



SNS COLLEGE OF ENGINEERING

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AN AUTONOMOUS INSTITUTION



Approved by AICTE, New Delhi and Affiliated to Anna University, Chennai

23MCT003 – ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCE & SUSTAINABILITY

2. ENVIRONMENTAL POLLUTION

2.6 – ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION ACTS

India has implemented several key environmental protection acts to address various ecological challenges and promote sustainable development. Here's a detailed overview of the major environmental laws and regulations in India:

1. The Environment (Protection) Act, 1986

- **Objective:** To provide a framework for the protection and improvement of the environment and for the prevention of hazards to human beings, other living creatures, plants, and property.
- **Key Provisions:**
 - Central Government powers to set standards for air, water, and soil quality.
 - Authority to issue directions for the protection of the environment.
 - Guidelines for handling hazardous substances and managing waste.
 - Establishment of the National Environmental Appellate Authority.

2. The Water (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1974

- **Objective:** To prevent and control water pollution and to maintain or restore the wholesomeness of water.
- **Key Provisions:**
 - Establishment of Central and State Pollution Control Boards (CPCB and SPCBs) for monitoring and enforcing water quality standards.
 - Regulation of discharge of pollutants into water bodies.
 - Procedures for consent for the establishment and operation of any industry that may discharge effluents.

3. The Air (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1981

- **Objective:** To prevent and control air pollution in India.
- **Key Provisions:**
 - Similar to the Water Act, it establishes CPCB and SPCBs for air quality monitoring.
 - Standards for air quality and emission limits for various industries.
 - Powers to inspect and close down polluting industries.

4. The Wildlife Protection Act, 1972

- **Objective:** To protect wildlife and their habitats in India.
- **Key Provisions:**
 - Establishment of protected areas like national parks and wildlife sanctuaries.
 - Prohibits hunting and trade of endangered species.

Environmental Protection Acts/23MCT003-Environmental Science and Sustainability. Dr. K. Jagadeesh/AP/ECE-

- Provides for the establishment of Wildlife Advisory Boards and a National Wildlife Crime Control Bureau.

5. The Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980

- **Objective:** To conserve forests and regulate the diversion of forest land for non-forest purposes.
- **Key Provisions:**
 - Requires prior approval of the Central Government for the use of forest land for non-forest activities.
 - Emphasizes the need for reforestation and afforestation.

6. The Biological Diversity Act, 2002

- **Objective:** To protect biological diversity in India and to ensure fair and equitable sharing of benefits arising from the use of biological resources.
- **Key Provisions:**
 - Establishment of the National Biodiversity Authority (NBA) to regulate access to biological resources and traditional knowledge.
 - Guidelines for the conservation and sustainable use of biological diversity.

7. The National Green Tribunal Act, 2010

- **Objective:** To provide for the establishment of the National Green Tribunal (NGT) for the effective and expeditious disposal of cases relating to environmental protection.
- **Key Provisions:**
 - NGT has jurisdiction over all civil cases where a substantial question relating to the environment is involved.
 - Fast-track resolution of environmental disputes and appeals against the orders of regulatory authorities.

8. The Hazardous Waste (Management and Handling) Rules, 1989

- **Objective:** To regulate the management and handling of hazardous waste.
- **Key Provisions:**
 - Guidelines for the treatment, storage, and disposal of hazardous waste.
 - Requirements for the labeling and packaging of hazardous materials.

9. The Chemical Accidents (Emergency Planning, Preparedness and Response) Rules, 1996

- **Objective:** To prepare for and respond to chemical accidents.
- **Key Provisions:**
 - Establishes guidelines for the preparation of on-site and off-site emergency plans.
 - Mandates reporting and information dissemination regarding hazardous chemicals.

10. The Ozone Depleting Substances (Regulation and Control) Rules, 2000

- **Objective:** To regulate the production and consumption of ozone-depleting substances (ODS).
- **Key Provisions:**
 - Sets out controls for the import and export of ODS.
 - Promotes alternatives and technologies to phase out the use of ODS.

Conclusion

India's environmental protection framework is extensive and aims to balance development with environmental conservation. Despite these laws, challenges remain in enforcement, public awareness, and integrating environmental considerations into development planning. Strengthening compliance, enhancing public participation, and fostering sustainable practices are crucial for the effectiveness of these acts.