



GOVERNMENT POLICY REPORT

FEBRUARY 2024 EDITION

SUSTAINABILITY



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INNOVATION



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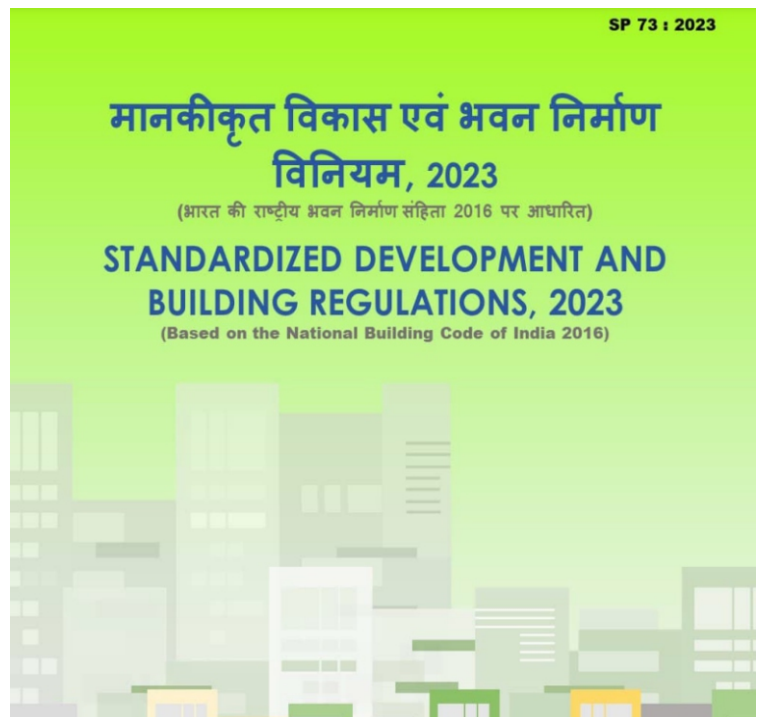
SUSTAINABILITY

'Standardized Development and Building Regulations 2023' has been Issued by BIS to Ensure Sustainability in Building Construction

Recently, the Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS) came up with the 'Standardized Development and Building Regulations, 2023' document, witnessing a big leap in the evolution of India's construction sector. It will promote sustainable practices in building construction lined up according to the National Building Code of India, 2016 to develop the sector at par with global standards.

This 350-page exhaustive document prepared by BIS has clear mention of the norms and regulations for model building in a very simplified and user-friendly manner to be accepted uniformly at the national level. It was prepared after thoroughly evaluating and studying the provisions mentioned in the NBC, 2016 maintaining synchronization and complemented with the inspiration from national and international best practices in building construction.

The objective is to ensure safety, ease of access, and viability in construction. The BIS has highlighted the shortcomings of the current building regulations that vary from state to state. Thus, to resolve the varying standards, he proposed a uniform approach. Now it is covered in regulations comprehensively like plumbing services, comfort conditions, fire safety, etc providing freedom to the states to amend their existing regulations accordingly.



Source: <https://www.bis.gov.in/wp-content/uploads/2024/01/SP-73-2023-Press-release-15th-Jan-.pdf>



Source: <https://pib.gov.in/PressReleaseframePage.aspx?PRID=1805152>



Source: <https://www.bis.gov.in/standards/technical-department/national-building-code/>

Since the new regulations for the built environment are prepared after discussing the details and requirements among the stakeholders such as the state government and UTs, they should witness a wider acceptance further including trending ideas of EV charging points, high-security areas, wind electricity generators, transit-oriented development, transferable development rights, and retirement homes. Nation-wide acceptance of this revised document along with NBC 2016 guidelines will bring an overarching impact on the growth of the building construction industry and individuals involved in this for their livelihood and employment.

For universal acceptance, the document has been drafted in an easy-to-understand language, removing ambiguities for seamless adoption. Visual aids along with flowcharts and illustrations used in the document have increased the further clarity supported by the explanatory notes to understand underlying vital information for stakeholders. Its standard format assists in translating the document into different languages as per the BIS standards. It will bring uniformity in building regulations and will promote transparency and efficiency ensuring the safety and health of humans in the construction industry welcoming a promising environment for ease of doing business and a viable built ecosystem for the nation in its developing path.

Key Shareholders who benefitted from the Document prepared by the BIS

- MoHUA and Town and Country Planning Organization
- State and Union Territory governments
- Urban and Rural bodies
- Development Authorities
- Cantonment Boards and Port Trust
- Zila and Gram Panchayat
- Other governments involved in the development of built environment

02

CLIMATE CHANGE

'Climate Conference 2024' Instrumentalizing India's Green Energy Transition

The Climate Conference 2024 was successfully hosted on 12 January 2024 in Mumbai. The theme of the conference organized by the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEFCC) was set as 'Decoding the Green Transition for India' under the Green Climate Fund Readiness Programme. **The program has been assisted by UNDP India and Avaana Capital as delivery and knowledge partners respectively.**



Source: <https://pib.gov.in/PressReleaselframePage.aspx?PRID=1995506>

The conference was focused on dedicated efforts to counter the challenges related to climate change and understand the significant contribution of government bodies, climate tech startup companies, civil society, investors, private players, etc. These stakeholders can make arrangements for finances and technical competence for creating revolutionizing climate-related services for mankind and nature.

CAPITAL FOR CLIMATE

Supporting future market leaders leveraging tech-led innovation to catalyze climate solutions and sustainability and deliver exponential returns.



Source: <https://avaanacapital.com/>

The Secretary of MoEFCC, emphasized the consequences of extreme climate change globally, stressing the need for rapid action, wise planning, and financial arrangements, highlighting the ministry's efforts comprising the Green Credits Scheme. They announced the reinvention of the ECOMARK labelling under the Lifestyle for Environment (LiFE) for educated consumer preferences.

Activities Listed for Green Credits Scheme

Tree Plantation	Sustainable Agriculture	Air Pollution Reduction	Ecomark Label Development
Water Management	Waste Management	Mangrove Conservation and Restoration	Sustainable Building and Infrastructure

The key highlights of the conference showcased the strategy for attaining net zero by 2070 through the reduction of the emission of carbon dioxide, boosting climate durability. The investment in green energy transition has also been discussed for improved energy systems, preserving natural resources, and growing biodiversity comprehensively. To counter climate change further the importance of effective waste management and the use of biomass at large scale, promoting newbie climate startups and bringing them into the mainstream of industry and business framework has also been highlighted to mark the importance of risk remediation and insurance.

The event discussed the prospects of the latest green hydrogen technology and storage system to cover the country's newborn concerns in urbanization, industrialization, and growth. The ultracritical domains of energy efficiency, energy storage, circular economy, renewable energy, and electric mobility have been

identified as key areas to support green energy transition. To achieve competitiveness and cost savings in the MSME segment the conference has encouraged the adoption of efficient energy systems while understanding the need for the green energy transition to attain the 2070 net zero goal and bring all the important key players of climate sustainability under one roof.



Source: <https://www.thequint.com/news/hot-news/can-india-achieve-its-net-zero-carbon-emissions-target-by-2070>

How AG Group Can Help You

To enhance the preparedness of your innovative sustainable solution related across sectors [Click Here](#)

03

CARBON CREDIT

'Framework for Voluntary Carbon Market' for the Indian Agriculture Sector has been Launched to Bring Benefits to Small and Medium Farmers

The Ministry of Agriculture & Farmers' Welfare has launched the plan for a Voluntary Carbon Market (VCM) in the Agriculture Sector and Accreditation Protocol of Agroforestry Nurseries on 29 January 2024 in Delhi.

The objective of this initiative is to foster a VCM in the country's agricultural sectors **it is one of the largest sources of livelihood with around 55% of the workforce engaged directly or indirectly in agriculture or allied activities.** It will help in expanding the advantages of the carbon credit to small and medium-scale farmers.



Source: <https://pib.gov.in/PressReleaseframePage.aspx?PRID=2000331>

The groundwork prepared under VCM has a dual advantage. **It will not only educate farmers about the in and out of the carbon market and its underlying perks but also encourage them to come forward and be an integral part of environment-friendly agricultural practices for a sustainable livelihood.** It will help to achieve the dedicated combined efforts required to achieve a vibrant carbon market with the help of central and state ministries along with other related agencies.



Source: <https://www.iatp.org/carbon-markets-and-agriculture>

Key highlights of the Indian agricultural sector

Around 54.6% of the country's working capital is involved in agricultural and associated sectors' activities.

The contribution of the agricultural sector in the GDP of the country is 18.6%.

Against the available geographical area of the country, the sown area is about 139.3 million hectares.

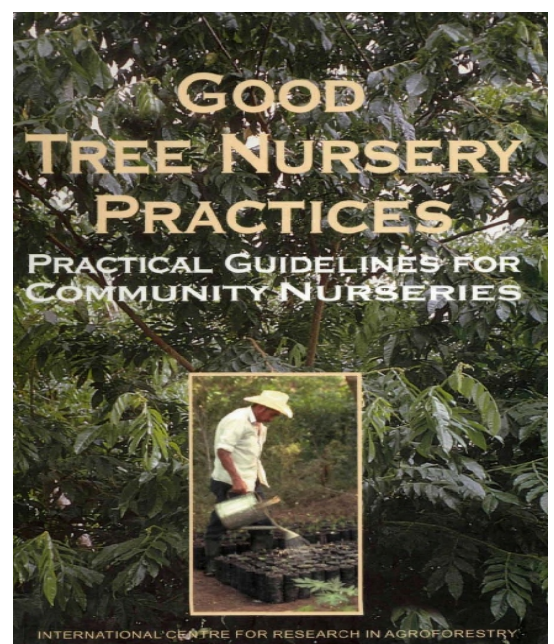
It is the first step of the ministry where everyone's participation is mandatory, emphasizing the focus on the southern areas' farmers to be assisted with a suitable environment and solutions by understanding its benefits. **The government has planned a dynamic involvement of the Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR)** to overcome global challenges coming to its adoption such as global warming by keeping all the safety measures in place.



Source: <https://icar.org.in/>

The ministry has also highlighted the significant importance of the accreditation protocol of Agroforestry Nurseries that will ensure large-scale production of certified planting material to ensure sustainable growth with assured returns in the country. **It aims to promote agroforestry by wisely utilizing natural resources to produce quality-based planting material for realizing guaranteed profits and fulfilling the agenda of the National Agroforestry Policy.**

The sector is making a substantial contribution to the country's economy resulting in boosting the livelihood of the population related to the agricultural and allied sectors. The implementation of the proposed plan will ensure the prosperity of Indian farmers through the adoption of agricultural sustainable practices in action throughout the country to boost farmer's income, economic stability, and environmental conservation altogether.



Source: https://www.academia.edu/1977133/Good_Tree_Nursery_Practices

04

SCIENTIFIC RESEARCH

'PRITHvi Vigyan (PRITHVI) Scheme' Approves Integrated Research under MoES

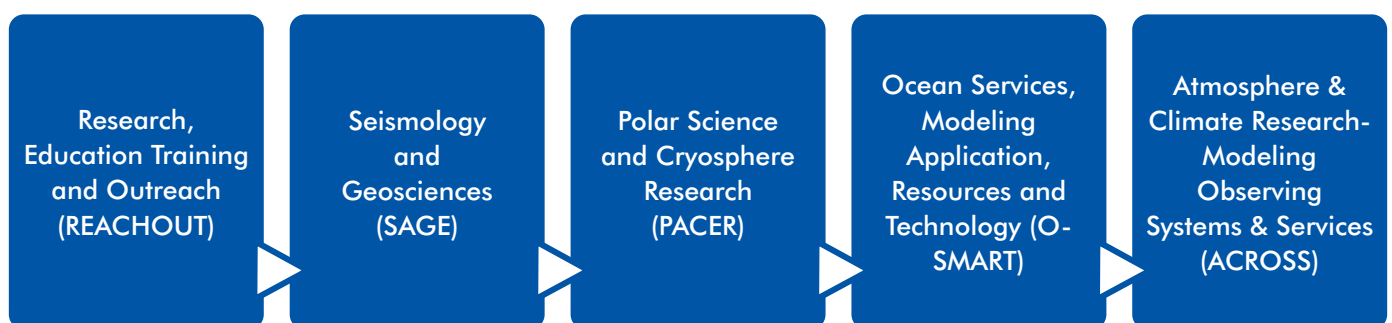
The approval of the PRITHvi scheme marks an aspiring stride toward advancing Earth Sciences in India. It strengthens the nation's commitment to understanding, predicting, and harnessing the diverse facets of the Earth System for societal well-being and viable development. **It will serve the mandate of the ministry to use science for the service of society's sustainability.** The scheme will enable a multi disciplinary integrated approach to finding innovative solutions by promoting research and development in earth sciences



Source: <https://krishijagran.com/news/prithvi-scheme-cabinet-approves-rs-4-797-crore-with-focus-on-advancing-earth-sciences/>

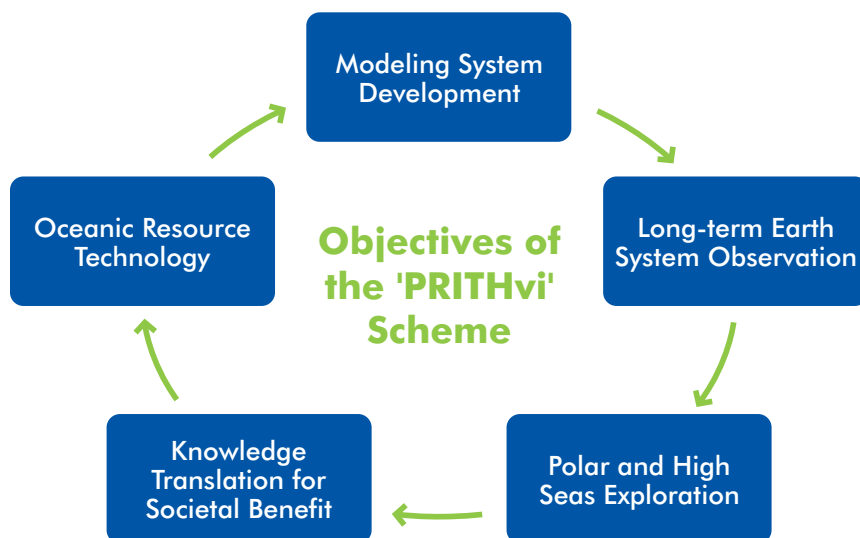
The Government of India has approved the Ministry of Earth Sciences' comprehensive 'PRITHvi Vigyan (PRITHVI)' Scheme. **This progressive initiative has been planned for implementation from 2021 to 2026 and carries an overall budget of Rs. 4,797 Crore with the inclusion of five ongoing sub-schemes.**

List of Sub Schemes under the 'PRITHvi' Scheme



PRITHVI will spearhead exploration in polar and high seas regions, fostering the discovery of new phenomena and resources vital for scientific and societal advancement. It aims to translate insights from Earth systems science into practical services for societal, environmental, and economic benefit. The scheme will help in the development of technology for exploring and sustainably harnessing oceanic resources and societal applications.

Under the scheme, the ministry will develop advanced modeling systems for a comprehensive understanding and prediction of weather, ocean behavior, climate hazards, and related to the science of climate change. It will emphasize enhancing and sustaining long-term observations of the atmosphere, ocean, geosphere, cryosphere, and solid earth to record crucial data reflecting Earth System dynamics and changes.



Source: <https://sarkariyojana.live/wp-content/uploads/2024/01/Sarkari-yojana-live>

The PRITHVI Vigyan scheme will foment integrated multi-disciplinary earth science research and innovational programs across various MoES institutes. It will address important issues related to weather, climate, oceanography, cryosphere, seismology, and resource exploration, paving the way for sustainable harnessing of living and non-living resources. The scheme marks a remarkable leap forward in India's commitment to understanding and managing the complex dynamics of the Earth.

How AG Group Can Be a Help

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05 INNOVATION

'Startup for Railways' Initiative Leveraging Technological Innovation to Ensure Efficiency and Safety of Indian Railways

The Indian Railways (IR) has a long history of more than 160 years and is among one of the largest rail networks worldwide. To achieve cutting-edge innovation, the IR decided to welcome an association of different startups and other organizations to give thrust to its innovation policy powered through technological advancements. The ministry has to date awarded 23 projects worth INR 43.87 crore to eligible entities to ensure efficient and safe operations.



Source: <https://newsonair.gov.in/News?title=Railways-Minister-Ashwini-Vaishnaw-launches-%E2%80%9CStart-Ups-for-Railways%E2%80%9D-in-New-Delhi&id=442630>

The ministry launched the initiative 'Startups for Railways' on 13 June 2022 with a funding capacity of INR 1.5 to support emerging technological solutions. The objective of this program was to boost the innovative advancement created by Indian MSMEs (Micro, Small, and Medium Enterprises), start-ups, entrepreneurs, and innovators to upgrade the safety features and operating cost of the IR.



Source: <https://innovation.indianrailways.gov.in/>

To support it further the program offers a masterstroke called the Indian Railways Innovation Portal (<https://innovation.indianrailways.gov.in/>). This platform is used to address vital challenges encountered by IR with the help of the startups and offers innovative solutions in the diverse areas of operations.

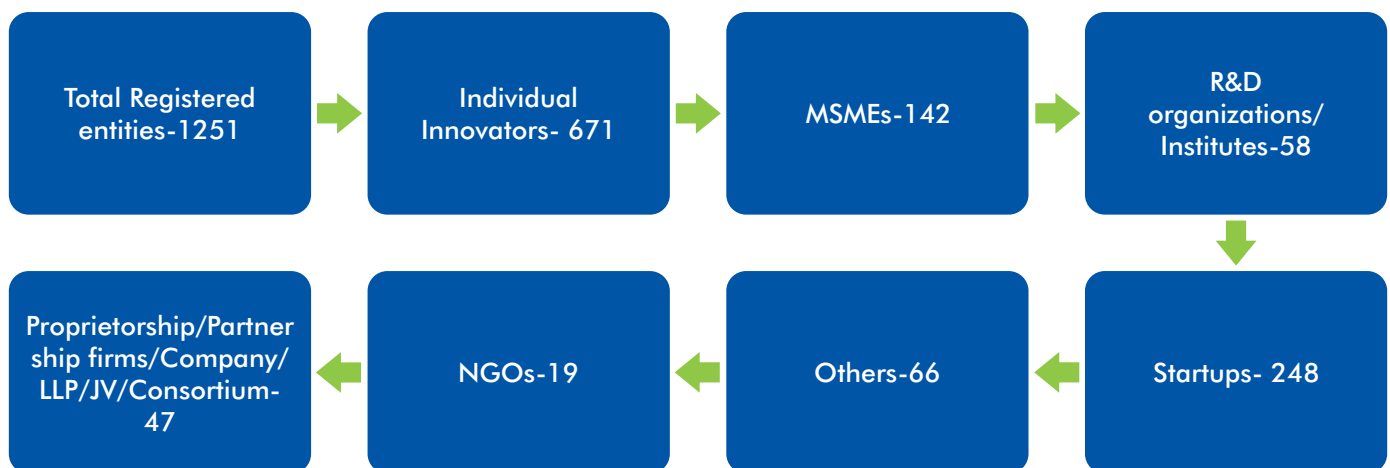
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Few identified Problem Statements Offered to Startups

- Broken rail detection system
- Track cleaning machine
- Rail stress monitoring system
- Light-weight wagons for transporting commodities
- Track inspection technologies for accurate inspection
- Development of online condition monitoring system for traction motors of 3-phase electric locomotives
- App for post-training revision & self-service refresher courses

The initiative has helped the ministry tackle issues like reliability, maintenance, and quality. The program received support from various key players like MSMEs, start-ups, etc, and gave the right to own the Intellectual Property Rights (IPR) for the created innovations during the progress of the project to motivate their underlying creative skills in the technology field.

Innovation Portal



While executing the program more than a hundred problems were reported from various departments, divisions, zones, and field areas of the railways out of which eleven problem areas were identified for the initial phase and published in the associated web portal to be presented before key players to explore viable solutions. Dual efforts of the Ministry of Railways and the 'Startup for Railways' initiative program will ensure a robust framework of advanced rail network enabling a safer and more pleasant environment for its commuters.

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