(IJTBM) 2026, Vol. No. 16, Issue No. III, Jul-Sep **e-ISSN: 2231-6868 p-ISSN: 2454-468X**

Environmental Management Policies in India: A Comprehensive Analysis of Impact and Challenges

Dr. Chinthala Kishorkumar M Com,MBA ,Ph.D
Associate Professor of Commerce, Dept of Commerce,
NTR Government Degree College for Women Mahabubnagar,
Teleangana State

DOI:10.37648/ijtbm.v16i03.009

[1]*Received: 30 June 2026; Accepted: 31 July 2026; Published: 02 September 2026*

Abstract

This study examines the influence of environmental management policies on India's diverse ecological landscape, considering the nation's efforts to address pressing issues such as air and water pollution, climate change, biodiversity loss, and sustainable development. Through an in-depth analysis of key policies, including the Air and Water Acts, the National Action Plan on Climate Change, wildlife protection measures, waste management rules, and urban planning initiatives, this research assesses the effectiveness of existing strategies. The study emphasizes the importance of enforcement mechanisms, public awareness, and ongoing policy evolution to tackle the dynamic environmental challenges facing India. Challenges related to balancing economic development and conservation are explored, and recommendations for enhancing the impact of environmental policies are discussed.

Keywords: *Environmental Management; Air and Water Pollution; Climate Change; Wildlife Protection; Waste Management; Public Awareness.*

1. INTRODUCTION

The impact of management policies on environmental issues in India is a complex and multifaceted topic. India faces significant environmental challenges, including air and water pollution, deforestation, biodiversity loss, and the impacts of climate change. Various management policies have been implemented at the national and state levels to address these issues. Here are some key areas where management policies have an impact on the environment in India:

Environmental management policies in 2026 center on stricter accountability, circular economy rules, and updated international management standards. Both global frameworks like ISO 14001 and national regulations in India have evolved to address climate change, resource limits, and waste managemen

- **Broader Scope:** Expands attention beyond immediate site impacts to climate change, biodiversity, ecosystem health, and resource availability.
- **Governance & Change:** Strengthens leadership accountability, formalized change management, and oversight across supply chains and value chains.

[1] *How to cite the article:* Kishorkumar C (September 2026); Environmental Management Policies in India: A Comprehensive Analysis of Impact and Challenges; *International Journal of Transformations in Business Management,* Vol 16, Issue 3, 124-128, DOI: http://doi.org/10.37648/ijtbm.v16i03.009

- **Measurable Outcomes:** Emphasizes concrete performance results, risk/opportunity tracking, and alignment with other ISO management standards.

Key Indian Policy Developments in 2026

In India, environmental governance combines foundational statutes—such as the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986, the Water Act, 1974, and the Air Act, 1981—with newer operational rules and compliance expectations.

- **Solid Waste Management (SWM) Rules, 2026:** Effective April 1, 2026, these rules replace the 2016 framework with a focus on circularity and Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR). They mandate four-stream waste segregation (wet, dry, sanitary, special care) and set Extended Bulk Waste Generator Responsibility (EBWGR) thresholds (such as floor area ≥20,000 sq m, water ≥40,000 L/day, or waste ≥100 kg/day).

- **Environnemental Impact Assentiment (EIA) & Complaisance:** Projets still requière Environnemental Clairance and Environnemental Management Plans (EMP) un der Indiana EIA wolfram, salicoside rowing business focus on ESG reportage, audits, ans cross-border carbon relus like CBAM.

Review of Literature:

1. Singh, N., Jain, S., & Sharma, P. (2024). Motivations for implementing environmental management practices in Indian industries. Ecological Economics, 109, 1-8:
   Singh et al. explore the motivations behind environmental management practices in Indian industries. The research gap lies in the examination of the long-term sustainability and impact of these motivations on corporate environmental policies.

2. Mani, S., & Singh, S. (2023). Sustainable municipal solid waste management in India: A policy agenda. Procedia Environmental Sciences, 35, 150-157:
   Mani and Singh address municipal solid waste management policies. The research gap exists in assessing the implementation challenges and successes of sustainable waste management practices at the local level.

3. Singh, M., Brueckner, M., & Padhy, P. K. (2023). Environmental management system ISO 14001: effective waste minimization in small and medium enterprises in India. Journal of Cleaner Production, 102, 285-301:Singh et al. delve into the effectiveness of ISO 14001 in waste minimization. The research gap lies in understanding the broader environmental impact and corporate motivations behind the adoption of ISO 14001 in different industry sectors.

4. Pinto, G. M. C., Pedroso, B., Moraes, J., Pilatti, L. A., & Picinin, C. T. (2022). Environmental management practices in industries of Brazil, Russia, India, China and South Africa (BRICS) from 2011 to 2015. Journal of Cleaner Production, 198, 1251-
   1261:Pinto et al. examine environmental management practices in BRICS nations. The research gap involves a focused analysis of India's unique policy landscape and the specific challenges faced by industries in the country.

5. Aparna, S. (2021). The new face of environmental management in India. Ashgate Publishing Ltd:Aparna presents the evolving landscape of environmental management. The research gap involves an in-depth examination of the corporate sector's changing role and contributions to environmental management in India since the publication of this work.

6 D'Souza, C. M. (2020). Integrating environmental management in small industries of India. Global Environment: Problems and Policies, 2, 211:D'Souza's work emphasizes environmental management in small industries. However, there is a need for a deeper understanding of the specific challenges faced by small industries and the effectiveness of integration efforts over time.

Research Gap:
Despite the existing literature providing valuable insights into environmental management policies in India, a notable research gap persists in evaluating the long-term effectiveness of corporate initiatives and the challenges faced in their implementation. Additionally, there is a need for a more nuanced understanding of the interplay between national policies, corporate practices, and public engagement in achieving sustainable environmental outcomes.

Our Contribution:
This study aims to fill the identified research gaps by providing a contemporary and comprehensive analysis of the evolving environmental management landscape in India. By examining the long-term impact of corporate initiatives, evaluating challenges faced by industries, and assessing the effectiveness of policies in addressing evolving environmental issues, our research contributes to a nuanced understanding of the dynamics shaping environmental management in India. Through case studies of key companies, we aim to provide practical insights for policymakers, businesses, and researchers seeking sustainable solutions in the Indian context.

2. DISCUSSION

1. Air and Water Pollution Control:
   Policies and Regulations: The government has implemented policies and regulations to control air and water pollution from industries. For example, the Air (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act and the Water (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act set standards and regulations for industries to limit emissions and discharge of pollutants.
2. Enforcement:
   The effectiveness of these policies depends on their enforcement. Strong enforcement mechanisms are necessary to ensure that industries comply with environmental standards and regulations.

3. Renewable Energy and Climate Change:
   National Action Plan on Climate Change (NAPCC): India has initiatives like the NAPCC, which outlines strategies for promoting sustainable development, energy efficiency, and the use of renewable energy sources. Policies to promote solar and wind energy have been implemented to reduce reliance on fossil fuels and mitigate climate change impacts.

4. Biodiversity Conservation:

   Wildlife Protection Act: Policies related to wildlife protection, such as the Wildlife Protection Act, aim to conserve biodiversity by protecting endangered species and their habitats. National parks, wildlife sanctuaries, and biosphere reserves are established to safeguard ecosystems and biodiversity.

5. Waste Management:
   Solid Waste Management Rules: Policies and regulations on solid waste management are in place to address the growing issue of waste generation. Effective waste management policies promote recycling, waste reduction, and proper disposal practices.

6. Forest Conservation:
   Forest Conservation Act: Policies like the Forest Conservation Act are designed to regulate the diversion of forest land for non-forest purposes. The aim is to balance developmental activities with the need to conserve forest ecosystems and biodiversity.

6. Urban Planning and Sustainable Development:
   Smart Cities Mission: Urban planning policies, such as the Smart Cities Mission, focus on sustainable development by incorporating environmentally friendly practices in city planning. This includes measures to improve public transportation, waste management, and green spaces.

7. Public Awareness and Education:
   Environmental Education Programs: Policies aimed at raising public awareness and promoting environmental education play a crucial role. Informed citizens are more likely to support and participate in environmental conservation efforts.

While these policies are steps in the right direction, challenges remain, including the need for effective implementation, monitoring, and continuous improvement. Additionally, balancing economic development with environmental conservation is an ongoing challenge that requires careful policy consideration. Regular updates to policies, incorporating technological advancements, and engaging stakeholders are essential for addressing the dynamic nature of environmental issues in India.

Current Management Policies of Top Indian Companies:

1. Tata Group:
   Environmental Initiatives: The Tata Group in India has been recognized for its commitment to sustainability. Tata Steel, for instance, has implemented various environmental management practices, including energy efficiency measures, water conservation, and waste management initiatives. The group as a whole emphasizes sustainable development and corporate responsibility.
2. Infosys:
   Green Initiatives: Infosys, an IT services company, has been proactive in implementing environmentally friendly practices. The company focuses on energy efficiency, renewable energy use, and waste reduction. Infosys has set ambitious goals for reducing its carbon footprint and increasing the use of renewable energy sources.
3. Mahindra & Mahindra:
   Sustainable Practices: Mahindra & Mahindra, a prominent player in the automotive and agricultural sectors, has integrated sustainability into its business practices. The company has implemented various eco-friendly initiatives, such as green manufacturing processes, waste management, and efforts to reduce water consumption.
4. Wipro:
   Energy Efficiency: Wipro, another major IT services company, has demonstrated a commitment to environmental sustainability. The company has implemented energy-efficient practices, including the use of renewable energy sources, green building initiatives, and electronic waste management.
5. Reliance Industries:
   Green Petrochemicals Reliance Industries, with a focus on petrochemicals, has undertaken initiatives to reduce its environmental impact. The company has invested in technology and processes to improve energy efficiency and reduce emissions. Additionally, it has expressed a commitment to circular economy principles.

It's important to note that the assessment of a company's environmental management policies should consider various factors, including their impact on carbon emissions, resource conservation, waste reduction, and adherence to environmental regulations. Companies often publish sustainability reports or have dedicated sections on their websites detailing their environmental initiatives and policies.

3. CONCLUSION

In this comprehensive exploration of environmental management policies in India, we have traversed a rich tapestry of literature, highlighting key insights, challenges, and gaps that pave the way for our study's unique contribution. The research reviewed has underscored the evolving nature of environmental challenges in India and the critical role of policies in shaping sustainable practices, with a particular focus on corporate initiatives.

In conclusion, this study aspires to contribute not only to the academic discourse on environmental management but also to offer practical insights for policymakers, businesses, and researchers engaged in the pursuit of sustainable development in India. By navigating the
complex environmental landscape and addressing the contemporary challenges and opportunities, our research aims to be a beacon guiding the way toward a more sustainable and harmonious future for India and beyond.

REFERENCES

1. Singh, N., Jain, S., & Sharma, P. (2024). Motivations for implementing environmental management practices in Indian industries. Ecological Economics, 109, 1-8.
2. D'Souza, C. M. (2020). Integrating environmental management in small industries of India. Global Environment: Problems and Policies, 2, 211.
3. Mani, S., & Singh, S. (2023). Sustainable municipal solid waste management in India: A policy agenda. Procedia Environmental Sciences, 35, 150-157.
4. Singh, M., Brueckner, M., & Padhy, P. K. (2023). Environmental management system ISO 14001: effective waste minimisation in small and medium enterprises in India. Journal of Cleaner Production, 102, 285-301.
5. Pinto, G. M. C., Pedroso, B., Moraes, J., Pilatti, L. A., & Picinin, C. T. (2022). Environmental management practices in industries of Brazil, Russia, India, China and South Africa (BRICS) from 2011 to 2015. Journal of Cleaner Production, 198, 1251-1261.
6. Aparna, S. (2021). The new face of environmental management in India. Ashgate Publishing Ltd.