India's Green Transition: Advancing Sustainable Development

Sonali Agarwal¹

¹Research Scholar, NTA- NET, Department of Commerce, Vinoba Bhave University, Hazaribagh, Jharkhand

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Abstract: Green growth has emerged as a crucial strategy for sustainable development, ensuring economic progress while minimizing environmental degradation. India, one of the fastest-growing economies, faces the challenge of balancing rapid industrialization with ecological sustainability. This paper explores India's green growth strategy, its key components, challenges, and future prospects, supplemented with data, case studies, and graphical analysis. The study highlights the role of renewable energy expansion, sustainable agriculture, circular economy models, and green transportation in reducing carbon footprints while fostering economic resilience. Additionally, it examines government policies, industry contributions, and the potential for green finance in accelerating India's transition to a low-carbon economy. By addressing both opportunities and barriers, this paper aims to provide a comprehensive understanding of India's green growth initiatives and their long-term implications for sustainable development.

Keywords: Green Growth, Renewable Energy, Sustainability, Circular Economy, Climate Policy, India, Decarbonization, Green Economy.

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I. INTRODUCTION

Green growth is a development strategy that emphasizes the importance of sustainability while ensuring economic prosperity. It focuses on fostering economic growth and development while ensuring that natural assets continue to provide the resources and environmental services on which human well-being relies. India, as a rapidly developing nation, faces a dual challenge—ensuring economic growth and maintaining ecological balance. Unchecked industrialization, urbanization, and population growth have led to environmental concerns such as air pollution, deforestation, water scarcity, and climate change.

Recognizing these challenges, India has adopted several policies and initiatives aimed at fostering green growth. These include a focus on renewable energy, circular economy models, sustainable urban planning, and clean mobility solutions. The transition towards a green economy requires collaboration between the government, industries, and civil society. With the implementation of ambitious policies like the National Solar Mission, Smart Cities Mission, and the push for electric vehicles, India is taking significant strides toward a sustainable future.

This paper will explore the major components of India's green growth strategy, analyze their impact on the environment and economy, and discuss potential challenges

and opportunities in the journey toward a greener and more resilient economy. By examining case studies and real-world applications, this research aims to provide a comprehensive understanding of India's green growth efforts.

II. LITERATURE REVIEW

- Kishan, S. (2025). Green and Blue Economy in India: The paper discusses India's green growth strategy focusing on reducing environmental risks and promoting renewable energy, integrating green and blue economies to enhance livelihoods, address climate change, and protect biodiversity, ultimately paving the way for a more resilient and sustainable society. Together, these models can enhance livelihoods, protect biodiversity, and address climate change through community engagement and clean technologies.
- Roy, A. (2024). Green Growth in India: Balancing Economic Development Environmental with Sustainability the study has shown India's Green Growth strategy emphasizes balancing economic development with environmental sustainability by promoting sustainable industrial and agricultural practices, enhancing energy efficiency, and encouraging clean energy sources, all supported by strong policy frameworks to incentivize green investments and decouple growth from environmental degradation.

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- Dan, I. (2024). Viksit Bharat: The paper discusses Vision for Sustainable Development Viksit Bharat@2047 emphasizes renewable energy, eco-friendly practices, and climate resilience as key components of India's green growth strategy, aiming to integrate sustainable practices with economic prosperity while addressing social welfare and environmental stewardship for a resilient future.
- Singh, A. (2023). Green Economic Policies, Strategies & Initiatives of India: The paper discusses India's green growth strategy focuses on implementing regulations and initiatives to promote energy efficiency across various sectors, including green building and mobility. This approach aims to reduce carbon intensity and create numerous green jobs, supporting sustainable development.
- > Objectives
- To assess the impact of renewable energy, sustainable agriculture, and circular economy strategies.
- To analyze India's green growth initiatives and policies.
- To identify the challenges in implementing green growth strategies.
- To explore future opportunities for sustainable development in India.

• To evaluate case studies and real-world applications of green policies in India.

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III. RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

This research paper relies on descriptive analysis and secondary data, which has been gathered from various sources including journal articles, websites, government portals, newspapers, published books, and similar references.

IV. RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

A. Key Components of India's Green Growth Strategy

Renewable Energy Expansion

India has advanced significantly in the field of renewable energy, especially in the areas of wind and solar power. The government launched the National Solar Mission with a target of achieving 500 GW of non-fossil fuel capacity by 2030. Initiatives such as PM-KUSUM (Pradhan Mantri Kisan Urja Suraksha evam Utthaan Mahabhiyan) promote solar energy adoption in the agricultural sector. India is also investing in green hydrogen as a future energy source.

Table 1: India's Growing Renewable Energy Capacity					
Year	Solar Capacity (GW)	Wind Capacity (GW)	Total Renewable (GW)		
2015	4	25	39		
2020	38	38	88		
2023	70	44	130		
2030 (Target)	280	140	500		





Sustainable Agriculture Practices

The government promotes sustainable agricultural practices such as organic farming, precision agriculture, and water-efficient irrigation techniques. The Paramparagat Krishi Vikas Yojana (PKVY) and the National Mission for Sustainable Agriculture (NMSA) support farmers in adopting eco-friendly farming techniques. Zero Budget Natural Farming (ZBNF) is being encouraged to reduce dependency on chemical fertilizers and pesticides.

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• Case Study: Organic Farming in Sikkim

In 2016, Sikkim became the first completely organic state in India.. The implementation of strict organic farming policies resulted in:

- ✓ Increased soil fertility and biodiversity.
- ✓ Higher market value for organic produce.
- \checkmark Boost in eco-tourism and rural employment.
- $\checkmark\,$ Reduced health risks from chemical pesticides.

Electric Mobility and Green Transportation

India is actively promoting electric vehicles (EVs) through schemes like Faster Adoption and Manufacturing of

Electric Vehicles (FAME I & II) and incentives for EV manufacturing. The push for public transport electrification aims to reduce dependency on fossil fuels and curb vehicular emissions. The government aims to have 30% EV penetration by 2030.

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Year	EV Sales (Units)
2018	69,000
2020	150,000
2023	1,000,000
2030 (Target)	30,000,000



Graph 2: Growth of EV Infrastructure (Charging Stations) in India Source: Net Move Strategy Consultancy

Industrial and Corporate Sustainability

The Perform, Achieve, and Trade (PAT) scheme under the National Mission on Enhanced Energy Efficiency (NMEEE) encourages industries to adopt energy-efficient measures. Large corporations are also integrating Environmental, Social, and Governance (ESG) principles into their business models to ensure sustainable practices. The Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) framework is strengthening waste management in industries.

➢ Afforestation and Biodiversity Conservation

Programs like Green India Mission and Compensatory Afforestation Programme focus on increasing forest cover and restoring degraded ecosystems. India's commitment to The Bonn Challenge aims to restore 26 million hectares of degraded land by 2030. Mangrove restoration projects in coastal areas are critical to reducing the impact of climate change.

B. Analysis of India's Green Growth Initiatives and Policies

India's green growth initiatives involve a combination of policy-driven efforts and industrial collaboration. The government has implemented schemes such as the National Adaptation Fund for Climate Change (NAFCC), Perform, Achieve, and Trade (PAT) Scheme, and State Action Plans on Climate Change (SAPCCs). These policies promote energy efficiency, climate resilience, and the adoption of sustainable practices in multiple sectors. However, challenges like financial constraints, technological gaps, and policy execution need to be addressed for achieving longterm sustainability.

Fusice 5. Environmental Denemas of Green Growth Initiatives			
Initiative	CO2 Reduction (Million Tonnes)	Economic Impact (Billion USD)	
Solar Power Expansion	200	50	
Electric Vehicles	100	30	
Afforestation Programs	150	20	
Circular Economy	80	25	

 Table 3: Environmental Benefits of Green Growth Initiatives

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C. Challenges in Implementing Green Growth Strategies

- **High Initial Investment Costs:** Green technologies require significant upfront investment, posing a challenge for small and medium enterprises.
- **Infrastructure Gaps:** Insufficient infrastructure for renewable energy, EV charging stations, and green urban planning hinders large-scale adoption.
- **Regulatory and Policy Uncertainty:** Frequent policy changes and regulatory bottlenecks create uncertainties for investors and industries.
- **Public Awareness and Behavioral Change:** Encouraging businesses and consumers to adopt sustainable practices requires extensive awareness campaigns and behavioral shifts.
- **Technology Gaps:** Limited domestic R&D in green technology requires heavy reliance on international collaborations.

D. Socio-Economic Impacts

Green growth initiatives have generated employment, improved public health, and promoted energy security. Policies like FAME and the National Solar Mission have created thousands of jobs in the renewable energy and EV sectors, contributing to economic growth.

E. Policy Recommendations

- Strengthening regulatory frameworks for environmental protection.
- Enhancing green finance mechanisms for sustainable investments.
- Promoting R&D in clean technologies.
- Encouraging private sector participation in green initiatives.
- Implementing effective waste management and circular economy strategies.

F. Future Prospects

India's commitment to green growth is evident through initiatives like the LiFE (Lifestyle for Environment) Movement and its updated Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) under the Paris Agreement. Strengthening public-private partnerships and fostering innovation will be key to accelerating India's transition to a low-carbon economy. Investments in battery storage, smart grids, and hydrogen fuel will define the next decade of green energy transformation.

V. CONCLUSION

India's green growth strategy is not just an environmental necessity but also an economic opportunity. The adoption of sustainable practices across energy, agriculture, transportation, and industry has the potential to create millions of green jobs, boost technological advancements, and improve the quality of life for millions of people. The success of green growth initiatives depends on a combination of government policies, private sector involvement, and public participation. While India has made considerable progress, challenges remain in terms of policy implementation, financing, and infrastructural development. Addressing these challenges through stronger regulations, investment in research and innovation, and global collaborations will be crucial. Moving forward, a strategic approach integrating green finance, digital technologies, and community-led initiatives can accelerate India's journey toward a sustainable future.

Ultimately, a well-executed green growth strategy will not only help India meet its climate commitments but also ensure long-term economic resilience, social inclusivity, and environmental sustainability. By leading the way in green energy, sustainable agriculture, and eco-friendly urbanization, India has the potential to become a global leader in the green economy.

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