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Environment and Wildlife Laws in India provides an insight into the laws, policies, practices and regulatory mechanisms that govern the environment, forests, wildlife and biodiversity of India. It studies the history and evolution of environmental laws in India and highlights certain international conventions and regulatory mechanisms in other countries. It also contains the latest developments and upcoming topics of interest in this subject.

This book adheres to the prescribed syllabus for law students in India and has been written in a lucid, easy-to-understand manner. This will also prove valuable for academicians, lawyers, activists, NGOs, policy makers and anybody who is interested in learning about the regulatory regime governing the environment.

Key Features

- Covers recent developments in environmental law
- Contains a detailed analysis of environmental laws
- Highlights relevant international conventions
- Includes graphic illustrations for easy understanding of subjects
- Concludes each chapter with a summary and sample questions

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ISBN: 978-81-8038-857-6



9 788180 388576

₹ 395

Environment and Wildlife Laws in India

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Environment and Wildlife Laws in India

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Gurgaon-122002, Haryana, India.
Tel: + 91 124 4774444 Fax: + 91 124 4774100
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Arjya B Majumdar, Debosmita Nandy & Swayambhu Mukherjee, *Environment and Wildlife Laws in India*, First Edition, 2013.

ISBN: 978-81-8038-857-6

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Printed by:
Shree Maitrey Printech Pvt. Ltd., A-84, Sector 2, Noida.

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Printed and bound in India.



Preface

"Earth provides enough to satisfy every man's need; but not every man's greed."

– Mahatma Gandhi

Industrial revolution is considered as the modern world's singularly most important catalyst of human development, providing man with means to a greater and more convenient future. However, it came at a price, which was not felt until the mid 20th century. By then, the world had already set out on a path which could only lead to the destruction of man's natural environment. Since that realisation, there have been concerted efforts by various world leaders, governments, activist groups and the common man to preserve the environment, find a cure for the harmful effects of industrialisation and perhaps restore the Earth to its previous splendour.

A love and passion for the environment drove the authors to write this book. Experience, obtained first hand in a developing nation, of progressively extreme weather patterns, denudation of pristine Himalayan forests and a gradual decline in air and water quality have led the authors to believe that there is still a long way to go for preservation of our environment and that the present and future generations must be sensitized and made aware of the environmental risks at hand.

The environment, as a field of study is vast. Ranging from the chemical effect of toxins on organisms to the political pressures faced by governments to shun newer pollution norms, the study of the environment is truly inter-disciplinary. This book has attempted to cover as much ground as possible by focusing not only on the laws as they exist today, but also on the reason behind their enactment.

In writing this book, we have been fortunate in receiving valuable guidance and constant encouragement from Dr. Arup K. Poddar, Associate Professor of the National University of Juridical Sciences, Kolkata, for which we are eternally grateful. We would also like to thank Ms. Rukmini Banerjee, who took our words and turned them into pictures, a concept still rare in law books. Our family members deserve a special mention without whose unwavering support this book would not have been possible. Last, but not the least, we would like to thank the Editorial team at LexisNexis for the efforts they put in to convert our dream into reality.

In spite of great care and caution, errors and omissions may have crept in, for which we would like to apologise to our readers. We would be grateful if such errors or omissions are brought to our notice, so that they may be dealt with in future.

We hope this book proves as enjoyable for the readers as it has been for us.

Authors

Foreword

It gives me immense pleasure to write the foreword to this book on the environmental and wildlife laws of India. It is interesting to note here that I have known all the three authors since their days as young law students and scholars at the National University of Juridical Sciences. Having taught all three of them, I have had a number of opportunities to supervise their work especially in environmental law. Not only were they very articulate in their project work relating to Environmental Law, their scores were very high as well. I have also been associated with the authors in their previous endeavour- a book on "Forest Laws in India" as an author and editor.

I have in the law teaching profession for over 10 years now. Interestingly, many of them were spent while teaching environmental law. One of the drawbacks I have found in many of the other text books used to rely on the material for teaching environmental law is that they are not geared for the benefit of the students. The language often makes it difficult to understand the core issues and the stress is more upon knowing what the law is, rather than an analysis to understand the factors that led to the development of law. This often tends to a dispassionate study of environmental law.

I find none of these lacunae in this book. The authors have used language which is clear, crisp and precise. I find the communicative style to be easy to understand and extremely suitable and immensely enlightening for students who wish to grasp basic concepts. Cases are discussed in very simple language to the appropriate context. The graphics and summary tables in each chapter lend an additional dimension to the ease of understanding and recollection of concepts.

At the same time, the quality and depth of information provided is stellar. This book not only covers the required syllabus prescribed under the Bar Council of India, but also explains recent developments in environmental law such as the E-waste Rules and the Green Tribunal. I have no doubt that the usefulness of this book will go beyond the primary target audience of law students and appeal equally to practitioners, judges, and institutions. In spite of great care and caution, errors and omissions may have crept in, for which we would like to apologise to our readers. We would be grateful if such errors or omissions are brought to our notice, so that they may be dealt with in future.

I feel that this book is a must read for anyone involved in dealing with Environmental and wildlife Laws. Lastly, I would like to wish the authors success in all their future endeavours.

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