

Towards Climate Justice

Examples from across India



A rapidly growing economy that depends significantly on its natural resource base and predominantly climate-sensitive sectors, India's inspirational efforts to chart out an ecologically sustainable growth model in the face of climate change could yield valuable lessons for other developing nations.

The Government of India, through its National Action Plan on Climate Change and national missions, reiterates its commitment to devising impactful strategies for climate change adaptation and mitigation, energy efficiency and natural resource conservation, while safeguarding the interests of vulnerable sections of its population.

This publication provides a few glimpses into recent efforts by the Government of India, state governments and communities around the country to build a more resilient future.



From Policy, State to Community: Climate Change is Everybody's Challenge

The Government of India's focused efforts to take the climate change discourse and planning to the state and grassroots level have resulted in measurable improvements in local climate change adaptation strategies. It's a strong endorsement of the fact that much of the country's efforts to address climate change, will depend on leadership by India's states. Till date, 30 states have developed State Action Plans on Climate Change.

It is not just at the policy stage that change is visible. Actively engaging communities most vulnerable to the effects of climate change, especially women, has emerged as a vital strategy to both find solutions and ensure sustainability of initiatives.



State Action Plans on Climate Change contextualize the impact of climate and vulnerability assessment, adaptation, mitigation options and financing and capacity building needs to implement identified interventions.





Cleaning the Ganga is a national priority for the government which set up the National Mission for Clean Ganga to address a range of challenges including waster water and solid waste management, industrial pollution and river front development. The government has committed significant resources to clean up the river. In the state of Jharkhand, a partnership between the National Mission for Clean Ganga, India's Ministry of Water Resources, River Development and Ganga Rejuvenation, and the Jharkhand state government aim to improve sanitation and generate sustainable livelihoods.



With support from the Government, vulnerable communities across the country are adapting to extreme weather events, with a focus on collective action to conserve and utilize natural resources responsibly.

Subsistence farmers, especially women, are being encouraged to adopt sustainable farming practices that restore soil fertility, and result in healthier crops and increased agricultural income.



Smokeless cookstoves have significantly reduced the consumption of firewood across villages in India and even halved the carbon dioxide emissions, transforming lives of lakhs of women who now breathe clean air and no longer walk long distances in search of firewood.

Protecting People, Forests and a Way of Life

India is home to seven to eight percent of the planet's recorded species, thousands of species of animals and nearly half the world's aquatic life. Conserving this biodiversity heritage is of global significance. Alleviating the increasing pressure on the biodiversity caused by rising population and rapid economic growth requires strategic partnerships and collective action.





Communities in ecologically critical regions are adopting sustainable livelihood options to protect the biodiversity that is vital to their very existence.



Sustainable use and conservation of medicinal plants among communities in ecologically-fragile states is vital for a country where traditional medicines are the crucial means of health care for about 65 percent of the population.



Powering an Energy Efficient Economy

Recognizing the significance of implementing energy efficiency solutions, a range of government ministries are integrating these innovations in their growth strategy. The focus is on institutional capacity development, technical training, implementation of energy-efficient technologies and sharing knowledge on best practices.

A range of technologies have been introduced to improve energy efficiency in the secondary steel sector. Almost 15 percent of steel produced by 300 steel units is now produced with less energy, saving 50 million units of electricity, equal to lighting up 3,000 villages.



Adoption of energy conservation measures including efficient motors, wood chippers, modified blades, using briquettes made of agricultural residue as an alternate to firewood can contribute to significant reduction in production costs and carbon emissions for the energy-intensive tea industry.



Indian Railways has adopted a range of energy efficient technologies such as use of LED lights and intelligent building management system to support the vision of an environment-friendly rail network for India. The Railways is exploring clean energy options to power its network, aiming to be one of the biggest consumers of renewable energy by 2020.

A man in a purple shirt is working on a mechanical device, possibly a pump or valve, with a large pressure gauge. The gauge has a white face with black markings and a gold-colored needle. The man is looking at the device with a focused expression. The background is a blurred industrial setting.

Realizing the Infinite Possibilities of Renewable Energy

India is leading the way for developing nations in adopting alternative clean sources of energy. The country's renewable energy investment is projected to soar over the next decade, especially in solar and wind energy projects.



Concentrated solar heating technology is being promoted across the country in a range of industries, commercial establishments, religious and philanthropic institutions.



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Resilient nations.*

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