**Cover Letter**

**Environmental Strategies for Sustainable Development: An Analysis of the Drivers of Proactive Environmental Strategies in the Manufacturing Sector**

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**Brief description of the novelty of the findings**

The Indian cement sector is an emissions intensive industrial sector. Even though it is essential for infrastructure development, yet the environmentalists are always critical of it due to the emissions. As compared to the earlier scenario, the present cement sector firms are more environmentally conscious. These firms adopt proactive environmental strategies (PES), which are beyond the requirement of law to protect the environment. The study intends to identify such factors which are responsible for such adoption. Eight hypotheses are proposed and are tested using Structural Equation Modelling.

Though several studies are available on PES globally, such study is yet to be reported for the Indian cement sector.

**Declaration**

There is no conflict of interest.

**Contributorship**

It is affirmed that each credited author has a significant contribution to the article.