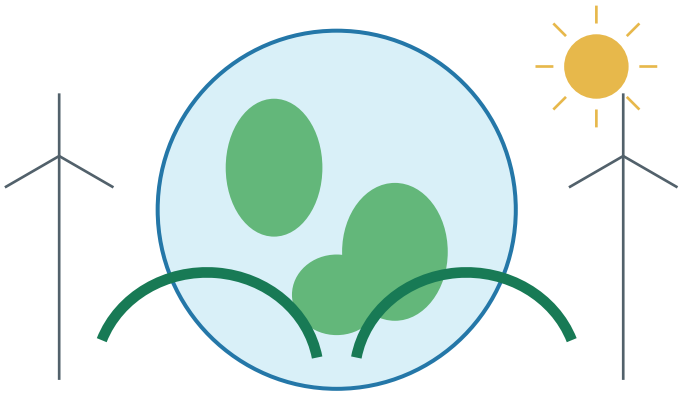
PROJECT WORK

SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

Class X • CBSE Examination



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“Development today should not come at the cost of tomorrow.”

Submitted by: _____

Class / Section: _____ Roll No.: _____

School: _____

Submitted to: _____

Academic Session: 2026–27

A project on balancing human progress, social well-being and environmental protection.

CERTIFICATE

This is to certify that _____ of Class X, Section _____, has completed the Social Science project titled “Sustainable Development” as part of the CBSE examination-related project work for the academic session 2026–27.

The project explains the meaning, importance and major dimensions of sustainable development. It also highlights global milestones, Indian environmental laws, the role of citizens and practical steps for a greener future.

Teacher’s Signature	Examiner’s Signature	Date
_____	_____	_____

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

I express my sincere gratitude to my Social Science teacher for guidance and encouragement in preparing this project. I am thankful to my school and family for their support. The supplied learning module on Sustainable Development provided the foundation for this work, and official United Nations and Government of India resources were consulted for selected updates.

OBJECTIVES OF THE PROJECT

- To understand the meaning and need for sustainable development.
- To explain the social, economic and environmental pillars.
- To learn about international efforts and Indian environmental laws.
- To identify practical actions students and communities can take.

INDEX

The project is organised as follows. Page numbers refer to this 15-page project.

S. No.	Topic	Page
1	Cover Page	1
2	Certificate, Acknowledgement & Objectives	2
3	Index	3
4	Introduction and Meaning	4
5	Three Pillars of Sustainability	5
6	Importance and Everyday Examples	6
7	Evolution: Global Milestones	7
8	Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)	8
9	Sustainable Development in India: Laws	9
10	Role of the Judiciary	10
11	Challenges to Sustainability	11
12	Solutions and Student Action Plan	12
13	Conclusion and Personal Reflection	13
14	Bibliography and Sources	14
15	Pledge and Poster	15

PROJECT METHOD

This project uses the supplied chapter “Environmental Law and Sustainable Development” as its main learning source. It summarises the chapter in student-friendly language and supplements it with selected official information on the Sustainable Development Goals and Indian environmental law. Examples are included to connect the topic with daily life.



1. INTRODUCTION AND MEANING

The Earth provides us with air, water, food, energy and materials. Human development has improved health, education, transport and communication. However, unplanned growth, pollution, deforestation and excessive use of natural resources put pressure on the environment. Development must therefore improve people's lives without destroying the natural systems on which life depends.

Meaning of Sustainable Development

The widely recognised definition appeared in the 1987 Brundtland Commission report, Our Common Future: "Sustainable development is development that meets the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs."

In simple words, we should use resources wisely today so that people in the future can also meet their needs. Sustainable development is not against progress. It asks us to plan progress responsibly and share its benefits fairly.

Two important ideas

- Meeting needs: Everyone, especially poorer and vulnerable communities, should have access to food, safe water, shelter, healthcare, education and decent work.
- Respecting limits: Nature has limits. We must avoid using resources faster than they can be renewed and avoid producing waste that ecosystems cannot safely absorb.



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Key thought: The economy exists within society, and society exists within the natural environment.

2. THE THREE PILLARS OF SUSTAINABILITY

Sustainable development links three dimensions. A plan is truly sustainable when it considers all three rather than focusing only on economic growth.



A. Environmental sustainability

It means protecting air, water, soil, forests, wildlife and biodiversity. Examples include conserving water, planting native trees, reducing pollution and protecting habitats.

B. Social sustainability

It means improving quality of life and ensuring fairness, dignity and opportunity for all. Education, healthcare, gender equality, safe housing and poverty reduction are important parts of it.

C. Economic sustainability

It means creating livelihoods and prosperity over the long term without exhausting resources or causing unacceptable social and environmental harm. Examples include green jobs, energy efficiency, responsible businesses and durable infrastructure.

Example: A solar-powered school can reduce electricity costs and pollution (environmental and economic benefits), while using the savings to improve learning facilities (social benefit).

3. IMPORTANCE AND EVERYDAY EXAMPLES

Sustainable development is necessary because natural resources are limited, ecosystems are interconnected, and the benefits of development should reach every section of society.

- Conserves resources: Using water, fuel, forests and minerals carefully helps prevent depletion.
- Protects biodiversity: Healthy ecosystems support pollination, fertile soil, clean water and food chains.
- Reduces pollution: Cleaner transport, clean energy and proper waste management improve public health.
- Supports fairness: Inclusive development seeks to reduce poverty and inequality.
- Builds climate resilience: Trees, wetlands, efficient buildings and clean energy can help communities respond to environmental change.
- Protects future generations: Decisions made today affect the opportunities available tomorrow.

Sustainable choices in daily life

At home	At school	In the community
Switch off unused lights; repair leaking taps; separate waste; avoid unnecessary purchases.	Carry a reusable bottle; save paper; maintain a green corner; switch off fans and lights.	Use public transport or walk when practical; protect local ponds; support tree care and clean-up drives.

Small actions become powerful when many people practise them consistently.

4. EVOLUTION: GLOBAL MILESTONES

International cooperation helped connect environmental protection with economic and social development. The supplied module traces this journey from the Stockholm Conference to later global agreements.



Important milestones

- 1972 — Stockholm Conference: The UN Conference on the Human Environment brought environmental issues to the centre of global discussion. Its slogan was “Only One Earth”.
- 1983 — Brundtland Commission established: The World Commission on Environment and Development was formed to link environmental concerns with development.
- 1987 — Our Common Future: The report gave the most widely recognised definition of sustainable development.
- 1992 — Rio Earth Summit: The Rio Declaration and Agenda 21 promoted cooperation and action at local, national and international levels.
- 2000 — Millennium Development Goals (MDGs): Countries agreed on measurable goals addressing poverty, hunger, disease, education and other issues, with a 2015 target.
- 2015 — Sustainable Development Goals: UN Member States adopted the 2030 Agenda with 17 Sustainable Development Goals.

The key lesson is that environmental protection, poverty reduction and economic progress are connected challenges requiring cooperation.

5. THE 17 SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS

In 2015, UN Member States adopted the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. Its 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) guide action on poverty, inequality, prosperity, peace and protection of the planet. The goals are interconnected and apply to all countries.

Goal	Main aim	Goal	Main aim
1	No Poverty	8	Decent Work
2	Zero Hunger	9	Innovation
3	Good Health	10	Reduced Inequalities
4	Quality Education	11	Sustainable Cities
5	Gender Equality	12	Responsible Consumption
6	Clean Water	13	Climate Action
7	Clean Energy	14	Life Below Water

Goals 15–17: Life on Land; Peace, Justice and Strong Institutions; Partnerships for the Goals.

Student connection: Saving water supports Goal 6; reducing waste supports Goal 12; protecting trees supports Goal 15; and working with others supports Goal 17.

6. SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT IN INDIA: LAWS

India’s Constitution and environmental laws provide a framework for protecting nature and public health. Laws are effective only when institutions implement them properly and citizens cooperate.

Constitutional provisions

- Article 48A: A Directive Principle asking the State to protect and improve the environment and safeguard forests and wildlife.
- Article 51A(g): A Fundamental Duty of every citizen to protect and improve the natural environment, including forests, lakes, rivers and wildlife.
- Article 21: The right to life has been interpreted by Indian courts in ways that connect it with a healthy environment.

Important environmental laws

Law / Year	Main purpose in brief
Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972	Protects wildlife and supports conservation of species and habitats.
Water Pollution Act, 1974	Provides measures to prevent and control water pollution.
Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980	Regulates diversion of forest land for non-forest purposes; legal framework has since been amended.
Air Pollution Act, 1981	Provides measures to prevent, control and reduce air pollution.
Environment (Protection) Act, 1986	An umbrella law empowering the Central Government to protect and improve the environment.
Biological Diversity Act, 2002	Supports conservation, sustainable use of biodiversity and fair sharing of benefits.
National Green Tribunal Act, 2010	Established a specialised tribunal for environmental cases and related relief.

These laws reflect the idea that development must respect public health, ecological balance and future generations.

7. ROLE OF THE JUDICIARY

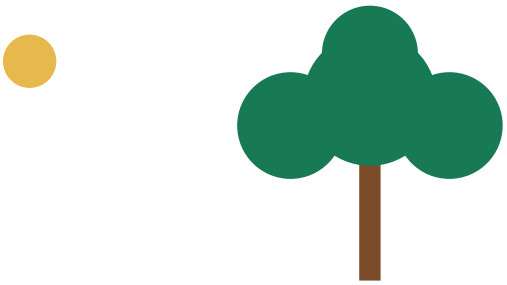
Courts help ensure that environmental laws are followed and that people affected by pollution can seek remedies. Public interest litigation (PIL) has enabled citizens and organisations to raise matters affecting communities and the environment.

Important principles

- Polluter Pays Principle: Those responsible for pollution may be required to bear the costs of preventing or remedying damage.
- Precautionary Principle: Where serious environmental harm is possible, lack of complete scientific certainty should not automatically delay preventive measures.
- Public Trust Doctrine: The State holds certain natural resources in trust for public use and future generations.
- Intergenerational Equity: The needs of future people deserve consideration in decisions made today.

Illustrative judicial developments

In Vellore Citizens' Welfare Forum v. Union of India (1996), the Supreme Court discussed the precautionary principle and polluter-pays principle in the context of industrial pollution. Environmental cases associated with M.C. Mehta have also brought issues such as air and river pollution before the courts.



PLANT A TREE • PROTECT A FUTURE

Law, science, public participation and responsible administration must work together. Prevention and everyday compliance are equally necessary.

8. CHALLENGES TO SUSTAINABILITY

Sustainable development faces several obstacles. Many are connected: poverty can increase pressure on local resources, while pollution and climate-related impacts can make vulnerable communities poorer.

- Overuse of resources: Excessive extraction of groundwater, minerals, timber and fossil fuels can deplete resources and damage ecosystems.
- Pollution and waste: Untreated sewage, industrial discharge, vehicle emissions and plastic litter harm people and wildlife.
- Deforestation and biodiversity loss: Clearing land destroys habitats, worsens soil erosion and reduces ecological resilience.
- Climate change: Greenhouse gas emissions contribute to global warming and can intensify risks such as heat, drought and extreme rainfall.
- Unequal development: Benefits and environmental burdens are not always shared fairly.
- Unsustainable consumption: Short product lifespans, food waste and unnecessary purchases increase resource use.
- Weak awareness or enforcement: Limited infrastructure and low public participation can slow progress.

A local connection

A sustainable town should plan for clean drinking water, reliable waste collection, public transport, green spaces, energy-efficient buildings and the needs of underserved communities. Development projects should assess environmental and social impacts before they begin.

The challenge is not to stop development, but to make it fairer, cleaner and more resilient.

9. SOLUTIONS AND A STUDENT ACTION PLAN

Sustainable development becomes practical when governments, businesses, communities and individuals take responsibility.



- Use cleaner energy: Improve energy efficiency and expand suitable renewable sources such as solar and wind power.
- Conserve water: Repair leaks, protect water bodies and harvest rainwater where feasible.
- Follow the waste hierarchy: Refuse unnecessary items, reduce consumption, reuse and repair products, and recycle correctly.
- Protect green spaces: Plant appropriate native species and care for existing trees and habitats.
- Choose sustainable transport: Walk, cycle, share rides or use public transport when safe and practical.
- Support responsible farming: Encourage soil conservation, crop diversity and careful use of fertilisers and pesticides.
- Promote inclusion: Ensure sustainability projects benefit all community members, including vulnerable groups.

One-week school action plan

Day	Action	How to check progress
1	Observe classroom electricity use.	Record lights/fans left on unnecessarily.
2	Check taps and drinking-water area.	Report leaks to a responsible adult.
3	Review waste bins and paper use.	Suggest clear waste separation.
4–5	Create a poster or awareness message.	Count participation or feedback.
6–7	Share results and choose one ongoing habit.	Set a follow-up date with teacher approval.

10. CONCLUSION AND PERSONAL REFLECTION

Sustainable development is a balanced approach to progress. Economic activity, human well-being and the natural environment depend on one another. Development cannot be considered successful if it improves income while destroying water sources, forests, public health or the opportunities of future generations.

The Brundtland Report gave the world a clear way to understand this responsibility. International milestones—from Stockholm in 1972 to the 2030 Agenda and the SDGs—show the importance of cooperation. In India, constitutional duties, environmental laws and judicial decisions provide tools for protecting nature, although effective implementation remains essential.

What I learned

Sustainability is not limited to planting trees. It also includes reducing poverty, providing quality education, ensuring clean water, creating decent jobs, using energy efficiently and treating people fairly. Every decision—from buying an item to planning a city—can have social, economic and environmental effects.

My commitment

- I will avoid wasting water, electricity, food and paper.
- I will carry reusable items and reduce single-use waste wherever possible.
- I will respect plants, animals and shared public spaces.
- I will encourage others through positive example rather than blame.
- I will support practical environmental activities organised by my school and community.



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A sustainable future begins with responsible choices made today.

11. BIBLIOGRAPHY AND SOURCES

The project is based mainly on the supplied learning material, with selected facts checked against official online sources.

1. Primary learning source

“Environmental Law and Sustainable Development,” Module VIIA, Chapter 25, Introduction to Law, pages 18–34. PDF supplied for this project. Used for the definition, pillars, global milestones, need for sustainability, Indian environmental laws and judicial principles.

2. Official supplementary sources

United Nations — The Sustainable Development Goals
https://www.un.org/sustainabledevelopment/development-goals/
Used for the 2030 Agenda and the 17 Sustainable Development Goals.

United Nations — Sustainable Development Goals portal
https://sdgs.un.org/goals
Used to verify the names and themes of the 17 goals.

India Code — Environment (Protection) Act, 1986
https://www.indiacode.nic.in/indiacode/handle/123456789/1876
Used for the official title and purpose of the Act.

India Code — Constitution of India, Article 51A
https://indiacode.ecourtsindia.com/constitution-of-india/article/51A/
Used for Article 51A(g), the environmental Fundamental Duty.

3. School reference

NCERT, Contemporary India–II and relevant Class X Social Science learning materials may be consulted for additional classroom context. The teacher’s instructions and the school’s prescribed textbook should take priority for the final submission.

Note: This is an educational project, not legal advice. Laws may be amended; official sources should be checked for the latest wording and status.

Prepared for Class X • CBSE Examination • Academic Session 2026–27

MY SUSTAINABILITY PLEDGE

I pledge to respect nature and use the Earth’s resources responsibly. I will avoid waste, conserve water and energy, reduce unnecessary plastic use, care for plants and animals, and encourage fairness and kindness in my community. Even small actions matter when they become everyday habits.



PEOPLE • PLANET • PROSPERITY

SAVE EARTH • SAVE FUTURE

REDUCE • REUSE • REPAIR • RECYCLE

Protect water. Plant wisely. Choose clean energy. Respect every life.

My one sustainable habit will be: _____

_____

Healthy Planet • Happy People • Prosperous Future