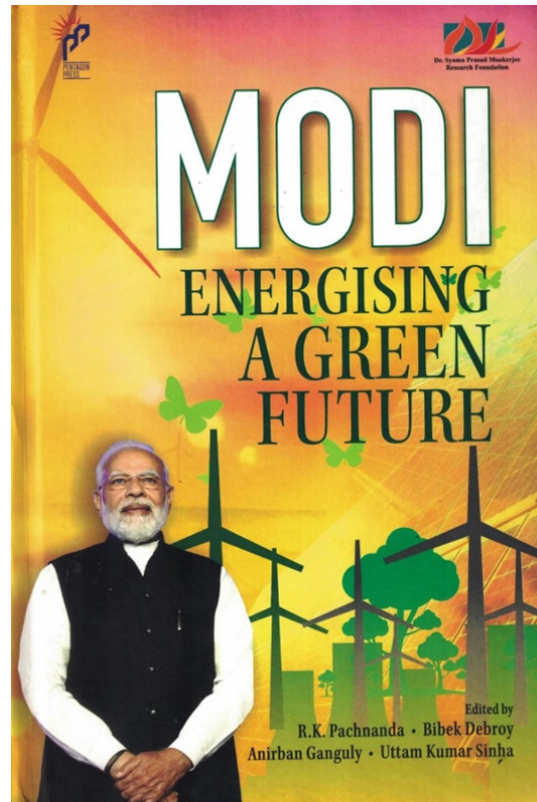


Energising India's Green Future



Modi: Energising a Green Future. Edited by R.K. Pachnanda, Bibek Debroy, Anirban Ganguly and Uttam Kumar Sinha. New Delhi: Pentagon Press, 2023, ISBN: 9789390095872.

The book titled “Modi: Energising a Green Future”, is a detailed examination of India’s environmental and energy policies and sustainable development efforts under Prime Minister Narendra Modi. Edited by prominent figures like R.K. Pachnanda, Bibek Debroy, Anirban Ganguly, and Uttam Kumar Sinha the book highlights India’s approach to climate action, biodiversity preservation, energy security and renewable energy growth. While the book emphasises India’s commitment to achieving sustainability, it has drawn a nuanced analysis of the challenges involved in balancing economic growth with environmental goals and energy security.

The book is structured into five Sections, namely, (1) Policy Perspectives, (2) Energy-Environment Connect, (3) Energy

Strategy, (4) Energy Transitions, and (5) Views from Abroad. The book included 18 chapters spread over these five sections.

R.K. Pachnanda’s Chapter titled “Prime Minister’s Push for a Green India” highlights India’s push for a green and sustainable future through various initiatives. India has also committed to achieving net-zero emissions by 2070, as announced by PM Modi, with plans to reach a non-fossil fuel energy capacity of 500 GW by 2030. The country is making significant strides in renewable energy, with a focus on solar, wind, hydel, and hydrogen energy. The National Hydrogen Energy Mission aims to enable cost-competitive green hydrogen production.

India’s rapid economic growth and rising energy demands necessitate a comprehensive energy security strategy. Bibek Debroy’s Chapter explores India’s pursuit of energy security, highlighting its potential, prospects, and challenges. He opines that India’s pursuit of energy security is crucial for sustaining economic growth, reducing environmental impact, and enhancing global influence. Addressing challenges and leveraging potential areas will be critical to achieving energy security.



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Anirban Ganguly's Chapter titled "Narendra Modi: Re-imagining Environmental Consciousness and Relaying the Buddha Link," explores how Prime Minister Narendra Modi integrates environmental stewardship with Buddhist philosophy. Modi emphasizes lifestyle-driven environmental care through his Mission LiFE (Lifestyle for Environment), which seeks to encourage individuals to adopt eco-friendly habits inspired by Buddha's teachings on compassion and respect for nature. The chapter highlights Modi's approach to positioning India as a leader in environmental responsibility through initiatives tied to Buddhist principles, such as conserving natural resources and promoting harmonious living. Further, Ganguly delves into Modi's commitment to Buddhist heritage, which he sees as an extension of India's cultural diplomacy. This includes developing the Buddha Circuit in India, the establishment of Kushinagar International Airport for easier pilgrimages, and conservation of Buddhist sites across Asia. Through this outreach, Modi fosters relationships with Buddhist-majority countries, promoting an Asian future grounded in shared cultural and environmental values. Ganguly suggests that this alignment not only strengthens India's ties within Asia but also defines its role as a compassionate leader in global ecological preservation.

In a chapter titled "Many Shades of India's Climate Diplomacy", Uttam Kumar Sinha explores the multifaceted nature of India's climate diplomacy, highlighting its key drivers, strategies, and implications. India's climate diplomacy has transformed into a nuanced and multifaceted approach, balancing national interests with global climate responsibilities. As a significant player in international climate negotiations, India's actions will shape the future of global climate governance. Some of the Key Points Sinha covered include: Shift from Obstruction to Constructive Engagement: India has transitioned from being perceived as an obstacle to climate negotiations to becoming a constructive participant, demonstrating increased willingness to address global climate concerns. Energy Security and Economic Growth: India's climate policy prioritizes energy security, economic growth, and poverty reduction, while acknowledging the need for sustainable development. International Cooperation and Forums: India actively participates in global climate forums, such as the Paris Agreement, COP meetings, and the International Solar Alliance (ISA). Climate Justice and Equity: India advocates for climate justice, emphasizing the principles of equity and common but differentiated responsibilities. Renewable Energy and Technological Advancements: India has set ambitious

renewable energy targets, leveraging technological innovations to drive low-carbon growth. Climate Adaptation and Resilience: India focuses on climate adaptation and resilience measures, particularly in vulnerable regions. Sinha then recounts some of the implications of India's climate diplomacy that include: Global Climate Governance: India's climate diplomacy influences global climate governance, shaping the narrative on climate justice and equity. Economic Opportunities: India's climate initiatives create economic opportunities, driving growth and employment in the renewable energy sector. Geopolitical Dynamics: India's climate diplomacy navigates complex relationships with major emitters, such as the US, China and Europe.

India is undergoing a remarkable transformation in its energy and transportation sectors, driven by policies and technological advancements. A chapter titled "Clean Energy and Transport Renaissance in India" Pathikrit Payne explores India's transition towards clean energy and sustainable transportation, highlighting key initiatives, challenges, and opportunities. India's clean energy and transport renaissance is poised to transform the country's economy, environment, and energy landscape. In the realm of Transport Renaissance, Payne recounts some of initiatives that include: Electric Vehicles (EVs) Adoption: India aims for 30% EVs by 2030, driven by incentives and infrastructure development. Public Transportation Revamp: Cities are upgrading public transportation systems, including metro expansions and electric buses. Smart Cities Initiative: 100 smart cities are being developed with green transportation infrastructure. Alternative Fuels: India is exploring alternative fuels, such as biofuels, hydrogen fuel cells, and Compressed Natural Gas (CNG). Payne opines that with continued policy support, technological innovations, and investments, India can emerge as a global leader in sustainable energy and transportation.

This Book comprehensively analyses the critical role India plays in shaping not just environment-friendly green energy transitions, but how India is leading Global South as an effective implementer of the different editions of COP recommendations of the United Nations Climate Change Conferences. The book serves as a critical reference tool for the sustainable energy-environment and climate action practices. This is an essential read for the budding climate professionals, Science Technology and Society (STS) scholars, energy-environment policy analysts, public policymakers, and public administrators, who will not only enrich their knowledge through this book, but also learn how India is engaging with the global communities to secure a green future of the planet.

Reviewed by

Dr. Anup Kumar Das

Centre for Studies in Science Policy,

Jawaharlal Nehru University,

New Delhi, INDIA.

Email: anup_csp@jnu.ac.in

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