**A GENERAL MANAGEMENT PROJECT ON**

# “ A STUDY ON E-COMMERCE AND CARBON EMISSIONS IN INDIA ”

PROJECT WORK SUBMITTED IN PARTIAL FULFILLMENT OF THE REQUIREMENT FOR THE AWARD OF THE DEGREE OF

**MASTER OF MANAGEMENT STUDIES IN SYSTEM**

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**Department of Management Studies**

**ACADEMIC YEAR**

**2024-2025**

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# ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

It gives me great pleasure for the successful completion of this project. Every successful Piece of work has many invisible helping hands with their invaluable support and inspiration. For the completion of my project report many people directly or indirectly assisted me. I take this opportunity to express my gratitude and regards towards all those who have helped me and guided me throughout my entire project and made it successful.

At first, I would like to express my sincere thanks and deep gratitude to our Director of ALAMURI RATNAMALA INSTITUTE OF ENGINEERING AND TECHNOLOGY

Secondly, towards my mentor **Prof. Minal Patil** for his kind initiative Guidance and valuable suggestions without which the completion of the report would not have been possible.

Finally, I would like to thanks my family & friends for their cooperation.



#  EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This study delves into the intersection of e-commerce and carbon emissions in India, aiming to provide insights into the background, significance, and environmental implications of the e- commerce sector in the country.

The exploration begins with an analysis of the background and significance of e-commerce in India, highlighting its rapid growth trajectory and transformative impact on the economy. The study then shifts focus to the nexus between e-commerce and carbon emissions in India. It underscores the substantial carbon footprint associated with e-commerce activities.

Identifying key factors contributing to carbon emissions in the e-commerce sector, the report emphasizes the role of last-mile delivery, packaging practices, and energy-intensive warehouse operations. Finally, the study highlights mitigation and sustainable practices in the e-commerce sector, emphasizing the importance of collaboration among stakeholders, government support, and consumer awareness initiatives.

In conclusion, the report underscores the urgency of addressing carbon emissions in India's e- commerce sector and calls for concerted efforts to foster sustainability and mitigate environmental impact. By implementing the identified mitigation strategies and embracing sustainable practices, India can navigate towards a more environmentally responsible trajectory in its e-commerce landscape, aligning with global sustainability goals.

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**CHAPTER 1 – INTRODUCTION**

## Introduction

* + - **About**

The e-commerce industry in India has grown significantly in recent years, as more and more people turn to online shopping for convenience and accessibility. However, with this growth comes a responsibility to address the environmental impact of the industry, particularly carbon emissions. Sustainable practices are essential to reduce carbon emissions, energy consumption, and waste generated by e-commerce operations. This study aims to explore the latest trends and innovations in sustainability practices in the e-commerce industry in India. From ecofriendly packaging to green logistics solutions, it highlights some of the ways in which e-commerce companies in India are taking steps towards a more sustainable future.

## E-Commerce in India

E-commerce in India has witnessed remarkable growth over the past decade, fuelled by advancements in technology, increasing internet penetration, and changing consumer preferences. According to a report by Statista, the value of the e-commerce market in India was estimated at

$64 billion in 2020, and it is projected to reach $200 billion by 2027.

The roots of e-commerce in India can be traced back to the late 1990s, with the emergence of online travel booking platforms like MakeMyTrip and Yatra, offering convenience for booking flights and hotels. The early 2000s witnessed the rise of online marketplaces such as Flipkart, which introduced online shopping for various products like electronics and apparel. These platforms leveraged technology to streamline the purchasing process, offering competitive pricing, extensive product selections, and doorstep delivery.

However, the sector gained momentum in the mid-2010s, when homegrown players like Flipkart, Snapdeal, and Paytm Mall established themselves as key players in the Indian market. Global giants like Amazon and Alibaba also entered the market, bringing investments and technological expertise, intensifying competition, and driving innovation.

Several factors have contributed to the growth of e-commerce in India. Increasing internet penetration, fuelled by the proliferation of smartphones and affordable data plans, has expanded

the reach of online shopping to urban and rural areas alike. The convenience of online shopping, coupled with a wide product selection and competitive pricing, has boosted consumer adoption. Furthermore, the COVID-19 pandemic, acted as a catalyst, accelerating the digital transformation of retail as consumers prioritized safety and contactless transactions.

Despite immense opportunities for growth and innovation, e-commerce in India also faces several challenges, such as logistical hurdles, including last-mile delivery and infrastructure limitations. Regulatory compliance, taxation issues, and concerns related to data privacy and security pose additional challenges for e-commerce businesses operating in India. However, advancements in technology, innovative delivery models, and increasing consumer acceptance of online shopping offer promising avenues for overcoming these challenges and driving the continued growth of e- commerce in India.

## Significance of E-Commerce in India

E-commerce holds significant importance in India, influencing various aspects of the economy, society, and daily life. Below are some key factors highlighting its significance:

1. Market Expansion: E-commerce has emerged as a powerful tool for market expansion, enabling businesses to reach a vast and diverse consumer base. According to a report by the Redseer Consulting, the number of online shoppers in India is expected to reach 350 million by 2025. This growth presents significant opportunities for businesses, including small and medium enterprises (SMEs), to tap into new markets and increase their sales revenue.
2. Convenience and Accessibility: The convenience offered by e-commerce platforms has revolutionized the shopping experience for Indian consumers. As per a survey conducted by Statista, 66% of urban internet users in India preferred online shopping due to convenience. With a wide range of products available at competitive prices and doorstep delivery options, e-commerce has become the preferred choice for consumers, especially those with busy lifestyles or residing in remote areas.
3. Job Creation and Employment Opportunities: E-commerce has emerged as a major source of employment generation in India. According to a report by the Confederation of Indian Industry (CII), the e-commerce sector created over 1.2 million direct and indirect jobs in 2020. These jobs span various segments, including warehousing, logistics, delivery services, digital

marketing, and customer support, providing livelihood opportunities to a diverse workforce across the country.

1. Digital Transformation: E-commerce has played a crucial role in driving the adoption of digital payments and promoting financial inclusion in India. The introduction of initiatives like Unified Payments Interface (UPI) and digital wallets has facilitated secure and convenient online transactions. As per data from the National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI), UPI transactions in India reached 4.27 billion in December 2023, highlighting the growing acceptance of digital payment solutions among consumers and businesses alike.
2. Contributing to GDP Growth: The e-commerce sector is a key contributor to India's economic growth and development. According to the Indian Brand Equity Foundation (IBEF), the e- commerce market's contribution to India's GDP is expected to reach 4.8% by 2025, up from 2.8% in 2020. This growth is driven by factors such as increasing internet penetration, smartphone adoption, and government initiatives to promote digital commerce and entrepreneurship.

## E-Commerce and Carbon Emissions in India

E-commerce has emerged as a significant contributor to both economic growth and environmental impact in India. While it offers convenience and accessibility to consumers, its operational activities contribute to carbon emissions, posing challenges for sustainability efforts. Several factors within the e-commerce ecosystem contribute to these emissions:

1. Last-Mile Delivery: Last-mile delivery is a critical component of e-commerce logistics, involving the transportation of goods from distribution centres to the destination. However, it is one of the primary contributors to carbon emissions in Indian e-commerce. The extensive network of delivery vehicles, often powered by fossil fuels, traversing urban and rural areas to fulfil orders results in substantial emissions. Inefficient route planning and delivery optimization further exacerbate these emissions.
2. Logistics and Transportation: The logistics and transportation infrastructure supporting e- commerce operations also contribute significantly to carbon emissions. Warehousing facilities, distribution centres, and transportation fleets rely heavily on fossil fuels, leading to emissions

from vehicles, equipment, and energy consumption. Inefficient logistics practices, including underutilized vehicles and suboptimal routing, further increase emissions.

1. Energy Usage in Warehouses: The energy-intensive nature of warehousing operations in e- commerce facilities contributes to carbon emissions. High energy consumption for lighting, heating, cooling, and equipment operation adds to the sector's environmental footprint. Moreover, the reliance on non-renewable energy sources exacerbates emissions from warehouse operations.
2. Packaging Materials: Packaging Materials and Waste: The packaging materials used in e- commerce, including cardboard boxes, plastic wrap, and cushioning materials, contribute to carbon emissions both in their production and disposal. Excessive packaging and non- recyclable materials further exacerbate the environmental impact, leading to increased emissions from waste management processes.
3. Seasonal and Promotional Sales: Seasonal sales events, promotions, and discount offers often lead to spikes in e-commerce activity, resulting in higher carbon emissions due to increased transportation, warehousing, and packaging activities. Managing peak demand periods efficiently is crucial for minimizing carbon emissions associated with e-commerce operations.
4. Consumer Behaviour: Consumer behaviour also plays a significant role in contributing to carbon emissions in Indian e-commerce. The preference for fast delivery options, frequent returns, and single-item orders leads to inefficient logistics and increased emissions per order. Moreover, the lack of awareness or consideration for the environmental impact of e-commerce purchases influences consumption patterns.

## Current Carbon Footprint in Indian E-Commerce Landscape

The current carbon footprint of India's e-commerce sector is a matter of growing concern, with projections indicating a substantial increase in emissions by 2030. A report by Clean Mobility Collective (CMC) and Stand.earth Research Group (SRG) estimates that the sector will generate eight million tons of CO2 annually by 2030, equivalent to emissions from 1.6 million petrol cars. This surge in emissions is primarily attributed to key stages of e-commerce operations, notably last-mile delivery, which accounts for half of all CO2 emissions in e-commerce deliveries. Last- mile emissions per delivery in India are estimated at 285 g CO2, exceeding the global average of 204 g CO2.

Total CO2 emissions from e-commerce activities are expected to escalate, reaching eight million tons by 2030. Packaging, transportation (especially last-mile delivery), and returns are anticipated to be significant contributors to these emissions. Last-mile delivery through two-wheeler vehicles emerges as a substantial contributor, exceeding 50% of emissions based on expert insights. While warehousing emissions are a concern, specific data may be limited; however, the overall supply chain, including warehousing, significantly contributes to the retail industry's carbon footprint.

Comparatively, the transportation sector, encompassing e-commerce deliveries, already stands as a notable contributor to greenhouse gas emissions and is expected to witness substantial growth by 2030. Moreover, the retail industry, accounting for over 25% of carbon emissions, indicates that e-commerce plays a significant role within this sector. Addressing emissions across key stages of e-commerce operations, including last-mile delivery, packaging, and warehousing, is imperative to mitigate the sector's environmental impact and promote sustainability within the broader economy.

## Mitigation and Sustainable Practices in E-Commerce

E-commerce has become a significant contributor to carbon emissions and environmental degradation. However, adopting mitigation strategies and sustainable practices can help reduce its environmental footprint while promoting economic growth. Below are some key mitigation strategies and sustainable practices in e-commerce:

1. Optimize Last-Mile Delivery:
	* Consolidated Deliveries: Combine multiple orders into a single delivery route to reduce the number of trips and associated emissions. Collaborate with other e-commerce companies or logistics providers to share delivery resources.
	* Pick-Up Points (PUDO): Establish convenient pick-up locations where customers can collect their orders. This reduces the need for individual home deliveries and minimizes emissions.
	* Route Optimization Algorithms: Implement intelligent algorithms that optimize delivery routes based on real-time traffic data, delivery time windows, and vehicle capacity. These algorithms can significantly reduce travel distances and fuel consumption.
2. Carbon-Neutral Delivery Options:
	* Carbon Offsetting: Collaborate with logistics partners that offer carbon-neutral delivery services. These providers offset their emissions by investing in renewable energy projects or reforestation.
	* Eco-Friendly Vehicles: Explore electric or hybrid delivery vehicles. Transitioning to cleaner fuels or electric power can significantly reduce emissions.
	* Energy-Efficient Warehousing:
	* LED Lighting: Replace traditional lighting with energy-efficient LED bulbs in warehouses. LEDs consume less electricity and have a longer lifespan.
	* HVAC Systems: Install energy-efficient heating, ventilation, and air conditioning (HVAC) systems. Proper insulation and temperature control can reduce energy consumption.
	* Smart Sensors: Use sensors to monitor energy usage, occupancy, and temperature. Adjust systems accordingly to optimize energy efficiency.
3. Sustainable Packaging:
	* Biodegradable Materials: Use packaging materials made from biodegradable substances such as cornstarch-based plastics or plant-based fibres. These materials break down naturally and reduce environmental impact.
	* Recyclable Packaging: Opt for packaging that is easily recyclable. Encourage customers to recycle packaging materials properly.
	* Minimalist Packaging: Avoid excessive packaging. Use the right-sized boxes or envelopes to minimize waste.
4. Data-Driven Insights:
	* Emission Tracking: Collect data on delivery routes, vehicle types, and fuel consumption. Analyse this information to identify emission hotspots and areas for improvement.
	* Predictive Analytics: Use predictive models to estimate emissions based on different scenarios. This helps in decision-making and optimizing delivery operations.
5. Collaborate with Stakeholders:
	* Industry Associations: Engage with industry bodies and associations to develop guidelines and standards for sustainable e-commerce practices.
	* Government Agencies: Advocate for policies that promote environmentally friendly practices. Encourage incentives for adopting green technologies.
	* Consumer Awareness: Educate consumers about the environmental impact of e-commerce. Encourage them to choose eco-friendly options during checkout.

## Initiatives adopted by E-Commerce companies in India

1. Amazon:
	* The Climate Pledge: Amazon co-founded and was the first signatory of The Climate Pledge, committing to achieve net-zero carbon emissions by 2040, a decade ahead of the Paris Agreement. This ambitious commitment underscores Amazon's dedication to combating climate change and reducing its carbon footprint.
	* Electric Vehicles (EVs): Amazon is actively electrifying its delivery fleet to reduce emissions from transportation. The company has piloted electric delivery vehicles in various cities and plans to scale up the deployment of electric vehicles globally. By 2025, Amazon aims to include 10,000 EVs in its delivery fleet, contributing to the global goal of 100,000 electric vehicles by 2030.
2. Flipkart:
	* Electric Vehicles (EVs): Flipkart has set ambitious goals to transition its logistics fleet to 100% electric vehicles (EVs) by 2030. This initiative aims to significantly reduce emissions from transportation and promote cleaner mobility solutions.
	* Sustainable Packaging: Flipkart has been actively working to reduce packaging waste through initiatives such as "Frustration-Free Packaging" and "Ship in Own Container" to minimize waste and reduce its carbon footprint.
3. Myntra:
	* Sustainable Fashion Partnerships: Myntra collaborates with sustainable fashion brands and designers to offer eco-friendly clothing options to its customers. These brands prioritize ethical

sourcing, eco-friendly materials, and fair labour practices, aligning with Myntra's sustainability goals.

* + Promotion of Circular Fashion: Myntra encourages customers to participate in circular fashion practices by offering initiatives such as clothing rental services, upcycling workshops, and resale platforms. These efforts aim to extend the lifespan of clothing items, reduce textile waste, and promote a more sustainable consumption model.

## Importance of Sustainability in E-Commerce

At its core, sustainability in e-commerce refers to the responsible and ethical practices adopted throughout the entire supply chain, from sourcing materials to product delivery and beyond. The importance of sustainability in e-commerce stems from its potential to mitigate environmental impact, foster social responsibility, and enhance long-term business viability.

One of the primary reasons for the growing emphasis on sustainability in e-commerce is its significant environmental footprint. The operational activities of e-commerce, including transportation, packaging, and energy consumption, contribute to carbon emissions and resource depletion. Moreover, sustainability in e-commerce extends beyond environmental considerations to encompass social and ethical dimensions. Ethical sourcing, fair labour practices, and support for local communities are becoming increasingly crucial factors for consumers when making purchasing decisions. Furthermore, sustainability in e-commerce is integral to ensuring long-term business viability and resilience. Adopting sustainable practices can lead to cost savings through resource efficiency, waste reduction, and operational optimization. By investing in renewable energy, eco-friendly packaging, and efficient logistics, e-commerce companies can minimize their environmental impact while improving their bottom line.

In conclusion, sustainability has become a cornerstone of e-commerce, driving positive change across environmental, social, and economic dimensions. By embracing sustainability as a core value and integrating it into their business strategies, e-commerce companies can not only minimize their environmental footprint and promote social responsibility but also strengthen their competitive advantage and ensure long-term business sustainability. As the e-commerce industry continues to evolve, sustainability will remain a key driver of innovation, growth, and ethical business practices.

## Situational Analysis/Problem Statement/Research Problem

* + - **Situational Analysis**

India's e-commerce sector has experienced rapid growth over the past decade, transforming the country's retail landscape and significantly impacting consumer behaviour. With the proliferation of internet access and smartphone penetration, e-commerce platforms have become increasingly popular among Indian consumers, offering convenience, choice, and competitive pricing. This surge in e-commerce activity has not only spurred economic growth but has also raised concerns about its environmental impact, particularly in terms of carbon emissions.

## Problem Statement

Despite the undeniable benefits of e-commerce, there is a pressing need to address the environmental implications of its expansion in India. The increasing carbon footprint associated with e-commerce operations poses a significant challenge to sustainability efforts in the country. As online shopping continues to grow, so does its contribution to carbon emissions, primarily driven by factors such as transportation, packaging, and energy-intensive warehouse operations. Without intervention, the environmental consequences of unchecked e-commerce growth could undermine India's progress towards achieving its climate goals and sustainable development objectives.

## Research Problem

The research aims to investigate the intersection of e-commerce and carbon emissions in India, with a focus on identifying key factors contributing to the sector's carbon footprint and exploring mitigation strategies and sustainable practices. Specifically, the study seeks to understand the background and significance of e-commerce in India, highlight the environmental impact of e- commerce activities, identify the primary drivers of carbon emissions within the e-commerce sector, and propose actionable solutions to promote sustainability and reduce carbon emissions in the e-commerce ecosystem. By addressing these research objectives, the study aims to provide insights and recommendations that can inform policy decisions, guide industry practices, and foster a more sustainable e-commerce landscape in India.

## Need of the Study

As online shopping continues to surge, understanding its environmental footprint is crucial for devising sustainable strategies. Considering the growing prevalence of e-commerce as a dominant mode of retail, there is a pressing need to investigate its implications on carbon emissions.

## Aim of the Study

Through comprehensive analysis and empirical research, this study aims to elucidate the relationship between e-commerce practices and carbon emissions, offering insights crucial for sustainable policymaking and business strategies in the digital age.

## Objectives of the Study

The primary objective of this study is to comprehensively analyse and evaluate the impact of e- commerce activities on carbon emissions. Specifically, the study aims to:

1. To explore the background and significance of E-Commerce in India.
2. To highlight E-Commerce and Carbon Emissions in India.
3. To identify key factors in E-Commerce sector that contribute to carbon emissions in India.
4. To identify mitigation and sustainable practices in E-Commerce.

# CHAPTER 2 – REVIEW OF LITERATURE

The rapid growth of e-commerce worldwide has raised concerns about its environmental impact, particularly its contribution to carbon emissions and overall carbon footprint. Several studies have examined this issue from a global perspective.

* + A study by Malik et al. (2021) analysed the carbon footprint of the e-commerce industry across various countries. They found that the main contributors to emissions were logistics operations, data centres, and packaging materials. The study highlighted that while e-commerce eliminates the need for physical stores, the transportation and delivery processes can generate significant emissions, especially with the rise of expedited shipping options.
	+ Weidmann and Minx (2008) conducted a life cycle assessment of the carbon footprint of books purchased via e-commerce versus traditional retail channels. Their findings indicated that e- commerce could lead to higher emissions due to packaging and transportation requirements, particularly for individual orders. However, if orders were consolidated and delivery routes optimized, e-commerce could potentially have a lower carbon footprint than traditional retail.
	+ A report by the European Parliamentary Research Service (2020) examined the environmental impact of e-commerce in the European Union. It noted that while e-commerce could potentially reduce emissions by eliminating the need for physical stores and associated energy consumption, the increase in packaging materials and transportation could offset these gains. The report emphasized the need for more sustainable packaging solutions and efficient logistics operations to mitigate the carbon footprint of e-commerce.
	+ Edwards et al. (2010) compared the carbon footprint of online and conventional retail channels for various products, including books, DVDs, and electronics. They found that online shopping could have a lower carbon footprint for specific product categories, particularly when orders were consolidated, and delivery routes optimized. However, for other product categories, conventional retail had a lower carbon footprint due to the efficiency of bulk transportation and inventory management.

# CHAPTER 3 – RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

## Type of Research

This study utilizes qualitative type of research. Qualitative research focuses on exploring and understanding phenomena in their natural settings, often through in-depth analysis of individual cases or small samples.

## Research Method

The research methodology employed in this report utilizes the case study method to investigate and analyse the implementation of sustainable practices in the e-commerce sector, with a focus on the Indian context.

## Data Collection Method

Data is collected secondary sources from various sources. Sources of data include:

1. Industry Data: Data from industry publications, reports, and studies on e-commerce trends, carbon emissions, and sustainability practices.
2. Academic Studies: Relevant academic research on e-commerce, carbon emissions, and sustainability.
3. Government Reports: Reports from government agencies and departments related to the environment, climate change, and industry regulations.
4. News Articles: Articles from reputable news sources covering developments in the e- commerce industry and environmental issues.

# CHAPTER 4 – CASE STUDY ANALYSIS

**“How Amazon India UGC Campaign for Global Recycling Day Garnered 2.5k+ Sustainability Pledges”.**

## Introduction

With customers and businesses relying on e-commerce more than ever, Amazon has relentlessly focused on strengthening its operations footprint, and building a fast, safe, and resilient network to seamlessly fulfil customer promises and serve their varied needs. While Amazon India continued to expand, it continued to build on its sustainability commitment. The company has taken a multi-fold approach towards reducing its carbon footprint across its operations, which extends across waste, energy, and water conversation.

The last year has also seen the company introducing several sustainability efforts globally and locally, that supports ‘The Climate Pledge commitment.’ The company has eliminated 100% single-use plastic packaging originating from its 60+ fulfilment centres in India, by replacing plastic packaging material, such as bubble wraps and air pillows, with ‘paper cushion’ in its packaging. The company then introduced 100% plastic-free and biodegradable paper tape earlier this year, which is used to seal and secure customer shipments.

Additionally, the company has replaced thin cling films for customer deliveries among other material with packaging options that are not single-use plastic in nature. All other plastic packaging material originating from the Amazon Fulfilment Centres is 100% recyclable through available collection, segregation, and recycling channels. Amazon has also installed solar panels across 8 Fulfilment Centres and 2 Sort Centres and has committed to introduce 10,000 Electric Vehicles (EVs) into its delivery fleet by 2025.

## Summary of the Case

To engage consumers and raise awareness towards environmental sustainability, Amazon India launched a ‘user-generated content’ campaign - #PledgeToRecycle. The campaign was launched ahead of Global Recycling Day (18 March) on 3-March-2021 and ended on 15 March 2021. The campaign had two key elements:

* The audience taking on a pledge to recycle their boxes, and
* A contest where participants could get creative and showcase their DIY creations using their Amazon delivery boxes.

The campaign was supported by influencers who helped drive the pledge and seed creative ideas. With participation from customers in the form of pictures, videos, and messages about reusing their boxes, they became our evangelists and ambassadors and further helped push forward the narrative to an even larger audience.

## Problem Statement

During the pandemic, customers showed signs of becoming sustainability sensitive. There was a 25% YoY growth in searches for ‘how to recycle’ in India, compared to flat growth in 2019. The brand saw this as an opportunity to encourage customers to collectively engage in reducing packaging waste. With customers being an integral part of the brand’s stakeholder ecosystem, it was decided to leverage #GlobalRecyclingDay to turn the customers into brand evangelists whilst advocating the adoption of recyclable practices into everyday life.

## Mission

The mission was to leverage the growing sensitivity towards sustainability on social media and urge consumers to engage in a positive and creative manner. The overall mission was to strengthen Amazon India’s commitment towards environmental sustainability.

## Creative Idea

The thought behind the campaign was to get customers to look at their Amazon box in a new light as a blank canvas to create something new and useful. Customers were first sensitized to the idea of ‘reusing a cardboard box’ by taking on a pledge - #PledgeToReuse - by simply commenting/replying using the hashtag. Next, they were urged to showcase their creativity by sharing images or videos of their reused-DIY projects by tagging the brand and using #PledgeToReuse. Three select entries were gratified daily and three grand winners were announced at the end of the campaign.

## Challenges

The challenge was to present the issue in a light-hearted tone without taking away from the main message of ‘reuse.’ To help achieve the balance, DIY format was leveraged which naturally leans towards ‘reuse, recycle & reduce.’

## Execution

The campaign was launched ahead of Global Recycling Day (18 March) and ran from 3-15 March 2021 across Facebook, Twitter, and Instagram. The two-phase campaign was launched on 3 March with a digital film that introduced the idea of reusing the box by sharing some fun, simple examples of ‘how’. The film was released across social media.

Phase 1 of the Amazon India UGC campaign was to drive pledges and to open the customers’ minds towards reusing a delivery box to create something new and useful for themselves. Customers were asked to comment/reply or post using - #PledgeToReuse.

As part of phase 2, a contest was launched for customers which were active from 6-15 March 2021. During this period, they were urged to share their ideas and creations with us via Facebook, Twitter, and Instagram using the hashtag. Daily, three winners were gratified and at the end of the contest, the three most unique ideas were announced as:

*You used your box right and now we're here to make your Amazon shopping experience all the more bright*˙x+*. With Amazon vouchers of course! Congratulations to our #PledgeToReuse* ’, ’ *Grand Winners!*

## Results

1. Quantitative:
	* Across consumer facing brand handles across Facebook, Twitter, and Instagram
	* Received 1000+ unique contest entries.
	* Over 2500 pledges were taken.
	* The impact of the campaign was amplified through media outreach efforts, which garnered sixty-four stories across regional and national online media.
2. Qualitative:
	* Customers unleashed their creativity and submitted inspiring entries in both, video, and image formats.

# CHAPTER 5 – DISCUSSION

The report provides a comprehensive overview of the e-commerce landscape in India, highlighting its growth, significance, challenges, and environmental impact. It emphasizes the need for sustainability practices to address carbon emissions and promote a more environmentally friendly approach within the industry.

E-commerce in India has seen remarkable growth, driven by factors such as technological advancements, increasing internet penetration, and changing consumer preferences. The convenience and accessibility offered by online shopping have revolutionized the retail experience for Indian consumers, leading to significant market expansion and job creation. However, alongside its growth, e-commerce has also emerged as a significant contributor to carbon emissions and environmental degradation. Factors such as last-mile delivery, logistics and transportation, energy usage in warehouses, packaging materials, seasonal sales, and consumer behaviour all contribute to the sector's carbon footprint.

To mitigate these environmental impacts, the report highlights various sustainable practices and mitigation strategies for e-commerce companies in India. These include optimizing last-mile delivery, adopting carbon-neutral delivery options, implementing energy-efficient practices in warehouses, using sustainable packaging materials, leveraging data-driven insights, and collaborating with stakeholders. Several e-commerce companies in India, such as Amazon, Flipkart, and Myntra, have already begun implementing sustainability initiatives.

One notable initiative highlighted in the document is Amazon India's #PledgeToRecycle campaign, launched ahead of Global Recycling Day. The campaign aimed to encourage consumers to engage in recycling practices by reusing Amazon delivery boxes creatively. Through user-generated content and a contest, the campaign successfully raised awareness and received positive engagement from consumers. The results of the campaign, both quantitative and qualitative, indicate its effectiveness in driving consumer participation and promoting sustainability awareness.

Overall, the report underscores the importance of sustainability in the e-commerce industry in India and the need for concerted efforts from businesses, consumers, and stakeholders to address environmental challenges and promote a more sustainable future.

# CHAPTER 6 – RECOMMENDATIONS

As someone deeply invested in promoting sustainability in the e-commerce industry, I highly recommend the following initiatives to address carbon emissions in India's e-commerce sector:

1. Facilitating Sustainable Technology Adoption: Investigate the factors hindering and facilitating the adoption of sustainable technologies in the Indian e-commerce sector.
2. Understanding Consumer Behaviour for Sustainability: Conduct extensive consumer surveys and qualitative research to delve deeper into consumer behaviour and preferences regarding sustainable practices in e-commerce. Explore the factors influencing purchasing decisions, attitudes towards eco-friendly options, and possibilities for behaviour change interventions.
3. Promoting Electric Vehicle Infrastructure: Conduct feasibility studies and pilot projects to evaluate the potential for widespread adoption of electric vehicles (EVs) for e-commerce delivery in India. Assess existing infrastructure, identify gaps, and propose strategies for establishing a robust charging network and incentivizing the transition to EVs in the logistics sector. Measuring Environmental Impact through LCA Studies: Conduct comprehensive life cycle assessment (LCA) studies to quantify the carbon footprint of e-commerce operations in India. Covering all stages from production to end-of-life disposal, these studies should analyse the environmental impact of various packaging materials, transportation modes, and operational practices, providing data-driven insights for decision-making.
4. Implementing Carbon Offsetting Mechanisms: Explore carbon offsetting mechanisms and develop standardized accounting practices for the e-commerce industry in India. Collaborate with international organizations, draw from best practices in carbon offsetting, and develop industry-specific guidelines for measuring, reporting, and offsetting carbon emissions.
5. Fostering Cross-Sector Collaboration: Foster cross-sector and interdisciplinary collaboration between researchers, industry practitioners, policymakers, and other stakeholders. Establishing research consortia, organizing conferences and workshops, and promoting knowledge-sharing platforms can facilitate the exchange of ideas, best practices, and innovative solutions for sustainable e-commerce in India.

# CHAPTER 7 – CONCLUSION

In conclusion, the report offers a comprehensive exploration of the e-commerce landscape in India, showcasing its exponential growth, significance, challenges, and environmental impacts. It stresses the imperative need for sustainability practices to combat carbon emissions and foster a greener approach within the industry.

E-commerce in India has witnessed remarkable expansion, fuelled by technological advancements, rising internet accessibility, and evolving consumer preferences. The convenience it provides has transformed the shopping experience, leading to substantial market expansion and employment opportunities. However, this growth has also contributed significantly to carbon emissions and environmental harm through various channels like last-mile delivery, logistics, energy usage, packaging, seasonal sales, and consumer behaviour.

To address these environmental concerns, the study advocates for sustainable practices and mitigation strategies tailored for e-commerce companies in India. These include optimizing delivery routes, adopting carbon-neutral delivery options, implementing energy-efficient warehouse practices, utilizing sustainable packaging materials, leveraging data analytics, and fostering collaboration among stakeholders. Notably, leading e-commerce firms like Amazon, Flipkart, and Myntra have already initiated sustainability measures, indicating a positive trend in the industry.

An exemplary initiative highlighted in the report is Amazon India's #PledgeToRecycle campaign, launched in anticipation of Global Recycling Day. This campaign aimed to inspire consumers to recycle by creatively reusing Amazon delivery boxes. Through user-generated content and a contest, the campaign effectively raised awareness and garnered enthusiastic participation from consumers, as evidenced by both quantitative and qualitative results.

The study underscores the critical significance of sustainability in India's e-commerce sector and calls for concerted efforts from businesses, consumers, and stakeholders to tackle environmental challenges and pave the way for a more sustainable future. It emphasizes that by embracing sustainable practices, e-commerce companies can not only mitigate their environmental impact but also contribute positively to societal well-being and long-term economic viability.

# CHAPTER 8 – BIBLIOGRAPHY

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