

“Environmental Values and Legal Governance in India”

“माता भूमिः पुत्रोऽहं पृथिव्याः।”

“Earth is my mother and I am her son”

(Atharva Veda)

Introduction:

India has long engaged with questions concerning the relationship between humans and the natural environment. Across ancient philosophical, religious and governance traditions nature was not treated merely as a resource to be exploited but as an integral component of social conscience and collective well-being. Environmental protection in ancient India was therefore embedded less in formal legal rights and more in normative frameworks of duty, restraint, and stewardship.

Although contemporary discourse on environmental law and policy has expanded significantly over the past few decades, but deeper historical and normative foundations of critical environmental thinking in the Indian subcontinent remain under-examined within legal scholarship. Much of the existing literature begins with colonial forest legislations or post-Independence constitutional developments leaving earlier ethical and governance traditions insufficiently explored from a legal and policy perspective.

Ancient Indian sources including the Vedas, Upanishads, *Arthashastra*, Jain and Buddhist traditions, as well as customary community practices reflect a sustained engagement with environmental ethics. These traditions while not articulating environmental rights in the modern juridical sense offer important insights into duty-based approaches that later informed constitutional and legal developments.

This edited volume examines the evolution of environmental rights from ancient India to the contemporary period, placing them within the broader framework of human rights. By engaging with historical, philosophical, constitutional, judicial, and international perspectives, the book provides a structured account of how environmental concerns have shaped the articulation of rights and duties in India while also engaging with comparative and international developments.

The book is organised into five (05) thematic parts:

Part I: Environmental Foundations in Ancient India

Philosophical and religious traditions shaping human-nature relations; Normative conceptions of “Dharma” as a duty-based framework; Early governance models including “Arthashastra”; Indigenous systems of commons management, Local self-governance, and Community-based conservation practices.

Part II: Colonial and post-Independence enviro-legal Developments

Colonial forest and resource laws and the patterns of environmental exploitation; Constitutional drafting in the post-Independence period; Emergence of environmental values through the Directive Principles of State Policy and Fundamental Duties, including the transformative impact of the Forty-Second Constitutional Amendment.

Part III: The Modern Indian Experience

Environmental jurisprudence under Article 21 of the Constitution; Evolution of judicial principles such as sustainable development, the precautionary principle, and the public trust doctrine; Statutory environmental regulation; Role and limits of regulatory institutions; Functioning of constitutional courts and the National Green Tribunal; and the contribution of grassroots environmental movements.

Part IV: International and Comparative Perspectives

The development of International Environmental Law from Stockholm and Rio to Paris; Procedural environmental rights relating to access to information, public participation, and access to justice; Engagement of international human rights bodies with environmental protection; and comparative experiences from jurisdictions such as South Africa, Latin America, and Europe.

Part V: Contemporary Challenges and the Future of Environmental Rights

Climate change and environmental displacement; environmental justice and the protection of vulnerable and marginalised communities; intergenerational equity; just transition frameworks; emerging green technologies; and evolving legal pathways towards sustainable and equitable development.

Through an integrated approach combining doctrinal legal analysis, historical inquiry, and contemporary case studies, the volume examines the evolution of environmental rights discourse, its intersection with human rights norms, and the unresolved legal and institutional challenges that continue to shape environmental governance in the twenty-first century.

The Objectives of the book are:

- To critically examine the historical evolution of human-environment relations in Indian philosophical, cultural, and governance traditions.
- To analyse how constitutional, statutory and judicial developments in India have shaped the recognition and enforcement of environmental rights and duties.
- Placing India's environmental rights framework within the broader discourse of international human rights and comparative environmental law.
- Engaging with contemporary challenges including climate change, environmental displacement, intergenerational equity and assessing their implications for environmental justice.
- To provide a structured and authoritative reference for scholars, students, policymakers, and legal practitioners working in environmental law and governance.

Call For Papers: For an Edited Book published by a reputed academic publisher and officially assigned ISBN Number.

Submission Guidelines:

- **Abstract:** 300–400 words, with 4–5 keywords.
- **Full Chapter:** 3000 – 5000 words (excluding footnotes).
- **Citation Style:** Bluebook (21st ed.)
- **Format:**
 - Times New Roman, 12 pt font, 1.5 spacing (for main text)
 - Times New Roman, 14 pt font, 1.5 spacing (for heading)
 - Times New Roman, 10 pt font, 1.15 spacing (for footnotes)
- **Plagiarism guidelines:** Up to 12% plagiarism is allowed.
- **Publication:** Only selected papers (in English language) will be published in the edited volume. Publication charge will be levied only when the paper has been selected for final submission.
- **Publication charges: Rs 1500/-** (Co- authorship allowed up to 2 authors)
- **Timeline:** Important Dates
 - Abstract submission: 28/03/2026
 - Notification of acceptance: 30/03/2026
 - Pre-submission chapter with outline: 25/04/2026
 - Full chapter submission: 15/05/2026
 - Peer review & revisions: 25/06/2026

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- Abstract and Final Submissions should be sent via email to srcpublications.mzn@gmail.com with the Subject Title- “**Environment 2026**”