

ES 645
**Environmental
Law & Policy**

Lecture 5

**Definitions Used in
the Indian
Environmental Laws**



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Environment (1/2)

- Derived from the French word *Environer*, essentially referring to those external conditions that influence the all living creatures (including human beings).
- It probably includes “everything” around us – living and non-living. It is one of the widest concepts ever evolving in the 20th and now in 21st Century.



Environment (2/2)

- The Environment (Protection) Act, 1986 defines it as:
“Environment includes water, air and land and the inter-relationship which exists among and between water, air and land and human beings, other living creatures, plants, micro-organisms and property.”



Environmental Pollution (1/9)

- The Environment (Protection) Act, 1986 defines it as:
“ environmental pollution means the presence in environment of any environmental pollutant.”
- Environmental pollutant means any solid, liquid or gaseous substance present in such concentration as may be or tend to be injurious to the environment.



Environmental Pollution (2/9)

Sources

- Household & Domestic Sources
- Commerce & trade
- Industries
- Rural landscape
- Urban landscape
- Catastrophes & Natural Disaster
- Pollutants occurring “naturally”



Environmental Pollution (3/9)

Classification

- Water pollution
- Air pollution
- Land and soil pollution
- Noise pollution
- Radioactive pollution

Source ??



Environmental Pollution (4/9)

Water Pollution

Water pollution means such contamination of water or such alteration of the physical, chemical or biological properties of water or such discharge of any sewage or trade effluent or trade effluent or of any other liquid, gaseous or solid substance into water (whether directly or indirectly) as may or is likely to, create a nuisance or render such water harmful or injurious to public health or safety or domestic, commercial, industrial or plants or of aquatic organisms.

Source: The Water (P&CP) Act, 1974



Environmental Pollution (5/9)

Air Pollution

Air pollution is the presence in ambient atmosphere of substances, generally resulting from the activities of man, in sufficient concentration, present for sufficient time and circumstances such as to interfere with comfort or welfare of persons or with reasonable use or enjoyment of property.

Source: Bureau of Indian Standards (IS-4167), 1980



Environmental Pollution (6/9)

Air Pollution (alternate definition)

Air pollution means any solid, liquid or gaseous substance including noise present in the atmosphere in such concentration that may tend to be injurious to human beings or other living creatures or plants or property or environment.

Source: Air (P&CP) Act, 1981



Environmental Pollution (7/9)

Land & Soil Pollution

There is specific law or regulation to deal with land or soil pollution. However, there are many other laws and regulation in India to deal with land and soil pollution in indirect manner. We will deal with it later.



Environmental Pollution (8/9)

Noise Pollution

Noise pollution is the integral part of air pollution. There is a specific regulation to monitor and control the noise pollution. We will deal with it later.



Environmental Pollution (9/9)

Radiation & Radioactive Pollution

The Atomic Energy Regulatory Board and the specifically articulated laws deal with radioactivity and radioactive pollution. We will deal with it later in a dedicated module.



What did we learn today?

- We have studied the “legal definitions” used in the Indian Laws while regulating various kinds of pollution. These definitions are a reflection of the “world-view and commitments” of the to preservation of the ecosystem and environment.
- In one sense, from these definitions, we can learn about our “priorities”.
- One more new angle can be noticed in today’s discussion that one should not expect to make separate laws for each issue. We should therefore understand a “systemic” view of the ecosystem and environment.