

MARCH 2024 EDITION

GOVERNMENT POLICY REPORT



SUSTAINABILITY



ENVIRONMENT



INNOVATION



SPACE RESEARCH



SKILL INDIA



01 SUSTAINABILITY

Mission LiFE Principle Integrated to the Coal Sector to Promote Environmental Sustainability

The Government of India is devoted to a sustainable coal sector maintaining an equilibrium between biosphere viability and the prosperity of the coal-dependent Indian society, admitting the significant role of the coal sector in the country's energy security. So, **to realize the vision, the Ministry of Coal decided to blend the essence of Mission LiFE (Lifestyle for Environment) launched by the Prime Minister of India in the coal sector by implementing priority actions to minimize climate change impacts.**



The crux of the Mission LiFE in the sustainable coal sector has been focused on boosting non-pollution activities and viable lifestyles among coal miners, their staff members, and the coal-dependent society in India. **This will also include the principles of waste reduction focusing on the five parameters Refuse, Reduce, Reuse, Repair, and Recycle (5R).**

LiFE
Lifestyle for Environment

Save Water
पानी की बचत

LiFE Themes

- Save Energy
- Save Water
- Say No to Single Use Plastic
- Adopt Sustainable Food Systems
- Reduce Waste
- Adopt Healthy Lifestyles
- Reduce E-waste

In the coal sector, several initiatives and programs take place in harmony under the shadow of Coal/Lignite Public Sector Undertakings (PSUs) under which several awareness programs will be implemented in society related to the Mission LiFE.

Integration of Coal/Lignite PSUs and Mission LiFE	They educate on concerns like viable lifestyles and practices and wise management of waste reduction.
	Run programs like 'Viable Food System' and 'Know Your Tree' discussion for local society.
	Circulate fruit-bearing plants in the local society to promote biosphere viability sidelined by the benefits of fresh production.
	Engage staff members and local society in Essay Writing and Quiz Competitions to bring a behavioural shift towards adopting a viable ecosystem.
	They participate in cycling events reducing carbon emissions by adopting it as a greener way of transportation.
	They promote efficient management of disposal and recycling for e-waste and plastic waste.
	Educate locals on home composting methods to improve soil quality.

The **PSUs have to meet the Mission LiFE goals by dedicatedly working under the People-Centric Greening Initiative for Bio-reclamation/Plantation program.**

01 People-Centric Greening Initiative

- They aim to reduce coal mining-led carbon emissions by planting native species and fruit-bearing plants at large scale.
- The plantation is done at diverse locations like mine peripheries, haul roads, residential colonies, available land outside the lease area and overburden (OB) dumps.
- Motive of this initiative is to benefit local society by boosting ecosystem viability.
- They have successfully planted more than 235 lakh native saplings from FY 2019-20 to FY 2023-24 until January.
- Advanced techniques were used for such large-scale production: high-tech cultivation, Miyawaki method, seed ball plantation, bamboo plantations and grassing.
- The large-scale plantation has covered area more than 10,784 hectares significantly reducing carbon footprints and boosting viable ecosystem.
- They circulate plant-bearing plants annually to local society.

People have to promote products that have a low impact on the ecosystem and society at the time of their usage, manufacturing, or processing compared to others. Additionally, it will aim to build a society of like-minded people who are committed to environmental protection.



Plantation on overburden dump at Samleswari OCP, MCL



Nigahi Eco- Park & Chandrashekhar Azad Eco- Park developed by NCL

Source: <https://pib.gov.in/PressReleaseframePage.aspx?PRID=2010082#:~:text=As%20part%20of%20this%20commitment,forefront%20of%20climate%20change%20mitigation.>



Discharged Mine water utilized for cultivation in CCL

Source: <https://pib.gov.in/PressReleaseframePage.aspx?PRID=2010082#:~:text=As%20part%20of%20this%20commitment,forefront%20of%20climate%20change%20mitigation.>

Integration of Mission LiFE with the Coal sector is a significant move towards the reduction of carbon footprints subsequently building a sustainable energy ecosystem to fuel the socio-economic growth in the years to come.

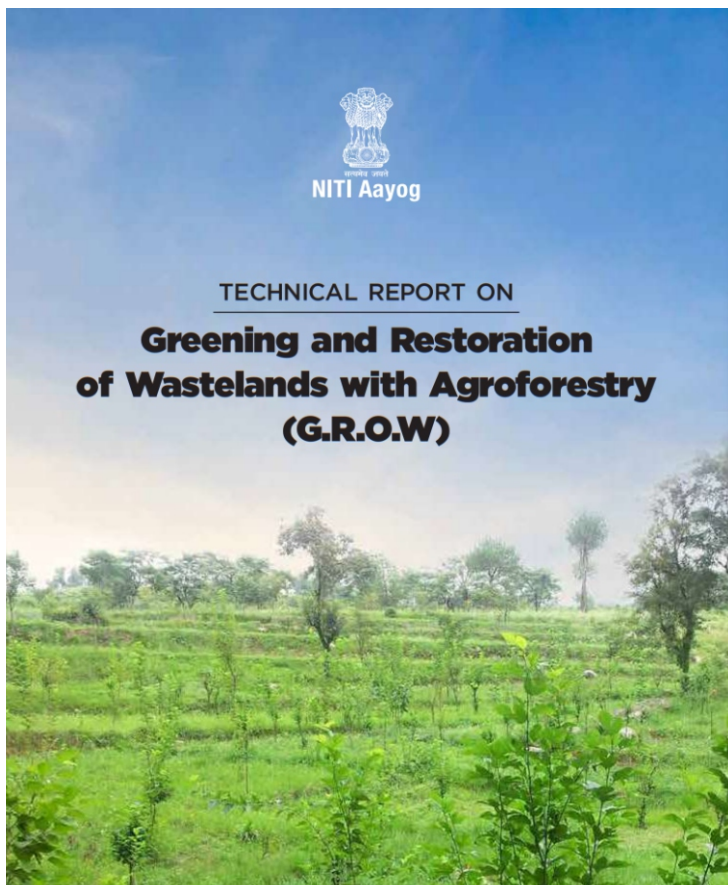
02

ENVIRONMENT

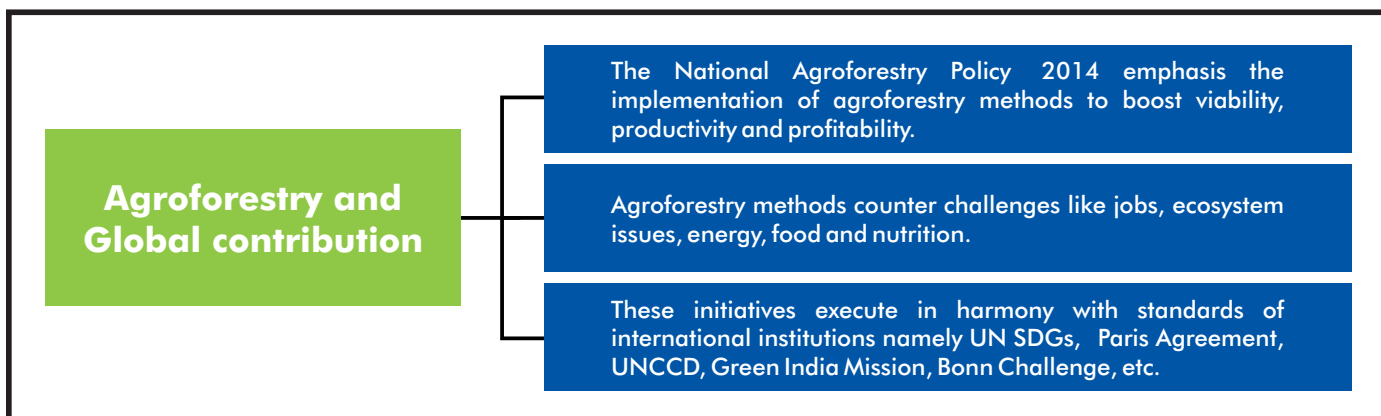
GROW Initiative by NITI Aayog Utilizing Technology to Assess Agroforestry Suitability

The NITI Aayog on 12 February 2024 revealed the Greening and Restoration of Wasteland with Agroforestry (GROW) report and the portal. The objective is to discover all the under-used and deprived land across the country. The Indian Think tank body, NITI Aayog uses the advanced technology of remote sensing and GIS to transform these lands into fruitful agroforestry ecosystems based on the data collected for creating the Agroforestry Suitability Index (ASI) at the national level.

It has helped to furnish the state-cum-district level data to be used by government and industries for boosting greening and restoration initiatives. According to the report, **agroforestry accounts for 8.65% of the country's total geographical area covering around 28.42 million hectares of land, and committed to rejuvenating 26 million hectares of low-grade land.**



Source: <https://www.niti.gov.in/sites/default/files/2024-02/Grow%20Report%2020.02.2024.pdf>



It highlights the prospects of transforming an under-used region mainly, deprived land for agroforestry subsequently generating a carbon sink of around 2.5 to 3 billion tonnes. Consequently, the Union Budget for FY 2022-23 focused on prioritizing these lands. Earlier, the Bhuvan portal was launched containing accessible data at state-cum-district level (https://bhuvanapp1.nrsc.gov.in/asi_portal/) showcasing GROW Suitability Mapping, which help in making wise decisions and planning.

Source: https://bhuvan-app1.nrsc.gov.in/asi_portal/

The report emphasizes the vital role of agroforestry in India as it will lessen the dependency on the import of wood and its products by growing several plants along with crops meeting the demand for wood domestically. These cultivated plants significantly boost the carbon sink in the surroundings diminishing carbon footprints in the atmosphere as a result countering climate change at domestic and international levels.

Table 1: Agroforestry area in 15 Agro-Climatic Zones (ACZs) of India

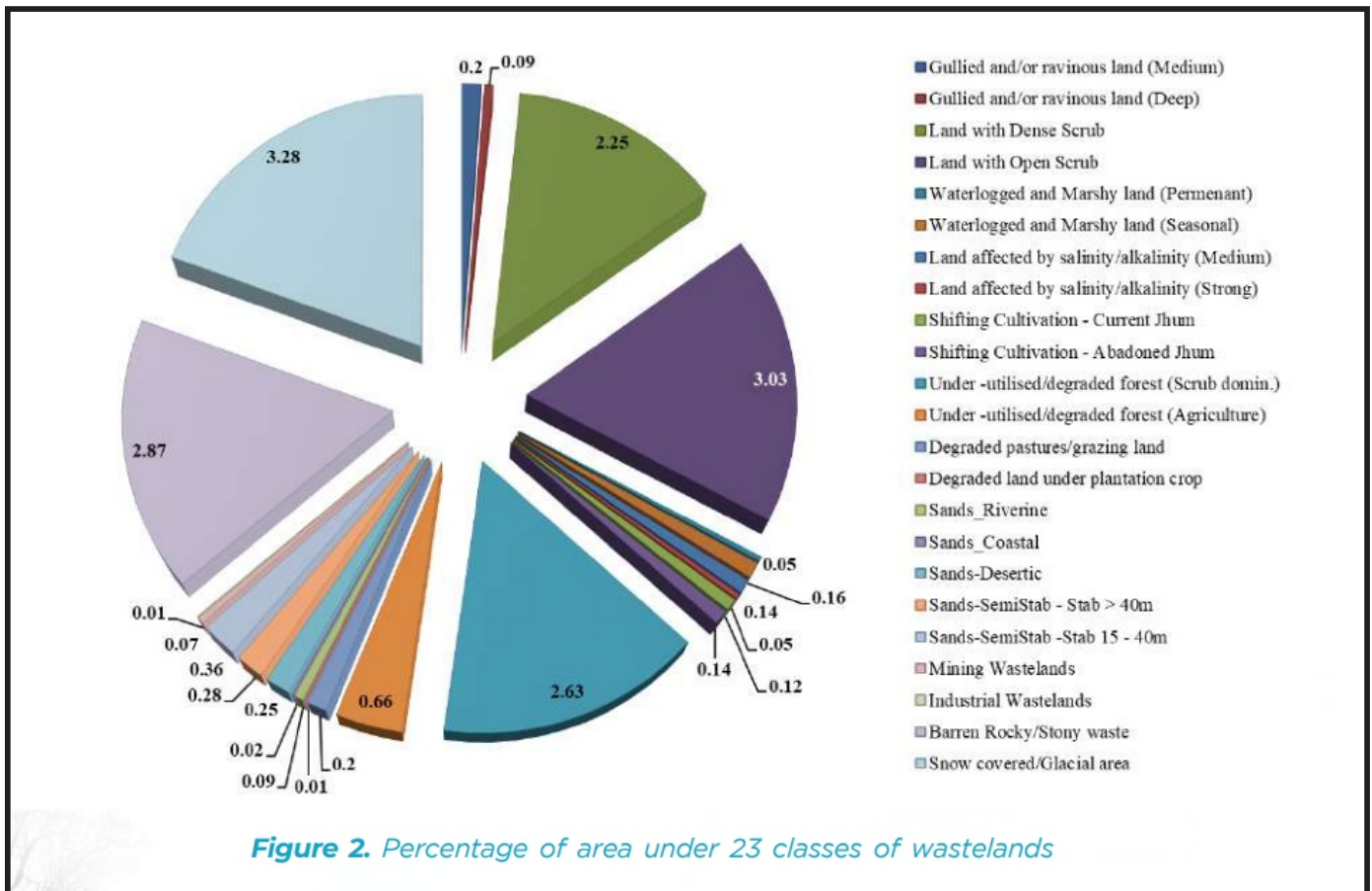
ACZ no.	ACZ	Geographical area (M ha)	Agroforestry area (M ha)	Agroforestry area (%)
I	Northern Himalayan Region	32.968	4.096	12.42
II	Eastern Himalayan Region	28.422	1.088	3.83
III	Lower Gangetic Plains Region	6.238	0.802	12.86
IV	Middle Gangetic Plains Region	16.526	1.304	7.89
V	Upper Gangetic Plains Region	14.367	2.234	15.55
VI	Trans Gangetic Plains Region	11.750	1.143	9.73
VII	Eastern Plateau and Hill Region	40.525	4.292	10.59
VIII	Central Plateau and Hill Region	37.435	1.924	5.14
IX	Western Plateau and Hill Region	32.539	1.556	4.78
X	Southern Plateau and Hill Region	39.294	2.976	7.57
XI	East Coast Plains and Hill Region	19.948	2.36	11.83
XII	West Coast Plains and Hill Region	11.69	1.632	13.96
XIII	Gujarat Plains and Hill Region	18.673	2.57	13.76
XIV	Western Dry Region	17.587	0.431	2.45
XV	The Island Region	0.785	0.019	2.42
Total		328.747	28.427	8.65

Source: Arunachalam et al., 2022

Source: <https://www.niti.gov.in/sites/default/files/2024-02/Grow%20Report%202020.02.2024.pdf>

Agroforestry techniques have the potential to convert uncultivated and wastelands for productive use by farmers. Since India is the 7th largest country challenged by deprived land, unequal resources, etc. This initiative in the field of the agricultural sector was launched in alliance with the advanced geo-spatial technology that promises to yield long-term prosperous results. **Current data reveals that around 16.96% of India's total geographical land area is a wasteland** which can be made productive using available techniques and technology.

Classified Area under 23 Classes of Wetlands



Source: <https://www.niti.gov.in/sites/default/files/2024-02/Grow%20Report%2020.02.2024.pdf>

The GROW initiative is a great move to reap the benefit from underutilised land of the country for developing viable and farmable ecosystems for generations to come.

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03 INNOVATION

A Single Online 'SWATI' Portal Launched to Represent Indian Women in STEMM

On the occasion of the International Day of Women and Girls in Science, the Government of India has launched the 'Science for Women-A Technology & Innovation (SWATI)' Portal at the Indian National Science Academy (INSA), New Delhi. Any Indian Woman or Girl in STEMM can join the SWATI portal at <https://bit.ly/JoinSWATI>.

LAUNCH OF 'SWATI'
Science for Women: A Technology & Innovation Portal

FEBRUARY 11
INSA, NEW DELHI
9:30AM - 7PM

LIVE STREAM: INSA YOUTUBE CHANNEL

International Day for Girls & Women in Science!
Recognising Indian Women In STEM
Join SWATI Today!!

An Initiative of the Inter Academy Panel (IAP)
INSA NASI IASc

VENUE: INSA, NEW DELHI

SCAN QR ABOVE OR USE LINK BELOW:
<https://bit.ly/JoinSWATI>

Source: <https://swati.nipgr.ac.in/>

The purpose is to launch a dedicated online portal showcasing Women and Girls of India in STEMM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Mathematics & Medicine).

The SWATI portal is a collection of interactive data growing dynamically to encompass information about women scientists in India. **It has been developed, maintained, and hosted by the National Institute of Plant Genome Research (NIPGR), New Delhi.** It is regarded as the maiden Indian portal developed for female empowerment at the national and global levels.

Insight of SWATI portal

Till date 3000 'WiS Data Cards' have been integrated.

Includes Research fellows- Post docs, JRFs, SRFs, technical Staff

Include Students-PhD Scholars, Research Interns, Graduates, Post graduates, Undergraduates

Include WiS Entrepreneurs, Startups, Business & Science Administrators

Include Icons - Awardees (Padma / Shanti Swarup Bhatnagar / Stree Shakti Science Samman) & Directors, Secretaries Academy Presidents

Faculty- Indian Universities, Autonomous organizations including S&T Ministry/ CSIR/ DBT/ DST/ CSIR/ MHRD/ UGC/ GATI/ KIRAN

Showcase STEMM background professionals in different careers(e.g. Science, Journalism etc).

75 Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav **SWATI** Home About Pioneers Faculty PostDocs Students Communicators Industry

Global launch of SWATI

"Science for Women: A Technology and Innovation" Portal

Portrait photos of women: DARSHAN RANGANATHAN, ANANDIBAI G. JOSHI, RAJESWARI CHATTERJEE, KAMALA SONNTE, ARCHANA SHARMA, E.K. JANAKI AMMAL, KADAMBINI GANGULY, BIBHA CHOWDHURI, ANNA MANI, PURNIMA SINHA, KRISHNA K R MUKHERJEE, KALPANA CHAWLA

Source: <https://swati.nipgr.ac.in/>

The available database on the SWATI portal will be analyzed to make an informed policy decision and overcome the barriers of gender inequality because, in the 21st century, still several sectors underrate female participation. To fight back against Gender Parity, the program has focussed on **the significance of 'Science for Women & Women in Science' advancing innovation, entrepreneurship, circulation of knowledge, opportunities, and concepts of basic science to witness a robust Atmanirbhar Bharat.**



Source: <https://pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=2004958>

The SWATI portal targets to add all the females in science spanning across academics and industries at every stage of their careers.



Source: <https://swati.nipgr.ac.in/>

This interactive data can be used for analysis and long-term research to deal with concerns of diversity, equality, and a holistic approach supported by search engines and traversing databases to know their vital credentials.



Source: <https://swati.nipgr.ac.in/>

Women form 50% of the workforce needed advancement and equal opportunities and recognition in our Indian society. Highlighting the importance of decision-making to empower them and promote women's education in science and technology to imbibe a scientific approach has been prioritized to boost their socio-economic status. The portal is a significant milestone for the upliftment of women and girls that will motivate and persuade the future women's generation to be part of science and make significant contributions.

04 SPACE RESEARCH

Gaganyaan Crew has been Revealed for First Indigenous Manned Flight into Low Earth Orbit

The Prime Minister (PM) of India revealed the names of the four astronauts who will become part of India's first manned mission to Low Earth Orbit 'Gaganyaan'. **The pride astronauts' wings were presented to them by the PM at Vikram Sarabhai Space Centre (VSSC) in Thiruvananthapuram, Kerala.** All the short-listed ones are Indian Air Force officers who will start off India's long-awaited 'Gaganyaan' mission soon. They will be the first from Indian soil to go to space setting a significant milestone in the history of space exploration in India.



Source: <https://www.space.com/india-reveals-astronauts-first-human-spaceflight-gaganyaan>

The PM also visited VSSC and reviewed the development of the Gaganyaan Mission. All the selected astronauts are test pilots namely **Group Captain Prasanth Balakrishnan Nair, Group Captain Angad Pratap, Group Captain Ajit Krishnan, and Wing Commander Shubhanshu Shukla** who will be part of India's maiden manned space flight to be launched somewhere between 2024-25.



Source: <https://twitter.com/ISROSight/status/1762372325255823539/photo/1>

It is expected to carry a team of three astronauts who will be placed in the lower orbit of Earth around 400km away and after completing their three-day mission they will safely land in Indian sea waters.

The chosen four astronauts went through rigorous training in Russia in 2020 at the Gagarin Cosmonaut Training Centre to master general training in space flight and now continuing the same at the ISRO training facility centre and learning survival techniques, fitness, aeromedical, and recovery programs.

According to ISRO, before the actual manned space flight takes off a test flight carrying the female robot 'Vyommित्रा' will be sent in 2024. On the successful completion of the mission, India will rank 4th for sending humans into space following the USA, Russia, and China.

Gaganyaan Mission showcases the holistic efforts, determination, commitment, and scientific capabilities of India before the world by making this ambitious space mission a success that will be witnessed by the 140 crores of proud Indians alongside the world outside.



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05 SKILL INDIA

Bharat Tex' 2024 Inaugurated to Showcase India's Myriad Textiles Value Chain

The Bharat Tex 2024, one of the biggest textile events organized globally has been held at Bharat Mandapam, New Delhi between 26th February 2024 to 29th February 2024. It was inaugurated by the Prime Minister of India and was organized in two of the biggest centres of India simultaneously at Bharat Mandapam and Yasho Bhoomi.



Source: <https://www.bharat-tex.com/>

The Bharat Tex displayed the potential of our textile industry and is considered the common thread between India's historical traditions and present-day technology and talent. **It will bind the significant elements like skill, viability, scale, and style together as the academic partner of this mega event was the National Institute of Fashion Technology (NIFT).**



Source: <https://www.bharat-tex.com/>

The textile sector is connected to the significant four pillars under the mission of Viksit Bharat namely the women, youth, poor, and farmers empowering each one of them by prioritizing talent, training, tradition, and technology. The event welcomed prominent policymakers, buyers, industry leaders, exhibitors, and CEOs across the world to add value to the existing textile value chain. They promoted partnerships and collaborations by growing Business-to-Business (B2B) network and Government-to-Government (G2G) meetings.

Bharat Tex 2024 will unleash abundant business and networking prospects, amplifying its impact through tailored programmes and interactive sessions enriching the industry experience beyond the booth.



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- ✓ COUNTRY SESSIONS
- ✓ MASTER CLASSES
- ✓ STATE SESSIONS
- ✓ GOVERNMENT INITIATIVES
- ✓ CEO ROUNDTABLES
- ✓ GLOBAL LAUNCHES
- ✓ G2G MEETINGS
- ✓ INDUSTRY NETWORKING SESSIONS
- ✓ REVERSE BUYER-SELLER MEETS
- ✓ CULTURAL SHOWCASES

Source: <https://www.bharat-tex.com/>

In the prevailing world of technology, the Indian textile industry is set to leverage the advantage of transforming the legacy of old traditional designs as per the demand of the existing modern consumers. To witness holistic gain in the existing value chain the Prime Minister of India repeated the importance of 5F's. The involvement of the rural population and women in the textile sector is significantly creating ample jobs.

To enhance scaling and operations along with diminishing logistics costs, Government of India plans to build 7 PM MITRA Parks across Indian states boosting employment assets in the industry. The exhibition also showcased the sustainability and recycling pavilions along with the full value chain expo to receive significant attraction from the visitors. The event showcased the old heritage of Indian textiles complimented by modern-age technology to boost the farm-to-fibervalue chain ecosystem at the global level to bring exciting retail market opportunities in evolving global fashion trends.



Source: <https://www.bharat-tex.com/>

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