



# **\*ETHICAL LEADERSHIP\***

## **COMMENTARY- 1**

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## Topic: Governance at the cost of development- Can a country afford to skip development for conservation of ecology (Vice-versa)?



It is impossible to stop development, as it also affects the ecology. Human development takes a very long time to learn that we need animals, plants, water for own existence and that it eventually turns into a savior for the environment. And now, when we know how, the most important why we should save our environment. Developing only after taking care of the ecology is the only way left.

Example of situation: - According to the latest report by Greenpeace and AirVisual, 22 out of the 30 most polluted cities in the world were found to be in India. Of these, Gurugram was the most polluted with an average index of 135.8 in 2018, which is three times the level prescribed by the US Environmental Protection as 'healthy.' The same report has also suggested that air pollution will cause around 7 million premature deaths. In addition, the estimated global cost in terms of labour cost would be to the tune of \$225 billion apart from trillions in medical costs.

Economic development is often cited as an excuse for environmental issues. It is suggested that India's growing population is the primary cause of India's environmental degradation. However, there are countries like Japan and Singapore with a population density similar to that of India, with much better environmental conditions.

Critics opine that while the government of India lays ample stress on the cause of development, it does little effectively for controlling pollution. Therefore, in effect, the development that we are witnessing may not be of the sustainable variety after all.

From UN environment program, In the preamble to the 2030 Agenda, world leaders affirmed that they are: "Determined to protect the planet from degradation, including through sustainable consumption and production, sustainably managing its natural resources and taking urgent action on climate change, so that it can support the needs of the present and future generations."

In keeping with the aforesaid, the world has initiated some steps in the direction of environmental protection and taking this forward step by step in a very mannered way. Despite these measures, world is still struggling to get its act together. But the countries are consistent and taking major step.