

U.G.C. Sponsored Minor Research Project.

The Economy and The Environment:

A Study of Environmental Initiatives, Their Impact and Their Financing

By

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This project considers the relationship between the economy and the environment; and the consequent concerns including; land degradation, loss of biodiversity, deterioration of air quality, availability of water, generation of hazardous waste and climate change. All of which result in large changes in ecosystems, leading to possibly catastrophic disruptions of livelihoods, economic activity, living conditions, and human health.

Environmental considerations have been an integral part of the Indian culture. The need for conservation and sustainable use of natural resources has been expressed in Indian scriptures, more than three thousand years old; and is reflected in the constitutional, legislative and policy framework as also in the international commitments of the country. The government has to play an important role in limiting the consequences of market failure that aggravate environmental concerns.

Environmental management involves two types of responses to the problem - adaptation and mitigation. The costs of achieving mitigation and adaptation on the scale required are significant but manageable. These costs should be borne by both developed and developing countries. A mix of public instruments and private financial flows are needed, given the scope and complexity of the issue.

The project has tried to study environment management in India; and the projects and activities related to the environment and climate change. Besides government initiatives it has summarized a few private corporate initiatives. An interesting add-on has been the impact of and lessons from the global financial crises. The project concludes with current developments in India and the way ahead.

The environmental scene of the country today is of both concern and hope. The concern arises from the various environmental problems /issues which require immediate attention. The hope for environment arises from the fact that the country is still one of the world's richest in terms of biological diversity and other natural resources. The hope for the future is also based on the many positive factors that are emerging - increasing number of peoples' movements focusing on environment, greater public and media concern for these issues, and spread of environmental awareness among children and youth.