

MANAGEMENT OF INDIAN NATURAL RESOURCES: A LEGAL STUDY OF CRITICAL INFRASTRUCTURAL FRAMEWORK

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India's constitutional, statutory, judicial, and international effects on the management of its natural resources are abundant. Due to growing industrialisation, urban development, and ecological degradation, sustainable development is now a main regulatory principle for the management of natural resources. Global milestones like the 1972 Stockholm Conference, the 1987 Brundtland Report and the 1992 Rio Earth Summit had a deep influence on India's national policies and formed the basis for the establishment of government agencies such as the Ministry of Environment and Forests and the National Committee for Environmental Planning and Coordination. Important legislation including the Wildlife Protection Act, the Water Act, the Air Act and the Environment Protection Act provide the essential legal and governing framework. Judgement through Public Interest Litigations allowed for the establishment of principles such as the Precautionary Principle, Polluter Pays Principle, Public Trust Doctrine and the Intergenerational Equity Principle. Although there has been significant progress in establishing a legal basis for the protection of the environment, several challenges remain, including implementation of laws, overlap between institutions, and increasing demand for natural resources. Collaborative, multi-level governance, community involvement, and corporately responsible behaviour are all essential elements of sustainable and equitable resource management in India.
