India is not entirely confident at this stage that a green economy would have almost no detrimental effect on the livelihoods of its large poor population. That is why India is strongly advocating for the ultimate goal and benchmark of the Green Economy strategy to alleviate poverty and for countries to have the sovereign right to determine, based on their national circumstances and goals, their pathways towards sustainable growth. So, clearly, at this stage, the green economy is India's most sensible path ahead, but not a miracle in itself.

Regarding the climate (and many other things), much of the world's infrastructure and know-how is worthless without effective policy enforcement. India should be poised for an ambitious program of environmental governance in several respects. According to the World Bank, "India has a strong environmental policy and legislative framework and well-established institutions at the national and State level" Besides, democratic countries with high citizen engagement are also perceived to be the strongest countries to recognize and respond to environmental issues. Moreover, India's rising prosperity contributes to "an increase in public demand for better environmental quality from the growing and increasingly assertive urban middle class, as demonstrated by drastic measures to improve air quality in Delhi, which now has the largest compressed natural gas-driven public bus fleet in the world" India lacks other widespread frameworks for democratic engagement, considering the benefits of a stable society in the context of conducting annual elections. Poverty is one of the burdens of providing a broad, articulate public willing to make its desires known adequately; a technical capacity shortage is correlated with this. Also, "barriers of distance, language, literacy, and connectivity -all the factors of particular relevance to India due to the remoteness of many habitations, multiple languages, and significant illiterate population -can also prevent full participation" Nevertheless, corruption (often in the form of kickbacks to government officials) is seen as a significant obstacle to the introduction of the environment. Indian democracy requires excellent freedom of action and association and the promotion of different ideas and interests. However, in this democracy, rules, and laws are broken or exploited, maybe as often as they are obeyed. "Indian democracy permits great freedom of activity and association, and the pursuit of different ideas and interests. However, rules and laws in this democracy are violated, or manipulated, perhaps as often as they are obeyed". Thus, the conflict is increasing between enhanced demands for environmental security and lack of enforcement. The World Bank sees a "growing disappearance notwithstanding several achievements, a large number of stakeholders perceive the condition on the ground to be insufficient. Most of the issue is due to poor application of legislation and regulations.

The Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) is a critical environmental policy

tool that analyses the possible impact on different behavior ecosystems. In 1969, EIAs emerged in the United States and had been one of the most effective legislative frameworks worldwide to preserve the climate. Public engagement, the idea that residents know their interests better and realize the influence of environmental destruction on their lives, is at the EIA's core. India will appear well-positioned to enact the EIA, with its political practices. However, local engagement is limited; India's short-term economic development, like China, also relies on inadequate local environmental law enforcement. Economic prosperity is also seen as trumping environmental issues. Still, India has fair basic laws in force, preserving the climate. The nation adopted new environmental legislation after the Bhopal tragedy of 1984 when more than 2,000 people died, and tens of thousands were wounded by the unintended leakage of mustard gas from a pesticide factory. The Environmental (Protection) Act of 1986 was structured to "protecting and improving the quality of the environment and preventing, controlling and abating environmental pollution" In 1994, India's largest environmental body, the Ministry of the Environment and Forests (MoEF), implemented the EIA to improve environmental security. Security was initially poor, failing to cover multiple practices, such as deforestation and waste management, and missing public interest. However, to clarify these regions, the legislation has been revised.

**Conclusion:**

Complicating things through government agencies, in India has always proven reluctant to implement environmental regulation, contributing to lawsuits as a primary means of compliance. The Indian Supreme Court directed the demolition of limestone quarries in 1985 that harmed water availability, establishing a firm precedent. Consequently, the courts have been used as a last resort in settlement of environmental disputes in most nations. In India, though, it has also been the first resort because of the regulatory agencies' alleged reluctance or lack of political will to implement environmental laws and regulations.

Informal legislation in which societal forces, such as negative media attention or direct citizen intervention, impose local environmental targets is another option utilized in India. Informal control measures involve "demands for compensation by community groups, social ostracism of the polluting firm's employees, the threat of physical violence, and efforts to monitor and publicize the firm's emissions/discharges" Such techniques. However, they can capture some of the worst criminals when it comes to local contamination, are fragmentary. They may not provide a replacement for a system of efficiently policed government.

India's new environmental agenda promotes local strategies that simultaneously solve justice and environmental problems by good local government and practice. However, in a globalized environment, specific remedies can only be partial, although laudatory. For example, global sharing of technologies is essential, but localities will also oppose emerging technology. The dilemma is that economic development can offer increased quality of life for an increasing population, but environmental stress has to decrease simultaneously. The social quality of life standards is significant, but, considering India's problem, they need to be enforced according to technological transition. Population swelling renders it an object of

specific global interest. Technology, good government, and social norms give the prospect of avoiding the apparent trap of increasing population, growing aspirations, and destruction of the climate. It is necessary to achieve "Green" alternatives partially through a sense of moral responsibility and also more through self-interest and determination. Corruption will obstruct environmental legislation.

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