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# Eco-Warriors in Robes: Indian Judiciary's Proactive Approach in Safeguarding the Environment

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## ABSTRACT

*This research article examines the role of the Indian judiciary in ensuring environmental protection through public interest litigation (PIL) and the development of judicial principles. It provides an overview of the evolution of PIL in India, the constitutional provisions and environmental legislations, and landmark Supreme Court judgments that have shaped India's environmental jurisprudence. The article also discusses the establishment and functioning of the National Green Tribunal (NGT) as a specialized forum for environmental adjudication and the impact of judicial interventions on environmental protection. It concludes by outlining future prospects for the Indian judiciary's role in environmental protection and offering recommendations to enhance judicial effectiveness in environmental matters.*

**Keywords:** *Indian judiciary, environmental protection, public interest litigation, judicial principles, constitutional provisions, environmental laws, National Green Tribunal, judicial interventions, sustainable development.*

## I. INTRODUCTION

For decades, India, a nation with a diversified geography, great biodiversity, and a wealth of natural resources, has struggled with environmental issues. Population growth, urbanization, and fast industrialization have all greatly harmed the environment. Climate change, deforestation, extinction of animals, waste management, and air and water pollution have all been raised to the level of national concern. This has led to the conclusion that environmental preservation and sustainable development are critical for both current and future generations' well-being.

In this context, public interest litigation (PIL) has shown to be an effective tool for addressing environmental concerns in India. PILs are legal proceedings brought in a court of law to safeguard the public interest, in which any person or organisation may approach the court to protect people's or the environment's rights. The Indian court has made a substantial

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contribution to environmental protection via its broad interpretation of the Constitution and active participation in the development of environmental legislation.

### **(A) Background of Environmental Concerns in India**

Throughout the 1990s, India's tremendous economic expansion and development came at a major environmental cost. The growth of industry, infrastructure, and urban regions has resulted in increased pollution and the depletion of natural resources. Major cities like as Delhi and Mumbai today have dangerously high levels of air pollution, causing serious public health concerns. Untreated sewage and industrial effluents have badly polluted water bodies such as the Ganges and Yamuna rivers, affecting both aquatic life and human health.

Large swaths of forest are being chopped down for mining, infrastructure, and agriculture, making deforestation an urgent concern. As a consequence, animal habitats have been devastated, and confrontations between humans and animals have worsened. Furthermore, trash management, especially solid and hazardous waste, has become a big challenge in both urban and rural regions. Concerns have also been expressed in India regarding climate change and the possibility for more frequent and severe natural catastrophes such as floods and droughts. [1]

### **(B) Significance of Public Interest Litigation in Environmental Protection**

In India, public interest litigation has been utilized to resolve environmental concerns. The concept of a public interest litigation (PIL) arose in the 1970s, when the court began to enforce public interest more aggressively and liberally. In its historic ruling in the case of *S.P. Gupta v. Union of India* [2], the Indian Supreme Court broadened the concept of locus standi, allowing any individual or organisation to petition the court to safeguard the rights of others, especially in matters concerning the environment.

Citizens and non-governmental organisations (NGOs) may now hold both public and private institutions liable for environmental crimes under PIL. It has improved access to justice for the impoverished and vulnerable members of society while also raising public awareness of environmental preservation. PIL has acted as a catalyst for the development of environmental jurisprudence in India, spawning a slew of judicial doctrines and conceptions that have influenced environmental policy and legislation. [3]

### **(C) Role of Indian Judiciary in Addressing Environmental Issues**

Through PIL, the Indian court has assumed the lead in tackling environmental challenges. The Indian Constitution, which provides the right to life and has been widely construed by the Supreme Court to include the right to a clean and healthy environment, is the cornerstone of

environmental protection. Article 48A, which calls for environmental improvement and conservation, as well as the protection of forests and wildlife, is one of the Directive Principles of State Policy, which are part of Part IV of the Constitution. [4]

The Indian courts have typically interpreted these constitutional articles in favor of the environment. Several precedent-setting judgements of the Supreme Court and various High Courts have influenced India's environmental laws and practises throughout the years.

In *M.C. Mehta v. Union of India* [5], also known as the Oleum Gas Leak Case, the Supreme Court established the idea of "absolute liability," which holds enterprises liable for the consequences of their risky actions regardless of carelessness or purpose. This decision broadened the scope of responsibility and discouraged corporations from engaging in environmentally hazardous practises.

*Vellore Citizens Welfare Forum v. Union of India* [6] is another noteworthy judgement that resulted in the Supreme Court introducing the precautionary principle and the polluter pays concept into Indian environmental law. These concepts have been critical in developing environmental legislation and holding firms responsible for the damage they do.

The court created the National Green Tribunal (NGT) in compliance with the National Green Tribunal Act of 2010. The NGT is a dedicated forum for environmental dispute resolution, providing those affected by environmental degradation with quick and effective remedies. The tribunal has issued a number of rulings ensuring compliance with environmental laws and regulations, as well as dealing with environmental offences.

## **II. EVOLUTION OF PUBLIC INTEREST LITIGATION IN INDIA**

PIL has substantially altered India's legal system, especially in the field of environmental protection. PIL joined the Indian legal system in the 1970s, giving access to justice for underrepresented sections in society and addressing matters of popular concern. This section discusses the historical context, how the PIL was developed by judicial activism, and major advances in Indian environmental PIL. [7]

### **(A) Historical Background**

Prior to the introduction of PIL, the cornerstone of the Indian legal system was the old *locus standi* principle, which required a person to have a direct stake in the subject in order to approach the court. This made it more difficult for people who couldn't afford to go to court or were unaware of their legal rights to get justice. Furthermore, matters of public significance, such as environmental concerns, were often overlooked since there was no effective system in place to

dispute the conduct of public authorities or private enterprises that harmed the environment.

A variety of causes, including the demand for social and economic justice, increased understanding of constitutional rights, and the emergence of social action, aided in the establishment of PIL in India. These considerations, together with the judiciary's progressive stance, resulted in the loosening of the locus standi rule and the establishment of the PIL as a powerful weapon for protecting the public interest.

### **(B) Judicial Activism and the Emergence of PIL**

PILs have grown increasingly prevalent in India as a result of the judiciary's proactive stance and wide interpretation of the Constitution. The Supreme Court declared in *S.P. Gupta v. Union of India* [2] that anybody or any organisation might petition the court to preserve the rights of others, especially where such rights included problems of public concern. This marked the start of Indian judicial activism, which was critical to the formation of PIL.

The Indian court has broadened the scope of the PIL throughout time to embrace a wide variety of topics such as social welfare, human rights, and environmental preservation. Courts have construed constitutional provisions, such as the right to life under Article 21, to encompass the right to a clean and healthy environment in a number of key judgements. The court has also utilized the Directive Principles of State Policy to hold the state responsible for environmental conservation and development.

### **(C) Key Developments in Environmental PIL**

Environmental PIL has made significant progress since its beginnings, with the Indian court issuing multiple landmark rulings that have affected environmental policy throughout the nation. Among the significant developments are:

In respect to environmental PIL cases, the Indian court has been essential in creating and implementing a number of ideas and concepts, including the precautionary principle, the polluter pays principle, the public trust doctrine, and the notion of sustainable development. These principles have informed India's environmental legislation and regulations, as well as judicial judgements.

Relaxing the locus standi: The judiciary has made it feasible for the impoverished and vulnerable sectors of society to obtain justice by permitting individuals and non-governmental organisations (NGOs) to make legal claims on behalf of parties impacted by environmental degradation. As a result, more individuals are becoming aware of the need of environmental protection and are inspired to assist in environmental law enforcement.

The concept of continuing mandamus has been employed in various environmental PIL cases, allowing the court to monitor the execution of its judgements and guarantee conformity to environmental laws and regulations. This has made it simpler to give adequate remedies to persons harmed by environmental degradation and to hold both public and private entities responsible for their activities.

The National Green Tribunal and the Green Benches are only two of the institutional steps taken by the Indian courts to handle environmental concerns more effectively. The establishment of Green Benches in a number of High Courts to deal mainly environmental issues was one such step. As a result of this campaign, the National Green Tribunal (NGT) was established under the National Green Tribunal Act of 2010. The NGT is a specific venue for environmental dispute settlement that provides timely and efficient remedies to persons affected by environmental deterioration.

The focus on public participation and awareness: Environmental PIL has been critical in increasing public awareness of environmental issues and increasing public engagement in environmental decision-making processes. Two instances of environmental concerns where the court has supported public participation are the compilation of environmental impact assessments and the drafting of environmental laws. As a result, environmental governance has improved, becoming more transparent and accountable. [1]

### **III. INDIAN ENVIRONMENTAL LAWS AND POLICIES**

India has put in place a comprehensive legislative framework to manage diverse environmental concerns and assure long-term development. Constitutional requirements, environmental legislation, and policy efforts all contribute to this framework. This section contains the National Green Tribunal Act, important environmental statutes, and critical constitutional sections that collectively constitute the foundation of Indian environmental governance.

#### **(A) Constitutional Provisions**

Environmental protection, according to the court, is one of the basic rights established in the Indian Constitution. According to the Supreme Court's comprehensive interpretation, the right to a clean and healthy environment is now incorporated in Article 21, which protects the right to life and personal liberty. According to the Supreme Court in *M.C. Mehta v. Union of India* [8], often known as the Ganga Pollution Case, the right to clean water and air is part of the right to life.

Furthermore, according to Article 51A(g) of the Constitution, every citizen has a basic

obligation to protect and promote the natural environment, including forests, lakes, rivers, and animals, as well as to have compassion for all living creatures. [4]

**Directive Principles of State Policy:** The Directive Principles of State Policy, included in Part IV of the Constitution, guide the State in the formulation of laws and policies. According to Article 48A, the state shall protect and develop the environment, as well as conserve the woodlands and animals. Article 47 requires the state to enhance public health and prohibits the use of medicines and alcoholic beverages that are harmful to health and have an influence on the environment.

### **(B) Major Environmental Legislations**

The Water (Prevention and Regulation of Pollution) Act of 1974 created the Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB) and State Pollution Control Boards (SPCBs) to prevent and manage water pollution. These groups are in charge of developing and enforcing legislation to avoid water pollution and ensure water quality criteria are met.

The Air (Prevention and Control of Pollutants) Act of 1981 regulates industrial emissions and automobile pollutants in order to prevent, control, and reduce air pollution. The Act empowers the CPCB and SPCBs to establish air quality standards, control industrial emissions, and take measures to decrease air pollution.

**Environment (Protection) Act, 1986:** This Act, enacted in reaction to the Bhopal Gas Tragedy, acts as a comprehensive legislation for environmental preservation and improvement. It empowers the central government to enact emission and discharge legislation, coordinate and supervise environmental protection measures, and impose penalties for noncompliance.

Furthermore, the Act requires the formation of environmental agencies as well as the completion of environmental impact evaluations for new projects.

The Forest (Conservation) Act of 1980 is law that tries to protect forests and wildlife by restricting the use of forest land for non-forest activities like as mining, building, and agriculture. The Act provides penalties for violators and requires the central government's prior consent before any forest land is diverted or de-reserved.

The Wildlife Protection Act of 1972 established a network of protected areas, including national parks, wildlife sanctuaries, and conservation reserves, to conserve wild creatures, birds, and plants. The Act also establishes rules for hunting, poaching, the sale of wildlife derivatives, and the penalties for violations.

The aims of the Biological variety Act of 2002 are to protect biological variety, assure the long-

term use of its components, and enhance the fair and equitable distribution of the benefits brought about by the utilization of genetic resources. The National Biodiversity Authority and State Biodiversity Boards are responsible for managing access to biological resources and related traditional knowledge under the Act. It is also necessary to construct biodiversity management strategies at the municipal, state, and national levels in order to promote biodiversity conservation and sustainable usage. [1]

### **(C) National Green Tribunal Act, 2010**

The National Green Tribunal (NGT), a specialized organisation for the quick resolution of environmental matters, was founded as a result of the National Green body Act. The NGT is responsible for enforcing environmental regulations such as the Water Act, the Air Act, the Environment (Protection) Act, the Forest (Conservation) Act, the Wildlife Protection Act, and the Biological Diversity Act. In addition to giving relief and compensation to victims of environmental damage, the tribunal has the authority to impose sanctions on those guilty for environmental harm.

The NGT has been critical in ensuring environmental law compliance, providing proper remedies to persons harmed by environmental degradation, and holding both public and private enterprises responsible for their activities. Since its inception, the NGT has issued various rulings on environmental infractions, influencing the evolution of Indian environmental policy.

## **IV. LANDMARK SUPREME COURT JUDGMENTS ON ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION**

The Indian Supreme Court has developed the nation's environmental laws via key judgements that have had a long-term influence on environmental governance and preservation. Five key Supreme Court judgements, noted in this section, have had an effect on the evolution of Indian environmental law and policy.

### **(A) M.C. Mehta v. Union of India (Oleum Gas Leak Case)**

Following a gas leak from a Delhi plant, the Supreme Court addressed the subject of liability for risky operations in *M.C. Mehta v. Union of India*, often known as the Oleum Gas Leak Case. The Court established the concept of "absolute liability" by ruling that companies engaging in hazardous activities would be legally accountable for any injury caused by their operations, regardless of carelessness or purpose.

The Court emphasised that corporations that engage in intrinsically harmful operations must take all reasonable precautions to avoid injury and compensate for any damage that does occur. The concept of entire responsibility, as established in this case, broadened the extent of liability



and discouraged firms from participating in environmentally hazardous practises. [5]

**(B) Indian Council for Enviro-Legal Action v. Union of India (Bichhri Case)**

Groundwater pollution caused by the dumping of hazardous waste from chemical factories in the Rajasthani hamlet of Bichhri was the topic of debate in the Bichhri Case (Indian Council for Enviro-Legal Action v. Union of India, 1996) [9]. The Supreme Court put the "polluter pays" notion into effect when it ruled that individuals who cause environmental harm must pay for the repairs.

The Court ordered those polluting enterprises must close and compensate the affected municipalities for their losses. The Bichhri Case underlined the significance of the polluter pays concept in environmental law, which requires firms to pay for the damage they create.

**(C) Vellore Citizens Welfare Forum v. Union of India (Precautionary Principal Case)**

The Supreme Court addressed the problem of pollution caused by the discharge of untreated tannery effluents into the Palar river in Tamil Nadu in Vellore Citizens Welfare Forum v. Union of India [6]. Because they are part of Indian environmental policy, the court made its decision based on the precautionary principle and the polluter pays concept.

The Court emphasised that the precautionary principle necessitates the implementation of steps to avert environmental damage even where scientific clarity regarding the possible threat is lacking. The Court ruled that polluting tanneries must be shuttered and that they must pay for any environmental damage they create. The precautionary concept was successfully integrated into Indian environmental legislation as a result of this decision, which also aided in the establishment of environmental policies and regulations.

**(D) M.C. Mehta v. Kamal Nath (Public Trust Doctrine Case)**

The Supreme Court reviewed the question of environmental damage caused by the building of a hotel on the banks of the Beas river in Himachal Pradesh in M.C. Mehta v. Kamal Nath [10]. According to the Court's interpretation of the public trust concept, the State has a responsibility to safeguard natural resources for the benefit of the general public, such as rivers and forests.

The Court concluded that the State cannot allow the exploitation of natural resources that jeopardizes their ecological integrity or deprives future generations of their advantages. The court ordered the hotel to pay for environmental damage caused by the unauthorized structures and to have them demolished. This ruling established the notion of public trust as a cornerstone of Indian environmental law, assuring the preservation of natural resources for both current and future generations.

E.g., in the case of *The T.N. Godavarman Thirumulkpad v. Union of India* [11], often known as the Forest Conservation Case, is generally recognized as one of the most important decisions in Indian forest and environmental conservation history. The main purpose of the action was to stop illegal logging in Tamil Nadu's Nilgiri Hills, but as time passed, it grew more concerned with conserving the nation's forests and wildlife.

In its interpretation of the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980, the Supreme Court stressed the need of sustainable forest management in order to protect biodiversity and ecological balance. The Court issued a number of directives to the federal and state governments in order to guarantee the Act's effective implementation and to safeguard forests and wildlife from illegal activity.

The Court established expert committees to oversee the execution of its rulings and to conduct periodic assessments of the country's progress in forest protection. The Godavarman case had a significant influence on India's efforts to protect its forests, resulting in the adoption of new legislation, the regularization of forest-related activities, and greater awareness of illicit operations that endanger both forests and animals.

## **V. NATIONAL GREEN TRIBUNAL: A SPECIALIZED FORUM FOR ENVIRONMENTAL ADJUDICATION**

The National Green Tribunal (NGT) was formed to resolve environmental issues quickly and effectively. The NGT has played an important role in enforcing environmental laws, compensating persons harmed by environmental degradation, and holding both public and private actors responsible. This section discusses the NGT's structure, functions, members, and significant rulings that have affected Indian environmental law. [12]

### **(A) Establishment and Jurisdiction**

The National Green Tribunal (NGT) was formed by the National Green Tribunal Act of 2010 as a specialty court for the rapid settlement of environmental issues. Cases regarding the application of environmental legislation such as the Water Act, Air Act, Environment (Protection) Act, Forest (Conservation) Act, Wildlife Protection Act, and Biological Diversity Act are heard by the NGT. In addition to providing aid and financial compensation to people who have been damaged, the tribunal has the authority to impose fines on persons and organisations that jeopardize the environment.

### **(B) Composition and Procedure**

The NGT is made up of judges and specialists, guaranteeing a mix of legal and scientific expertise in dealing with environmental issues. The tribunal uses a streamlined approach that

allows conflicts to be resolved quickly, with a particular focus on the concepts of procedural fairness, natural justice, and cost-effective litigation.

To guarantee that its judgements have a significant influence on environmental governance, the NGT has the authority to review administrative verdicts, issue interim orders, and award injunctions. To maintain the coherence of environmental regulations, the Supreme Court will hear appeals of the tribunal's findings, offering an additional degree of judicial review.

### **(C) Key NGT Judgments**

#### *Almitra H. Patel v. Union of India (Municipal Solid Waste Management Case)*

The NGT addressed the problem of municipal solid waste management in India in the 2016 case of *Almitra H. Patel v. Union of India* [13]. The tribunal determined that poor waste management procedures harmed resources, posed health risks to the public, and harmed the environment. The NGT directed that the federal, state, and local governments, as well as local organisations, adopt the Solid Trash Management Rules, 2016, to guarantee that municipal solid trash is collected, sorted, transported, and disposed of appropriately. The decision emphasised the need of good waste management and reinforced India's legislative framework for dealing with municipal solid waste.

#### *Manoj Mishra v. Union of India* [14] (Maili Se Nirmal Yamuna Revitalization Plan Case)

The NGT examined the problem of pollution in the Yamuna River and the success of the Maili Se Nirmal Yamuna Revitalization Plan, a government project aiming at cleaning and restoring the river, in *Manoj Mishra v. Union of India* [14]. The tribunal determined that the plan had not been sufficiently executed and that urgent action by the federal and state governments was necessary to reduce pollution, enhance wastewater treatment, and restore the river's ecological health. The decision emphasised the need of effectively implementing environmental regulations and policies, as well as the necessity for a coordinated effort to avoid river contamination.

## **VI. IMPACT OF JUDICIAL INTERVENTIONS ON ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION**

Environmental management and preservation in India have benefited greatly from judicial involvement. This section analyses the influence of these interventions on the development of judicial principles, the protection of vulnerable persons and ecosystems, and the challenges and objections raised.

### **(A) Strengthening of Environmental Laws and Policies**

Legal action has considerably strengthened India's environmental laws and regulations. The Indian court has often stepped in to fix legal loopholes and guarantee that current regulations are rigorously followed. The Supreme Court and the NGT have issued various judgements urging federal and state governments to enhance environmental governance, uphold legal duties, and implement tighter environmental protection measures.

As a consequence of these legal interventions, the National Green Tribunal, the Central and State Pollution Control Boards, and other regulatory organisations have been founded. As a consequence, India's environmental law system has evolved and been strengthened, ensuring improved environmental and natural resource protection. [1]

### **(B) Development of Judicial Principles**

The Indian legal system developed a number of key principles that are now part of environmental law. These principles serve as a foundation for the understanding and execution of environmental policy, assisting in the achievement of an appropriate balance between development and environmental conservation.

**Precautionary Principle:** In the Vellore Citizens Welfare Forum case [6], the Supreme Court said that the precautionary principle emphasizes the need to take preventative actions in the face of uncertainty concerning possible environmental damage. This approach has influenced the creation of environmental standards and the issuance of environmental permits in order to prevent environmental harm from development operations.

The Bichhri Case established the polluter pays concept, which states that individuals who pollute the environment must pay for cleanup and compensation. This concept has been critical in ensuring that firms adopt more environmentally friendly technology and practises in order to reduce environmental effect and make corporations responsible for their activities.

The public trust theory, as applied in the Kamal Nath case, states that the state has a commitment to safeguard natural resources for the benefit of current and future generations. This concept has allowed for the preservation of public access to natural resources, the avoidance of overexploitation, and the encouragement of long-term usage.

### **(C) Protection of Vulnerable Communities and Ecosystems**

Judicial interventions have been critical in protecting vulnerable populations and ecosystems from the detrimental consequences of environmental deterioration. The Supreme Court and the National Green Tribunal have heard cases involving community relocation, loss of livelihood, and ecological degradation caused by development operations, pollution, and deforestation. All

citizens have the right to a clean and healthy environment as a consequence of their activities, which often result in the provision of relief and compensation to affected populations and the repair of damaged ecosystems.

#### **(D) Challenges and Critiques**

Despite the benefits of judicial interventions for environmental preservation, a number of impediments and concerns have surfaced. Some argue that the court has overstepped its limits by interfering in policy decisions, jeopardizing the separation of powers by invading the domains of the executive and legislative branches. Some argue that the judiciary's use of expert panels and amicus curiae may not give impartial or reliable analyses of environmental concerns. Questions have been raised concerning the efficacy of judicial interventions in attaining actual environmental protection due to the unequal nature of some verdicts and the sparse execution of court judgements. Last but not least, the increased workload has put a strain on the NGT's capacities, delaying dispute settlement and diminishing the tribunal's influence.

### **VII. CONCLUSION**

This study looked at how the Indian Supreme Court actively supported environmental conservation via the establishment of judicial principles and public interest litigation. There has been debate on the growth of public interest litigation in India, important constitutional provisions, environmental legislation, and significant Supreme Court judgements that have affected India's environmental jurisprudence. The formation and operation of the National Green Tribunal as a particular venue for environmental adjudication, as well as the influence of judicial interventions on environmental protection, have also been explored.

The Indian court is expected to continue to play an important role in environmental protection in the foreseeable future. As the magnitude and complexity of environmental concerns expand, so does the need for effective and adaptive legal frameworks to handle them. The function of the court as protector of constitutional rights and interpreter of the law will remain critical in ensuring that environmental concerns are addressed fairly and appropriately.

The following are future chances for the Indian judiciary to participate in environmental preservation:

- Using environmental law to address new challenges such as climate change, biodiversity loss, and environmental justice.
- Ensuring that the concept of sustainable development is considered when interpreting and implementing environmental laws and regulations.

- Improving the National Green Tribunal's capacity, simplifying its processes, and ensuring that its decisions are more firmly upheld.

### **VIII. RECOMMENDATIONS FOR ENHANCING JUDICIAL EFFECTIVENESS IN ENVIRONMENTAL MATTERS**

The following proposals may be considered to improve how successfully the Indian court handles environmental concerns:

- **Capacity Building:** The capacity of the judiciary may be increased by periodically exposing it to environmental challenges, legislative requirements, and best practises. Judges will be able to make more informed rulings as a result of having a greater understanding of the complexities of environmental conflicts.
- **Courts devoted to the environment:** Consider establishing specialized environmental courts at the state level to examine only environmental matters. This would guarantee that environmental concerns are given the attention they deserve and will speed up the settlement of conflicts.
- **Improved Court Decisions and Orders Implementation:** Setting up systems for monitoring compliance and holding authorities responsible for noncompliance would help ensure that court rulings and orders are followed through on. Special representatives or committees may be formed to oversee adherence to court orders.
- **Hiring more judges and experts, investing in adequate structures, and simplifying processes** would help the National Green Tribunal settle cases more rapidly.
- **Encourage public interest litigation, legal education, awareness campaigns, and more public participation in environmental issues.** This would allow individuals to take an active part in environmental protection and hold elected officials responsible for their activities.
- **Encourage more cooperation among courts, government agencies, non-governmental groups, and other parties to settle environmental concerns.** This might be accomplished by continuous communication, exchange of best practises, and cooperation on programmes that promote environmental preservation and sustainable development.

By putting these proposals into action, the Indian court may be able to improve its efficacy in dealing with environmental issues and assure the ongoing preservation of India's unique natural resources and environment for current and future generations.

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