

Environmental-Economic Accounts in India 2026-2030

Prelims: Current events of national and international importance | Environment

Why in News?

Recently, the Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation (MoSPI) released the Strategy for Environmental-Economic Accounts in India: 2026-2030.



PARTICULARS	DETAILS
 Document	Strategy for Environmental-Economic Accounts in India, 2026-2030
 Ministry	Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation (MoSPI)
 Implementing statistical agency	National Statistical Office (NSO), MoSPI
 International framework	System of Environmental-Economic Accounting (SEEA)
 UN body endorsing SEEA	United Nations Statistical Commission
 Previous strategy	2022-2026
 Main objective	Strengthen environmental accounting and integrate environmental data with economic information
 Coverage	Forests, minerals, soil, land, water, carbon stocks, biodiversity and environmental activities
 Intended stakeholders	Central ministries, States, Union Territories, policymakers and researchers

- **Builds upon** - The previous strategy for 2022-2026
- **Aligns with** - International environmental accounting frameworks.
- **Objective** - To provide a strategic roadmap to strengthen environmental accounting, address data gaps and expand the coverage of environmental-economic accounts in India.
- **Major Areas Covered**
 - **Natural resources** - Forests, minerals, soils, and land.
 - **Water resources** - Availability, usage, and related environmental data.
 - **Climate-related accounting** - Carbon stocks and associated environmental activities.
 - **Biodiversity** - Resources and ecosystem information.
 - **Environmental statistics** - Enhanced data coverage, quality, and comparability.

- **Emerging and expanded accounts** - Continued development of areas from the previous strategy, such as ocean and energy accounts, material flows, and urban ecosystems.

System of Environmental-Economic Accounting (SEEA)

- The SEEA is an international statistical framework that has been endorsed by the **United Nations Statistical Commission**.
- It combines environmental and economic data using concepts, classifications, and accounting rules that align with the System of National Accounts.
- It enables evidence-based policymaking to advance sustainable development.
- Two important components:
 - **SEEA Central Framework (SEEA-CF)** - Focus on physical and monetary accounts for environmental assets, natural resource flows and economic activities related to the environment
 - **SEEA Ecosystem Accounting (SEEA-EA)** - Focus on ecosystem extent, condition, ecosystem services and changes in ecosystem assets.

Environmental-Economic Accounting

- Environmental-economic accounting systematically quantifies the interconnections among the environment, natural resources, and economic systems.
- It tracks natural resources, their use in economic activities, environmental changes, and associated expenditures.
- It complements conventional national accounts, which primarily measure economic activity and may not fully reflect changes in natural capital.

Background: India's Progress in Environmental Accounting

- MoSPI initiated the development of environmental accounts in 2018.
- The 2022-2026 strategy identified the following priority areas:
 - Material Flow Accounts (MFAs)
 - Ocean Accounts
 - Energy Accounts
 - Thematic Accounts for Biodiversity and Urban Areas
- Subsequent initiatives and publications addressed forests, biodiversity, wetlands, soil, water quality, croplands, energy, residuals, urban ecosystems, and pollination services.
- The 2026-2030 strategy seeks to build on these developments and broaden the scope of environmental accounting.

Reference

[PIB | Environmental-Economic Accounts in India](#)



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