**RELIGION IS THE KEY TO PROTECT ENVIRONMENT**

**BY- Pooja Bhardwaj**

“What people do about their ecology depends on what they think about themselves in relation to things around them. Human ecology is deeply conditioned by beliefs about our nature and destiny — that is, by religion.”

– Lynn White, Jr

Religions always have been a very great influence over people. In all religion, they teach to conserve and protect the environment and natural resources. Almost all religion says that every being on this planet is equal so no one has any right to destroy or alter the resources as they all belong to God.

Constitution of India, also, has provisions regarding the protection of the environment and the natural resources. But there is the need for more awareness regarding the protection and the importance of natural resources and biodiversity protection. We can protect the environment by different instruments like Law and Religion. As both can regulate the people, religion can make people adhere to the rules of protecting the environment and natural resources at large in comparison with Law. In religion, people have faith so they can understand easily the importance of natural resources and environment protection in comparison to Law.

**Gauri Maulekhi vs the State of J&K &Ors.**

This case is regarding the preservation of Amarnath Caves in Himalayas of J&K. The National Green Tribunal (NGT) directed the Amarnath shrine board that no person/pilgrim/devotee would be permitted to carry any object or article from the last stairs which further lead to the holy cave and from the endpoint of the last stair and the whole area of the holy cave only shall be treated as a silence zone. The NGT panel also directed that there should be a single line of people walking towards the cave from the last checkpoint.

**Arjun Gopal and Others vs Union of India and Others**

Ten days before Diwali i.e. October 09, 2017, Supreme Court bench headed by Justice A K Sikri has delivered a verdict on a plea filed by three kids seeking restoration of its last year’s order dated November 11, 2016, about banning of firecrackers in the New Delhi and National Capital Region.

In this plea, the appellants have alleged the Central Pollution Control Board of suppressing the relevant information from the Supreme Court, which led to a relaxation of the previous ban on firecrackers through an order dated September 12, 2017.

In this case, the bench headed by Justice A K Sikri put on hold the sale of firecrackers in National Capital Region (NCR) during Diwali and the bench said that its September 12, 2017 order permitting the sale of firecrackers will get implemented only from November 1, 2017. The bench said that it wanted to test the effect of the ban on air quality after this Diwali noting that each year burning of firecrackers on Diwali festival leaves the air in Delhi thick with smoke.