BLOGS

# Environmental Law Roadmap: Topics You Cannot Afford to Miss for CLAT PG

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One of the most often asked topics in CLAT PG is environmental law. To crack the CLAT PG, it is essential to have a thorough understanding of the subject and the areas that need to be covered.

Statutory laws, environmental doctrines, and landmark Supreme Court cases are typically the basis for questions in CLAT PG. Thus, this is a concise outline of the environmental law subjects that each aspirant needs to learn.

## Core Environmental Statutes

Environmental law is not a single piece of legislation. It is made up of a number of statutes, including the Environment (Protection) Act of 1986, Water (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act of 1974, Air (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act 1981, etc. Therefore, you must review and understand these important statutes.

**The Environment (Protection) Act, 1986** purpose and background (after the Bhopal Gas Tragedy), the Central Government's powers, the authority to make rules, environmental standards and penalties, and the Act's significance as India's foundational legislation for environmental protection are among the subjects to be focused on.

**The Water (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1974**, should be covered, including the creation of Central and State Pollution Control Boards, their roles and authority, the industry consent process, and offences and punishments.

Air pollution control areas, the regulatory function of pollution control boards, limitations on industrial emissions, and enforcement mechanisms are the topics to be focused on from the **Air (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1981**.

Further, understand the environmental adjudication process. The National Green Tribunal for environmental adjudication was established by the **National Green Tribunal Act, 2010**. The establishment of the tribunal, jurisdiction and powers, appeals, and prompt environmental justice

are important topics.

## Environmental Doctrines Frequently Tested

**Public Trust Doctrine**: Focus on the fundamental idea of the doctrine, how it has developed in Indian environmental law, and important decisions like ***M.C. Mehta v. Kamal Nath***. Understand the importance of the doctrine in safeguarding rivers, forests, and other public resources, as well as the premise that the state is a trustee of natural resources.

**The Precautionary Principle**: Preventive environmental governance, industry burden of proof, and the connection to sustainable development are among the subjects to be discussed. ***Vellore Citizens Welfare Forum v. Union of India*** is one of the important cases.

**The Polluter Pays Principle:** Cover environmental repair, compensation for environmental harm, and the obligation of polluting industries. Additionally, there are important cases such as ***Indian Council for Enviro-Legal Action v. Union of India***.

## Constitutional Law and Environmental Rights

Focus on how the Supreme Court added the right to a clean environment to the right to life under Article 21. ***M.C. Mehta v. Union of India*** and ***Subhash Kumar v. State of Bihar*** are significant cases. Additionally, have a good understanding of other constitutional provisions, such as Article 48A (State directive to protect forests/wildlife) and Article 51A(g) (Fundamental duty to protect the environment),

## How Environmental Law Is Tested in CLAT PG

In addition to covering all of these topics, it's critical to understand the CLAT PG question pattern. Typically, the questions assess how doctrines are applied, how recent and significant cases are interpreted, and how statutes are applied.

The passage-based questions assess an applicant's application level and analytical skills rather than their memorisation of the text.

Therefore, the best approach is to understand concepts rather than memorise parts and concentrate on landmark judgements. Examine brief case summaries. Additionally, practise the CLAT PG questions from previous years