

# GO ENVIRONMENT & NATURAL RESOURCES

## Studyship with Krati

### ⇒ Environment and Natural Concerns in Global Politics

Some of the issues that are concerns of the global politics are as follows:-

- (a) There is a decline in the availability of cultivable land and substantial portion of existing agricultural land is losing fertility.
- (b) Around 1.2 billion people in developing countries have no access to safe water and 2.6 billion have no access to sanitation according to the Human Development Report, 2006.
- (c) The loss of biodiversity continues due to the destruction of habitat in areas which are rich in species.
- (d) Another danger to human health is a steady decline in the total amount of ozone in the Earth's stratosphere.
- (e) Coastal pollution too is increasing globally.
- (f) International agencies like the UNEP started holding international conferences to deal with environmental issues.



Cg) Earth Summit (Rio Summit) was held in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil in June 1992. This produced conventions dealing with climate change, biodiversity, forestry and recommended a list of development practices called 'Agenda 21'.

## ⇒ The Protection Of Global Commons

- (i) Commons are the resources shared by the community as a whole not individually.
- (ii) There are some areas which are located outside the sovereign jurisdiction of any one state and therefore require common.
- (iii) They include Earth's atmosphere, Antarctica, the ocean floor and outer space. A number of agreements were signed such as
  - a) Antarctic Treaty (1959)
  - b) The Montreal Protocol (1987)
  - c) The Antarctic Environmental Protocol (1991)

## ⇒ Common but differentiated Responsibilities

- (i) Differences between the countries of the North and the South over environment issues.
- (ii) The developing countries of the South believes that the ecological degradation is the product of industrial development by the industrial developed countries. Whereas northern countries want everyone to be



equally responsible for ecological conservation.

(iii) In the Rio Summit, it was accepted that special needs of the developing countries must be taken into account in the development and interpretation of rules of international environmental law.

(iv) The 1992 UNFCCC also provides that the parties should act on the basis of equity.

(v) It is said that large amount of greenhouse gas emission has originated in developing countries and per capita emissions in developing countries are relatively low.

(vi) Countries like China and India were exempted from the requirements of the Kyoto Protocol.

(vii) Kyoto Protocol is an international agreement setting targets for industrialised countries to cut their greenhouse gas emissions.

## ⇒ Common Property Resources

(i) Common property represents common property for the group. These group have both rights and duties with respect to the nature, levels of use of a given resource.

(ii) There are number of factors that caused common property to dwindle in size such as agricultural intensification, privatisation and ecosystem degradation.



## ⇒ India's Stand On Environmental Issues

- (i) India signed and ratified Kyoto Protocol (1997) in August 2002.
- (ii) Developing countries like China and India were exempt from the requirements of the Kyoto Protocol.
- (iii) In June 2005, India pointed out that the per capita emission rates of the developing countries are a tiny fraction of those in the developed world, at the G-8 meeting.
- (iv) GOI is already participating in global efforts through a number of programmes like Energy Conservation Act (2001), Electricity Act of 2003, etc.
- (v) In 1997, a review of the implementation of the agreements at the Earth Summit Rio was undertaken by India.
- (vi) As India suggested that the developing countries must get financial support and clean technologies from the developed countries in order to meet UNFCCC commitments.

## Studyship with Krati

### ⇒ Environmental Movements

- (i) There are some most significant responses to the challenge of environment degradation has come from groups: environmentally conscious volunteers working in various parts of the world.



(ii) Forests movements of the South in Mexico, Chile, Brazil, Malaysia, Indonesia, Continental Africa and India, are faced with enormous pressures.

(iii) Group which is working against mineral extraction company as it leads to displacement of communities, etc.

(iv) Another group of movements are those involved in struggles against mega dams. For ex - In India Narmada Bachao Andolan is one of the best known to these movements.

### ⇒ Resource Geopolitics

(i) It is all about who gets what, when where and how

(ii) Throughout the cold war the industrialised countries of the North adopted a number of methods to ensure a steady flow of resources.

(iii) The global economy relied on oil so immense wealth associated with oil generates political struggles to control it.

(iv) West Asia and specifically the Gulf region, accounts for about 30% of global oil production.

(v) Water is another crucial resource that is relevant to global politics. Regional variations and scarcity of freshwater in some parts of the world is a leading source of



of conflicts in the 21st century.

- (vi) The countries that share rivers and many countries do share rivers are involved in military conflicts with each other

## ⇒ The Indigenous People and their Rights

- (i) Indigenous population comprises the descendants of peoples who inhabited the present territory of a country at the time as per the UN.
- (ii) Indigenous people voices in world politics to treat them equally with other communities.
- (iii) Indigenous people occupy areas in Central and South America, Africa, India and Southeast Asia.
- (iv) These people appeal to governments to come to terms with the continuing existence of indigenous nations as enduring communities with an identity of their own.
- (v) In India, indigenous people are Scheduled tribes who constitute nearly 8% of the population of the country.
- (vi) Many issues related to the rights of the indigenous communities been neglected in domestic and international politics for very long.
- (vi) The World Council of Indigenous peoples was formed in 1975. The council became subsequently the first of 11 indigenous NGOs to receive consultative status in the UN.