



## A Study on environmental issues in India

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### Abstract

The environmental issues in India become more serious every day and it is turning into a bit of a mess on this front but with a serious lack of education and over 1 Billion people, a huge amount of which are in dire poverty, it's hardly surprising. The word "Environment" is most commonly used to describe "natural" environment and means the sum of all living and non-living things that surround an organism, or group of organisms. Environment includes all elements, factors, and conditions that have some impact on growth and development of certain organism. One of the critical ecological problems is the global warming that caused by large emissions of carbon dioxide in atmosphere by cars, airplanes, fabrics all over the world. The recent boom in its industries, little or no environmental education, infrastructure nearly at bursting point not to mention the huge deforestation that's going on. In fact, there is no shortage at all of government legislation protecting the environment but unfortunately it is never enforced due to flagrant abuse of power, corruption and lack of resources.

**Keywords:** environment, lack of education, poverty, industries, deforestation, government legislation, global warming pollution

### Introduction

#### 1. The Major Factor of Environmental Issues in India

Major Environmental issues are Forest and Agricultural land degradation. Resource depletion (water, mineral, forest, s and, rocks etc.) Environmental degradation. The rapid growing of the population and economic development is leading to a number of environmental issues in India. It is estimated that the country's population will increase 950 to about 1.26 billion by the year 2016. Public Population growth and economic development are contributing to many serious environmental calamities in India. Health. Loss of Biodiversity. Livelihood Security for the Poor. Population The four basic demographic factors of births, deaths, migration and immigration produce changes in population size, composition, distribution and these changes raise a number of important questions of cause and effect. These include heavy pressure on land land degradation, forests, habitat destruction and loss of the biodiversity. Changing consumption pattern has led to rising demand for energy.

#### 2. Various Pollution are protect through Various legislative act

##### a. Environmental Protection Acts 1986

Environment (Protection) Act, 1986 Objective To provide the protection and improvement of environment. To make a rules regulate environmental pollution; To notify standards and maximum limits of pollutants of air, water, and soil for various areas and purposes; Prohibition and restriction on the handling of hazardous substances, and location of industries or with fine which may extend Whoever Person found to be the cause of pollution, may be liable for punishment for a term which may extend to five years to one lakh rupees or both (Sec 15, 16, 17) If not comply fine of Rs. 5000 per day extra, still if not comply for more than one year, then imprisonment may extend up to 7 years PENALTY.

##### b. Air pollution

Indian cities are polluted by vehicles and industry emissions. Road dust due to vehicles also contributing up to 33% of air Pollution In cities like Bangalore around 50% of children suffer from asthma One of the biggest causes of air pollution in India is from the Transport system. It also appeared that the excessive pollution was having an adverse effect on the Taj Mahal. After a court ruling all transport in the area was shut down shortly followed by the closure of all industrial factories in the area. The air pollution in the big cities is rising to such an extent that it is now 2.3 higher than the amount recommended by WHO (world health organization). [On the positive side, the government appears to have noticed this massive problem and the associated health risks for its people and is slowly but surely taking steps. The first of which was in 2001 when it ruled that its entire public transport system, excluding the trains, be converted from diesel to compressed gas (CPG).

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

The Air (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act The Factories Act and Amendment in 1987 1981 – The Air (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act 1982 –The Air (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Rules 1982 – The Atomic Energy Act 1987 – The Air (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Amendment Act 1988-The Motor Vehicles.

##### c. Forest and Wildlife Protection Act 1972

Forest area covers 18.34% of India's geographic area (637000 km). Nearly half of the country's forest cover is found in the state of Madhya Pradesh (20.7%) and the seven states of the northeast (25.7%); the latter is experiencing net forest loss Forest cover is declining because of harvesting for fuel wood and the expansion of agricultural land. These trends, combined with increasing industrial and motor vehicle pollution output, have led to a atmospheric temperature increases, shifting precipitation patterns.

Forest and agricultural land degradation An estimated 60% of cultivated land suffers from soil erosion, water logging, and salinity. It is also estimated that between 4.7 and 12 billion tons of topsoil are lost annually from soil erosion.. From 1947 to 2002, average annual per capita water availability declined by almost 70% to 1,822 cubic meters, Overexploitation of groundwater is problematic in the states of Haryana, Punjab, and Uttar Pradesh. The Indian Agricultural Research Institute has estimated that a 3 °C rise in temperature will result in a 15 to 20% loss in annual wheat yields. These are substantial problems for a nation with such a large population depending on the productivity of primary resources and whose economic growth relies heavily on industrial growth.

Forest and Wildlife Protection Act. 1927 –The Indian Forest Act and Amendment 1984; 1972 The Wildlife Protection Act Rules 1973 and Amendment 1991 1980 – The Forest (Conservation) Act and Rules, 1981

#### **d. Water pollution**

The untreated water is used for drinking, bathing, and washing. This situation is typical of many rivers in India as well as other developing countries. Water pollution Out of India's 3,119 towns and cities, just 209 have partial treatment facilities, and only 8 have full waste water treatment facilities 114 cities dump untreated sewage and partially cremated bodies directly into the Ganges River.

#### **e. Land pollution**

In March 2009, the issue of Uranium poisoning in Punjab came into light, caused by fly ash ponds of thermal power stations, which reportedly lead to severe birth defects in children in the Faridkot and Bhatinda districts of Punjab Although the British started deforestation in India, the pressures to modernize since the partition of 1947 have only increased the rates of deforestation, which causes soil erosion which leads to Land Pollution. Land pollution Land pollution in India is due to pesticides and fertilizers as well as corrosion.

#### **f. Noise pollution**

The use of loudspeakers for political purposes and by temples and mosques make for noise pollution in residential areas. Recently Government of India has set up norms of permissible noise levels in urban and rural areas. How they will be monitored and implemented is still not sure. Noise pollution The Supreme Court of India gave a significant verdict on noise pollution in 2005.Unnecessary honking of vehicles makes for a high decibel level of noise in cities.

### **3. Judicial Factor The Bhopal Gas Tragedy**

In order to provide safe drinking water to the population around the UCC factory, there is a scheme for improvement of water supply. In December 2008, the Madhya Pradesh High Court decided that the toxic waste should be incinerated at Ankleshwar in Gujarat Lavasa– A hill city or a controversial city? Lavasa City, Lavasa is India's first hill city since Independence. The First controversial issue is about the environmental impact. State government has granted clearance to this project which will have adverse impact on the biodiversity and which is violation of environmental laws. If the water from Varasgaon Dam is diverted to Lavasa, it will result in problems in water supply to Pune city. On January 19, 2011, the Indian ministry of

environment and forest ruled Lavasa hill-city as illegal, because of environmental issues. It is very close to Pune and Mumbai. it is 50 km away from Pune and 180 km away from Mumbai Second Issue involved here is – Clearances which the Lavasa Corporation got during the period 2002-2004 because of the shares held by daughter, son-in-law and close associates of Sharad Pawar. The Lavasa project issue is a clear example of dirty politics. It clearly shows that some politicians have no concern for the environment, people and country; they are only concerned about the profit or money.

The Bhopal Gas Tragedy The Bhopal disaster is the world's worst industrial catastrophe. It occurred on the night of December 2–3, 1984 at the Union Carbide India Limited (UCIL) pesticide plant in Bhopal, Madhya Pradesh. A leak of methyl isocyanate gas and other chemicals from the plant resulted in the exposure of hundreds of thousands of people. A government affidavit in 2006 stated the leak caused 558,125 injuries including 38,478 temporary partial and approximately 3,900 severely and permanently disabling injuries and the estimated death was 15,000 Environmental rehabilitation after Bhopal Gas Tragedy. When the factory was closed in 1985 – 1986, pipes, drums and tanks were cleaned and sold. The area around the plant was used as a dumping area for hazardous chemicals. Reported polluting compounds include naphthol, naphthalene, Sevin, chromium, lead, hexachloroethane, hexachlorobutadiene.

### **4. Biodiversity conservation in india**

In 1972, India enacted the Wildlife Protection Act and Project Tiger to safeguard crucial habitat; further federal protections were promulgated in the 1980s. Along with over 500 wildlife sanctuaries, India now hosts 14 biosphere reserves, four of which are part of the World Network of Biosphere Reserves. 25 wetlands are registered under the Ramsar Convention. Biodiversity conservation in India India lying within the Indomalaya ecozone, hosts significant biodiversity. It is home to 7.6% of all mammalian, 12.6% of avian, 6.2% of reptilian, and 6.0% of flowering plant species. In recent decades, human encroachment has posed a threat to India's wildlife In response, the system of national parks and protected areas, first established in 1935, was substantially Expanded.

### **Conclusion**

The research highlights the importance of sustainable development in global era. Human development is essentially what sustainability advocates want to sustain and without sustainability, human development is not true human development. Sustainable development means attaining a balance between environmental protection and human economic development and between the present and future needs. It means equity in development and sectoral actions across space and time. It requires an integration of economic, social and environmental approaches towards development. In the last half of the twentieth century, four key themes emerged from the collective concerns and aspirations of the world's peoples: peace, freedom, development, and environment. Finally, it is only in the past 40 years that the environment (local to global) became a key focus of national and international law and institutions. Although reinterpreted over time, peace, freedom, development, and the environment remain prominent issues and aspirations.

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