

National Environment Policy 2006

NEP was an initiative of Ministry of Environment and Forest, Govt. of India that came into action in 2006. NEP was an effort towards India's commitment to clean environment and making positive contribution to global initiatives. It aims at mainstreaming environmental concerns into all developmental activities.

India is a country with huge population size and a wide range of economic and social activities. This has given way to several serious environmental challenges. Some of the prominent such challenges include environmental degradation; over exploitation of natural resources like soil and water; health issues and hazards emerging out of poor environment quality; and regulatory and governance constraints in this particular field.

Concerned with these aspects the NEP was designed to achieve a definite set of purpose. The objectives of NEP, 2006 included:

1. Conservation of environmental resources
2. Intra- generational equity
3. Inter- generational equity
4. Livelihood security of the poor
5. Integration of environmental concerns in economic and social development
6. Efficient resource utilization
7. Environmental governance
8. Enhancement of resources for environment conservation

The NEP seeks to stimulate partnerships of different stakeholders - government bodies, state agencies, NGOs, global forums and so on. Involvement of Panchayati Raj institutions and urban local bodies has been highlighted. It build on the various earlier policies and acts which had been implemented from time to time in order to address the environmental challenges faced by our country and its population.

To achieve the main purpose and fixed objectives, the NEP is being carried out with its future action plan and strategies. The important strategies of NEP include:

1. Conservation of existing environmental resources through regulatory reforms
 2. Emphasis on education, information, research, capacity building and technological innovation
- Intersectoral collaboration with periodic assessment and evaluation