

NATIONAL LAW UNIVERSITY, JODHPUR
End Term Examination August-December, 2025
Semester: PG I Semester (Public Law)
Subject: Environmental Law Policy & Governance

Time: Three Hours

Marks: 100

Instructions:

1. *Attempt any four out of six questions.*
2. *Due credit will be given to brevity, coherence and style of presentation.*
3. *Support your answer with relevant statutory provisions, judicial decisions and reasons wherever necessary.*

Q.1. In the State of Himavan, a proposed infrastructure project 'Green Corridor Expressway' aims to connect remote tribal regions to urban centers. The project promises economic development but requires deforestation of over 1,000 hectares of protected forest land, home to endangered species and sacred tribal ecosystems. The Ministry of Environment and Forests has granted clearance citing anthropocentric benefits such as employment, connectivity, and national interest. However, a public interest litigation is filed by environmental philosopher Dr. Kavya Menon and tribal rights activist Ramesh Bhatia, arguing that the project violates the ecocentric principles embedded in constitutional environmental jurisprudence and international obligations. They invoke the 'rights of nature' doctrine and cite precedents like *T.N. Godavarman v. Union of India*, and the recognition of rivers as legal persons in *Mohd. Salim v. State of Uttarakhand*.

In light of the above facts answer the following questions:

1. Critically examine the historical and philosophical foundations of anthropocentrism and ecocentrism in environmental law. **(Marks 5)**
2. Trace the evolution of Indian environmental jurisprudence from anthropocentric development models to ecocentric constitutional interpretations under Articles 21, 48A, and 51A(g) of the Indian Constitution, 1950. **(Marks 10)**
3. Evaluate which approach anthropocentric or ecocentric is more effective in addressing contemporary environmental crises such as climate change and biodiversity loss. Also, analyse whether India's current legal and policy framework is inclined more towards ecocentrism or anthropocentrism, and suggest reforms that could strengthen ecological justice in India's environmental governance. **(Marks 10)**

Q.2 In the Federation of Suryanagar, a multinational corporation named 'TerraNova Minerals Ltd.' has received environmental clearance to initiate a large-scale cobalt extraction project in the ecologically sensitive Aravalli Biosphere Reserve. The project is promoted as essential for India's green energy transition and its commitments under the Paris Agreement, 2015. However, the initiative faces strong opposition from local communities and environmental

advocates, including tribal leader Savita Rathore and legal scholar Prof. Aarav Sen, who argue that the project violates international environmental principles such as sustainable development, precautionary principle, and intergenerational equity. A writ petition is filed before the Supreme Court of Suryanagar, invoking international instruments like the Stockholm Declaration (1972), Rio Declaration (1992), and the Paris Agreement (2015), alongside domestic precedents such as *Vellore Citizens Welfare Forum v. Union of India*, *T.N. Godavarman v. Union of India*, and *M.C. Mehta v. Union of India*.

Considering the facts above answer the following questions:

1. Critically examine the historical evolution and key sources of international environmental law, including treaties, customary norms, and judicial decisions. **(Marks 7)**

2. Discuss how these global principles have influenced the development of India's environmental jurisprudence, constitutional interpretation (especially under Articles 21, 48A, and 51A(g)), and statutory frameworks such as the Environment Protection Act, 1986 and the Biological Diversity Act, 2002. **(Marks 8)**

3. Evaluate the extent to which India has successfully internalized international environmental norms into its domestic legal regime. Also, identify and analyze the key challenges such as legal, institutional, and political that hinder the effective implementation of international environmental law principles in India, particularly in the context of climate justice, biodiversity protection, and balancing development with ecological sustainability.

(Marks 10)

Q.3 In the State of Karnika, a consumer rights group led by activist Neha Bansal files a petition before the National Green Tribunal (NGT) challenging the sale of household cleaning products labeled as "eco-friendly" and "non-toxic" by a major manufacturer, 'GreenGlowPvt. Ltd.' The group alleges that the company's labels are misleading, lacking scientific validation and regulatory oversight, and that the public is being denied access to accurate environmental information about the product's lifecycle impact. The petition invokes the principles of environmental transparency, the right to information, and the need for robust eco-labeling standards of International Organization for Standardization (ISO) aligned with India's commitments under the Stockholm Convention and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

Considering these facts answer the following questions:

1. Critically examine the legal framework governing environmental information disclosure in India, including the role of the Environment Protection Act, 1986, the Right to Information Act, 2005, and the National Environment Policy, 2006. **(Marks 10)**

2. Discuss the evolution and current status of eco-labelling and environmental certification schemes in India, such as the Ecomark scheme, and assess their effectiveness in promoting

sustainable consumption. Evaluate the challenges in ensuring transparency, scientific credibility, and consumer protection in environmental labelling. (Marks 8)

3. Suggest legal and institutional reforms that could strengthen India's environmental governance through improved information disclosure and credible certification mechanisms (Marks 7)

Q.4 In the State of Devprakash, a group of coastal residents led by environmental activist Ananya Rao files a writ petition before the High Court, alleging that rising sea levels and frequent cyclones exacerbated by unchecked industrial emissions have endangered their homes, livelihoods, and health. They argue that the government's failure to regulate greenhouse gas emissions and implement climate adaptation measures violates their fundamental right to life under Article 21 of the Constitution. The respondents contend that climate change is a global issue and not subject to judicial scrutiny.

In light of the of facts answer the following questions and support your answer with relevant legal provisions and cases:

1. Critically examine how Indian constitutional jurisprudence has evolved to include environmental protection within the ambit of the right to life. (Marks 8)

2. Discuss the feasibility of climate change litigation in India using common law principles such as public nuisance and negligence, and assess the challenges of establishing causation and standing in such cases. (Marks 10)

3. Suggest how courts can adopt a rights-based approach to climate governance without overstepping into policy domains. (Marks 7)

Q.5 In the State of Narmadapur, the government launches a climate resilience infrastructure project aimed at flood-proofing urban zones along the riverbanks. However, the project displaces thousands of rural and tribal families living in upstream forested areas, without meaningful consultation or compensation. A coalition of affected communities, led by activist Leela Verma and Prof. Arjun Desai, files a writ petition before the High Court, arguing that the project violates principles of climate justice by disproportionately burdening vulnerable populations while benefiting urban elites. They further contend that the decision-making process lacked procedural safeguards, transparency, and inclusive participation, undermining their constitutional rights under Articles 14 and 21.

In light of the above facts answer the following questions, support your answer with relevant cases:

1. Critically examine the concept of climate justice and its relevance to distributive and procedural equity in climate policy. (Marks 5)

