

Report on National Seminar on 'Legal Protection and Improvement of the Environment: Challenges and the Way Forward'

DATE: 24th February, 2024

A National Seminar on 'Legal Protection and Improvement of the Environment: Challenges and the Way Forward' was organized by IQAC of Thane Municipal Council Law College in association with IQAC through the Department of Environmental Science and Department of Biodiversity Wildlife Conservation and Management of B. N. Bandodkar College of Science (Autonomous) and VPM's Polytechnic, Thane on Saturday, February 24th 2024 at VPM's Thorale Bajirao Peshwa Sabhagruha, Thane. This seminar was sponsored by Maharashtra Pollution Control Board.

The morning began with a traditional lightening of the lamp and Saraswati Vandana followed by the inaugural session at the hands of Dr. Mahesh Bedekar, Dr. Mrs. Madhuri Pejavar (Former Dean, University of Mumbai), Honorable Justice Shri. U. D. Salvi (Former Judicial Member, NGT), Dr. Vijay Kulkarni (Honorable Expert Member, NGT) along with Dr. Srividhya Jayakumar (I/C Principal, VPM's TMC Law College), Dr. Vinda Manjramkar (I/C Principal, B. N. Bandodkar College) and Dr. D. K. Nayak (Principal, VPM's Polytechnic College)

In the Convener's address Dr. Srividhya Jayakumar explained the theme of this seminar. She assured that this seminar will enlighten all of the participants about different laws and litigations in environment protection. This was followed by a welcome address by Dr. Mrs. Pejavar who elaborated on various activities of B. N. Bandodkar College. She mentioned the efforts done by the college in conserving Thane Creek, the largest creek in Asia.

Session I

Honourable Justice Mr. U. D. Salvi's inaugural speech reverberated across the hall as he underscored the crucial role played by the legal system in protecting our environment. Dr. Vijay Kulkarni, a renowned expert member of National Green Tribunal (NGT), then delivered a thought-provoking keynote speech on 'An Introspection for More Effective Environment Adjudication'. His words sparked lively conversations about improving legal frameworks for environment protection. This was followed by a vote of thanks by Dr. D. K. Nayak.

Session II

Panel Discussion on "Current Trends and Practices in Environmental Litigation"

Second session was a Panel discussion featuring prominent members of the National Green Tribunal (NGT) Bar Association shedding light on 'Current Trends and Practices in Environmental Litigation'. They offered valuable insights into navigating the legal landscape. The NGT, established in 2010 with its headquarters in Delhi, has been at the forefront of delivering justice to environmental activists and addressing ecological concerns. One significant historical reference made during the session was the initiation of environmental action post the Bhopal gas tragedy in 1984, which subsequently led to the enactment of the Environmental Protection Act of 1986. This act is structured into seven statutes, each addressing different facets of environmental protection such as air and water quality.

It was highlighted that cases pertaining to environmental issues, once brought before the NGT, could directly proceed to the Supreme Court. This streamlined process has made the NGT a pivotal institution in addressing social and environmental concerns swiftly and effectively. Additionally, the discussion shed light on various tribunals established to deal specifically with environmental matters. Key cases discussed during the session included a significant landfill and environmental violation case in Goa, which raised apprehensions regarding the efficacy of enforcement mechanisms by authorities. The NGT was identified as a crucial body capable of monitoring authorities and ensuring compliance with environmental protection laws.

The panellists emphasized the importance of utilizing the NGT as a platform for addressing cases against corporate entities involved in environmental violations. They outlined the procedural aspects of filing cases with the NGT, which include e-filing without the need for physical documents or petitions. Additionally, hearings are conducted via video conferences, streamlining the process and minimizing logistical challenges.

Financial implications were also discussed, with a nominal fee of INR 1,000 required for filing petitions with the NGT. The session outlined various limitations associated with filing cases, including time constraints under Sections 14 for 6 months and under section for 5 years of the regulations. Furthermore, a 30-day probation period was mentioned as part of the process. A noteworthy initiative discussed during the session was the Paravaran Suraksha Manch, which provides a formula through which Pollution Control Board authorities receive funding to address environmental issues in specific areas. This highlights the collaborative efforts between regulatory bodies and local communities to tackle environmental challenges effectively.

Dr. Nitin Wagh conducted a **paper presentation** on aquaculture and its environmental impact. He specifically focused on shrimp hatcheries, farms, feed mills, and processing facilities. His research highlighted the negative consequences of fish water aquaculture on marine biodiversity. Dr. Wagh emphasized the urgency of addressing these impacts for the sustainability of aquatic ecosystems. He discussed the existing national regulatory framework governing fisheries in India, including the Indian Fisheries Act of 1987 and the Coastal Aquaculture Authority (CAA) Act of 2005. He also mentioned a proposed amendment bill in 2023 for potential updates to these regulations. In terms of international law, Dr. Wagh referred to regulations set forth by different bodies, such as the Seafood Import Monitoring Program in the United States. He highlighted the importance of maintaining comprehensive records for designated foods to ensure public health. Dr. Wagh proposed strategies for mitigating the environmental impacts of aquaculture, including the use of technology for monitoring and enforcement, the development of new regulatory frameworks, stakeholder coordination, raising farmer awareness, and compliance with regulatory standards.

Session III

Speaker I: Environmental Governance Opportunity of Synergy of Science and Laws - Emerging areas of Remediation.

Ajay Deshpande, Honourable Former Expert Member of the National Green Tribunal (NGT), delved into the intricate intersection of law and science concerning the enforcement of environmental regulations. His discourse centered on the pivotal role of environmental governance, the evolving landscape of remediation, and the jurisdictional purview of the NGT.

Environmental Governance: Deshpande commenced with an overview of environmental governance, delineating its hierarchical levels – international, national/state, and local. He underscored the significance of research-based initiatives at the international level, particularly in addressing global phenomena like climate change-induced plastic pollution. At the national and state levels, Deshpande elucidated the framework of acts, rules, and policies governing environmental regulation. Additionally, he emphasized the crucial role of local cooperation in tackling region-specific environmental concerns. Deshpande elucidated the theoretical underpinnings of environmental governance, highlighting concepts such as Common Pool Resource Governance.

Trending Regulations: In a dynamic regulatory landscape, Deshpande elucidated recent trends such as regulations targeting general pollution and endeavours to integrate environmental facilities with management practices. He also discussed the evolving paradigm of environmental jurisprudence and highlighted the compensatory measures mandated by the government and NGT to address environmental infringements. Noteworthy among these were innovative regulations focusing on environmental standards, specialized financing for environmentally sustainable initiatives, and various economic incentives and subsidies aimed at promoting environmental stewardship.

NGT Jurisdiction: Dr. Deshpande provided insights into the jurisdictional ambit of the NGT, particularly under Section 17, which pertains to restitution of property damage and the environment. He elaborated on the parameters utilized by the Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB) to calculate environmental compensation using the formula $EC = P_i \times N \times R \times S \times L_f$

Environmental Restoration: Dr. Deshpande acknowledged the formidable challenges inherent in ecological and environmental restoration efforts. He outlined various approaches to restoration, including service-to-service, value-to-value, and value-to-cost approaches. However, he underscored the challenges associated with adhering to international standards, the proportional cost of restoration vis-à-vis cleanup efforts, and the imperative of devising mechanisms to monitor environmental damage over time.

Speaker II: Mr. Amit Yadav, Asst. Professor, MCC College

Topic: Solid Waste Management in India: A Bird's eye view

Mr. Amit Yadav in his session provided a comprehensive overview of the waste management program in India, highlighting the laws, challenges and stakeholders involved in the process. Key points discussed included the Flamingo Wildlife Sanctuary, the dumping ground in Mulund and the alarming issue of methane release from dumping grounds leading to fires. The speaker also emphasized the progress made by certain regions like Chhattisgarh, which achieved 100% waste treatment in 2001.

One of the focal points of the discussion was the legal framework governing waste management in India. The Environmental Protection Act of 1986, Hazardous Waste (H&M) Rules, 1989 (revised in 2016 – Management and Transboundary Waste), Municipal Solid Waste (H&M) Rules, 2000 (revised in 2016), Swachh Bharat Mission launched in 2014, Plastic Waste Management Rules 2016, Construction and Demolition Waste Management Rules 2016, Battery Waste Rules 2016 and E-Waste Rules 2016 were cited as crucial legislation in this regard. Additionally, the concept of Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) and Producer Responsibility Organizations (PROs) as part of the circular economy model were explained. He Highlighted the major waste-generating cities in India, the speaker mentioned Delhi's Ghazipur, Okhla, and Bhaswar, with the Municipal Corporation of Delhi (MCD) producing a staggering 11,332 tonnes of solid waste per day. Mumbai's Deonar was also discussed as a site with significant waste generation, producing 6400 tonnes of waste daily. The Mumbai City Action Plan aims to close Deonar by 2025 due to its legacy waste issues.

The presentation delved into the stakeholders involved in waste management programs, emphasizing the role of local urban bodies as the ultimate implementers. NGOs were mentioned for their efforts in tying up with local authorities for beach clean-ups and other initiatives. The importance of cleanliness ratings was underscored, with Surat cited as one of the top-ranking cities in terms of cleanliness. Session III was hosted by Dr. Urmila Kumavat, Coordinator of the department of BWCM and EVS.

Session IV

Speaker I: Mr. Meet Ashar, Animal Rights Advocate and Activist.

Topic: Forest and Wildlife Conservation

Mr. Meet Ashar emphasized on the importance of protecting wild species and their habitats for their survival. He highlighted the need to prevent wildlife from being killed indiscriminately and poached, as well as the significance of wildlife conservation in maintaining food chains and ecosystem balance.

He also addressed the reality of wildlife conservation efforts in India, the controversial aspects of wildlife management policies, such as the allowance of killing animals to settle human-wildlife conflicts under the Compensatory Afforestation Fund Management and Planning Authority (CAMPA). Additionally, he brings up instances where government officials have suggested drastic measures, such as killing all tigers in the Wynad region and advocating for a certain number of tiger deaths in Madhya Pradesh. Furthermore, the speaker raised concerns about the introduction of African cheetahs into India, questioning whether they can survive in different climatic conditions and habitats than those they are accustomed to. Finally, the speaker posed a thought-provoking question: does the Wildlife Protection Act truly support wildlife conservation when the government is issuing orders to kill animals? This question prompts reflection on the effectiveness and ethical implications of wildlife conservation efforts in light of government policies and actions.

Speaker II: Mr. Prashant Manurkar- Quality Safety Expert, Corporate industry.

Topic: Importance of Energy Conservation for Sustainable Development with special reference to Energy Conservation.

In this session Mr. Prashant Manurkar, discussed various aspects of energy conservation and its importance for sustainable development. He covered topics such as different forms of energy, sustainable energy, efficiency, conservation, energy management, global energy reserves, energy cost reduction and energy-saving tips.

Sustainable energy was emphasized as a key aspect of conservation, focusing on using less energy, improving efficiency through technology and investing in renewable energy for the future. Mr. Manurkar differentiated between efficiency and conservation, highlighting that efficiency focuses on the equipment or machinery being used and involves using technology that requires less energy to perform the same function. Conservation, on the other hand, focuses on the behavior of people and includes any behavior that results in the use of less energy.

Energy management was also discussed, covering renewable and non-renewable energy sources, sector-wise consumption, greenhouse gas effects and global warming. The speaker provided information on global energy reserves as of 2002, including coal, oil, and gas reserves and estimated how long these reserves could last like Global coal reserves 9,84,453 million tonnes; 1047.7 thousand million barrels of oil; 155.78 trillion cubic meters of gas; World oil and gas reserves are estimated to last 45 years respectively and Coal is likely to last a little over 200 years.

The importance of energy conservation was emphasized, noting that 60% of resources have already been consumed so far and 85% of raw energy comes from non-renewable sources, which may not be available for future generations. The Energy Conservation Act of 2001 was mentioned as a regulatory measure to promote energy conservation which came into force on 29th September 2001. Energy cost reduction strategies were provided, including simple monitoring techniques such as switching off lights and fans when not in use, adjusting air conditioning settings and maximizing the use of daylight. Additionally, energy-saving tips were given, such as replacing light bulbs with CFLs, unplugging electronics when not in use, adjusting thermostats, and using ceiling fans instead of air conditioning. Session IV was hosted by Ms. Surabhi Walavalkar Thosar, Assistant prof. at the department of BWCM and EVS.

Valedictory Session: Ms. Nilakshi Sagvekar, Senior Management Executive, Corporate Industry.

Topic: Lifestyle Changes and Corporate social Responsibilities in Conserving Energy

In the valedictory address, Ms. Nilakshi Sagvekar discussed various aspects related to energy conservation, corporate social responsibilities (CSR) and lifestyle changes aimed at conserving energy. She covered the following points.

Energy conservation is an important focus, with the use of renewable energy sources being a key strategy. Energy audits were recommended to improve efficiency, with preliminary and detailed methodologies mentioned in the context of CSR activities. ESG consists of environmental, social, and governance considerations. Several companies, such as Merico, Tata Power, and Reliance Industries Limited, have CSR initiatives for energy conservation. Investing in green energy stocks in 2024 offers benefits like portfolio diversification, reduced carbon footprint, and government incentives. Seventeen companies and start-ups, including BEXWELL Enterprises and Terracon Ecotech, are leading energy conservation in India. The Energy Conservation (Amendment) Bill, 2022 emphasizes using non-fossil sources of energy in residential sectors. Lifestyle changes, like using LED lights and adopting energy-efficient habits, are recommended for energy conservation.

The Seminar was concluded with a 'Vote of Thanks' given by the Co-convener Dr. Vinda Manjramkar, I/c Principal, BNB Science college.

IQAC of VPM's TMC Law College, Thane

in association with

IQAC of VPM's B. N. Bandodkar College of Science (Autonomous), Thane

(Through Department of Environmental Science and Department of Biodiversity, Wildlife Conservation and Management)

and

VPM's Polytechnic, Thane



Organize National Seminar Sponsored by

Maharashtra Pollution Control Board, Mumbai

on

Legal Protection and Improvement of the Environment: Challenges and the Way Forward

Date: **24th February 2024**
Saturday

Time: **10.30 am to 06.30 pm**

Venue: Thorale Bajirao Peshwe
Sabhagruha



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Environment Protection: The Role Of Public Interest Litigation

Adv. Ms. Rashmi B. Marathe

ABSTRACT

Under the title ‘**Environment Protection: The role of Public Interest Litigation**’, the author seeks to study the role of public interest litigation in environmental protection. The object of this paper is to study the impact of public interest litigation in the evolution of environmental jurisprudence in India.

Article -21 in our constitution provides, “Protection of life and personal liberty”. Adopting a liberal interpretation the Supreme Court has read several rights to make life more meaningful and worth living including rights relating to environment through public interest litigation. Constitution **42nd amendment** added a new directive principle in **Article 48A** directing the State to endeavour to protect and improve the environment and to safeguard the forests and wildlife of the country. **Article 51A (g)** lays down that “It shall be a duty of every citizen of India to protect and improve the natural environment including the forests, lakes, rivers and wildlife and to have compassion for living creatures.” The judiciary has rendered activist decisions in the scheme of these provisions – Articles 21, 48A and 51A(g).

PIL plays a significant role in shaping laws and policies in India. PIL helps to promote transparency and accountability in governance by holding public authorities responsible for their actions regarding environmental protection. PIL also leads to creation of awareness among citizens about environmental issues and their rights. It has empowered people to take action against environmental violations and seek redressal from the judiciary.

KEYWORDS: *Public Interest Litigation; Article 21; Accountability; Life; Forests; Wild Life*

Public Interest Litigation For Environment Protection

Monika Nemani, FY LLB Student

ABSTRACT

One of the greatest problem which the world is facing is Environment Pollution. It's the Global issue both for developed and developing countries. While much had been said and done by various NGO's, Government, Trust, etc but considering the current environment situation in different regions of the World, yet, there is lot more to do. We in the name of development and growth, are causing severe injury to the environment viz. huge number of plants gets destroyed while constructing residential and commercial complexes, malls, etc.

As per Article 21 of the Constitution of India, right to healthy environment is a fundamental right. It is the duty of State under Article 48A and 51A(g) of the Constitution to protect and improve the environment.

Public Interest Litigation (PIL) is devised by Supreme Court of India in order to improve access to justice. The principle of "Locus Standi" was relaxed and public spirited person was made eligible to approach the court for remedies in various alarming concerns. PIL has played significant role in framing various policies, rules and laws in India.

Various NGOs and individuals acting on a pro bono basis have filed PILs before Supreme Court and High Courts pertaining to environmental pollution and protection of environment. As a result, various landmark judicial rulings have been pronounced formulating new principles for the protection of an environment. This study is on the role of PIL in safeguarding the environment from pollution. Hon'ble Supreme Court and High Courts have given directions, prepared new guidelines/rules, etc. on the basis of PIL filed covering vast areas viz., dumping of hazardous wastes, ban of plastics, recycling of wastes from industries, etc. PIL has played the crucial role in addressing various environment problems since it eliminates the expenses and further provides direct access to Supreme Court and High Courts.

KEYWORDS: *Environment; Pollution, NGOs; PIL*

Navigating The Waters: Understanding The Maharashtra Groundwater (Development And Management) Act, 2009

Raj Sankar Jayakumar, Non Practicing Lawyer

ABSTRACT

The Maharashtra Groundwater (Development and Management) Act, 2009, stands as a pivotal legislative initiative aimed at addressing the critical issue of groundwater depletion within the state's borders. With escalating demands for water due to urbanization, industrialization, and agricultural activities, the Act recognizes the urgent need for a structured framework to govern groundwater usage while ensuring environmental sustainability. This legislation introduces a multifaceted approach to groundwater management, emphasizing the twin objectives of conservation and environmental protection.

Key provisions of the Act include the establishment of registration procedures to monitor and regulate groundwater extraction, provisions for protection of drinking water from contamination, preparation of plans for just usage of water and measures to protect quality and quantity of water such as conducting groundwater surveys, rain water harvesting, establishment of watersheds and efficient plans for water management and restrictions on activities such as sand mining and usage of chemical fertilizers.

The effectiveness of the Act is further enhanced through robust monitoring and surveillance mechanisms to curb unauthorized extraction and ensure compliance with stipulated regulations. Moreover, the legislation promotes community participation through the formation of Water User Associations, empowering local stakeholders in the conservation efforts.

While the Maharashtra Groundwater Act represents a significant step forward in water resource management, challenges such as enforcement and awareness persist. However, opportunities abound in leveraging technological advancements for efficient monitoring and exploring innovative conservation methods. This paper provides an overview of the Act, highlighting its salient features, challenges, and opportunities for implementation and improvement.

KEYWORDS: *Maharashtra Groundwater Act; Groundwater; Sustainable Water Management; Conservation; Environmental Protection*

Mitigation Of Environmental Impact Of Shrimp Aquaculture Through Regulations

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**Consultant Veterinary Doctor and Final Year LLB Student*

ABSTRACT

Aquaculture in India has seen multifold growth in production especially after introduction of Whiteleg Shrimp (*Litopenaeusvannamei*) species about a decade ago. Today, India is largest exporter of farmed shrimp providing livelihood to lakhs of people directly and in-directly. The southeastern coastal state of Andhra Pradesh has been the anchor of aquaculture in India. Its land and water resources and entrepreneurial farmers have made it No. 1 in farmed freshwater fish and marine shrimp production over the last three decades. While Black Tiger Shrimp (*Penaeus monodon*) have been produced in low-salinity waters in some of the districts of Andhra Pradesh, vast expansion of shrimp production occurred in these districts in the last decade by way of constructing new ponds or using ponds previously used for fish farming. Shrimp farming also expanded in other states, notably in the states of Odisha and West Bengal that are north of Andhra Pradesh on the east coast, and in the northwestern state of Gujarat.

Frozen shrimp remains the major export item in terms of both quantity and value while USA and China turned out to be the major importers of India's seafood. Frozen shrimp, which earned Rs 43,135.58 crore (US\$ 5481.63 million), retained its position as the most significant item in the basket of seafood exports, accounting for a share of 40.98% in quantity and 67.72% of the total US\$ earnings. The overall export of frozen shrimps during 2022-23 was pegged at 7,11,099 MT.

Shrimp Production industry can be broadly classified into 4 major activities- Shrimp Hatcheries, Shrimp Farms, Feed Mills and Processing Plants. All these activities have some or other effects – both direct and indirect on the environment, ecology, and biodiversity.

It's utmost important that both public and private bodies work closely to regulate these activities aiming at sustainable aquaculture minimizing its impact on environment, ecology, and biodiversity. Regulators play a vital role in upholding the growth of the industry by bringing in new laws or amending the existing ones to cater to global demands around sustainability and other issues related to the environment.

This article attempts to provide an overview of current affairs and future mitigation strategies towards sustainability in aquaculture with specific focus on regulations.

KEYWORDS: *Shrimp; Aquaculture; Environment; Law*

Analysing The Role Of Maharashtra Pollution Control Board's (MPCB) In Curtailing Industrial Pollution In Thane District

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ABSTRACT

The backbone of any country's economy is industrialisation. The issues associated with industrialization have multiplied along with its rapid advancement. Thane being one of the industrialised districts in Maharashtra is also listed as one of the most polluted district in Maharashtra. There are nine industrial districts in Thane district, and most of the businesses there specialize in food processing, chemical, engineering, and textile dyeing.

As per the report of Centre for Science and Environment (CSE) dated February 15, 2021, Trans- Thane Corridor, Taloja, Ambernath and Dombivli are the leading pollution hotspot in MMR due to the excessive use of coal by MSME's as rules for usage of coal by large industries are stringently laid down by Central and State Pollution Control Board. In case of Maharashtra, the rules for pollution control are laid by Maharashtra Pollution Control Board.

This paper aims to study, the role of Maharashtra Pollution Control Board (MPCB) in reducing industrial pollution in the Thane district. In this highly industrialized area, the study evaluates MPCB's efficacy in protecting public health and environmental quality by examining legal frameworks, enforcement strategies, and cooperative activities applicable to industries in this region.

KEYWORDS: *Industrialisation; Thane District; MPCB; Pollution & Environmental Laws*

Endemic Wildlife - Their Unique Importance For Nature As A Whole, Why They Are Indispensable For Biodiversity

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ABSTRACT

Large buildings that are replacing wood everywhere pose a serious threat to Earth's ecological equilibrium and can result in a number of catastrophic events. It makes many natural disasters more likely. The areas are now devoid of the many wildlife species that once called them home. India's wild animal population is fast dwindling. In our country, numerous bird and animal species are extinct, including the Asiatic cheetah, Indian aurochs, and pink-headed duck; other species, like the Bengal tiger, Asiatic lion, and Indian rhinoceros, are in danger of becoming extinct. It was a significant issue that warranted the enactment of laws to protect animals.

The diverse plants and animals that make up a certain area as a whole are referred to as wildlife. Stated differently, wildlife includes all non-domesticated animals as well as plants and other organisms found in such wild environments.

In order to preserve the harmony and health of their specific ecosystems, endemic wildlife is essential to the planet's total biodiversity. To appreciate the complex web of life and the need of protecting these species' habitats, one must have a thorough understanding of these species' significance.

This article will examine the essential function of endemic animals in the overall ecosystem, emphasizing their ecological relevance, financial worth, and possible negative effects on the environment should they become extinct. Acknowledging the significance of these species allows us to support conservation initiatives and guarantee the long-term survival of endemic wildlife as well as the landscapes they call home. At this juncture, examining the role of international laws, conventions, the Indian judiciary, and the Constitution of India to protect and conserve endangered wildlife is crucial.

KEYWORDS: *Wildlife; Endemic; Endemism; Species; Biodiversity; Environment*

Essentiality Of Clean Environment For Right To Life: Judicial Activism

Vinod Haribhau Wagh, Assistant Professor, VPM's TMC Law College, Thane

ABSTRACT

Without a clean environment, life has no meaning. The Constitution of India, though guarantees the right to life in Article 21 but the necessary requirements to enjoy right to life have not been guaranteed rather reflects directly in the Constitution. Therefore, the judiciary had to come to the support the meaningful meaning to the term 'life' through their judicial verdict and judgments. The Constitutional courts, i.e. Supreme Court and High Courts have declared the necessary components of life through their various judgments and thereby posted the clear picture and vision to the term 'life'. The Supreme Court has not only defined life but given true meaning and clear understanding of it. Right to life becomes possible with right to education, right to shelter, right to health and so as right to have a clean environment. Providing a clean environment to its citizens therefore declared the duty of the State and ultimately the right of the citizen. Every element of nature therefore, directed to be preserved, protected and propagated. The Constitution of India through different articles provided the concerned with the environment. Article 48A states "The State shall endeavour to protect and improve the environment and to safeguard the forests and wildlife of the country." Article 51A(g), it is the duty of every citizen to preserve and protect the environment. It states "It shall be the duty of every citizen of India to protect and improve the natural environment including forests, lakes, rivers, and wildlife and to have compassion for living creatures." Shriram Fertilizer case, Indian Council for Enviro-Legal Action v. Union of India M. C Mehta v. Kamal Nath, Vellore citizens welfare forum v. Union of India are few of the many cases where the judiciary has shown its seriousness about the relationship between the right to life and clean environment.

KEYWORDS: *Public Interest Litigation; Article 21; Accountability; Life; Forests; Wild Life*

Environmental Education And Awareness

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ABSTRACT

Interest in environmental problems has grown tremendously over the past decades and believed that environmental problems will continue to increase, it is clear that we have a major challenge to overcome the problem of environment issues. In India, nature is heavily affected by environmental degradation. To address these many problems and challenges, it is needed to take significant sustainable initiatives to address the country's many problems, including environmental degradation, in order to maintain its future prospects leading to sustained economic growth.

Eco system is the basic of the environment therefore it is necessary to maintain constant stability and restore environment for the future generation. Survival is impossible without good and unpolluted environment, there are number of challenges face while maintaining and restoration of the pollution free environment. Being the global problem, many efforts were made to eradicate the environment pollution and restore the wholesome environment for the better living of the person. While doing so it is considered to be necessary to protection and conservation of the national resources as much as possible by way of implementing many nationwide programs to spread awareness and imposing the two basic principle of Stockholm declaration that is of precautionary and polluter pay principle implementation and enforcement of certain laws by way of penalising the polluter and imposing fine and in some severe cases imprisonment which will help to prevent the environment pollution.

India, exacerbated by high population density, and its size has increased the growth rate, which tends to expand and accelerate human impact on natural resources. Environmental degradation not only causes deterioration of natural conditions, but also has adverse effects on sustainable development and human health. Existing environmental laws seem to be ineffective and non-controlling, due to lack of enforcement, availability of resources, people's participation, environmental education-awareness and other technical problems.

KEYWORDS: *Environmental Problems; Pollution; Enforcement; Awareness; Law*

India's Climate Change Policy: Obstacles And Suggestions

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ABSTRACT

India is susceptible to wide scale climate change-related risks due to its various climate zones, topography, and ecosystems. The Global Climate Risk Index 2021 calls India the 7th most affected nation due to climate change. India reported 280 heatwave days (the highest in 12 years) between the periods of 11th March – 18th May 2022. Climate change exposes vulnerable communities to dangers like disasters, diseases, loss of livelihoods, crop failures, poverty and displacement, threatening loss of biodiversity and food security. Climate change represents additional stress on the ecological and socioeconomic systems that are already facing tremendous pressure due to rapid industrialization, urbanization and economic development. India has been under lots of pressure to develop a robust climate and environment policy to address its climate change concerns arising out of development. Therefore, with this in the foreground, a national guiding strategy that addresses India's development profile with emphasis on adaptation of environment policies is important. All this has led to the framework of "National Action Plan on Climate Change" in 2008 [NAPCC]. The earth's climate is dynamic and changes have picked up momentum due to manmade and natural factors. The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) in its fourth assessment report observed that "warming of climate is now unequivocal, as is now evident from observations of increases in global average air and ocean temperatures, widespread melting of snow and ice, and rising global sea level" This poses a wide range of challenges to the law makers to develop policy response through missions and programmes to reduce the climate vulnerability. This paper analyses the impact of climate change and global warming on various aspects of human life in the Indian context. The paper also aims to analyse the effectiveness of the present policies dealing with the challenges of global warming and the serious need to revisit the available policies to make them more compatible with the international standards.

KEYWORDS: *Climate Change; National Action Plan On Climate Change; Global Warming; International Standards*

Education, Public Awareness And Environmental Literacy In Promoting Sustainable Development Goals

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ABSTRACT

This research explores the pivotal role of education, public awareness campaigns, and environmental literacy in advancing sustainable development goals (SDGs) and cultivating a pervasive culture of environmental stewardship. The analysis delves into various dimensions of education, including formal education systems, non-formal educational approaches, and informal learning experiences, to identify effective strategies for enhancing environmental literacy and promoting sustainable behaviour across diverse demographic groups and societal contexts.

To further advance sustainable development goals and environmental stewardship, it is recommended that:

1. Education systems prioritize the integration of Education for Sustainable Development (ESD) across formal curricula and teacher training programs, emphasizing experiential learning, cross-curricular integration, and community engagement.
2. Public awareness campaigns leverage technology, storytelling, and partnerships to reach target audiences effectively, focusing on actionable steps and long-term behavior change.

KEYWORDS: *Education; Public Awareness; Environmental Literacy; Sustainable Development; Environmental Stewardship*

A Review On Wildlife Conservation Projects For The Flagship Species Of India

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ABSTRACT

Certain groups of megafauna, such as herbivores and apex predators play a crucial role in maintaining equilibrium within the ecosystem, in such a way that minor fluctuations in their population can have a potent effect on the entire food web. Conservation biology often utilizes popular animals, branding them as mascots for preservation, thus ensuring their protection as well as the entire ecosystem as a whole. These species are popularly known as flagship species. India being favored with immense biogeography, has abundant floral and faunal wealth. The Bengal tiger (*Panthera tigris tigris*), Asian elephant (*Elephas maximus*) and one horned Rhinoceros (*Rhinoceros unicornis*) have been culturally, historically and aesthetically associated with India for a very long time. These rather captivating animals also constitute as keystone species from their respective habitats, but are unfortunately susceptible to expanding urbanization, roadways and railways, agriculture, poaching etc. Wildlife conservation projects like Project Tiger, Project Elephant and Indian Rhino Vision 2020 stress on robust enumeration and census, protected areas, relocation, mitigation of human-wildlife conflicts and effective curbing of illegal poaching. Popularity and public appeal for these animals ensure considerate subsidiaries and contributions from public, private as well as global sector. The projects have so far shown a positive impact, particularly with respect to rising numbers of wild individuals, expanding and increasing areas under protected forests and improved awareness among general masses. Provisions made under these projects has fortified implementation and effectiveness of Wildlife Protection Act, 1972. Need for global collaboration and incorporation of many other affected and even less popular animals as part of such projects can help better in conserving the faunal diversity of the nation.

KEYWORDS: *Flagship Species; Keystone Species; Project Tiger; Project Elephant; Indian Rhino Vision 2020*

Soil Conservation For A Sustainable Future - A Review

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ABSTRACT

Soil conservation and sustainability are essential for maintaining healthy ecosystems and ensuring food security. It involves practices like preventing erosion, minimizing nutrient loss, and promoting soil fertility. With growing concerns about environmental degradation, preserving and protecting the soil resources is of utmost importance because healthy soil supports plant growth and helps prevent water pollution. There is a need for education, awareness, and collaboration among stakeholders to ensure the adoption of sustainable soil management practices as it plays a vital role in achieving a sustainable future. Here are a few key points discussed in this review paper about soil conservation and sustainability like soil erosion is a major concern, and it can be prevented through techniques like contour ploughing, terracing, and the use of cover crops. Sustainable agriculture practices, such as organic farming and agroforestry, help to minimize the use of chemicals and promote biodiversity. Composting organic waste and using natural fertilizers contribute to soil sustainability. Responsible land management practices, like avoiding overgrazing and deforestation, helps to protect the soil. Soil testing and nutrient management are important for maintaining soil health and fertility. Education and awareness play a crucial role in promoting soil conservation and sustainability. Implementation of these strategies can protect soil resources, maintain agricultural productivity, and ensure the long-term sustainability of our ecosystems.

KEYWORDS: *Soil Conservation; Sustainability; Water Management; Conservation Practices*

Navigating Lifestyle Challenges For A Greener Environment- A Review

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ABSTRACT

Living a sustainable lifestyle has become increasingly important in our efforts to protect the environment. Lifestyle and the environment are deeply interconnected. The choices we make in our daily lives can have a significant impact on the health and sustainability of our planet. By adopting an eco-friendlier lifestyle, one can contribute to the preservation of natural resources, reduce pollution, and mitigate the effects of climate change. However, transitioning to a greener way of living can present its own set of challenges. One aspect of lifestyle that greatly affects the environment is our consumption patterns. Making conscious decisions about what we buy and use can make a big difference. Opting for sustainable and ethically produced products, reducing single-use items, and choosing renewable energy sources are just a few ways to align our lifestyle with environmental values. Living a lifestyle that is mindful of the environment is about making conscious choices in all aspects of our lives. It's about finding a balance between our needs and the needs of the planet. This review paper focus on few lifestyle challenges that one can tackle to create a greener environment like reduce, reuse, recycle, sustainable transportation, conserve water, energy-efficient habits, embrace sustainable fashion, minimize plastic waste and eco-friendly cleaning and personal care product.

KEYWORDS: *Lifestyle; Sustainability; Greener Environment; Lifestyle Challenges*

Development Of Environmental Jurisprudence: Exploring The Role Of The Supreme Court Of India And Public Interest Litigations

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ABSTRACT

Living in a healthy environment is necessary for the enjoyment of life. Through the right to life, Article 21 mandates an upright standard of living and an environment disencumbered by pollution. This constitutional grant of fundamental rights is rounded off with the corresponding duties of individual citizens. The Supreme Court of India, the pinnacle of our judicial system and the ultimate interpreter of the Constitution has embarked on a phenomenal journey of environmental protection by reinvigorating traditional precepts of constitutional rights and evolving fresh ones.

This paper is an attempt to study, the role of the Supreme Court of India, particularly through Public Interest Litigations in involving, interfering engaging, and reshaping environmental jurisprudence.

Research Methodology

A Doctrinal Research based on literary sources available in this area. A thorough literature review of Legal Instruments Indian as well as International, legal textbooks, research papers, e-books, and online articles will be done. Judgments delivered by the Supreme Court will be a major resource used for my study.

KEYWORDS: *Right To Life; Public Interest Litigation; Supreme Court Of India*

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*Environment is our home; it is home for crores of living species.
Let us conduct responsibility so that we hand over a vibrant
green and bountiful earth to our future generations*



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Saturday, 24th February, 2024