

Course Code:MCC102A

Course Title:Environmental Studies

Lecture No: 21

Title: Environmental laws

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Lecture-21

Intended Learning Outcomes

At the end of this lecture, students will be able to

- State water act , air act, forest conservation act and wildlife protection act
- List the calendar of activities
- Explain the calendar of activities and all the legislation laws



Law for Environmental Protection

The Environment (Protection) Act, 1986

- This Act was passed to protect the environment, as there was a growing concern over the deteriorating state of the environment.
- The growing risks of environmental accidents and threats to life support systems looms threateningly over civilization.
- Public concern and support is crucial for implementing the EPA



Law for Environmental Protection

The Water (prevention and control of pollution) Act, 1974

Salient features of the Act (Water Act)

- To prevent and control water pollution
- To maintain wholesomeness of water
- To establish control on State Boards for prevention and control of pollution
- To empower the Boards for prevention/control of pollution
- To provide penalties for contravention of the provisions of the Act
- To establish control on state water testing laboratories.



Law for Environmental Protection

The Air(Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1981

Salient features of the Act:

- The act provides for control of emission from auto mobiles
- It also restricts certain industries on the basis of air pollution
- It declares the level of air pollutants as per standards
- It applies to the courts to restrain persons from polluting
- Just like water act it gives power to PCBs to enter and inspect the factory.

Air Pollution Control Act



Law for Environmental Protection

The Wildlife Protection Act in 1972

Salient features of the Act:

- deals with the declaration of National Parks and Wildlife Sanctuaries and their notification.
- It prohibits hunting of all animals and were penalised.
- The Amendment to the Wildlife Protection Act in 2002 is more stringent and prevents the commercial use of resources by local people. It has brought in new concepts such as the creation of Community Reserves.



Law for Environmental Protection

Forest Conservation Act of 1980

Salient features of the Act:

- The Act gave the Government and Forest Department the power to create Reserved Forests, and the right to use Reserved Forests for Government use alone.
- The Act was enacted to control deforestation
- forestlands could not be de-reserved without prior approval of the Central Government.
- Penalties for offences in Protected Forests
- It gave States the ability to provide power to the local Panchayats to manage local forest resources.



Issues Involved in Enforcement of Environmental Legislation

- The presence of a legislation to protect air, water, soil, etc.
- There are several NGOs in the country which take these matters to court in the interest of conservation.

Environment Impact Assessment(EIA):

- The EIA must look into physical, biological and social parameters.
- The EIA must define what impact it would have on water, soil and air
- Most development projects such as industries, roads, railways and dams may also affect the lives of local people. This must be addressed in the EIA.



Case Study : The Narmada Issue

- The controversy over the plan to build several dams on the Narmada River and its tributaries symbolizes the struggle for a just and equitable society in India
- The construction of these dams displaces many poor and underprivileged communities, destroying their relatively self-sufficient environmentally sound economy and culture and reducing a proud people to the status of refugees or slum dwellers.



Case Study: The Narmada Issue

- The Narmada Bachao Andolan (Save the Narmada Movement) is one of the most dynamic people's movements fighting for the rights
- Of these underprivileged people who are being robbed of their homes, livelihoods and way of living in the name of 'national interest'.
- One such dam, the Sardar Sarovar Dam, when completed will drown 37,000 hectares of fertile land and displace 200,000 adivasis and cause incomprehensible loss to the ecology.



Public Awareness

- February 2: World Wetland Day
- March 21: World Forestry Day
- April 7: World Health Day
- April 18: World Heritage Day
- April 22: Earth Day
- June 5: World Environment Day
- June 11: World Population Day
- August 6: Hiroshima Day
- September 16: World Ozone Day
- September 28: Green Consumer Day
- October 1-7: Wildlife Week



Summary

- Water act is to restore and maintain the chemical, physical, and biological integrity of the nation's waters by preventing point and nonpoint pollution sources
- Air act is an act to provide research and technical assistance relating to air pollution control
- The Wildlife Protection Act, 1972 is an Act of the Parliament of India enacted for protection of plants and animal species

