

Policy Proposal for Advancing Climate Change Initiatives in India: A Multi-Ministerial, Youth-Driven National Strategy

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Submitted to:

- Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change
- Ministry of Power
- Ministry of New and Renewable Energy
- Ministry of Science and Technology
- Ministry of Jal Shakti
- Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs
- Ministry of Education
- Ministry of Finance
- Local MLAs

I. Executive Summary

India, one of the most climate-vulnerable nations, faces rising temperatures, erratic monsoons, floods, droughts, and air pollution. These challenges threaten food security, public health, livelihoods, biodiversity, and sustainable development. At the same time, India is a young nation, with over 65% of its population below the age of 35, making youth central to climate action.

This policy proposes a **multi-ministerial, youth-driven climate strategy** to mitigate and adapt to climate change through renewable energy transition, sustainable agriculture, green jobs, resilient infrastructure, ecosystem restoration, and climate education. It emphasizes youth participation in policymaking, innovation, and community-led climate solutions to ensure a sustainable and equitable future.

II. Policy Gaps Identified

1. **Insufficient Renewable Energy Integration**

- Heavy reliance on coal and fossil fuels
- Inconsistent adoption of solar, wind, and bioenergy at the grassroots level

2. **Weak Climate Adaptation Measures**

- Limited infrastructure for flood/drought management.
- Rural communities lack resources for resilient agriculture

3. **Inadequate Climate Education and Awareness**

- Climate change is not uniformly embedded in school/university curricula
- Limited platforms for youth voices in policy discussions

4. **Lack of Green Job Opportunities**

- Limited structured pathways for youth in renewable energy, circular economy, or climate-tech sectors.

5. **Urban and Rural Vulnerability**

- Cities face rising heat and poor air quality
- Villages face crop losses, water scarcity, and migration pressures

6. **Limited Youth Representation in Decision-Making**

- Absence of institutionalized youth councils in climate governance.

III. Objectives of the Proposed Policy

1. Achieve **net-zero emissions by 2070** through inclusive, accelerated action.
2. Ensure **resilient agriculture, water security, and disaster preparedness**.
3. Embed **climate education and green skills** across all levels of learning.
4. Create **1 million+ green jobs for youth** by 2030.
5. Foster **community-based climate initiatives** with youth leadership.

6. Establish frameworks for **youth participation in policymaking** at local, state, and national levels.

IV. Proposed Initiatives & Multi-Ministerial Collaboration

1. **National Renewable Energy Acceleration Mission (NREAM)**

Lead: Ministry of Power + Ministry of New and Renewable Energy

- Solar panels on all schools, universities, and government buildings
- Subsidized rooftop solar for households and MSMEs
- Youth skill-building in solar and wind technology

2. **Climate-Resilient Agriculture & Water Security Program (CRAWSP)**

Lead: Ministry of Agriculture + Ministry of Jal Shakti

- Promotion of climate-smart farming and organic agriculture
- Rainwater harvesting and watershed management projects
- Youth volunteer corps for assisting farmers in adopting sustainable practices

3. **Green Cities & Sustainable Infrastructure Initiative (GCSI)**

Lead: Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs

- Expansion of electric public transport
- Climate-resilient building codes and green spaces
- Youth-led urban climate labs for local innovation

4. **National Climate Education & Awareness Mission (NCEAM)**

Lead: Ministry of Education + Ministry of Youth Affairs

- Integrate climate change into school curricula
- Create Fellowship programs for youth climate researchers
- Conduct National Youth Climate Summit every year

5. **Green Jobs & Entrepreneurship Program (GJEP)**

Lead: Ministry of Labour & Employment + Ministry of Skill Development

- Train youth in renewable energy, waste management, and eco-tourism
- Allocate Incubation hubs for climate-tech startups
- Create a centralized green job portal connecting employers with youth

6. Youth Climate Action Councils (YCAC)

Lead: Ministry of Environment + Ministry of Panchayati Raj

- District-level youth climate councils feeding into state/national councils
- Youth representation in all major climate policy decisions

V. Implementation and Monitoring Framework

- **National Climate Action Committee (NCAC):** Under PMO for inter-ministerial coordination
- **State Climate Task Forces:** To localize initiatives
- **Youth Monitoring Mechanisms:** Climate report cards, public dashboards, and youth-led audits
- **Pilot Programs:** Start with 200 vulnerable districts (flood, drought, and heatwave hotspots)
- **Capacity Building:** Train ASHA workers, farmers, and youth volunteers in climate resilience

Monitoring Tools:

- Real-time dashboards on renewable energy, emissions, and adaptation measures
- Independent youth-led audits every year
- National survey on climate literacy and resilience every 3 years

VI. Funding Sources

- Reallocation and strengthening of existing schemes (National Solar Mission, Jal Jeevan Mission, Smart Cities Mission)
- Green Climate Fund (GCF), World Bank, and UNDP support
- CSR contributions from renewable energy, transport, and manufacturing industries
- Green bonds and carbon credit markets

VII. Conclusion and Call to Action

This proposal outlines a comprehensive, equity-focused climate action strategy that places **youth at the heart of India's climate transition**. By embedding climate goals in education, jobs, agriculture, urban planning, and renewable energy, India can build a sustainable, climate-resilient future.

We urge the Government of India to adopt and launch this multi-ministerial, youth-driven climate policy by **World Environment Day, June 5, 2026.**

Respectfully submitted by:

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