



The Pro-Planet People Movement and the Mission 2070: The Pathways to Decarbonising India

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ABSTRACT

The 21st century provides more opportunities for the progress and development of human beings, while simultaneously creating more challenges and difficulties for the existence of human civilization. Rapid climate change, like floods, droughts, rainfall, high temperature, the melting of glaciers, earthquakes, and many more issues related to the environment, are the core concern of global governance. There are various factors behind climate change, like the emission of greenhouse gases, industrialization, deforestation, population explosion, rapid growth in technologies, unplanned construction, the use of chemical weapons, etc. But there is a consensus among environmentalists and scholars across the world that the root causes of climate change are vested in human behaviors and lifestyles. Consequently, changes in lifestyle according to environmental needs can lead to a sustainable environment. Keeping this fact in mind, our Hon'ble Prime Minister, Mr. Narendra Modi, introduced the P3 formula as a Pro-Planet People movement to the world during his virtual address at the World Economic Forum's online Davos Agenda Summit on January 17, 2022. He emphasized the environmental challenges caused by our lifestyle and also gave a global call for Mission Lifestyle for the Environment. Previously, India announced Mission 2070, at COP 26, held at Glasgow in November, 2021 which aims to make India carbon neutral by 2070. This paper tries to outline the provisions of Mission 2070 and the theoretical and practical aspects of the Pro-Planet People Movement. The paper also seeks to evaluate the relevance and significance of these two pathways in decarbonising India and delineate the major challenges to the said pathways.

Keywords: Pro-Planet People, Mission 2070, LiEF, Climate Change, Sustainable Environment and Decarbonising India

The sustainable and reasonable use of resources is the core of Indian culture and tradition. There are numerous examples of the notion of reduce, reuse and upcycle inherent in our tradition, culture and living style, which is called today 'Green Living'. The use of old clothes, toys, books and other things of elder siblings by younger sibling are very popular notion in Indian society. But, these notions are receding and the influence of consumerism is increasing day by day and the change of our lifestyle is the root cause of climate change. As quoted by Mahatma Gandhi "the earth provides enough to satisfy every man's need but not for every man's greed." Gandhi was a foresighted personality he was much aware about the correlation between unlimited and unwanted desires of human beings and the destructions of nature and environment and accepted a balance and sustainable lifestyle.

Today, India is a rapid growing economy of the world and committed to control their emission of green house gases (GHG) simultaneously. Usually, there is a close relation between the economic progress and the emission of GHG. India tries hard to decouple these complex relations by changing the lifestyle of individuals according to the environmental needs. Prime Minister Mr. Narendra Modi emphasized on the revival of traditional Indian practices regarding reuse, reduce, recycle and upcycle etc. He manifested his concern about the change in lifestyle at global platforms on several occasions like 'the UNSD summit 2014, UNESCO 2015, World Sustainable Development Summit 2018, UN Champions on Earth 2018, G20 Riyadh 2020, introduced the notion of Lifestyle for Environment (LiEF) in COP 26 at Glasgow 2021, G20 Summit (Bali) 2022 and recently a World Bank event in 2023 (Niti Aayog, 2023, p.17). While introducing the notion of LiEF at COP 26 Glasgow, 2021, India proposed the Mission 2070. Under this Mission India targeted to be carbon neutral by 2070.

The Mission 2070: A Commitment for Decarbonising India

The major concern of global governance is to limit and minimize the emission of greenhouse gases (GHG) to control the issues related to climate change and there is a tussle between developed and developing countries regarding it. It is an extremely big challenge for developing countries to limit their GHG because they are in development stages and they don't have green equipment and funds to arrange such facilities. They depend on traditional energy sources like coal and other which is the main source of the emission of GHG. Energy, mobility or transports, industry, infrastructure or building and agriculture sectors produce more than 96% of GHG emission in India. (WEF, 2021, p.7). The huge part of GHG almost 40% are produced by energy sector or coal industries.

Thus, India is being a developing country faces two crucial transformations at present, "the first is its economic transformation...A rapid and equitable economic growth will be critical to meet the growth and lifestyle aspirations of 1.4 billion people. The second is its green transformation. Unlike developed nations with mature greenhouse gas (GHG) infrastructure, India is yet to build a lot of its GHG inventory. However, as India grows, so will its GHG

footprint.”(WEF, 2021, p.4). Acknowledging these crucial transformations and recognizing the potentialities regarding the generation of renewable energy our Prime Minister, Mr. Narendra Modi proposed the ambition of India as five parts of *Panchamrit* in COP 26 at Glasgow, Scotland, UK from 31 October to 13 November, 2023, that are as follows(WEF, 2021, p. 3)

1. To reach 500GW of non-fossil electricity capacity.
2. To generate half of all energy requirements from renewable energy sources.
3. To reduce emissions by 1 billion tons from now to 2030.
4. To reduce emissions intensity of GDP by 45%.
5. India commits to net-zero emissions by 2070.

India's these commitments are not only applicable for India, but these are global roadmap for achieving the target of 1.5°C global warming. The main source of the emission of GHG in India is the coal industry which is the main source of energy also. To replace the fossil fuel energy with renewable energy like solar, water, wind and bio-fuel etc., our Prime Minister Mr. Narendra Modi is striving hard at both national and international levels. The launch of International Solar Alliance (ISA) by Prime Minister Mr. Narendra Modi and Former President François Hollande of France in COP 15 at Paris, France in 2015 was the great initiative in the field of renewable energy. Seventy-three countries have signed and 50 countries have signed and ratified the ISA Framework Agreement (UNEP, n.d.).

India is blessed with plenty of solar energy and other renewable energy sources. As marked by Mr. Deepak Bagla, MD and CEO of Invest India “India is one of the largest renewable energy economies in the world - it ranks as the third most attractive renewable energy economy for investments. Under the visionary leadership of Prime Minister Mr. Narendra Modi, India declared ambitious government commitments towards a New India powered by clean sources of energy and is well on its way to achieve the commitments before 2030. India has one of the largest expansions plans for renewable energy globally, with an aim to setup 450 GW of renewable energy installed capacity by 2030 (Invest India & NSEFI, 2021, p. 2). ”

Mission 2070 as a proposed Green New Deal for India comprise five sectoral pillars and four horizontal enablers that would be critical to achieving the low-carbon vision. The five sectoral pillars are; low carbon energy, green mobility, decarbonisation of energy intensive industries, green building, infrastructures and cities sustainable agriculture. Green technology innovation, Green finance, carbon sequestration and climate adaptation are four horizontal enablers (WEF, 2021, p. 8).

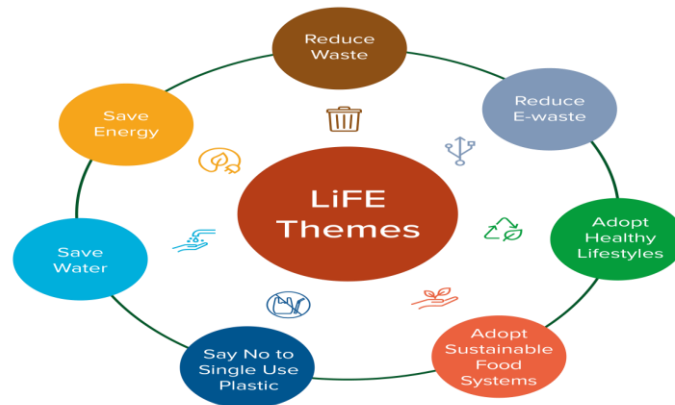
India implemented several climate policies at national level like [Jawaharlal Nehru National Solar Mission](#) (2008), [Unnat Jyoti by Affordable LEDs for All \(UJALA\)](#), [Standards and Labeling Programme](#)(2006), [Electricity for All - Deen Dayal Upadhyaya Gram Jyoti Yojna \(DDUGJY\)](#) and [Integrated Power Development Scheme \(IPDS\)](#) (2015), [Energy Conservation Building Code](#), [Renewable Energy Certificates \(REC\)](#) and [Clean Environment Cess \(now replaced by the GST Compensation Cess\)](#) for confronting climate challenges (India Climate Explorer, n. d). This is the proof of India's dedication and commitment towards the control of the emission of GHG and sustainable environment that carry India's position at top 5 best performing countries on climate change. **“Climate Change Performance Index (CCPI 2023) puts India at best among G-20 countries. India improves 2 ranks in CCPI 2023, which was released in COP 27, assessing 59 countries and the European Union on climate change policies and actions (Government of India, 2022).”** According to the CCPI assessment India received a high grade for climate policy and renewable energy, but a mid-level ranking for GHG emissions and energy use. India's reasonable policies, which include a strong foundation for energy saving initiatives and a rapid deployment of renewable energy, have had a significant impact. India is on pathway to reach its 2030 emissions target **(Government of India, 2022).”**

Pro Planet People Movement: An Attempt to change the Mindset and lifestyle for Decarbonising India

India tries each and every way at both micro and macro levels to control and reduce greenhouse gases and make environment sustainable. The launch of Mission Lifestyle for Environment (LiEF) and Pro Planet People Movement at international platforms by Prime Minister Mr. Narendra Modi underlines India's commitment towards climate change. Pro Planet movement is an initiative or a global clarion call for the change in lifestyle for the sake of sustainable environment. It is a micro level effort for the change at macro level. Prime Minister Mr. Narendra Modi introduced the notion of Pro-Planet People Movement (P3) at the World Economic Forum (WEF) during its online Davos Agenda 2022 on January 17. Earlier, he introduced the similar idea of LiEF in the 26th United Nations Climate Change Conference of the Parties (COP 26) at Glasgow on November 1, 2021. Mission LiEF is an international mass movement for inspiring the people worldwide to adopt environment conscious behavior and replace mindless and destructive consumption with mindful and deliberate utilization to mitigate the climate change (My **Government of India, 2022**). Tracing the origin of the concept LiEF, Prime Minister Mr. Narendra Modi said, “Mission LiEF borrows from the past, operates in the present and focuses on the future. Reduce, Reuse and Recycle are the concepts woven into our life. The Circular Economy has been an integral part of our culture and lifestyle **(Government of India, 2022)**”. India is the first country across the world to include LiEF in its Nationally Determined Contribution (NDC) (Niti Aayog, 2023, p.17). LiEF is an endeavor to combine the traditional knowledge with scientific research of present day to sustain the best practices of past and combat the present challenges regarding climate change.

Themes of LiEF

The Mission LiEF includes the deliberate change in an individual's behavior and lifestyles related to seven themes as shown in given image and adopting these changes a people can be a Pro-Planet People.



Source: ("LiEF lifestyle for environment," n.d.)

'LiEF 21 Days Challenge' Campaign

Under the Mission LiEF a campaign 'LiEF 21 Days Challenge' has been initiated in India to enable people to take an easy eco-friendly action per day for 21 day and eventually develop a pro-environment lifestyle and become a Pro Planet People (My **Government of India, 2022**). As United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) marked, "if, 1 billion people out of the global population of 8 billion adopt eco-friendly behaviors in their daily lives, global carbon emission will drop by approximately 20%. LiEF seeks to promote these individual 'LiEF actions' by making every person trustee in fighting climate change and transforming 'planet first' into personal value." (Niti Aayog, 2023, p.17)

The Launch of Mission LiFE

Prime Minister Mr. Narendra Modi launched Mission LiFE in the presence of the UN Secretary General António Guterres, at the Statue of Unity, Ekta Nagar, Gujarat on October 20, 2022 and the LiEF logo, tagline and Mission document unveiled at the event. Prime Minister Mr. Narendra Modi marked during his address that, the fight against climate change goes beyond the government responsibility and needs contribution the individuals (Government of India, 2022.). Further he highlighted, Mission LiEF is not only an initiative to mitigate the climate change but it is a democratic way to make each and every individual empowered to fight against climate change. Underlining the holistic approach of Mission LiEF, he said, "Mission LiFE emboldens the spirit of the P3 model, i.e. Pro Planet People. It functions on the basic principles of "Lifestyle of the planet, for the planet and by the planet" (Government of India, 2022). UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres marked that "The LiFE initiative is designed to highlight essential and hopeful truths. All of us, individuals and communities, can and must be part of the solution of protecting our planet and our collective futures. After all, over-consumption is at the root of the triple planet emergency of climate, change, biodiversity loss and pollution." (Government of India, 2022) Thus, the practices related to LiEF are very reasonable and relevant for a sustainable environment.

The 'LiEF Global Call for Ideas and Papers'(GCIP)

On the occasion of 'World Environment Day, 2022, Prime Minister Mr. Narendra Modi launched a 'LiEF Global Call for Ideas and Papers'(GCIP) via video conference and invited innovative and creative thoughts, ideas, suggestions and proposals from the intellectuals, academicians, scholars of various universities and research institutes across the world to adopt a environment conscious lifestyle (Government of India, 2022). These actions make India capable to bridge between environment friendly ideas and their implementation. The LiEF GCIP was centered around three elements that are as follows (Niti Aayog, 2023, p.21)-

1. Focus on individual behavior for making LiEF as a 'Mass Movement'.
2. Co-creates Globally- The best empirical and scalable ideas from the best minds of the world through top university or research institutions, organisation are welcomed in developing LiEF.
3. Leverage Local Cultures- Leverage local practices, traditions and culture across the world to develop eco-friendly behaviors and lifestyles.

The endeavor of LiEF GCIP was conducted in two phases that are as follows-

1. **The LiEF GCIP Phase I-** Under first phase total 2,538 participants from 67 countries had submitted their papers and ideas related to LiEF by December, 2022 (Niti Aayog, 2023, p.27).

2. **The LiEF GCIP Phase II**-After screening the 2,538 papers by LiEF team at Niti Aayog, the shortlisted authors were invited to submit the detailed proposals in this phase. Total 467 participants from 42 countries submitted their detailed proposals by March 9, 2023 (Niti Aayog, 2023, p.28).

Thus, the LiEF GCIP encourages the think tanks worldwide to create, develop and nurture the network of Pro Planet People committed to adopting and promoting eco-friendly lifestyle. To build momentum for the LiEF GCIP, Niti Aayog with joint collaboration of the World Resources Institute and UNDP, conducted the 'LiEFathons' (Niti Aayog, 2023, p.29). Prime Minister Mr. Narendra Modi marked, after the global initiative of Yoga and Millets, "we hope Mission LiEF will be another initiative that will bring the world for a sustainable future" (My Government of India, 2022).

The Evaluation Committee of subject experts has been constituted by Niti Aayog. The committee identified the best innovative ideas after rigorous and thorough scrutiny process. The best selected ideas and proposals for behavioural changes and sustainable lifestyles are published as a compendium by Niti Aayog.

The 75 winning and best ideas and proposals are published as a compendium entitled "*Thinking for Our Planet: 75 Ideas to Promote LiEF*" by Niti Aayog. Indeed, the LiEF GCIP campaign provides a rich repository of innovative ideas related to conservation of water, electricity, land, air and other natural resources, which enable each and every Indians to contribute to the realization of its path to decarbonising their country and take a part in global fight against climate Change.

Challenges in the Pathways of Decarbonising India

India strives hard for controlling the emission of GHG and its commitment towards decarbonisation shows it. Since, coal industries are the major source of the emission of GHG so moving towards renewable energy sources is the vital need of the present time. But "in the Accelerated scenario, renewable (wind and solar) capacity addition will likely increase from 10–12 GW per year today to 50 GW per year in 2030 and 90 GW per year in 2040. Ten times as much land as is used today would need to be identified and made available. Panels and corresponding raw material manufacturing may need to be scaled up, given 80–90 percent of the solar panels are imported currently." (McKinsey Sustainability, 2022, p.17)

Lands are fixed resources which cannot be extend according to need, so additional land would be needed to meet "India's requirements regarding agriculture (12 million ha by 2040), solar plants (5 million ha by 2040), forest densification (4 million ha by 2040), etc." (McKinsey Sustainability, 2022, p.17). Though, it will be possible by efficient and sustainable use of available lands.

The investment regarding the use of green technologies and deployment of Carbon Capture, Utilization, and Storage (CCUS) technology and Advanced Solvent Carbon Capture (ASCC) technology is also a major challenge towards Decarbonising India.

The electrification of mobility is also a key concern in the pathway of decarbonisation. For achieving the target of Mission 2070, it needs to be 100% electrification of all bikes and light trucks by early next decades and all cars and trucks will be electrified by 2035 and 2050 respectively. For this, "battery costs may need to decline by 40 percent in 2030 relative to today. Charging stations would need to increase 13 times by 2030 and 40 times by 2040 relative to today." (McKinsey Sustainability, 2022, p.17)

These are the major challenges of India towards the fighting against decarbonisation and preserving sustainable environment.

Conclusion

On the basis of above discussions and arguments it is clear that in the global fight against climate change India emerged as a global leader despite the various challenges in the concerned pathway. Acknowledging their economic growth and transformative stages India targeted to be carbon neutral by 2070 under the Mission 2070. India's approach towards decarbonisation is very systematic, practical and time bound. India focused to create and develop the renewable energy sources to control the emission of green house gases (GHG) and adopted several national climate policies related to the energy, mobility or transports, industry, infrastructure or building and agriculture sectors to control the GHG. The proposal of *Panchamrit* shows the commitment of India towards generating and adopting the renewal energy. For strengthening their renewable energy, India has entered into agreements with France, Germany, Sweden, Denmark, the Netherlands and other countries. International Solar Alliance is the perfect example of India's commitment towards use of renewable energy. According to official privy to the preparation of the Third National Communication (TNC) Report "the total amount of greenhouse gas emission emitted for every unit increase of gross domestic product (GDP)- fell by 33 per cent from 2005 to 2019." (*Euro news*, 2023) The Report further marked, India achieved the rapid rate of emission reduction, and the average rate of reduction in emission increased to 3% annually in the period of 2016 to 2019, from just about 1.5% in the period of 2014-2016. By continuous reduction in emission India became competent to decouple their rate of economic growth and the rate of GHG emission.

India's clarion call for global movement of Pro-Planet People is an innovative initiative to make climate change as a people concern. Mission LiEF democratizes the battle against climate change and enable every people to contribute towards making environment sustainable. India brings the issue of climate change beyond the boundary of government and make possible for individuals, families and society to contribute towards it. The LiEF GCIP campaign provided lots of innovative and creative ideas related to sustainable environments from around the world. India's holistic pathways of LiEF and Pro Planet People have been appreciated by global leaders across the world for their relevance and efficacy regarding decarbonisation and climate change.

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