

ENVIRONMENTAL POLICY IN INDIA

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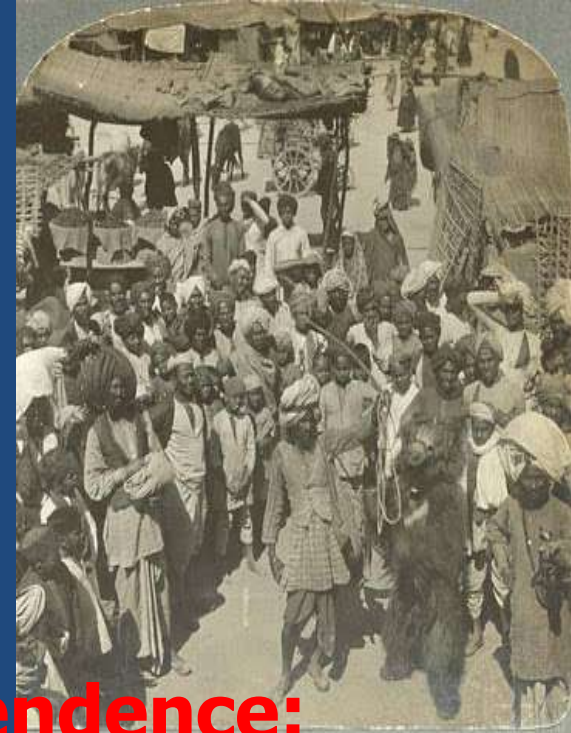
SCHEME

✓ **ENVIRONMENTAL POLICY during pre-independent era.**

- 1) Ancient India.
- 2) Medieval India.
- 3) British India.

✓ **Environmental policy after independence:**

.)Policies in five year plans of India.



How Hindu cows enjoy life in Calcutta—Sidewalk scene on Harrison St., looking west, India. Copyright 1922 by Underwood & Underwood.



MAJOR ENVIRONMENTAL PROBLEMS IN INDIA.



- Air pollution.
- Water pollution.
- Soil erosion.
- Deforestation.
- Desertification.
- Loss of wild life.
- Population explosion.
- **Poverty.**



ENVIRONMENTAL POLICY DURING PRE INDEPENDENT ERA:

- ✓ Environmental policy in **Ancient** India.
- ✓ Environmental policy in **Medieval** India.
- ✓ Environmental policy in **British** India.



ENVIRONMENTAL POLICY IN ANCIENT INDIA:

- In Ancient India protection, and cleaning up of environment was the essence of **Vedic culture**.
- The **Arthashastra** by **Kautilya**, written as early as between 321 and 300 BC, contained provisions meant to regulate a number of aspects related to the environment.
- The fifth pillar edict of Emperor **Ashoka** also contains such regulations



- Rig-Veda :

Highlights the potentialities of nature in controlling the climate, increasing fertility and improvement of human life.

- Atherveda:

Considers Trees abode of various **Gods** and **Goddess**.

- Yajurveda:

Emphasizes more on mutual relationship of man with other animals and plants.

- Narsimhapuran:

Trees are personified as God (**Brahma**).



- Skandpuran:

Peepal is supreme to all other trees.

- Varahpuran:

Advocates plantation of trees as a means to achieve Heaven.

- Vishnudharmasutra:

Says if you plant a tree, it will be your **Son** in next generation.

- Durga saptasi:

So long as the earth has mountains, forests, trees, plants, etc. Human race will **continue to survive**.





- Necessity of forest administration was realized in the **Chandra Gupt Maurya`**s period.
- During this period there were law provisions in Kautaliyas Arthshastra.



POLICY DURING MAURYAN'S PERIOD

✓ State to maintain forests:

Forests shall be grown and well maintained.

✓ Selling of trees:

Cutting sprouts of trees = 6 panas,

Cutting small branches = 12 panas.

Cutting branches = 24 panas.

✓ Forest reserves for wild animals:

Animal forests shall be established, where animals are welcomed as guests & to give them full protection.

✓ Protection of wild life:

For killing, entrapping, or injuring any animal shall be charged a fine of 24 panas.

✓ Pollution:

Who throw dust on roads shall be fined = $\frac{1}{8}$ panas.

Causing muddy water = $\frac{1}{4}$ panas.

If both the punishment shall be double.



ENVIRONMENTAL POLICY IN MEDIEVAL INDIA

- ❖ Indian peninsula suffered great **loss of forests** by fall of Gupta dynasty.
- ❖ During **Mughal** period environment conservation did not receive much attention.
- ❖ To them forests were no more than wooded lands, where they could hunt.
- ❖ Their only contribution was the establishment of **magnificent gardens**, fruit orchids and green parks.

ENVIRONMENTAL POLICY IN BRITISH RULE

- Forest conservation in British rule:
 - 18th century:-
 - No concrete steps taken for forest protection.
 - Forests were mercilessly cut for;
 - Military purposes.
 - Royal navy.
 - Export.
 - Agriculture extension.



FOREST CONSERVATION IN BRITISH RULE:

- 19th century:
 - 1806 a commission was appointed to enquire the availability of teak in Malabar by appointment of **conservator of forests**.
 - But, post abolished in 1823.
 - 1864 appointment of first **inspector general of forests** for:
 - (*)Resource exploration.
 - (*)forest fire protection.
 - (*)Assessment of growing stock.

- FOREST POLICY 1894:

- ✓ The public benefit was the sole object of forest administration.
- ✓ Preference should be given to cultivation than forest preservation.

To provide teeth to provision **Forest act of 1927** was enacted.

POLLUTION CONTROL DURING BRITISH RULE

❖ Water pollution:

- ✓ Shore Nuisance(Bombay & Kolaba) act 1853.
- ✓ Oriental Gas company act 1857.
- ✓ Indian Penal code 1860.
- ✓ Indian Easement act 1882.
- ✓ Indian Fisheries act 1897.



❖ Water pollution:

- ✓ Bengal smoke Nuisance Act 1905.
- ✓ Bombay smoke Nuisance Act 1912.

❖ Wild life protection:

- ✓ Elephant preservation Act 1879.
- ✓ Wild birds and animals protection Act 1912.

ENVIRONMENTAL POLICY DURING POST INDEPENDENT ERA.

- 1st five year plan:
 - Maximum concern about forests.
 - Plan outlay for forests = 9.7 cr.
 - Felling of trees minimized.
 - Economic species raised to 52000 ha.



- 2nd five year plan:

- ✓ Construction of forest roads and economic plantation received more focus.
- ✓ Several wildlife sanctuaries were established.
- ✓ Plan outlay for forests was increased to 19.3cr.

- 3rd five year plan:
- ✓ Plantation of quick growing species were taken and states were encouraged to follow it.
- ✓ Scheme (**Pre investment survey of forest resources**) started in 1965.
- ✓ Plan outlay for forests was **51.4** cr.

NATIONAL FOREST POLICY 1952

- **Objectives:**
 - Cover 1/3 of total geographical area with forests (60% in hilly areas & 20% in plains).
 - Functional classification of forests,
 - Protected forests.
 - Village forests.
 - National forests.
 - Curbing indiscriminate extension of Agriculture.

ENVIRONMENTAL POLICY DURING 70`S

- Policy perspectives' in 4th & 5th five year plan:

Pointed attention to environmental issues in following words:

“It is an obligation of each generation to maintain the productive capacity of land, air, water and wildlife in a manner which leaves its successors some choice in creation of healthy environment.”

THESE INCLUDE PROGRAMS FOR;

- ✓ Enhancing the quality of life under minimum need program, which include:
 - Education.
 - Rural health & sanitation.
 - Nutrition.
 - Drinking water.
 - Development of farm forestry.
 - Development of national parks.
 - Strengthening of research in endangered species.

The Stockholm Declaration 1972

A photograph of Indira Gandhi, the Prime Minister of India, speaking into a microphone. She is wearing a colorful, patterned shawl and a headscarf. The background shows a large, dense crowd of people, suggesting a public event or conference.

- ✓ Year 1972 marks a watershed in the history of environment management in India.
- ✓ The conference is of significance to India as it expressed the policy concern of our country on environmental protection.
- ✓ **Indira Gandhi** (PM) attracted the attention of the world community towards our peculiar environmental problems and pointed out **POVERTY & NEED** as biggest polluters.

CONSTITUTIONAL 42ND AMENDMENT ACT

1976

- In 1976, the constitution was amended in order to include environmental protection among the principles ruling State policy and even individual behaviour:
- The State shall endeavour to protect and improve the environment and to safeguard the forests and wildlife. (Art. 48A)
- It shall be the duty of every citizen of India ... to protect and improve the natural environment including forests, lakes, rivers and wildlife, and to have compassion for living creatures. (Art. 51A(g))
- **Article 21** of the Constitution is a fundamental right which reads as follows:
"No person shall be deprived of his life or personal liberty except according to procedure established by law."

LEGISLATIVE MEASURES TAKEN DURING 70`S

- Wildlife protection act 1972.
- Project Tiger 1973.
- Water (prevention and control of pollution) act 1974.



INSTITUTIONAL MEASURES TAKEN DURING 80TH `S

Tiwari committee:

For environmental protection Govt. of India constituted a high power committee under chairmanship of **N D Tiwari** in 1980, which recommended following administrative measures:

- Need of creating a Department of environment (DOE).
- A sound well informed interest in nature among people need to be cultivated.
- Fuel and fodder supply should be included in minimum need.
- Diversion of forest land to non-forestry would need prior approval of central authority.

- **DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENT (DOE):**
 - Nodal agency for environment protection and Eco development of the country.
 - Carrying out environmental appraisal of developmental projects through other ministries/agencies as well as directly.
 - Administrative responsibility for:
 - *Conservation of critical ecosystem.*
 - *Pollution control and regulation.*

NATIONAL FOREST POLICY 1988

- **Salient features:**

- Maintenance of environmental stability through preservation and restoration of the ecological balance.
- Conservation of natural heritage of country by preserving remaining forests.
- Checking soil erosion and extension of sand dunes.
- Increasing forest cover by afforestation.
- Meeting basic requirements of people (fuel, timber, food)
- Efficient utilization of forest produce.
- For conservation of biological diversity, a network of national parks, sanctuaries, biosphere reserves and other protected areas should be extended and properly managed.

NATIONAL COMMITTEE ON ENVIRONMENTAL PLANNING (NCEP)

- Functions:
 - ✓ Arrange public hearings or conferences on environmental issues.
 - ✓ To establish nationwide environmental importance and communication system to propagate environmental awareness through **Mass media.**

LEGISLATIVE MEASURES TAKEN DURING 80`S

- ❖ Forest (conservation) Act 1980 , Amended in 1988.
- ❖ Air (prevention and control of pollution) Act 1981, amended in 1986.
- ❖ Biosphere reserve program.
- ❖ CITES (convention of international trade in endangered species).
- ❖ EPA Act 1986.
- ❖ Motor vehicles amendment Act 1988.

ENVIRONMENTAL POLICY DURING 90`S

- **8th five year plan:**

Identifies these tasks to meet challenge of environmental degradation.

- To protect the natural environment.
- To regenerate and restore the degraded ecosystem and increase their productivity and to generate employment.
- To develop and share an understanding of nature on natural processes .
- To formulate a national policy for environment and appropriate institutional and legal framework in support of the policy.
- To ensure sustainable use of natural resources.

COASTAL REGULATION ZONE NOTIFICATION

- **1981 November:** The then PM Smt. Indira Gandhi took initial measures to protect the ecological balance in the coastal area of our country by writing a letter to all the CM of the coastal states.
- **1982:** the ministry of Environment setup working groups to prepare environmental guidelines for the development of beaches and coastal areas.
- **1983 July:** Environmental guidelines were promulgated.
- **1985-06:** Launched an integrated project called *Monitoring of coastal waters* for assessing the status of coastal pollution up to 5Km- DOD & MoEF.
- **1989:** Draft of CRZ notification was published
- **1990 December 15th :** MoEF issued notification against the declaration of the coastal stretches as regulation zones- imposed restrictions on industries, operation and processes in the zone.
- **1991 February 9th :** based on the EP Act 1986 MoEF issued CRZ notification

POLICY RESOLUTIONS

- **Policy statement for abatement of pollution of 1992:**

Chief objectives:

- To integrate environmental considerations into decision making at all levels.
- Prevention of pollution.
- Encourage, develop and apply the best available practicable technical solutions.
- To ensure Polluter Pays Principal.
- **Involve Public** in decision making.

NATIONAL CONSERVATION STRATEGY AND POLICY STATEMENT ON ENVIRONMENT AND DEVELOPMENT 1992

- ✓ To ensure **Sustainable and Equitable** use of resources.
- ✓ To prevent and control future deterioration of our life support system.
- ✓ To take steps for environmental improvement.
- ✓ Conservation and protection of coastal areas and marine ecosystem.
- ✓ **EIA** of all developmental projects right from the planning stage.
- ✓ Compulsory prior **Environmental clearance** of all projects .

The instrument for action are set in the agenda for achieving proposed actions.

They include:

- To encourage research development and adoption of Environmentally compatible technologies and to promote application of the modern tool of science and technology for conservation, bridging of large gaps in supply and demand.
- To encourage the public participation in environment development program.
- To effectively implement the various environmental laws and regulations for environmental protection.

LEGISLATIVE MEASURES TAKEN DURING 90`S

- ✓ Public Liability Insurance act 1991, Amended in 1992.
- ✓ Environmental Audit made compulsory for all industries requiring environmental clearance under Water act 1974 or Air act 1981.
- ✓ Environmental ministry issued a notification on **27 Jan 1994** making EIA statutory for 29 different activities in mining, irrigation, power, transport etc.
- ✓ Ecomark 1991.
- ✓ Biomedical waste (management & handling) Rules 1998.
- ✓ Recycled plastics (manufacture and usage) Rule 1999

NATIONAL ENVIRONMENT POLICY 2004

- I. Conservation of Critical Environmental Resources:
 - ii. Intra-generational Equity: Livelihood Security for the Poor:
 - iv. Integration of Environmental Concerns in Economic and Social Development:
 - v. Efficiency in Environmental Resource Use:
 - vii. Enhancement of Resources for Environmental Conservation:

MARINE FISHING POLICY 2004

The policy objectives are:

- (1) To augment marine fish production of the country up to the sustainable level in a responsible manner so as to boost export of sea food from the country and also to increase per capita fish protein intake of the masses.*
- (2) To ensure socio-economic security of the fishermen whose livelihood solely depends on this vocation.*
- (3) To ensure sustainable development of marine fisheries with due concern for ecological integrity and bio-diversity.*

• **NATIONAL ENVIRONMENT POLICY, 2006**

- **The first initiative in strategy-formulation for environmental protection in a comprehensive manner.**
- **It undertakes a diagnosis of the causative factors of land degradation with a view to flagging the remedial measures required in this direction.**
- **It recognizes that the relevant fiscal, tariffs and sectoral policies need to take explicit account of their unintentional impacts on land degradation**

• **NATIONAL ENVIRONMENT POLICY, 2006 (CONTD.)**

- The solutions offered to tackle the problem comprise:
- Adoption of both, science-based and traditional land-use practices,
- Pilot-scale demonstrations,
- Large scale dissemination,
- Adoption of Multi-stakeholder partnerships,
- Promotion of agro-forestry,
- Organic farming,
- Environmentally sustainable cropping patterns
- Adoption of efficient irrigation techniques.

11TH FIVE YEAR PLAN (2007-2012)

Objectives:

- Increase Forest and tree cover by 5 percentage points.
- Attain [WHO](#) standards of air quality in all major cities by 2011-12.
- Treat all urban waste water by 2011-12 to clean river waters.
- Increase energy efficiency by 20 percentage points by 2016-17.

NATIONAL LAKE CONSERVATION PLAN

- **Objectives of NLCP were:**
 - i) Prevention of pollution from point sources by intercepting, diverting and treating the pollution loads entering the lake.
 - ii) *In situ measures of lake cleaning such as desilting, deweeding, bioremediation, and constructed wetland approach etc. depending upon the site conditions.*
 - iii) Catchment area treatment and lake front Eco-development which may include bunding, fencing, shore line development, creation of facilities for public recreation and entertainment (children park, boating etc.) and public area.
- **iv) Public awareness and, public participation.**
- v) Other activities depending upon location specific conditions including the interface with human population.

NATIONAL WETLAND CONSERVATION PROGRAMME

• Objectives:

- To lay down policy guidelines for implementing programs of conservation and management of wetlands, mangroves and coral reefs in the country.
- To identify priority wetlands for intensive conservation, management and research,
- To prepare an inventory of Indian wetlands, mangroves and coral reefs
- Conservation and protection of the wetlands, Mangrove Ecosystem from further degradation;
- Afforestation of degraded wetlands, Mangrove and coral areas;
- Restoration of degraded coral reef areas;
- Maintenance of genetic diversity especially of the threatened and endemic species;
- Creation of awareness among the people on importance of Wetlands, Mangrove / Coral Reef Ecosystem and the need for their conservation.

NATIONAL RIVER CONSERVATION PROGRAMME

- *The important works being undertaken under NRCP include:*
- **Core Schemes**
 - I) Interception and diversion works to capture the raw sewage flowing into the river through open drains and divert them for treatment.
 - ii) Sewage treatment plants for treating the diverted sewage.
- **Non Core Schemes**
 - I) Low cost sanitation works to prevent open defecation on river banks.
 - ii) Electric and improved wood based crematoria to conserve the use of wood and help in ensuring proper cremation of bodies brought to the burning Ghats.
 - iii) River front development works such as improvement of bathing Ghats etc.
 - iv) Other minor miscellaneous works like plantation, public awareness etc.

COASTAL ZONE MANAGEMENT NOTIFICATION 2007(DRAFT)

- *Background:*
- The implementation of CRZ notification ignored by state governments.
- Vested interests from various lobbies (tourism, industry, etc.)- tried to violate CRZ notification.
- CRZ notification amended **19 times**- rendered the law more impotent.
- Tsunami- 26th December 2004- intensified the importance of this committee

NATIONAL GREEN TRIBUNAL BILL, 2009

- *Highlights of the Bill proposed in Lok Sabha.*
- 1.The National Green Tribunal Bill, 2009 aims to set up specialised **environmental courts** in the country.
- 2.It would replace the National Environmental Appellate Authority and the National Environment Tribunal Act.
- 3.It would consist of both judicial and expert members
- 4.It would hear only '**substantial**' questions relating to the environment, which affect the community at large, and not just individuals or groups of individuals, cause significant damage to the environment and property or bring any harm to public health.

THE NATIONAL GREEN TRIBUNAL ACT, 2010

Objectives:

- 1.The effective and speedy disposal of the cases relating to environment protection and conservation of forests and other natural resources. All the previous pending cases will also be heard by the Tribunal.
- 2.It aims at enforcing all the legal rights relating to the environment.
- 3.It also accounts for providing compensation and relief to effected people for damage of property.

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• **QUESTIONS** ??? ?? ??
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SUGESTIONS

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• THE ACTIVIST IS NOT THE
MAN WHO SAYS THE
RIVER IS DIRTY. THE
ACTIVIST IS THE MAN
WHO CLEANS UP THE
RIVER.

THANK YOUUU...