

B.A 4th semester

Paper-4016

**Environmental geography and
disaster management**

ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION ACT 1986

- The year 1984, a destructive incident shook the entire nation. A gas leak incident on a December night at UCIL pesticide plant in Bhopal took the lives of nearly four thousand people.
- In the wake of this disastrous tragedy, the Government of India authorized the Environment Protection Act of 1986 under Article 253 of the Constitution. The act got passed in March 1986 and on 19 November 1986 came into force.

Importance of the Environment Protection Act 1986

The purpose and importance of the environmental protection act 1986 is to bolster and encourage the administration, security, upgrade and enlightened utilization of the earth.

The Act talks about recognizing the following factors:

- Forestalling, relieving and remediating natural effects are significant in making recommendations and taking actions.

- Delaying sensible ecological security measures should not be an outcome of dangers of genuine or irreparable damage to the natural honesty, absence of complete assurance.
- Financially or by any other means, every person is responsible for any impacts on nature because of their activities or inaction.
- Adaptive, responsive, reasonable, timely and effective, these are some of the qualities which must be present in administrative, management and administrative procedures
- The reason for the enforcement of the Act was to execute the choices of the United Nations Conference on the Human Environment. They identify with the security and improvement of the human condition and the counteraction of threats to individuals, other living animals, plants and property.

- **Main Aims and Objectives of the Environment Protection Act**
- Implementation of the decisions made in June 1972 at Stockholm at the United Nation Conference on the Human Environment.
- Government protection authority creation.
- Forming coordination of activities of different agencies which are operating under the existing law.
- Enacting regular laws for environmental protection which have the probability of being unfolded in areas of severe environmental threats.
- Providing punishment to those promoting endangerment to the human environment, safety and health.
- Sustainable development of the environment.
- Achieving the purpose of the Act and protection of life under Article 21 of the Indian Constitution

- **Drawbacks of the Environmental Protection Act 1986**
- India's forest cover is shrinking at a rapid rate. As forest plays a vital role in the resources of the nation, it gets exploited by villagers in need to fuel corrupt officials, greedy forest contractors etc.
- A well-meant yet strict forest bill failed to get people's support. The main two reasons behind the failure of the forest bill were that it prohibited the usage of any of the products of forests by the tribals. The products included leaves, fruits etc. Another reason for the disappointment was that this bill changed forest officers into judges and executioners simultaneously.
- Regulatory/ enforcing manpower in regulatory agencies is less than required as compared to the ever-growing number of industries.
- The shortfall of required technical skills/ knowledge as needed for enforcement of regulation.

- Aversion to change/ attitudinal difficulties.
- One of the major drawbacks of environmental protection act 1986 is the limitation is financial facilities. Enough resources of money are needed to implement the bare act.
- **Basic Rules of the Environment Protection Act 1986**
- The standard for emission or discharge of pollutants from various commercial plants, processes or operation should be as per the specified guidelines mentioned from schedule 1 to schedule 5. The state government can also be more specific about the standards.
- Soil, water or any sample was taken for critical analysis should be sent to the Environment laboratory by registered post/ special messenger by the Central Government/ officer in charge.

- The Central Government of India may take into consideration various factors for restricting, prohibiting the location of commercial plants and allowing operation in different places.

Pollution Control Act

There are several pollution control Acts in India. Following are those:

- The Water (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act- 1974.
- Water (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Rules, 1975.
- National Environment Tribunal Act, 1995.
- Noise Pollution (Regulation and Control) Rules, 2000.

This Environment Conservation Act plays an important role in maintaining a balance between the needs and availability of the natural resources in India. Nowadays when the world is suffering from deadly threats like global warming, more Acts like this should be enforced. Even though there are many drawbacks of the Environmental Protection Act 1986, there are ample of advantages too.

Source-

- *Environmental geography,Savindra Singh
- *Environmental geography,R.C Chandna
- *wikipedia