

Environment Class 19

2nd April, 2024 at 9:00 AM

4. FORESTS RIGHT ACT, 2006 (09:07 AM)

- The Scheduled Tribes and Other Traditional **Forest Dwellers** (Recognition of Forests Rights), Act 2006 implemented by the **Ministry of Tribal Affairs**.
- It is a landmark legislation aims to correct historical injustices suffered by indigenous communities regarding the access and use of forest resources.

- The main provisions are:

1. Recognition of Forest Rights:

- The act recognizes forest rights to forest-dwelling communities to forest-dwelling communities.
- This includes ^{both} **individual and community rights** such as ^{a) Title rights:} ~~title rights~~ and legal recognition over traditional lands (Maximum 4 hectares). ^{which people cultivating or residing in.}

b) 2. Use Rights:

- It provides the right to extract use and manage forest produce to collect **Minor Forest Produce** including Bamboo, Honey, Wax, etc., ^{lac, tendu, medicinal plants, herbs among others.}

c) 3. Relief and Development Rights:

^{Rights of} Rehabilitation in case of eviction or forced displacement.

d) 4. Management Rights: ^{Conservation and Management Rights:}

- Right to Protect, ^{regenerate or} conserve and manage any community forest resource.

e) 5. Habitat Rights:

- Habitat rights are given to **PVTGs** who are ^{agrarian} pre-agricultural communities These rights are given over a fairly large area. ^{embedded in their territory that forms their habitat.}
- It includes rights ^{such as} livelihood, and social and cultural practices ^{Kamar and} in their habitat.
- The **Bharia** tribe in MP and the **Baiga community** in Chattisgarh were given habitat rights.
- Thus Forest Rights Act includes both **individual rights** such as self-cultivation, and habitation.
- As well as **community rights** such as grazing fishing, access to water bodies, and management of community forest resources among others.

2. Eligibility

- Members of scheduled tribes and non-ST forest dwellers who have resided on the forest land for **more than three generations or 75 years before December 2005.**

3. Implementation: This act comes under the **Ministry of Tribal Affairs.**

- The act was ^{implemented through} involved with a bottom-up approach involving a three-tier structure.

- **i. Gram Sabha:** It initiates the process by receiving claims and conducting enquiry.

- **ii. Sub-Divisional Level Committee:** Reviews the recommendations made by Gram Sabha

- **iii. District-level committee:** Makes final decision on recognition of rights.

4. Critical Wildlife Habitat:

- It is defined as areas within National Parks and Sanctuaries, where certain rights can be modified or resettled for wildlife conservation.

- This will be done ^{the purpose of} on a scientific basis by experts in consultation with local communities with suitable resettlement packages.

GOVERNMENT POLICIES FOR FOREST CONSERVATION (09:43 AM)

- **1. National Afforestation Policy, 1988:** 33 percent of forest cover.
- **2. Green India Mission** ↓ Goal is to have
- It is one of the plans of **National Action Plan on Climate Change**
- Growth in forest or **tree covers to 5 Million hectares** and increase the quality of forest by **another 5 million hectares.**
- **Joint forest management:** This was introduced as part of the National Afforestation Policy.
- This is implemented under an arrangement between village communities (beneficiaries) and a state forest department, committee called **forest protection committee** is constituted
- The committee consists of one or two members from each family of the village, this committee with the local forest department, jointly manages the forest block.
- **Social Forestry:**
- It means the management and protection of forests and afforestation, on barren lands, with the ~~help~~ purpose of environmental social and rural development.
- It can include **urban forestry**, and the use of the **Miyawaki method** to increase forest cover in urban areas. It also include rural forestry such as agro-forestry (raising of trees and crops on same land).

UN-REDD & UN-REDD+ (09:57 AM)

- **UNREDD (Reducing emissions from deforestation and forest degradation)**, is the UN **knowledge and advisory platform** on the forest solution to the climate crisis.
- It was launched in 2008 and ↓ uses the expertise of **UNEP, FAO, and UNDP** as of now UN-REDD supports **REDD+** processes. ↓ builds capacity and
- The plus refers to the **conservation, sustainable forest management, and enhancement of forest carbon stocks.**
- It is a framework created by **UNFCCC at COP 19, 2013** in Warsaw, Poland.
- It aims to increase the forest cover.
- **Parties agree that REDD+ should be implemented in phases:**
- **1. Adopting National Strategies**
- **2. Implementation of National Policies**
- **3. Result-based payment**
- Forest carbon partnership facility, the global partnership of government businesses, civil society, and indigenous people, helps developing nations in the implementation of REDD+.
- United Nations has declared the current decade **2021-2030 as the UN decade on ecosystem restoration**, including restoring both terrestrial and aquatic ecosystems.
- **Ex:** The Namami Gange Program is recognized as one of the projects under the objectives of ecosystem restoration.

→ This involves National strategies, Action plans, policies and measures and result based challenge. REDD+ activities were recognized and supported by UN-REDD.

Global Initiatives:

1700-1000	Water stressed condition
1000-500	Water scarcity condition
Less than 500	Absolute scarcity condition

WATER CONSERVATION (10:26 AM) (Imp.)

- As per the **Central Water Commission**, the per capita availability of freshwater in India will decrease from 1434 cubic metres in 2005 to 1219 cubic metres in 2050.
- Water availability of 1700-1000 cubic ^men per person per year, is **water stressed** condition
- **1000-500 is water scarcity and less than 500 is absolute scarcity.**
- India accounts for more than **17 percent of the world's population** with about just **4 percent** of water resources, out of total water on planet Earth, 97 percent is marine.
- Out of 3 percent fresh water, about **68.7 percent is ice caps, glaciers and permafrost, 30.1 percent ground water, 0.26 percent lakes, 0.05 percent soil moisture, 0.04 percent atmosphere and about 0.006 percent in rivers.** (do remember decreasing order of fresh water.)
- India accounts for 25 percent of global groundwater extraction out of which 90 percent is used, in agricultural activities.

INSTITUTIONS (11:02 AM) (There are three bodies under Ministry of Jal Shakti)

- **1. Central Water Commission**
 - Responsible for **research and development and policy formulation** in water planning and projects.
- **2. Central Ground Water Board**
 - To monitor and **implement policies** for sustainable management of groundwater resources.
- **3. Central Ground Water Authority**
 - It is a **statutory body** created under the **Environment Protection Act**, to **regulate** the development and management of groundwater resources.

✖ Government Initiatives:-

1. National Aquifer Mapping and Management Programme:-

-> It is a central sector scheme implemented by CGWB (Central Ground Water Board) for sustainable management of ground water resources or aquifers.

2. Atal Bhujal Yojna:-

-> World Bank approved central sector scheme in selected states (Gujarat, Karnataka, Haryana etc.)

3. Watershed Development:-

-> Watershed is an area of land that drains water into a specific water body thus every body of water has a watershed, water also seeps into the ground helping in ground water recharge, watershed management involves a holistic approach focusing on the entire ecosystem and its components including soil, water, vegetation and wildlife.

4. UN Water conference 2023 (in New York):-

-> It was second such conference and the first was held in 1977 in Argentina. However, it does not lead to any binding mechanisms non-binding resolutions by governments, pvt. companies were announced.

SUSTAINABILITY IN AGRICULTURE (11:42 AM)

- Problems due to current agricultural practices:
- **a. Biodiversity Loss:**
- Monocropping
- Slash and Burn Agriculture
- **b. Land degradation**
- Excessive fertilisers and pesticides
- Excessive water.
- Intensive Tillage ([degradation of soil](#))
- **c. Water Pollution:**
- Excessive Pesticides and Fertilisers
- Eutrophication
- **d. Water Scarcity**
- Water guzzling crops
- **e. Air Pollution**
- Stubble burning,
- **f. Global Warming and Climate Change**
- CH₄ Emission due to crops such as rice.
- N₂O due to animal manure, and the fertilizer industry.
- **g. Negative impact on human health.**
- Excessive fertilizers and pesticides.
- Monocropping

SUSTAINABLE AGRICULTURE METHODS

- [a](#)) Diversification
- [b](#)) Millet Cultivation ([study this in detail](#))
- [c](#)) Mulching: Covering the soil surface around plants with a layer of material which can include **organic matter** such as straw, leaves, and wood chips, but can also include inorganic material such as plastic gravel,
- Mulching helps in moisture conservation, temperature regulation, soil erosion control, improved fertility of soil, and enhancing soil organic matter.

Topic for The Next Class: Sustainable Agriculture (Continued)