



ECOBUZZ

A BUZZ TO THE GREEN FUTURE!!

RIO SUMMIT 1992
21 KEY AGENDAS

JUNE'2025
EDITION

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Greetings from Faculty of Law, GLS University!

After a successful series on Sustainable Development Goals, I am very happy to learn that for the next EcoBuzz series we explore the five basic elements of nature –the *panchamahabhutas* – which inhere the properties of earth (prithvi), water (jala), fire (tejas), wind (vayu) and space (akasha).

Reconnecting to the nature outside of us can help us reconnect to our true, inner nature. When we spend more time outside in the elements, we start to rebalance ourselves physically, mentally and energetically.

The current edition of EcoBuzz shall focus on the element “Prithvi” – the Earth. It’s surprising just how easily we can lose connection to the earth. Spending long periods indoors, driving cars and fixating on screens all creates a disconnection between ourselves and the earth. The longer we’re disconnected from the earth and the outside world, the more we forget our interconnected role within nature. Thus, the more we tend to focus on ‘I, me, my’ – the ego.

Our Mother Earth is currently dealing with a wide range of issues, despite efforts in recent decades to address environmental challenges. Due to the terrifying pace at which the Environment is being exploited the legal framework for addressing environmental issues at the global and domestic levels seems inadequate without the collective effort of the human-kind.

I feel happy that the students have decided the ‘MOTHER EARTH’ as the theme for this month's EcoBuzz and our constant efforts towards a green and clean Earth, will continue to raise awareness on the alarming issues that the mother Earth is facing.

Let’s come together for organised actions with the sole objective of saving mother earth while thriving to keep it alive, green, and clean.

Regards,
Dr. Mayuri H. Pandya
Dean, Faculty of Law, GLS University

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National Updates

Carbon Credit Trading Scheme (CCTS):

The Government of India has launched the Carbon Credit Trading Scheme (CCTS) under the amended Energy Conservation Act, 2001 to regulate emissions and promote carbon markets. The National Steering Committee for Indian Carbon Market (NSCICM) oversees the program, targeting sectors like aluminium, cement, fertilisers, and steel. Ten offset areas, including energy, agriculture, waste management, and transport, have been identified to ensure sustainable emission reduction pathways.

Clean Energy Transition and Air Quality Policy:

India is aligning air quality management with clean energy policies to maximize co-benefits. Enforcing 2015 emission standards for coal based thermal power plants could cut SO₂ emissions by 95% and PM_{2.5} by 80% by 2030. Additionally, efforts are underway to shift captive power plants from coal to renewables, promoting solar and clean energy adoption in industries while addressing both climate and health concerns.

Union Budget 2025-26 – Clean Energy Push:

The Union Budget 2025-26 emphasizes renewable energy expansion through the National Manufacturing Mission for solar PV and batteries. It also promotes electric vehicles (EVs), rooftop solar, and upgrades in grid infrastructure to boost clean energy access. However, experts argue that while supportive of green technology, the budget falls short of strong measures to phase out fossil fuels, leaving India's long-term decarbonization goals uncertain.

State Updates

Gujarat's Clean Air Initiative:

The Gujarat government has announced a ₹3,000 crore Clean Air Initiative to address pollution in urban centers like Ahmedabad, Surat, and Vadodara. The program targets emission reduction, promotion of electric mobility, and strengthening of air quality monitoring systems. This initiative reflects Gujarat's leadership in combating urban pollution through large-scale investment and policy support.

Climate Change Department & 2025 Budget Allocation :

Gujarat remains the only Indian state with a dedicated Climate Change Department, reflecting its proactive stance on environmental governance. In the 2025 budget, ₹419 crore has been allocated for projects ranging from renewable energy promotion to environmental conservation. This allocation reinforces the state's integrated approach toward climate adaptation and mitigation.

Emissions Trading Scheme (ETS) in Surat :

Gujarat pioneered the world's first Emissions Trading Scheme (ETS) for air pollution control, piloted in Surat. The program allows industries to trade emission permits, creating a market-based mechanism for reducing particulate matter. Within its early implementation, ETS led to a 24% decline in PM emissions, setting a model for other states in India.

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In times of plenty or distress, one must live moderately, balancing desires and consumption in accordance with the natural laws.

GREEN JUSTICE

➤ M.C. Mehta v. Union of India (Oleum Gas Leak Case) :

This case, filed by environmental advocate M.C. Mehta, tackled the discharge of a dangerous gas in Delhi, reasserting the responsibility for a healthy environment as part of the right to life. The Supreme Court's ruling strengthened protections for the right to breathe clean air without toxic exposure. The Supreme Court, in its 1986 judgement, moved beyond the strict liability principle and established the principle of absolute liability.

➤ M.C. Mehta v. Union of India (Taj Trapezium Case) :

This case, also filed by M.C. Mehta, focused on the pollution of the Taj Mahal by nearby industries. The court ordered industries to either switch to cleaner fuels or relocate, establishing the precautionary principle and the principle of sustainable development as integral parts of Indian environmental law.

➤ Indian Council for Enviro-Legal Action v. Union of India :

Enviro-Legal Action v. Union of India, the Supreme Court of India recognized and enforced the "Polluter Pays" principle, mandating that polluters bear the financial and remedial responsibility for environmental damage, and directed stricter environmental regulations and enforcement.

➤ Subhash Kumar v. State of Bihar & Ors. :

In the 1991 case of Subhash Kumar v. State of Bihar & Ors., the Supreme Court of India dismissed the petition, stating that it was filed for personal interest rather than public interest, and directed the petitioner to pay costs. The court also held that the right to life includes the right to enjoy pollution-free water and air.

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युक्तस्वप्नावबोधस्य योगो भवति दुःखहा ||

One who practices moderation in diet, rest, actions, and sleep, whose activities are balanced, experiences less suffering and lives a life aligned with sustainability and well-being.

GREEN LAWS

1. Air (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1981

The Air Act, 1981, is the cornerstone legislation in India for controlling and preventing air pollution. It was enacted to fulfil India's obligations after the 1972 Stockholm Conference on Human Environment. The Act established the Central and State Pollution Control Boards, which were given powers to set standards for air quality and regulate emissions from industries, vehicles, and other sources. It also authorises inspections, monitoring, and penal action against violators, making it one of the earliest dedicated laws for atmospheric protection in India.

2. Environment (Protection) Act, 1986

Following the Bhopal Gas Tragedy in 1984, the Environment Protection Act was passed as an umbrella legislation to strengthen environmental governance. It empowers the central government to take measures for improving environmental quality, controlling pollution, and laying down emission standards. This Act provides the legal basis for a range of rules and notifications, such as those regulating vehicular emissions, hazardous substances, and industrial pollution. Its wide scope makes it one of the most powerful tools to address air quality and climate-related issues.

3. National Green Tribunal Act, 2010

The establishment of the National Green Tribunal (NGT) under the 2010 Act has been a milestone in ensuring environmental justice. The Tribunal provides speedy adjudication of disputes relating to environmental protection, including cases of air pollution and industrial emissions. It has been proactive in directing governments and industries to adopt cleaner technologies and in enforcing compliance with air quality norms. Through its judgments, the NGT has significantly strengthened the enforcement of green laws relating to atmosphere and climate change.

4. Energy Conservation Act, 2001 (Amended 2022)

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5. Motor Vehicles Act, 1988

Although primarily a transport law, the Motor Vehicles Act has important provisions to control vehicular pollution. It requires vehicles to comply with emission standards and mandates Pollution Under Control (PUC) certification. Over the years, the Act has facilitated the implementation of progressive emission norms, including the leap to Bharat Stage VI standards. These measures have played a vital role in reducing vehicular emissions, which remain a major source of urban air pollution in India.

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Protecting the Atmosphere: Addressing Air Pollution and Climate Change through Laws and Sustainable Strategies

Protecting the atmosphere has become one of the most urgent responsibilities of our time as air pollution and climate change continue to shape the health of both people and the planet. Air pollution already affects millions through respiratory and cardiovascular diseases and the warming climate drives rising temperatures, unpredictable storms, shrinking forests and the loss of countless species. Much of this damage comes from the way we produce and use energy. Burning fossil fuels releases carbon dioxide sulfur dioxide nitrogen oxides and fine particles that create smog and acid rain while also trapping heat in the atmosphere. Expanding industries and farming practices add methane and nitrous oxide to the air and the clearing of forests weakens the earth's natural ability to absorb carbon. Rapidly growing cities with increasing traffic and waste further intensify the strain on air quality.

The effects are visible everywhere. Communities struggle with higher medical costs as asthma lung cancer and heart conditions become more common. Rural families using wood or biomass for cooking face constant exposure to indoor smoke. Meanwhile rising seas prolonged droughts and shifting rainfall patterns threaten food security and damage homes and infrastructure. These combined pressures show how closely air pollution and climate change are linked and why they must be addressed together.

Over the years global cooperation has provided a foundation for action. Agreements like the Paris Agreement the Kyoto Protocol and the Montreal Protocol set important goals for reducing emissions and protecting the atmosphere. India has built on these commitments through national laws such as the Air Prevention and Control of Pollution Act 1981 and the Environment Protection Act, 1986 along with programmes like the National Clean Air Programme which aims to cut particulate pollution across major cities. A strong push toward renewable energy has also helped expand the use of solar and wind power across the country.

Real progress however depends on practical and sustained change. Shifting to cleaner energy sources reducing emissions from vehicles investing in electric transport and redesigning cities with greener public spaces can significantly ease the pressure on the air we breathe. Industries can adopt cleaner technologies and better waste management and recycling can limit the release of harmful pollutants. Equally important is the role of citizens whose daily choices from conserving energy to supporting green initiatives can create long term cultural change.

The path to a healthier atmosphere is clear. Strong policies scientific innovation and active public participation must come together to create lasting impact. By choosing sustainable habits and supporting efforts that protect our environment we can build a future where clean air thriving ecosystems and stable climate conditions are not distant hopes but everyday reality.

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UPCOMING EVENTS

NATIONAL EVENTS

1. CII-SILF Conference on Climate Emergency, Economic Challenges & Judicial Trends

The CII-SILF Conference on Climate Emergency, Economic Challenges & Judicial Trends will be held on June 5, 2025, in New Delhi. This event will bring together legal experts, judges, and economists to discuss the climate emergency, the regulatory responsibilities it entails, and the potential pathways for addressing these challenges through judicial mechanisms.

2. 26th International Conference on Environment Management & Climate Change (ICEM)

The 26th International Conference on Environment Management & Climate Change (ICEM) will take place from June 26–27, 2025, in Bengaluru, India. The conference will feature sessions focused on board leadership for climate action, sustainability practices, and evolving frameworks in climate governance.

3. World Environment Expo 2025

The World Environment Expo 2025 will be held from June 4–6, 2025, at the India Expo Centre in Greater Noida, Delhi NCR. This event will feature an exhibition and conference showcasing pollution control equipment for air, water, and noise management, along with green innovations and advancements in renewable energy.

INTERNATIONAL EVENTS

1. 7th International Electronic Conference on Air Pollution / Atmospheric Science (ECAS2025)

The 7th International Electronic Conference on Air Pollution / Atmospheric Science (ECAS2025) will be held online from June 4–6, 2025. This virtual conference will include sessions on air quality, air pollution control, aerosols, and atmospheric modeling, making it highly relevant to issues of air and atmospheric protection.

2. 8th International Conference on Environmental Sustainability & Climate Change (Climate Change 2025)

The 8th International Conference on Environmental Sustainability & Climate Change (Climate Change 2025) will take place on June 16–17, 2025, in Rome, Italy. The conference will cover a wide range of climate-related topics, including air pollution, global warming, and emerging sustainability technologies.

3. UN Ocean Conference 2025

The UN Ocean Conference 2025 will be held from June 9–13, 2025, in Nice, France. Although the conference primarily focuses on ocean-related issues, it also addresses climate change mitigation through topics such as blue carbon and marine ecosystem protection, which are closely connected to broader atmospheric and climate strategies.

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CREATIVE CORNER



THIS IMAGE SHOWS A POWERFUL CONTRAST BETWEEN POLLUTION AND A HEALTHY ENVIRONMENT. ONE SIDE DEPICTS SMOKE, WASTE, AND A DAMAGED EARTH, WHILE THE OTHER SHOWS GREENERY, CLEAN AIR, AND RECYCLING AS SYMBOLS OF HOPE. AT THE CENTER, A FIGURE EMBRACES THE PLANET WITH THE MESSAGE “PROTECT MOTHER EARTH,” HIGHLIGHTING THE URGENT NEED TO REDUCE AIR POLLUTION AND FIGHT CLIMATE CHANGE THROUGH RESPONSIBLE ACTIONS.

Source : <https://stock.adobe.com/search/images?k=%22life+on+land%22>

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