GREEN GOVERNANCE IN INDIA TO ACHIEVE SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS

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Abstract: *Every citizen in India can participant in Democratic process by expressing opinion in the functions of the government for any public policy affair. Political parties require to ascertain public policy, ideas and values during the parliamentary elections. India is the largest democratic country in the world. In the last Lok Sabha elections (Lower House) there were 6 national political parties, 458 state parties and number of independent candidates for parliamentary elections. The political parties structured new green governance through the publishing election manifestos for the people before elections. This green thinking came through discussions, ideas, demands, expectations and active participations of citizens, business and workers associations and civil societies. This green governance is different from green ideology or green parties. In India green governance is in the support to world environmental order, with indication of solidarity to ecological and social movements within the country to MGD's. Many global players in diverse businesses are implementing green governance to attain millennium development goals. Various studies in India indicate that people are concerned about the environment, changing ecological cycles and behavioral patterns. Indian democracy has continued irrespective of poverty, illiteracy, deep hierarchical social structures The paper also brings out the progress of MDGs with special reference to environmental and ecological safeguards paving way for entering into a period of political reforms for betterment of India in future as the strongest democratic country with highest number of young voters in the world.*

Keywords: *green governance, elections, manifesto, ecology, environment, MDGs.*

INTRODUCTION

India is a socialist, secular, democratic republic and the largest democracy in the world. The modern Indian nation came into existence on 15th August, 1947, since then free and fair elections have been held at regular intervals as per the principle enshrined in the constitution, electoral laws and systems.

Parliamentary System of Democracy

The Constitution of India has provision for parliamentary form of government. The government is formed at the centre level and state level. In the classification of democratic government like presidential & parliamentary the distinction is clear. In the parliamentary

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form of government the executive owns the responsibility to the policy, acts and legislature. In the presidential form of government the executive does not own the responsibility to acts, policies and legislature. India has followed the "Westminister Model" of government as in Japan, Canada and Britain, while Russia, USA, Brazil and Srilanka follows the "Presidential Model" of government. In India the president is the nominal executive (dejure executive) and prime minister is the real executive (defacto executive). The prime minister is the head of the government, while president is head of the state. In India lok sabha election are held every five years or when the parliament is dissolved by the president of India on the recommendation of union government. The Upper House of Parliament is called as Rajya Sabha. The member of the lok sabha are elected by the general public and the rajya sabha members are elected by state assemblies.

Election Commission

The Constitution of India has vested in Election Commission of India the Superintendence, direction and control of entire process of conduct of election to parliament and legislative of every state and to the offices of president and vice president of India.

Expenditure of Election Lok Sabha (2014)

The Lok Sabha election of 2014 was the most expensive causing cost of Rs. 3,426 crores to the national exchequer, a substantial jump of 131 percent over the expenses incurred in 2009. The entire expenditure on conduct of election to lok sabha is borne by the centre, but, expenditure towards law and order, maintenance is taken care by respective state government.

National Parties with Symbols

Sl. No.	Name of the Parties	Symbol
1.	Bahujan Samaj Party	Elephant (except Assam)
2.	Bhartiya Janta Party	Lotus
3.	Communist Party of India	Ears of Corn and Sickle
4.	Communist Party of India (Marxist)	Hammer, Sickle and Star
5.	Indian National Congress	Hand
6.	Nationalist Congress Party	Clock

Source: Election Commission of India

Political Parties

Italian Scholar Giovanni Sartori has defined party as any political group identified by an official labour that present at Elections and is capable of placing through Elections, Candidates for public office (Witheim Hofmeister/Karsten Grabow – Political Parties). In politics, the process is to organize how we can live together in a society. These parties in democracy tries to fulfill the requirement by way of the famous words of Abraham Lincoln, President of United State of America from 1861-65, "Government of the People, by the people and

for the people." India has adopted multiparty system characterized by adoption of universal adult franchise. The diversity of various castes, creed, linguistics, religion, values and principles which is the character of India society has given rise to large number of political parties. India stands first in the world for having the largest number of Political Parties. In the Election of 2014, 6 National Parties and 458 State Parties and number of Independent candidates contested for Lok Sabha. (Lower House) Political parties require to ascertain public policy, ideas and value during the parliamentary elections. In India, the policical parties are of different categories like the Right parties, the left parties, the communal parties and the non-communal parties also.In this multiparty system, number of political parties may form the coalition government.

Green Governance

The Political Parties, specifically, the national parties form a new social and Environmental concern which had a broader and deeper meaning. It focused on the conflict of Human growth and development and the balancing act required for environmental safety. This popular term of Green Governance is different from Green Ideology/Green Parties. In India, Green Governance is in support to the world Environmental order with Indication of solidarity to ecological and social movement within the country to Millennium Development Goals (MDGs). Many Global Players in diverse businesses are implementing green governance to attain Millennium Development Goals. Various studies in India, indicate that the people are concerned about the Environment, changing ecological cycles, behavioral patterns, resilience and adaptation to climate change.

Election Manifesto

The manifestos of the political parties matters in India Election. A manifesto means a document of intention and plan for social upliftment and development of the people, if elected to power. The election manifesto of different parties has stressed upon the ecology, environment and economy and had offered alternatives for the people to endorse their opinion of the promising future through voting to power.

Election Manifesto of Indian National Congress

The Indian National Congress had pioneered a new way in political party election manifesto by giving a detailed action plan from 2014-2019, if elected to power, for the various stakeholders working in different sectors of development.

The Indian National Congress submitted that it is committed to sustainable development in true spirit.

- Highest priority was accorded to environmental pollution and to ensure that all the people in India have a right to clean Environment, health, livelihood & nutritional well being.

- It will bring a will to setup National Environmental Appraisal and Monitoring Authority (NEAMA). A professional agency to conduct time bound environmental appraisal.

- It will put water conservation programme for agriculture, rural development and urban development by promoting recycling and reuse of water in all sectors.

- It will take up cleaning of rivers along with ambitious task of cleaning Ganga.

- It will provide clean cooking fuel across the country in the accelerated manner to avoid polluting biomass for cooking.

- It will launch Green National Accounts to ensure that cost of Environmental degradation and will develop indicators that will provide data to the public within the state on natural resources.

- It will engage the forest tribal and forest dwelling communities with forest management, with usufruct benefits of sharing.

- It will implement various mission under National Action plan on climate change.

- It will launch Jawaharlal Nehru National solar Mission deploying 20,000 MW of grid connected solar power by 2022. It will also launch National Mission on Wind Energy.

- It will continue to give highest priority for protecting biodiversity and will also protect India's interest in International Climate and other environmental negotiations.

Election Manifesto of Bhartiya Janata Party (BJP)

BJP presented their concern about flora, fauna and environment and safeguarding it for future generations. Sustainability is the centre of BJP's Green Governance in thoughts and actions. But, in the principle of inclusive growth, it will take climate change mitigations initiative with global communities and institutions.

- It will encourage cleaner production and will facilitate cleaner fuels to being down pollution levels. The concept of proactive carbon credit will be promoted by them.

- It will facilitate ecological audit for projects and will do pollution indexing for cities and townships. Pollution control mechanism will be set on priority.

- It will protect the existing forest and wildlife reserves and wastelands of the country will be used for social forestry.

- Guidelines for Green Building and Energy Efficient workplace will be brought act.

- Environmental technology will be promoted in R&D and HRD.

- It will setup mechanism for protection & preservation of wild life by full proof standards.

- It will encourage citizen's participation in reforestation, agro-forestry and social forestry through target programmes.

- It will encourage incentivize garbage disposal and waste management practice specially recycling technique.

- It will launch National Mission on Himalayas for a Unique programme of Intergovernmental partnership.

- It will create Himalayan sustainability fund a central university dedicated to Himalayan ecology and will also devise programmes to arrest melting of Himalayan glaciers

Natural & National Resource

It will set national policy on critical natural resources like coal, mineral etc. to ensure sustainability. It will implement auction of previous resources through e-auction, resource mapping, exploration and management will be taken through use of technology and value addition will be encouraged in all resources.

Election Manifesto of Communist Party of India (CPI)

The CPI talks about ushering a new era in development whose fruits will be distributed equally among all, and will also protect and strengthen natural resources. It will evolve comprehensive policy on environment, balanced approach on requirement from the environment and development. Ban of Hazardous technology, encourage public transport which is environment friendly and protection of water resources, ensuring clean drinking water to all. Water resources will not be utilized commercially by leasing. It will also control indiscriminate use of underground water resource and protect the traditional lakes, ponds and other water resources including rainwater harvesting.

Election Manifesto of Communist Party of India Marxist (CPI(M))

The CPI(M) talks about change in Policies, ending corruption, strengthening democracy & secularism. It talks about agriculture, farmers, price rise, unemployment, economic policies, MNREGA, food security etc. but there is no clear focus on Green Governance.

Election Manifesto of Bahujan Samaj Parties (BSP)

BSP in their party website speaks about social transformation and Economic Emancipation. BSP chief Mayawati believes is real development work rather than making tall claims in election manifestos. It doesn't speak about ecology or green governance.

Election Manifesto of National Congress Party (NCP)

NCP will take effective measure to implement Environment Protection act to combat climate change and disaster. It will take steps for better forest management without affecting tribal

rights of forest dwelling communities. It does not believe in development at the cost of Environment. A national biodiversity law will be enacted to protect traditional knowledge and connected intellectual property rights. Effective measures to combat water pollution and cleaning of rivers of the country.

Voter Turnout in General Elections 2014

The highest turnout in the 2014 Lok Sabha Election was recorded in the State of Nagaland (87.82%) and the lowest turnout was recorded in the state of Jammu and Kashmir (49.52%). The highest male turnout was reported in Nagaland (88.15%) while the highest female turnout was reported in Lakshadweep (88.42%). Female voter turnout (in percentage) was higher than male turnout in 16 States and UTs.

Table 1
State-Wise Voter turnout in 2014 General Election

		Electors		Voters		Voter Turnout		Total Voter
	State/UT	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female	Turnout
1	Andaman & Nicobar Islands	1,42,782	1,26,578	1,01,178	89,150	70.86%	70.43%	70.66%
2	Andhra Pradesh	3,26,70,930	3,22,67,820	2,43,52,913	2,40,05,632	74.54%	74.39%	74.47%
3	Arunachal Pradesh	3,79,627	3,79,760	2,89,291	3,07,665	76.20%	81.02%	78.61%
4	Assam	97,87,209	90,98,065	78,76,763	72,09,120	80.48%	79.24%	79.88%
5	Bihar	3,40,92,938	2,96,68,858	1,87,79,230	1,71,06,136	55.08%	57.66%	56.28%
6	Chandigarh	3,33,621	2,81,593	2,44,956	2,08,499	73.42%	74.04%	73.71%
7	Chattisgarh	89,15,783	87,07,266	63,20,693	59,34,886	70.89%	68.16%	69.54%
8	Dadra & Nagar Haveli	1,06,215	90,402	87,800	77,486	82.66%	85.71%	84.06%
9	Daman & Diu	57,011	54,816	42,378	44,855	74.33%	81.83%	78.01%
10	Goa	5,28,308	5,32,469	3,95,766	4,21,234	74.91%	79.11%	77.02%
11	Gujarat	2,12,29,092	1,93,74,012	1,42,59,115	1,15,64,888	67.17%	59.69%	63.60%
12	Haryana	87,16,612	73,81,137	63,51,584	51,43,566	72.87%	69.69%	71.41%
13	Himachal Pradesh	24,74,430	23,35,641	15,69,632	15,28,869	63.43%	65.46%	64.42%
14	Jammu & Kashmir	38,02,021	34,00,142	19,27,584	16,39,279	50.70%	48.21%	49.52%
15	Jharkhand	1,06,85,149	96,41,594	68,60,476	61,22,464	64.21%	63.50%	63.87%
16	Karnataka	2,35,86,223	2,26,25,886	1,61,65,832	1,48,73,056	68.54%	65.73%	67.17%
17	Kerala	1,17,34,258	1,25,92,391	86,78,185	92,97,708	73.96%	73.84%	73.89%
18	Lakshadweep	25,433	24,489	21,585	21,654	84.87%	88.42%	86.61%
19	Madhya Pradesh	2,53,09,830	2,28,08,210	1,67,34,556	1,29,05,240	66.12%	56.58%	61.60%
20	Maharashtra	4,27,43,156	3,79,74,127	2,67,14,578	2,20,04,266	62.50%	57.95%	60.36%
21	Manipur	8,71,431	9,02,894	6,85,427	7,27,210	78.66%	80.54%	79.62%
22	Meghalaya	7,77,639	7,89,602	5,24,774	5,53,284	67.48%	70.07%	68.79%
23	Mizoram	3,46,219	3,55,951	2,16,167	2,17,034	62.44%	60.97%	61.69%
24	Nagaland	6,00,490	5,82,458	5,29,325	5,09,585	88.15%	87.49%	87.82%
25	NCT OF Delhi	70,51,098	56,60,138	46,53,522	36,18,244	66.00%	63.93%	65.07%
26	Orissa	1,51,94,309	1,40,01,732	1,10,32,523	1,04,99,752	72.61%	74.99%	73.75%
27	Puducherry	4,32,048	4,69,309	3,51,360	3,88,657	81.32%	82.81%	82.10%

contd. table 1

		Electors		Voters		Voter Turnout		Total Voter
	State/UT	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female	Turnout
28	Punjab	1,03,27,116	92,80,892	72,62,625	65,82,507	70.33%	70.93%	70.61%
29	Rajasthan	2,26,38,323	2,03,31,124	1,46,27,976	1,24,82,068	64.62%	61.39%	63.09%
30	Sikkim	1,90,886	1,79,725	1,58,222	1,50,745	82.89%	83.88%	83.37%
31	Tamil Nadu	2,75,71,785	2,75,42,720	2,02,49,949	2,03,70,491	73.44%	73.96%	73.70%
32	Tripura	12,17,575	11,71,244	10,35,722	9,88,137	85.06%	84.37%	84.72%
33	Uttar Pradesh	7,60,71,444	6,28,94,376	4,49,79,619	3,61,12,683	59.13%	57.42%	58.35%
34	Uttarakhand	37,51,098	33,78,841	22,68,767	21,23,123	60.48%	62.84%	61.60%
35	West Bengal	3,26,89,449	3,01,43,679	2,68,86,706	2,47,35,849	82.25%	82.06%	82.16%
	Total	43,70,51,538	39,70,49,941	29,32,36,779	26,05,65,022	67.09%	65.63%	66.40%

Source: Election commission of India

The Millennium Development Goals

(MDGs) have helped in bringing out a much needed focus and pressure on basic development issues, which in turn led the governments at national and sub national levels to do better planning and implement more intensive policies and programmes. The MDGs originated from the Millennium Declaration adopted by the General Assembly of the United Nations in September 2000. The MDGs consists of eight goals, and these eight goals addresses myriad development issues. The eight (8) Goals are as under:

Goal 1: Eradicate Extreme Poverty and Hunger

Goal 2: Achieve Universal Primary Education

Goal 3: Promote Gender Equality and Empower Women

Goal 4: Reduce Child Mortality

Goal 5: Improve Maternal Health

Goal 6: Combat HIV/AIDS, Malaria and TB

Goal 7: Ensure Environmental Sustainability

Goal 8: Develop Global Partnership for Development

Eighteen (18) targets were set as quantitative benchmarks for attaining the goals. The United Nations Development Group (UNDG) in 2003 provided a framework of 53 indicators (48 basic + 5 alternatives) which are categorized according to targets, for measuring the progress towards individual targets. A revised indicator-framework drawn up by the Inter-Agency and Expert Group (IAEG) on MDGs came into effect in 2008. This framework had 8 Goals, 21 targets and 60 indicators. India has not endorsed this revised framework.

India's MDG framework is based on UNDG's MDG 2003 framework, and it includes all the eight goals, 12 out of the 18 Targets (Targets 1 to 11 & 18) which are relevant for India and related 35 indicators. The MDG framework of the Country was contextualized

through a concordance with the existing official indicators of corresponding dimensions in the national statistical system. This process, witnessed dropping some targets and indicators, which are not relevant for India or due to non availability of sufficiently reliable data and modifying / including some indicators found better suited to the Indian context.

Safeguarding the Environment

The MDG -7 addresses the concern for sustainable development to reverse environment degradation and loss with focus on improving/ monitoring indicators associated with it.

Goal 7: Ensure Environmental Sustainability

TARGET: Integrate the principle of sustainable development into country policies and programmes and reverse the loss of environmental resources

Indicator: Proportion of land area covered by forest

Ratio of area protected to maintain biological diversity to surface area

Energy use per unit of GDP (Rupee)

Carbon Dioxide emission per capita and consumption of Ozone -depleting Chlorofluoro Carbons (ODP tons)

Proportion of the Households using solid fuels

TARGET 10: Halve, by 2015 the proportion of people without sustainable access to safe drinking water and basic sanitation

Indicator: Proportion of population with sustainable access to an improved water source, urban and rural.

TARGET 11: Proportion of population with access to improved sanitation, urban and rural. By 2020, to have achieved a significant improvement in the lives of at least 100 million slum dwellers

Indicator: Slum population as percentage of urban population

To Reverse the Loss to Environment Resources

**Indicator: Proportion of Land Area Covered By Forests**

Forest cover includes all lands which have a tree canopy density of 10% and above and have a minimum area of one hectare. Hence, all tree species along with bamboos, fruit bearing trees, coconut, palm, etc and all trees including forest, private, and community of institutional lands meeting these criteria have been termed as forest cover. As per assessment in 2013, the total forest cover of the country is 697898 sq. km which is 21.23% of the geographic area of the country. During 2011-2013, there is an increase of 5871 sq. km in forest cover.

Table 2
Forest Cover in India

Class	Area (sq.km)	Percent of geographic area
Very Dense Forest (VDF) -All lands with tree canopy density of 70% and above	83502	2.54
Moderately Dense Forest (MDF)- All lands with tree canopy density of 40% and more but less than 70%	318745	9.7
Open Forest (OF)-All lands with tree canopy density of 10% and more but less than 40%	295651	8.99
Total Forest Cover	697898	21.23

Source: M/o Environment, Forest and Climate Change
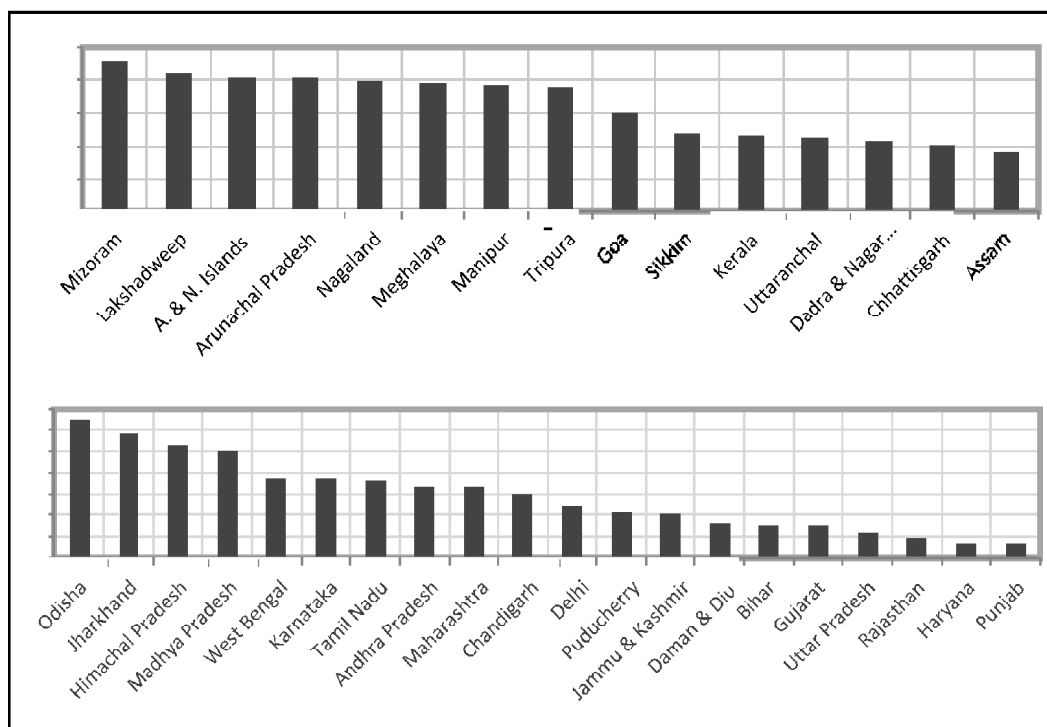
The positive change i.e. increase of 5871 sq. km in forest cover and 0.18 points in percentage of forest cover to geographic area during 2011-2013, can to attributed to the conservation measures or management interventions such as afforestation activities, participation of locals for better protection measures implantation areas as well as in traditional forest areas etc.

Indicator: Ratio of area protected to maintain biological diversity to surface area

India is a mega-diverse country with only 2.4% of the world's land area, harbours 7-8% of all recorded species, including over 45,000 species of plants and 91,000 species of animals. It is also amongst the few countries that have developed a biogeographic classification for conservation planning, and has mapped biodiversity-rich areas in the country. Of the 34 global biodiversity hotspots, four are present in India, represented by the Himalaya, the Western Ghats, the North-east, and the Nicobar Islands.

Table 3
Protected Areas in India

Protected Areas in India (2014)			
	No.	*Area*	*% of Geographical Area*
National Parks (NPs)	103		
Wildlife Sanctuaries (WLSs)	525	116254.36 sq.km	3.54%
Conservation Reserves (CRs)	60	2037.11 sq.km	0.06%
Community Reserves	4	20.69 sq.km	0.00%
Protected Areas (PAs)	692	158645.05 km2	4.83%

Source: ENVIS Centre on Wild Life & Protected Areas, M/o Environment, Forests and Climate Change

The network of Protected Areas comprising 89 National Parks and 489 Sanctuaries, giving a combined coverage of 155475.63 km^2 in 2000 has grown steadily over the years. As of 2014, there are 692 Protected Areas (103 National Parks, 525 Wildlife Sanctuaries, 4 Community Reserves and 60 Conservation reserves) covering 158645.05 km^2 or 5.07% of the country's geographical area.

Indicator: Energy use per unit of GDP (Rupee)

Per-capita Energy Consumption (PEC) during a year is computed as the ratio of the estimate of total energy consumption during the year to the estimated mid-year population of that year. Energy Intensity is defined as the amount of energy consumed for generating one unit of Gross Domestic Product (at constant prices).

Per-capita Energy Consumption (PEC) (the ratio of the estimate of total energy consumption during the year to the estimated mid-year population of that year) increased from 6205.25 KWh in 2011-12 to 6748.61 KWh in 2012-13, and thus, exhibiting a percentage annual increase of 8.76%. The Energy Intensity (amount of energy consumed for generating one unit of Gross Domestic Product) (at 1999-2000 prices) has shown an increase from 0.1453 KWh in 2011-12 to 0.1518 KWh in 2012-13 which in terms of annual percentage increase works out to 4.49%.

Indicator: Carbon Dioxide emission per capita and consumption of Ozone depleting Chlorofluoro Carbons (ODP tons) As per the Key World Energy Statistics 2014, by International Energy Agency, the per capita CO_2 emission (Million Tonnes - MT) of India is 1.58 (MT) whereas the corresponding estimate for world are respectively 4.51 (MT). In

India, the per capita CO2 emission (MT) increased steadily during 1990 to 2014. During 2009 to 2014, the percentage increase in CO2 emission was 23.22% for India and 9.43% for the world.

Protecting Ozone Layer

The Ozone Secretariat on behalf of Parties to the Montreal Protocol awarded a certificate of appreciation and recognition to India in 2012 on the occasion of the 25th anniversary of the Montreal Protocol for its vital role in protecting the ozone layer for generations to come. India has phased out production and consumption of CFCs (Chloro Fluro Carbon), CTC (Carbon Tetra Chloride) and halons as of 1st of January 2010, except use of pharmaceutical grade CFCs in manufacturing of Metered Dose Inhalers (MDIs) for Asthma and Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Diseases (COPD) Patients. The National strategy for Transition to Non CFC MDIs and Plan for Phasing out of CFCs in the manufacture of pharmaceutical MDIs, is being implemented by United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) as lead implementing agency along with India. In 2010, consumption of CFC is estimated at 290.733 ODP tonnes (ODP –Ozone Depletion Potential), down from 5614 ODP tones in 2000. From the year 2000, the CFC consumption decreased steadily till 2008, but showed minor increase in 2010.

Indicator: Proportion of Households Using Solid Fuels

As per Census 2011, 67.3% households are using solid fuels (fire wood / crop residue/cow dung cake/ coke, etc) for cooking against 74.3% in 2001. Census 2011, further reveals that, in Rural areas 86.5% households and in Urban areas 26.1% households are using solid fuels for cooking. During 2001- 2011, there is an increase of 11 points in the use of LPG (Liquefied Petroleum Gas) / PNG (Piped Natural Gas) for cooking.

Table 4
Households By Fuel Used For Cooking -Census 2011 (%)

Households by fuel used for cooking -Census 2011 (%)

	All India	*Rural*	*Urban*
Fire wood	49	62.5	20.1
Crop residue	8.9	12.3	1.4
Cow dung Cake	7.9	10.9	1.7
Coal, Lignite, Charcoal	1.4	0.8	2.9
Kerosene	2.9	0.7	7.5
LPG/PNG	28.5	11.4	65
Electricity	0.1	0.1	0.1
Biogas	0.4	0.4	0.4
Others	0.9	0.9	0.9

Source: Office of Registrar General of India

PROGRAMMES AND POLICIES

Green India Mission

The Ministry of Environment, Forests and Climate Change, Government of India has launched a comprehensive Mission, the 'National Mission for a Green India' as part of National Action Plan for Climate Change through a consultative process involving relevant stakeholders. The Mission proposes a holistic view of greening and focuses not on carbon sequestration targets alone, but on multiple ecosystem services, especially, biodiversity, water, biomass, etc., along with carbon sequestration as a co-benefit.

Key Innovations

- Focus on quality of forests
- Focus on ecosystem services
- Focus on democratic decentralization
- Creating a new cadre of Community Youth as Foresters
- Adoption of Landscape-based Approach
- Reform Agenda as conditionality

National Afforestation Programme

The National Afforestation Programme (NAP) continues to be the flagship scheme of National Afforestation and Eco – Development Board (NAEB) under Ministry of Environment Forest and Climate Change (MOEF&CC). It provides support, both in physical and capacity building terms, to the Forest Development Agencies (FDAs) which in turn are the main organs to move forward institutionalization of Joint Forest Management. The FDA has been conceived and established as a federation of Joint Forest Management Committees (JFMCs) at the Forest Division level to undertake holistic development in the forestry sector with people's participation. This is a paradigm shift from the earlier afforestation programmes wherein funds were routed through the State Governments. This decentralized two-tier institutional structure (FDA and JFMC) allows greater participation of the community, both in planning and implementation, to improve forests and livelihoods of the people living in and around forest areas.

Towards Conservation of Bio Diversity

India has established six National Bureaus dealing with genetic resources of plants, animals, insects, microorganisms, fish and soil sciences. India is among the select countries in the world that have developed their own National Biodiversity Targets aligned with the Aichi Biodiversity Targets. A monitoring framework with indicators, agencies responsible for monitoring and reporting and frequency of monitoring /reporting has been developed for

Photo of Plantation by school children

monitoring the trends and reporting progress in implementation of the National Biodiversity Targets.

Convergence of policy and legal provisions

The legislative provisions developed as a follow-up to such National Policy are,

- Indian Forest Act, 1927 (Defined concessions, Village Forests, Protected Forests, Transit of forest produce)

- Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972 (Management of National Parks and Wildlife Sanctuaries, protection to Scheduled Species, Community and Conservation Reserves)

- Environment Protection Act, 1986 (Restoration of degraded lands, management of watersheds, Wetland management, and identification of Ecologically Sensitive Areas)

- Biological Diversity Act, 2002 (Guidance on sustainable use of biodiversity, Access and Benefit sharing of biodiversity for commercial use, identification of species of conservation importance, documentation of People's Biodiversity Registers (PBRs), declaration of Biodiversity Heritage Sites, local institutional mechanism in form of Biodiversity Management committees, and financial mechanism in form of National-State-Local Biodiversity Fund)

- Protection of Plant Varieties and Farmer's Rights Act, 2001 (Mandate of conservation of plant genetic resources, financial mechanism in form of National-State-Local Gene Fund).

- The Scheduled tribes and Other Traditional Forest Dwellers Act, also referred as Forest Rights Act (FRA), 2006 (Defines Community Forest Resources, Critical Wildlife Habitats, provides ownership of minor forest produce to the local communities, and provides tenurial security for forest dwelling communities). The functioning of the provisions is also linked with performance of the ecosystems in terms of delivering the ecosystem services for livelihoods.

- State-level legislations pertaining to various aspects of biodiversity conservation and ecosystem services are also addressing the related issues.

Sustainable Access To Improved Drinking Water And Improving Sanitation Facilities

Regarding facilities necessary for decent and healthy living, data collected were those of drinking water, sanitation, bathroom, electricity, etc.

Indicator: Proportion of population with sustainable access to an improved water source urban and rural.

Providing Safe Drinking Water : The Census provides details of sources of drinking water accessed by the households. In 2011, in rural India, Hand Pump/ Tube well (51.9%) is the main source of drinking water followed by Tap (30.8%). In urban India, Tap water (70.6%) is the major source followed by Hand Pump/ Tube well (20.8%).

Though the major source of drinking water continued to remain the same during the last decade in rural and urban areas, there was shift in the percentage of population accessing the various source of drinking water and at all India level.

Table 5
Drinking water Availability in India

	Sources of Drinking Water (%) – Census							
	Tap		*Well*		*Hand Pump/ Tubewell*		*Other sources*	
	2011	*2001*	*2011*	*2001*	*2011*	*2001*	*2011*	*2001*
Rural India	30.8	24.3	13.3	22.2	51.9	48.9	4.0	4.5
Urban India	70.6	68.7	6.2	7.7	20.8	21.4	2.5	2.3
All India	43.5	36.7	11	18.2	42	41.2	3.5	3.9

Source: MDG Country Report 2015.

The latest data shows that 87.9% of households have access to improved drinking water sources against the target of 78.39% in urban areas in 2012 90.1% persons household have access to improve drinking water source and likely to reach 94.2% which service the target of 93.63% by 2015. The treatment of drinking water is another important indicator of quality of drinking water and hygienic living as many households treat water by one or more methods before drinking. Treatment of water can be done through boiling, filtering, and by using chemicals, electronic purifier or any other method. In 2012, 32.3% and

54.4% of households in rural India and urban India respectively had treated water 'by any method' before drinking.

Basic Sanitation Facility to Households Still Eludes Largely

In World Health Organization and United Nations Children's Fund's Global Water Supply and Sanitation Assessment 2000 Report, sanitation was defined to include connection to a sewer or septic tank system, pour-flush latrine, simple pit or ventilated improved pit latrine, with allowance for acceptable local technologies. At all India level, 2015 target is unlikely to be met the percentage of households without sanitation facility is likely to be 47.31% vis –a-vis the target of 38.09%.

Programmes Aimed at Improving Drinking Water and Sanitation Facilities

Rural Drinking Water Programme

The status as regards coverage of habitations, as reported by the States on the online monitoring system of Ministry, is that more than 95% of total rural habitations are either fully covered or partially covered with safe drinking water. The rest habitations have drinking water sources contaminated with chemical contamination. Under NRDWP, during 11th Plan 665052 habitations were covered vis –a vis the target of 798967 habitations and during the 12th Plan the progress, shows covering 341006 more habitations (upto August 2014) vis –a vis the targeted 425596 habitations during 2012-15.

Swachh Bharat Abhiyan (Gramin)

To accelerate the progress of sanitation in rural areas, Government of India has designed a paradigm shift in Total Sanitation Comapign (TSC) which was renamed as Nirmal Bharat Abhiyan (NBA), in the start of 12th Five Year Plan. The objective of NBA is to achieve sustainable behaviour change with provision of sanitary facilities in entire communities in a phased, saturation mode with 'Nirmal Grams' as outcomes. The new strategy is to transform rural India into Nirmal Bharat' by adopting community saturation approach, NBA goal is to achieve 100% access to sanitation for all rural households by 2022. Swacch Bharat Abhiyan is now under formulation, which aims at attaining a 100% Open Defecation Free (ODF) India by 2019.

Nirmal Gram Pruskar (NGP)

To encourage the Panchayati Raj Institutions to take up sanitation promotion, the incentive award scheme of Nirmal Gram Puraskar (NGP) has been launched. The award is given to those PRIs which attain 100% open defecation free environment. The concept of Nirmal Gram Puraskar has been acclaimed internationally as a unique tool of social engineering and community mobilization and has helped a difficult programme like rural sanitation to pick up.

Toilet in Anganwadi

Toilet in School

Rajiv Awas Yojana (RAY) RAY envisages a "Slum Free India" with inclusive and equitable cities in which every citizen has access to basic civic infrastructure and social amenities and decent shelter. The mission is to encourage States/Union Territories (UTs) to tackle slums in a definitive manner. As per 69th round NSS (Jan- Dec 2012), at all-India level, only 10.8 percent of urban dwelling units were situated in slum. However, Census 2011 reported that 17.2% of urban households are located in slums. The percentage of slum households to urban households (slum reported towns) is 22.17%. Census recorded a 37.14% decadal growth in the number of slum households. Census further reveals that in 2011, 17.37% of the urban population lives in slums. The percentage of population in slum households to urban households (slum reported towns) is 22.44%.

Table 6
Slum Population in India

Slums in India –Census			
	2001	*2011*	*Decadal growth*
Slum households	10150719	13920191	37.14
Urban households (slum reportedtowns)	43556155	62792741	44.17
Urban all towns	55832570	80888766	44.88
Population in Slum households	52371589	65494604	25.06
Population Urban households (slumreported towns)	223111858	291838124	30.8
Population in Urban all towns	286119689	377106125	31.8
Percentage of slum households to urbanhouseholds (slum reported towns)	23.3	22.17	
Percentage of slum households to urbanhouseholds	18.18	17.21	
Percentage of population in slumhouseholds to urban households (slum reported towns)	23.47	22.44	
Percentage of slum population to urbanpopulation	18.3	17.37	

Source: Census, O/o Registrar General of India

Indicators

The Millennium Development Goal 7 also aims at improving the living condition of slum dwellers. In India, Census, and National Sample Survey are two sources which report slum data at national level. However, the definitions used in population census 2011 and NSS 2012, differs as shown below.

Definition of Slum

Census 2011	*NSS 2012*
• All notified areas in a town or city notified as 'Slum' by State, UT administration or local government under any act including a 'Slum Act' may be considered as 'notified slums'.	• Areas notified as slums by the concerned municipalities, corporations, local bodies ordevelopment authorities w900retermed 'notified slums'.
• All areas recognised as 'Slum' by State, UT administration or local government, Housing and Slum Boards, which may not have been formally notified as slum under any act may be considered as'recognised slums'.	• Also, any compact settlement with a collection of poorly built tenements, mostly of temporary nature, crowded together, usually with inadequate sanitary and drinking water facilities in unhygienic conditions, was considered a slum by the survey, provided at least 20 households lived there. Such a settlement, if not a *notified* slum, was called a *non-notified* slum. (Note that while a *non-*
• A compact area of at least 300 population or about 60-70 households of poorly built congested tenements, in unhygienic environment, usually with inadequate	

Census 2011	*NSS 2012*
infrastructure and lacking in proper sanitary and drinking water facilities. Such areas should be identified by the Charge Officer and also inspected by an Officer nominated by Directorate of Census operations. Such areas may be considered as 'identified slums'.	*notified* slum had to consist of at least 20 households, no such restriction was imposed in case of *notified* slums.) • Slums: The word "slum" covered both *notified* slums and *non-notified* slums

Source: MOEF&CC Report 2015

Electoral Reforms

The experiences of the last fifteen General Elections have shown the merits and demerits of the system to the people. Minor changes have regularly been made in the election system. In order to restore the faith of people in democracy, there is an urgent need of electoral reforms. Various electoral reforms have been introduced in our electoral system in the past. Parliament through a constitutional amendment in 1989 reduced the minimum voting age from 21 to 18. The Representation of the People's Act, 1951, was amended to facilitate use of Electronic Voting Machines (EVMs). A person who is convicted for the offences under the Prevention of Insults to National Honour Act 1971 is disqualified to contest in the elections to the Parliament and state legislature for 6 years. There is prohibition on entering into the neighborhood of a polling station with any kind of arms.

Supreme Court's Measures

Several measures have been undertaken and umpteen measures further needs to be taken to ensure decriminalization of politics. Judiciary has time and again endeavoured to decriminalize the politics. The Supreme Court in Union of India vs. Association for Democratic Reforms 2002 held that the voters enjoy right to make informed choices during elections and hence directed Election Commission of India to make it mandatory for contesting candidates to declare their assets and liabilities, that of their spouses and dependent children, any criminal conviction in the court of law, any criminal case pending and the educational qualifications at the time of filing the nomination papers.In another recent judgment, Supreme Court held that a voter could exercise the option of negative voting and reject all candidates as unworthy of being elected. The voter could press the 'None of the Above' (NOTA) button in the electronic voting machine (EVM). The court directed the Election Commission to provide the NOTA button in the EVM.

Election Commission's Measures and Recommendations

Election Commission of India has consistently undertaken certain electoral reforms which it could take on its own as well as at the direction of Supreme Court. In 1997, Election Commission directed all the Returning Officers (ROs) to reject the nomination papers of any candidate who stands convicted on the day of filing the nomination papers even if his

sentence is suspended. Election Commission has also made the following recommendations to the Union Government to be made into law in the form of electoral reforms for the decriminalization of politics:

- If a person is accused of a serious crime (that is, where the law prescribes a punishment of not less than 5 years for the alleged crime) and if a court of law has framed criminal charges against the accused, then it shall be regarded as a reasonable ground for the disqualification of accused from contesting elections. The Election Commission is of the opinion that framing the criminal charges by a court means that the court prima facie believes that the accused might have been involved in the alleged crime.

- If a person is found guilty by a Commission of Inquiry then he shall be disqualified from contesting elections. The FPTP electoral system shall be replaced by the 2-ballot system under which a candidate is declared elected from a territorial constituency on the basis of majority principle. In a multi-cornered contest if no candidate attains more than 50% of valid votes polled, then the 2 candidates who obtained the largest number of valid votes polled alone shall be allowed to contest the next round of elections. This system would make it difficult for a criminal to get elected. Along with 2-ballot system, the negative vote shall also be introduced. This step has already been taken with the help of above mentioned Supreme Court judgment. Some other measures which could also be pondered over for decriminalization of politics include:

- Right to recall - It confers the power on the registered voters in a constituency to recall their elected representatives from the house on the ground of non-performance. It could empower the people at grassroot level. The elected representative could be made truly accountable to the people. In such scenario, political parties will be forced to nominate eligible and desirable candidates to contest elections because of the fear of removal of elected representative. However, for such system to work high level of political maturity is required on the part of voters.

- State funding of elections - It means government extending financial assistance to the political parties to contest elections in part or in full, in kind or in cash. The objective could be to control or eliminate the outside pressure over government policies and functioning by vested interests by funding political parties and candidates during elections. It could help in controlling the flow of unaccounted money and muscle power of criminals during elections and corruption in public life.

India General (Lok Sabha) Election Results 2014

The Indian general election of 2014 was held to constitute the 16th Lok Sabha, electing members of parliament for all 543 parliamentary constituencies of India. Running in nine phases from 7 April to 12 May 2014, it was the longest election in the country's

history. According to the Election Commission of India, 814.5 million people were eligible to vote, with an increase of 100 million voters since the last general election in 2009, making it the largest-ever election in the world. Around 23.1 million or 2.7% of the total eligible voters were aged 18–19 years. A total of 8,251 candidates contested for the 543 Lok Sabha seats. The average election turnout over all nine phases was around 66.38%, the highest ever in the history of Indian general elections.

The results were declared on 16 May 2014, fifteen days before the 15th Lok Sabha completed its constitutional mandate on 31 May 2014. The counting exercise was held at 989 counting centres. The National Democratic Alliance won a sweeping victory, taking 336 seats. The BJP itself won 31.0% of all votes and 282 (51.9%) of all seats, while NDA's combined vote share was 38.5% . It is the first time since the 1984 Indian general elections that a party has won enough seats to govern without the support of other parties. The United Progressive Alliance, led by the Indian National Congress, won 58 seats, 44 (8.1%) of which were won by the Congress, that won 19.3% of all votes. It was the Congress party's worst defeat in a general election. BJP and its allies won the right to form the largest majority government since the 1984 general election.

Table 7
India-Parliamentary Results 2014

Sl.No.	Name of the political parties		Seats won
1	Bhartiya Janta Party	BJP	270
2	Indian National Congress	INC	43
3	All India Anna Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam	AIADMK	37
4	All India Trinamool Congress	AITC	34
5	Biju Janata Dal	BJD	20
6	Shiv Sena	SS	16
7	Telugu Desam Party	TDP	16
8	Telangana Rashtra Samithi	TRS	11
9	Communist Party of India	CPI	9
10	Yuvajana Sarmika Rythu Congress Party	YSRCP	9

CONCLUSION

It is very important that democracy forms the basic structure of the society. Democracy is the value system for Indian citizens. The Political Parties like BJP, Congress and NCP have deep understanding on relationship between ecology economy and its articulation in the election manifestos. Green Governance and Sustainability is now in the public domain for the achieving the targets of MDGs. It is a way of conceptualizing and institutionalizing it in all the government programme which works as a network of reciprocal relation between the citizens, civil societies, institutes, organizations Government and United Nations. It is in-fact the will of present government and political parties to adopt less ecological harmful lifestyles for common good of future generations. In this finite earth we should have blend of sustainability in the sight that does not jeopardize the potential resources of earth and

human existence. The green governance has to be enforced by stringent laws for individual, groups, association to assume the responsibility to act locally and think globally and also to understand the principle of vulnerability to each other's actions. The responsibility of survival in democracy vest not only with the state institutions and governments but, the citizen have an equal role to play in achieving millennium development goals of sustainable environment

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