

CC-10 (4th Sem) B.Sc- Envs. Environmental Legislation and policy

Unit-2- History of environmental legislation and policy

Constitutional provisions for the protection of environment:

Introduction

The history of legislative started with Indian Penal Code (IPC), 1860. Section 268 defined what is public nuisance. Abatement of public nuisance is also a subject of Section 133 to 144 of I.P.C. These are only prohibitive provisions. Sections 269 to 278 of the Indian Penal Code are penal provisions which means that a person guilty of violating any of the provisions is liable to prosecution and punishment. Legislative fight against pollution continued in independent India. Now there is a host of legislation in India aimed at protecting the environment from pollution and maintaining the ecological balance. The Environment (Protection) Act, 1986 is one major Act for environmental protection. The Government of India has launched various programmes and made use of audio-visual media to educate the people and arouse their consciousness for the protection of environment. In February 1971, the University Grants Commission (India), in collaboration with other organizations, launched a symposium on the development of environmental studies in the Indian Universities. The consensus that emerged at the symposium was that ecology and environmental issues should form part of the courses of study at all levels.

Further, with the object of generating an awareness of the need to maintain ecological balance. In order to keep the environment pure and to obviate the hazards of pollution and ecological imbalance, the Department of Laws, Punjab University, Chandigarh organised a three-day National Seminar in 1984 on "Law Towards Environmental Protection" Fifty five delegates from all over India participated in the seminar. It claimed: (i) It is fundamental human right to live in an unpolluted environment. (ii) It is fundamental duty of every individual to maintain purity of environment. Soon after the Stockholm Conference, many Acts were introduced i.e. Wildlife Act, 1972; Water Act, 1974; Air Act, 1981 etc. Within five years of Stockholm Declaration, the Constitution of India was amended to include Protection and Improvement of Environment as constitutional mandate. The protection and improvement of environment is now a fundamental duty under Constitution Act of 1976. Govt., of India has set up a National Committee on Environmental Planning and Coordination. Government of India's programme for environment included the programme for cleaning the rivers including Ganga and Yamuna. Prime Minister, Sh. Rajiv Gandhi constituted Central Ganga Authority for the purpose of pollution control of Ganga. The enactment of Environment (Protection) Act, 1986 was the immediate off-shoot, of this programme. The Supreme Court (writ petition (Civil) No. 860 of 1991) has directed the University Grants Commission to prescribe a course on 'Man and Environment'. In the light of this directive, the UGC issued a circular to various universities to introduce the course on 'Environmental Education'.

The main attention in the education on environment is as below: **(i)** Over-population and the ways to check its rapid growth. **(ii)** Afforestation as a preventive to soil erosion and water pollution **(iii)** Methods to prevent air pollution, insisting on smokeless cooking **(iv)** Discipline in playing radio and television sets and a ban on use of loudspeaker. **(v)** Elementary knowledge

of the scientific and philosophical basis of man and the environment (vi) Rules regarding disposal of household waste; and (vii) General principles of sanitation Environment and **Constitution of India:** The protect and improve the environment is a constitutional mandate. It is a commitment for a country wedded to the ideas of a welfare State. The Indian Constitution contains specific provisions for environment protection under the chapters of Directive Principles of State Policy and Fundamental Duties. The absence of a specific provision in the Constitution recognizing the fundamental right to clean and wholesome environment has been set off by judicial activism in the recent times. Articles 48-A and 51-A. Clause (g): Initially, the Constitution of India had no direct provision for environmental protection. Global consciousness for the protection of environment in the seventies, Stockholm Conference and increasing awareness of the environmental crisis prompted the Indian Government to enact 42nd Amendment to the Constitution in 1976. The Constitution was amended to introduce direct provisions for protection of environment. This 42nd Amendment added Article 48-A to the Directive Principles of State Policy. Article 49-A: The Article states: “The State shall endeavour to protect and improve the environment and to safeguard the forests and wildlife of the country.” The said amendment imposed a responsibility on every citizen in the form of Fundamental Duty. Article 51-A, Clause (g): Article 51-A (g) which deals with Fundamental Duties of the citizens states: “It shall be the duty of every citizen of India to protect and improve the natural environment including forests, lakes, rivers and wildlife and to have compassion for living creatures.” Thus, protection and improvement of natural environment is the duty of the State (Article 48-A) and every citizen (Article 51- A (g)). Article 253: Article 253 states that ‘Parliament has power to make any law for the whole or any part of the country for implementing any treaty, agreement or convention with any other country. In simple words this Article suggests that in the wake of Stockholm Conference of 1972, Parliament has the power to legislate on all matters linked to the preservation of natural environment. Parliament’s use of Article 253 to enact Air Act and Environment Act confirms this view. These Acts were enacted to implement the decisions reached at Stockholm Conference.

Environment and Citizens: The Constitution of India has made a double provision: (i) A directive to the State for protection and improvement of environment. (ii) Imposing on every citizen in the form of fundamental duty to help in the preservation of natural environment. This is the testimony of Government’s awareness of a problem of worldwide concern. Since protection of environment is now a fundamental duty of every citizen, it is natural that every individual should do it as personal obligation, merely by regulating the mode of his natural life. The citizen has simply to develop a habitual love for pollution.

The Constitutional provisions

1. Article 48(A)
2. Article 21
3. Article 253
4. Article 51(A)
5. Article 19(1)(g)

6. Article 51

7. Article 14.

Article 14

PROTECTION OF THE ENVIRONMENT

14.1 The Government and the Contractor recognize that Petroleum Operations will cause some impact on the environment in the Contract Area. Accordingly, in performance of the Contract, the Contractor shall conduct its Petroleum Operations with due regard to concerns with respect to protection of the environment and conservation of natural resources and shall in particular;

(a) employ modern oilfield and petroleum industry practices and standards including advanced techniques, practices and methods of operation for the prevention of Environmental Damage in conducting its Petroleum Operations;

(b) take necessary and adequate steps to:

(i) prevent Environmental Damage and, where some adverse impact on the environment is unavoidable, to minimize such damage and the consequential effects thereof on property and people;

(ii) ensure adequate compensation for injury to persons or damage to property caused by the effect of Petroleum Operations; and

(c) comply with the requirements of applicable laws and the reasonable requirements of the Government from time to time.

14.2 If the Contractor fails to comply with the provisions of paragraph (b)(i) of Article 14.1 or contravenes any relevant law, and such failure or contravention results in any Environmental Damage, the Contractor shall forthwith take all necessary and reasonable measures to remedy the failure and the effects thereof.

14.3 If the Government in accordance with the laws has good reason to believe that any works or installations erected by the Contractor or any operations conducted by the Contractor are endangering or may endanger persons or any property of any person, or are causing or may cause pollution, or are harming or may harm fauna or flora or the environment to a degree which the Government deems unacceptable, the Government may require the Contractor to take remedial measures within such reasonable period as may be determined by the Government and to repair any damage to the environment. If the Government deems it necessary, it may also require the Contractor to discontinue Petroleum Operations in whole or in part until the Contractor has taken such remedial measures or has repaired any damage caused.

14.4 The measures and methods to be used by the Contractor for the purpose of complying with the terms of paragraph (b)(i) of Article 14.1 shall be determined in timely consultation with the Government upon the commencement of Petroleum Operations or whenever there is

a significant change in the scope or method of conducting Petroleum Operations and shall take into account the international standards applicable in similar circumstances and the relevant environmental impact study carried out in accordance with Article

14.5. The Contractor shall notify the Government, in writing, of the measures and methods finally determined by the Contractor and shall cause such measures and methods to be reviewed from time to time in the light of prevailing circumstances. The Contractor shall cause a person or persons with special knowledge on environmental matters, to carry out two environmental impact studies in order:

(a) to determine at the time of the studies the prevailing situation relating to the environment, human beings and local communities, the flora and fauna in the Contract Area and in the adjoining or neighbouring areas; and

(b) to establish the likely effect on the environment, human beings and local communities, the flora and fauna in the Contract Area and in the adjoining or neighbouring areas in consequence of the relevant phase of Petroleum Operations to be conducted under this Contract, and to submit, for consideration by the Parties, methods and measures contemplated in Article 14.4 for minimizing Environmental Damage and carrying out Site Restoration activities. 14.5.1 The first of the aforementioned studies shall be carried out in two parts, namely, a preliminary part which must be concluded before commencement of any field work relating to a seismographic or other survey, and a final part relating to drilling in the Exploration Period. The part of the study relating to drilling operations in the Exploration Period shall be approved by Government before the commencement of such drilling operations, it being understood that such approval shall not be unreasonably withheld.

14.5.2 The second of the aforementioned studies shall be completed before commencement of Development Operations and shall be submitted by the Contractor as part of the Development Plan, with specific approval of Government being obtained before commencement of Development Operations, it being understood that such approval shall not be unreasonably withheld.

14.5.3 The studies mentioned in Article 14.5 above shall contain proposed environmental guidelines to be followed in order to minimize Environmental Damage and shall include, but not be limited to, the following, to the extent appropriate to the respective study taking into account the phase of operations to which the study relates

- (a) proposed access cutting;
- (b) clearing and timber salvage;
- (c) wildlife and habitat protection;
- (d) fuel storage and handling;
- (e) use of explosives;
- (f) camps and staging;
- (g) liquid and solid waste disposal;

- (h) cultural and archaeological sites;
- (i) selection of drilling sites;
- (j) terrain stabilization;
- (k) protection of freshwater horizons;
- (l) blowout prevention plan;
- (m) flaring during completion and testing of Gas and Oil Wells;
- (n) abandonment of Wells;
- (o) rig dismantling and site completion;
- (p) reclamation for abandonment;
- (q) noise control;
- (r) debris disposal; and
- (s) protection of natural drainage and water flow.

14.5.4 Government shall convey its decision regarding any proposal for environmental clearances submitted by the Contractor pursuant to the provisions of this Article or Contract or required under any laws of India within one hundred and twenty (120) days from the date of submission of application by Contractor seeking such clearance. My clarifications/additional information required by the Government shall be asked by it within sixty (60) days from the date of submission of the application by Contractor. The final decision by the Government shall be conveyed within sixty (60) days from the receipt of such clarifications/additional information from the Contractor. In case Government fails to convey any decision to the Contractor, such application for the clearance by the Contractor shall be deemed to have been approved by the Government.

14.6 The Contractor shall ensure that:

- (a) Petroleum Operations are conducted in an environmentally acceptable and safe manner consistent with modern oil field and petroleum industry practices and that such Petroleum Operations are properly monitored;
- (b) the pertinent completed environmental impact studies are made available to its employees and to its contractors and Subcontractors to develop adequate and proper awareness of the measures and methods of environmental protection to be used in carrying out the Petroleum Operations; and
- (c) the contracts entered into between the Contractor and its contractors and Subcontractors relating to its Petroleum Operations shall include the provisions stipulated herein and any established measures and methods for the implementation of the Contractor's obligations in relation to (lie environment under this Contract.

14.7 The Contractor shall, prior to conducting any drilling activities, prepare and submit for review by the Government contingency plans for dealing with Oil spills, fires, accidents and emergencies, designed to achieve rapid and effective emergency response. The plans referred to above shall be discussed with the Government and concerns expressed shall be taken into account.

14.7.1 In the event of an emergency, accident, Oil spill or fire arising from Petroleum Operations affecting the environment, the Contractor shall forthwith notify the Government and shall promptly implement the relevant contingency plan and perform such Site Restoration as may be necessary in accordance with modern oilfield and petroleum industry practices.

14.7.2 In the event of any other emergency or accident arising from the Petroleum Operations affecting the environment, the Contractor shall take such action as may be prudent and necessary in accordance with modern oil field and petroleum industry practices in such circumstances.

14.8 In the event that the Contractor fails to comply with any of the terms contained in Article **14.7** within a period specified by the Government, the Government, after giving the Contractor reasonable notice in the circumstances, may take any action which may be necessary to ensure compliance with such terms and to recover from the Contractor, immediately after having taken such action, all costs and expenditures incurred in connection with such action together with such interest as may be determined in accordance with Section 1.7 of Appendix C of this Contract.

14.9 On expiry or termination of this Contract or relinquishment of part of the Contract Area, the Contractor shall:

(a) subject to Article 27, remove all equipment and installations from the relinquished area or former Contract Area in a manner agreed with the Government pursuant to an abandonment plan; and

(b) perform all necessary Site Restoration in accordance with modern oilfield and petroleum industry practices and take all other action necessary to prevent hazards to human life or to the property of others or the environment.

14.10 The Contractor shall prepare a proposal for the restoration of site including abandonment plan and requirement of funds for this and any annual contribution in accordance with the scheme framed by Government to the Site Restoration fund. This will be submitted along with the annual Budget for the consideration and approval of the Management Committee.

14.11 Subject to Section 3.2 of Accounting Procedure, any Site Restoration fund scheme formulated by Government and subject to provisions of this Contract, any and all costs incurred by Contractor pursuant to this Article shall be cost recoverable including but not limited to sinking funds established for abandonment and restoration of Contract Area.

14.12 In this Article, a reference to Government includes the State Government.

14.13 Where the Contract Area is partly located in areas forming part of certain national parks, sanctuaries, mangroves, wetlands of national importance, biosphere reserves and other biologically sensitive areas passage through these areas shall generally not be permitted. However, if there is no passage, other than through these areas to reach a particular point beyond these areas, permission of the appropriate authorities shall be obtained.

14.14 The obligations and liability of the Contractor for the environment hereunder shall be limited to damage to the environment which: (a) occurs after the Effective Date; and results from an act or omission of the Contractor.

Indian Forest Act, 1865

Even prior to the British era, customary rules have regulated the use of forests in India. Certain types of trees were regarded as sacred and never cut. Certain areas under forest were regarded as God's groves and not even deadwood and leaves were taken out from these areas. Even today, some such areas in their natural condition are found in different parts of the country, though their condition is rapidly worsening.³

The history of modern forest legislation in India is more than a century old. The first codification which came to the statute book in relation to the administration of forest in India was the Indian Forest Act, 1865. It empowered the government to declare any land covered with trees or brushwood as government forest and to make rules to manage them. The act was applicable only to the forests in control of the government and did not cover private forests. It made no provision regarding the rights of the users.⁴

The Act of 1865 was replaced by a more comprehensive Indian Forest Act of 1878. Forests were divided into reserve forests, protected forests and village forests. Several restrictions were imposed upon the people's rights over forest land and produce in the protected and reserved forests. The act empowered the local government to levy duty on timber produced in British India or brought from any place beyond the frontier of British India, thus encouraging them to earn revenue from forests. The Act radically changed the nature of common property and made it state property.

The Act was amended from time to time and was ultimately repealed and replaced by the Indian Forest Act, 1927.

National Forest Policies

Since independence, there have been three forest policy pronouncements in India. They are listed as follows:

1. National Forest policy, 1952
2. The National Commission on Agriculture, 1972
3. National Forest Policy, 1988

The first National Forest Policy Resolution was adopted by the government in 1952. Though the resolution highlighted the ecological and social aspects of forest management, giving secondary importance to the needs of commerce, industry and revenue, it did not call for any change in the forest law and remained only a pious declaration.

The Ministry of Forest was originally a part of the Ministry of Agriculture. In 1972, the Ministry appointed a National Commission on Agriculture. The multi-volume Report of the National Commission on Agriculture, published in 1976, covered forests in the 9th Part.9 The commission recommended that the revised national forest policy should be based on important needs of the country. All forest lands should be classified into protection forests, production forests and social forests. It gave the highest priority to production forests and the lowest priority to social forests. The object of forest management should be that 'each hectare of forest land should be in a position to yield a net income of many more times than is being obtained at present.' It recommended enactment of a revised all India forest act.

However, in 1985, the Forest Department was shifted from the Ministry of Agriculture to the Ministry of Environment and Forests (MoEF). The MoEF was established as a nodal agency for planning, coordination and implementation of environmental and forestry programmes. This helped to shift the emphasis from revenue to environmental concerns. In December 1988, the Parliament passed a new forest policy resolution more or less rejecting the recommendations of the National Commission on Agriculture. The resolution stressed the welfare of forest dwelling communities as a major objective of the forest policy, and categorically stated that the life of tribal and other poor living within and near forests revolves around forests and that the rights and the concessions enjoyed by them should be fully protected. Their domestic requirements of fuelwood, fodder, minor forest produce and construction timber should be the first charge on forest produce. However, while the resolution adopted a pro-tribal policy, the old Act of 1927 with all the subsequent amendments remained unchanged.

The National Forestry Action Programme (NFAP) was initiated in 1999. It is a comprehensive long-term strategic plan for the next 20 years. It identifies the issues and programs for achieving sustainable forestry development in India by harmonizing the activities of different stakeholders. The NFAP evolved through coordinated centre-state strategic planning with inputs from many national and international consultants. It identifies five programs:

- (1) Protect existing forest resources
- (2) Improve forest productivity
- (3) Reduce total demand,
- (4) Strengthen the policy and institutional framework and
- (5) Expand the forest area.

Current National Forest Policy – National Forest Policy, 1988

The National Forest Policy, 1988, is the primary policy statement related to forestry reflecting the ethical standards on the natural environment enshrined in the constitution. Forestry and the

environment interface with many other sectors, which affect the forest and wildlife resources. The principal aim of the policy is to ensure environmental stability and maintenance of ecological balance including atmospheric stability, which is vital for sustenance of all life forms, human, animal and plant. It unambiguously states that the derivation of direct economic benefit must be subordinated to this principal aim, and that conservation includes preservation, maintenance, sustainable utilization, restoration and enhancement of the natural environment.

The main objectives of the National Forest Policy, 1998 are as follows:

- Maintenance of environmental stability through preservation and, where necessary, restoration of the ecological balance that has been adversely disturbed by serious depletion of the forests of the country.
- Conserving the natural heritage of the country by preserving the remaining natural forests with the vast variety of flora and fauna, which represent the remarkable biological diversity and genetic resources of the country.
- Checking soil erosion and denudation in the catchment areas of rivers, lakes, reservoirs in the "interest of soil and water conservation, for mitigating floods and droughts and for the retardation of siltation of reservoirs.
- Checking the extension of sand-dunes in the desert areas of Rajasthan and along the coastal tracts.
- Increasing substantially the forest/tree cover in the country through massive afforestation and social forestry programmes, especially on all denuded, degraded and unproductive lands.
- Meeting the requirements of fuel-wood, fodder, minor forest produce and small timber of the rural and tribal populations.
- Increasing the productivity of forests to meet essential national needs.
- Encouraging efficient utilisation of forest produce and maximising substitution of wood.
- Creating a massive people's movement with the involvement of women, for achieving these objectives and to minimise pressure on existing forests.

Creating a massive people's movement including the involvement of women and indigenous people for forest conservation is an integral feature of the policy. The policy underscores the full protection of customary rights and concessions of tribal communities and other rural poor living within and near forests. It recognizes their requirements for fuel wood, fodder, construction timber, etc. The basic objectives and strategies defined in the policy are still relevant, and guide forest conservation in India.

The National Forest Policy advocates the use of miscellaneous policy instruments including legislation and regulation, voluntary agreements, fiscal incentives, research and educational and extension campaigns for the conservation and sustainable development of forests. The administrative framework of the forestry sector has changed significantly from regulatory to participatory.

The legal framework of the forestry sector can be classified into three categories:

1. The first set of Acts regulates access and use of forest products such as the Indian Forest Act (1927).
2. The second set focuses on conservation such as the Wildlife Act (1972) and the Forest Conservation Act (1980).
3. The third set comprises enabling laws that encourage private investment as well as restrictive laws with regard to land ceilings, tree felling, transit passes and marketing that have discouraged the private sector from engaging in farm forestry and agro-forestry.

The Indian Fisheries Act, 1897

THE INDIAN FISHERIES ACT, 1897

In this Act, unless there is anything repugnant in the subject or context-

"Fish" includes shell-fish:

"Fixed engine" means any net, cage, trap or other contrivance for taking fish, fixed in the soil or made stationary in any other way: and

"Private water" means water which is the exclusive property of any person or in which any person has for the time being an exclusive right of fishery whether as owner, lessee or in any other capacity.

Explanation.-Water shall not cease to be "private water" within the meaning of this definition by reason only that other persons may have by custom a right of fishery therein

2. Act to be read as supplemental to other Fisheries Laws.

Subject to the provisions of sections 8 and 10 of the General Clauses Act, 1887, this Act shall be read as supplemental to any other enactment

For law relating to Fisheries in-

- (1) Assam, see the Assam Land and Revenue Regulation, 1886 (1 of 1886), ss.16 and 155;
- (2) Bengal and Assam (Private Fisheries), see the Private Fisheries Protection Act, 1889 (Ben.2 of 1889);
- (3) Nilgiris District, as to acclimatised fish, see the Nilgiris Game and Fish Preservation Act, 1879 (Mad.2 of 1879);
- (4) Punjab, see the Punjab Fisheries Act, 1914 (Pun.2 of 1914)}.for the time being in force relating to fisheries 2[in a part A State or a Part C State] 3.

1. See now ss.4 and 26 of the General Clauses Act, 1897 (.10 of 1897).

2. Subs. by the A.O.1950 for " in any part of the Provinces "

3. The words “except Burma ” rep. by the A.O. 1937.

3. Definitions.

In this Act, unless there is anything repugnant in the subject or context-

(1) “Fish” includes shell-fish:

(2) “Fixed engine” means any net, cage, trap or other contrivance for taking fish, fixed in the soil or made stationary in any other way: and

(3) “Private water” means water which is the exclusive property of any person or in which any person has for the time being an exclusive right of fishery whether as owner, lessee or in any other capacity.

Explanation.-Water shall not cease to be “private water” within the meaning of this definition by reason only that other persons may have by custom a right of fishery therein.

4. Destruction of fish by explosives in inland waters and on coasts.

(1) If any person uses any dynamite or other explosive substance in any water with intent thereby to catch or destroy any of the fish that may be therein, he shall be punishable with imprisonment for a term which may extend to two months, or with fine which may extend to two hundred rupees.

(2) In sub-section (1) the word “water” includes the sea within a distance of one marine league of the sea-coast: and an offence committed under that sub-section in such sea may be tried, punished and in all respects dealt with as if it had been committed on the land abutting on such coast.

5. Destruction of fish by poisoning waters.

(1) If any person puts any poison, lime or noxious material into any water with intent thereby to catch or destroy any fish he shall be punishable with imprisonment for a term which may extend to two months, or with fine which may extend to two hundred rupees.

(2) The State Government may, by notification in the Official Gazette, suspend the operation of this section in any specified area, and may in like manner modify or cancel any such notification.

6. Protection of fish in selected waters by rules of State Government.

(1) The State Government may make rules for the purposes hereinafter in this section mentioned, and may by notification in the Official Gazette apply all or any of such rules to such waters, not being private waters, as the State Government may specify in the said notification.

(2) The State Government may also, by like notification, apply such rules or any of them to any private water with the consent in writing of the owner thereof and of all persons having for the time being any exclusive right of fishery therein

(3) Such rules may prohibit or regulate all or any of the following matters, that is to say:-

- (a) The erection and use of fixed engines;
 - (b) The construction of weirs; and
 - (c) The dimension and kind of the nets to be used and the modes of using them.
- (4) Such rules may also prohibit all fishing in any specified water for a period not exceeding two years.
- (5) In making any rule under this section the State Government may
- (a) Direct that a breach of it shall be punishable with fine which may extend to one hundred rupees, and, when the breach is a continuing breach, with a further fine which may extend to ten rupees for every day after the date of the first conviction during which the breach is proved to have been persisted in; and
 - (b) Provide for-
 - (i) The seizure, forfeiture and removal of fixed engines, erected or used, or nets used, in contravention of the rule, and
 - (ii) The forfeiture of any fish taken by means of any such fixed engine or net
- (6) The power to make rules under this section is subject to the condition that they shall be made after previous publication.

7. Arrest with out warrant for offences under this Act.

(1) Any police-officer, or other person specially empowered by the State Government in this behalf, either by name or as holding any office, for the time being, may, without an order from a Magistrate and without warrant, arrest any person committing in his view any offence punishable under section 4 or 5 or under any rule under section 6-

- (a) If the name and address of the person are unknown to him, and
- (b) If the person declines to give his name and address, or if there is reason to doubt the accuracy of the name and address if given.

(2) A person arrested under this section may be detained until his name and address have been correctly ascertained:

Provided that no person so arrested shall be detained longer than may be necessary for bringing him before a Magistrate, except under the order of a Magistrate for his detention.

About Van Mahotsava

Van Mahotsav is an annual tree-planting movement in India, which began in 1950. The name Van Mahotsava means JANGALO KA FESTIVAL. It is a weeklong festival, celebrated on different days in different parts of India usually from 1 July to 7 July. July is the onset of the monsoon season in India – a time when tree planting is most likely to be effective.

It has gained significant national importance and, every year, millions of saplings are planted across India in observation of Van Mahotsav week. K.M. Munshi started it. It began after a flourishing tree planting drive, which was undertaken in Delhi, in which national leaders like Dr Rajendra Prasad and Jawaharlal Nehru participated.

Need for Van Mahotsav

It was initiated to overcome the rising trees shortfall in India. Thus creating a void in sustainable development of the environment and our country. The constant felling of trees in India has been a problem for a long time, and Van Mahotsav is important in creating awareness of the issues.

Aim of Van Mahotsav

- Raises the awareness of trees among people and highlights the need for planting.
- To serves various purposes, such as providing alternative fuel, increasing production of food resources, creating shelter-belts around fields to increase productivity, providing food for cattle, offering shade and decorative landscapes, reducing drought and helping to prevent soil erosion, etc.
- To reduce the pollution and prevent global warming.
- To increase the forest area of India which help to endure in balancing the nature's chains of cycles.
- To bring the socio economic development.