BLOGS

Sectional Test on the Core Doctrines of Environmental Law for CLAT PG

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1. In Vellore Citizens Welfare Forum v. Union of India, the Supreme Court discussed which of the following principles of sustainable development:

a. Precautionary Principle

b. Polluter Pays Principle

c. Public Trust Doctrine

d. Both A and B

2. The Supreme Court applied the Public Trust doctrine for the first time in:

a. M.C. Mehta v. Kamalnath

b. Vellore Citizens Welfare Forum v. Union of India

c. T.N. Godavarman Thirumulpad v. Union of India

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

3. Which of the following doctrines primarily reflects the concept of "internalization of environmental costs"?

a. Public Trust Doctrine

b. Polluter Pays Principle

c. Inter-generational Equity

d. Prevention Principle

4. On which of the following does the burden of proof lie under the Precautionary Principle?

a. The person alleging environmental harm

b. The State

c. The developer/industrialist

d. The affected community

5. A state administration contends that judicial intervention is premature because there hasn't been any actual environmental harm yet. Which doctrine runs counter to this

reasoning the most?

a. Polluter Pays Principle

b. Precautionary Principle

c. Absolute Liability

d. Strict Liability

6. Which of the following statements accurately explains the concept of Sustainable Development?

a. Absolute prohibition on industrialization

b. Development without any environmental restrictions

c. Balance between environmental protection and development

d. Priority to economic growth over ecology

7. Which of the following statements accurately explains Inter-generational Equity?

a. The present generation has absolute ownership over natural resources.

b. Future generations have no enforceable environmental rights.

c. Only Parliament can enforce environmental balance.

d. The present generation holds natural resources in trust for future generations.

8. Which of the following doctrines justifies judicial intervention to protect rivers, forests, and seashores from privatization?

a. Absolute Liability

b. Public Trust Doctrine

c. Precautionary Principle

d. Polluter Pays Principle

9. In A.P. Pollution Control Board v. Prof. Nayudu, the Supreme Court particularly elaborated upon:

a. Sustainable Development

b. Precautionary Principle and burden of proof

c. Absolute Liability

d. Forest Rights

10. Assertion (A): The developer or industrialist bears the burden of proof under the precautionary principle.
Reason (R): Before taking preventive action, environmental harm must always be

established beyond a reasonable doubt.

a. Both A and R are true, and R correctly explains A

b. Both A and R are true, but R does not explain A

c. A is true, but R is false

d. A is false, but R is true

11. Assertion (A): The Court denied diversion of river resources for private commercial use in M.C. Mehta v. Kamal Nath.
Reason (R): Natural resources are held by the State as a trustee for public use under the Public Trust Doctrine.

a. Both A and R are true, and R correctly explains A

b. Both A and R are true, but R does not explain A

c. A is true, but R is false

d. A is false, but R is true

12. The principle that the polluter is responsible for paying for environmental rehabilitation is called:

a. Public Trust Doctrine

b. Precautionary Principle

c. Polluter Pays Principle

d. Inter-generational Equity

13. Under the Public Trust Doctrine, the State is

a. Absolute owner

b. Regulator only

c. Trustee of natural resources

d. Mere license issuer

14. Which of the following doctrines directly supports environmental protection for future generations?

a. Absolute Liability

b. Inter-generational Equity

c. Polluter Pays Principle

d. Strict Liability

15. Which of the following doctrines can be most closely aligned with the concept of "ecological trusteeship"?

a. Sustainable Development

b. Polluter Pays Principle

c. Prevention Principle

d. Public Trust Doctrine

Answers

1. (D) The Supreme Court of India in the Vellore Citizens Welfare Forum v. Union of India observed that certain specific environmental principles are part of Indian law. The first principle was the Precautionary Principle, which established a requirement that all environmental protection measures be implemented until full scientific knowledge of the potential danger is available. However, this approach places the onus on the polluting party to demonstrate that their actions are environmentally friendly. Second, the Polluter Pays Principle, which mandates polluters to pay for damages incurred in preventing and repairing environmental harm.
2. (A)
3. (B)
4. (C) Under the Precautionary Principle, the burden of proof shifts to the developer or industrialist to demonstrate that the proposed activity is environmentally benign. The Supreme Court clearly articulated this in: Vellore Citizens Welfare Forum v. Union of India, A.P. Pollution Control Board v. Prof. Nayudu.
5. (B)
6. (C)
7. (D)
8. (B)
9. (B)
10. (C) The Precautionary Principle operates precisely because environmental harm need not be established beyond a reasonable doubt. In fact, it applies even when there is scientific uncertainty. Preventive action can be taken when there is a risk of serious or irreversible damage.

11. (A)
12. (C)
13. (C)
14. (B)
15. (D)