

# Economic Growth and Sustainable Development in India

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## Abstract

India's economic growth is progressing rapidly alongside efforts towards sustainable development, driven by a focus on renewable energy, women's empowerment, and poverty reduction, though challenges remain in managing environmental impact and inequality. The country is actively pursuing Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), demonstrating progress in areas like climate action and poverty reduction, as indicated by rising SDG Index scores. When look back over centuries, the thesis of progress has walked a long-distance. It commenced with an emphasis on monetary advancement and progress, and gradually has landed to a station where explorers, authorities and academicians are searching at more comprehensive designs of livelihood than just simple progress. Imperishable evolution, gradually, has become the most significant conception at present and supplies a more understandable meaning of progress, associating up bionomical amenities and standard of living with monetary advancement. Such a prototype move in a stage of less than a centenary is no less than an innovation. In 1970's, wealth increment and progress were the most essential purposes in the universe, particularly in progressing nations. Hastening up the step of mechanization was the chief perturb of the progressing nations. Nations all over the universe were occupied in the procedure of evolution and increment, concentration was not given to natural humiliation generated by the facades of these elements of ballooning. When we ponder in relation to fiscal development, we perceive that progress is the pivotal fiscal objective of many countries. Thus, as an aim, a country that can attain fiscal development will be superiorly convenient to face the requirements of human beings and reconcile communal-fiscal issues like destitution. Henceforth, sheltering the health of the fiscal and ameliorating style of livelihood, by upbringing earnings or affording placements. Further, fiscal development can perhaps even shelter the nature by the establishment of gardens, conservation areas, and practice of pivotal strategies. Accordingly, some financial experts have squabbled the business development will leisurely head to advancement in the nature.

**Keywords:** *Economic growth; Sustainable Development; Empowerment; SDGs*

## 1. Introduction

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financial experts have squabbled the business development will leisurely head to advancement in the nature. It may be so, but the swifter our progress is, utilization and the application of our Natural Capital Resources, the more effluent we induce, and the more vulnerable we are to ecological depletion and sap. Hence, with the fiscal progresses our objective it is presumably to obscure natural consciousness, locating the nature in a secondary place while emphasis is on acquiring money. But, in spite of this, it is gripping to note that when a nation attains a superior style of lifestyle, the clan then couple themselves with nature preservation ethics. That is to say that, as men become monetarily strong, they gain more leisure hours to ponder about other situations than their longevity and with this money it can sway the ministerial to ameliorate the nature. For instance, it is solely after mechanized nations attained their monetary goals that they commenced to emphasize on the ecological issues they abandoned in rise on their impulse for progress. In the entire procedure, it is significant to comprehend that fiscal progress is not compatible with fiscal evolution which means that fiscal evolution is the furtherance of fiscal progress of a nation, directed at the gross well-being and health of the inhabitants.

## 2. Objective of this study

- To explore the various Aspects of the Economic Growth and Sustainable Development in India
- To discuss the relationship and impact of various components of Economic growth and Sustainable Development
- To explore and discuss which factors mainly contribute towards economic growth and sustainable development.

## 3. Methodology

The studies conducted by different researchers in past on the given topic have adopted a mixed methodology. Some of the studies have been carried out theoretically and some of the studies were carried out with secondary data.

## 4. Sustainable development in India: key highlights from the literature

- The literature on sustainable development in India emphasizes several key themes, including renewable energy integration, sustainable agriculture, climate change adaptation, and public health. Renewable energy is crucial for meeting growing energy demands while minimizing environmental impact, contributing to both carbon reduction and energy security. (Huzenko & Kononenko, 2024)
- Sustainable agriculture, through practices such as organic farming and agroforestry, is vital for food security and environmental sustainability in India's largely agricultural economy (Majid, 2020; Ritchie et al., 2018).
- Collaborative frameworks and networks, which integrate diverse types of expertise to address complex challenges, are essential for advancing sustainable development in India. Partnerships among academic institutions, NGOs, and government bodies play crucial roles in fostering innovation and policy implementation. Academia provides research and technological solutions, NGOs engage communities, and governments formulate policies and provide resources (Tetley & Koch, 2024; Zabalaga, 2023).
- BhatBJ .ponders that evolution to be sensible should always be imperishable universally, for it is a procedure of distant future essence; it does not station at any place or at any hour. Stabilized endeavours should always be on to harvest the crops of imperishable evolution. Imperishable evolution is one that of allegiance apropos communal growth, boosted financial development and enlarged natural preservation. It extensively locates the necessity for relating nature, robustness and evolution and portrayed disquiet with respect to certaining natural stability of the evolution procedure through communal militarization and involvement of human at every stage. Nevertheless, the nation's escapade has been development becoming perishable due to penurious status of edifice, added communal and geographical disparities, the emerging natural menaces counting that

transparent liquid, 'Adam's ale' and vitality insufficiencies.

## 5. Government initiatives and strategies

- **SDG India Index:** This tool by NITI Aayog monitors progress at the state and local levels to encourage competition and facilitate knowledge sharing.
- **Environmental programs:** India is implementing programs like the National Clean Air Programme and schemes for electric vehicles to reduce emissions, along with water conservation efforts like the Jal Shakti Abhiyan.
- **Namami Gange Mission:** This program aims to clean and rejuvenate the Ganges River.
- **Infrastructure development:** Projects like smart cities, roads, and railways are being pursued to support growth.

## 6. Sustainable Development in India: Pathways to a Greener Future

Sustainable development is a critical and evolving agenda for India, a nation balancing the goals of economic growth, environmental conservation, and social equity. The country's sheer size and diversity—spanning rural-urban divides, cultural differences, and ecological variances—makes this a complex task. However, India has embraced sustainable development as a strategic priority, aligning its policies with global frameworks such as the United Nations' Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

- **Economic Growth with Sustainability** India's rapid economic growth in recent decades has lifted millions out of poverty, but it has also led to environmental degradation, increased pollution, and unsustainable consumption of resources. Striking a balance between growth and sustainability is crucial. India's government is making strides in this regard by promoting green technologies and renewable energy. Solar energy is a key area of focus, with India setting ambitious targets under the National Solar Mission. The aim is to achieve 100 GW of solar power by 2022, a goal that has largely been met. The country has also initiated global partnerships like the International Solar Alliance (ISA) to promote clean energy.
- **Environmental Protection** One of the key challenges in sustainable development is preserving the environment amidst industrial expansion and urbanization. India faces critical issues such as air pollution, deforestation, water scarcity, and loss of biodiversity. The National Action Plan on Climate Change (NAPCC), launched in 2008, integrates various missions to combat climate change. These missions focus on sustainable water management, afforestation, energy efficiency, and protecting Himalayan ecosystems.
- **Social Equity and Inclusion** No sustainable development effort can be considered successful unless it addresses social equity and inclusivity. India is home to a vast population of marginalized communities that need to be uplifted through access to education, healthcare, and employment. The Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (MGNREGA) is one of the world's largest social security measures, providing rural employment and empowering communities. It also contributes to sustainable development by promoting water conservation, afforestation, and land development.

- **Economic growth and sustainable development in India (2023–2024)**

Indicator	Performance (2023–2024)	Description
<b>Overall SDG Score</b>	<b>71</b>	India's composite score on the SDG India Index improved from 66 in 2020–21 and 57 in 2018. This shows substantial overall progress in its sustainable development journey
<b>Gross Domestic Product (GDP)</b>	<b>8.2% annual growth (FY23/24)</b>	India is the fastest-growing major economy, driven by investments and a strong services sector. The GDP per capita grew by 5.88% in 2022–23
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<b>Poverty Reduction (SDG 1)</b>	<b>Front-runner status</b>	The multidimensional poverty rate likely fell to 11.28% in 2022–23. Significant progress was driven by schemes like the Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana, which helped build over 4 crore houses.
<b>Clean Energy (SDG 7)</b>	<b>High performer</b>	India's total renewable energy capacity reached 144 GW in FY 2023–24, and non-fossil fuel sources now constitute 45% of total installed electricity capacity.
<b>Gender Equality (SDG 5)</b>	<b>Low score with marginal improvement</b>	Though the female labor force participation rate (LFPR) and sex ratio at birth showed marginal improvements, gender inequality remains a critical challenge, especially in workforce participation and asset ownership.

- **Positive trends driven by policy**

Government-led initiatives: Targeted schemes have delivered tangible results in poverty alleviation, financial inclusion (Jan Dhan Yojana), and access to basic amenities like sanitation (Swachh Bharat Mission) and clean cooking fuel (Ujjwala Yojana).

Decentralized planning: The NITI Aayog's SDG Index fosters "cooperative and competitive federalism" by encouraging states and Union Territories to improve their performance and learn from each other. This localizes the implementation of global goals.

Renewable energy push: The government's strong emphasis on non-fossil fuels has significantly boosted solar power capacity and overall renewable energy, making it a key pillar of climate action.

## 7. Persistent challenges

### • Rising inequalities

Despite high economic growth and poverty reduction, the benefits are not evenly distributed. Wealth concentration remains high, and disparities in access to resources and opportunities persist, as highlighted by the decline in the SDG 10 score.

### • Environmental degradation

The rapid pace of industrialization and urbanization continues to put immense pressure on natural resources. Issues like air and water pollution, deforestation, and water stress remain major concerns, especially in urban areas.

### • The quality of growth

While India is a rapidly growing economy, the quality of jobs, the skilling of the workforce for new-age industries, and the environmental cost of this growth pose significant long-term challenges.

### • Dependence on fossil fuels

Despite the growth of renewable energy, India's energy system remains heavily reliant on fossil fuels, with coal being a major component. This creates a difficult trade-off between meeting energy demands and reducing carbon emissions.

### • Social gaps

Challenges in social dimensions persist, with gender equality (SDG 5) and quality education (SDG 4) showing relatively slower progress compared to other goals. Disparities in health outcomes also exist across states and demographic groups.

## 8. Conclusion

India's trajectory shows a clear commitment to leveraging economic growth for sustainable development, as evidenced by significant gains in poverty reduction, clean energy, and basic infrastructure. However, the path is not without obstacles. To achieve truly inclusive and sustainable growth, India must address the deep-rooted issues of inequality, mitigate the negative environmental consequences of its development, and ensure a just transition towards a green economy. Continued government intervention, combined with private sector engagement and a focus on localized solutions, will be crucial for India to meet its 2030 Sustainable Development Goals. Imperishable evolution is an intricate and integrative facet of very much crucial and importance. Its fiscal outlook in widespread and atmospheric dismal science's attitude in certainty has an exceptional significance. The implementation and ventures to attain the notion of imperishable evolution chiefly in the after rehabilitation phase in India have focal gravity. It strives to tour concerns and messes in the subject of India in that supervision. But it is strenuous to accumulate the essential and ample statistics on this subject especially relating to India. However, it is a verity that imperishable evolution ought to be given highest importance in fiscal strategies of India and the serenity aim of evolution. There is a lot of leeway in enterprising via and extensive exploration on these flickering concerns with respect to India in the after rehabilitation phase through extensive, scrutinized enterprises and ventures.

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