



TOPIC OF THE WEEK
SEPTEMBER'19 (12 to 18 Sep)

Time to focus more on our present time

For nations to sustain long-term growth of real gross domestic product (G.D.P.) it is crucial to maintain the standard of living in the long term. To raise living standards a country should increase its average output per person over time. It has been recognized that the factors determining economic growth are the growth rates of the stocks of physical and human capital, and also the rate of technological change. Therefore, investment in plant, equipment, technology, the accumulation of skills and education (human capital) are indeed crucial for a long-term economic growth strategy. The depletion of natural resources and environmental degradation are common and are prevalent worldwide, in India, there have been many reasons that lead to the depletion of natural resources and environmental degradation, these are effects of natural calamities and disasters, population explosion, deforestation, increase in transportation, eviction of fumes and poisonous gases from the industries as well as vehicles cause air pollution, throwing of waste into the rivers and lakes cause water pollution and conditions of poverty; with the impact of urbanization and migration of rural individuals

into the urban areas in search for better livelihood has led to an increase in all kinds of pollution and deforestation, in urban cities especially in the national capital of Delhi, trees and plantations have been cut down in order to construct residential areas for the urban dwellers and this has been the major source of environmental degradation. Delhi has been considered to be the most populous as well as the most polluted city in the world. Other dire consequences have been that as a result of environmental degradation and depletion of natural resources there has been an increase in the levels of paucity, individuals are getting more prone to living in destitute conditions in rural as well as urban areas .Deforestation has resulted in calamitous consequences, the rural people who are mostly dependent upon forests for their livelihood, when the forests and trees get chopped down their agricultural occupation suffers, they depend upon forests for their food and to obtain wood, hence undergo tough conditions as a result of deforestation. Natural calamities and disasters are natural as well as man-made; when they occur unexpectedly, they cause threatening consequences upon the lives of the individuals as well as plants and animals, the effects can

be environmental, health, economic, social, political, administrative and managerial. In order to investigate the measures that would lead to preservation and safeguarding of the environment and the natural resources, it is necessary to assess the risks, impacts and the opportunities that are available from these two main aspects, how the life of the individuals would be threatened, put in jeopardy, what would be the impacts and what are the opportunities available to be analyzed.

And yet, we remain largely ignorant about how to collectively manage resources such as water, land, and clean air in order to help prevent conflict. The conservation community should urgently act to address this gap, by answering several key questions. Have we determined whether our current rate of exploitation of natural resources is sustainable? Have we calculated the gaps in essential resources in view of expected population growth? Do we know or admit the role of inadequate governance in creating stresses on our natural resources? And, have we sufficiently drawn on the wisdom and practical expertise of our own populations, accumulated over millennia, to identify the threats, the priorities for action, and the policy options

available? The *Millennium Ecosystem Assessment Synthesis Report* previews the ecological state of the world in 2050. It lists 24 essential “ecosystem services,” such as timber, clean air, and fresh water, and finds that 60% of them are being degraded or used unsustainably.

In spite of having so many intellectuals and technological advancement why we are not able to find the correct solution for the present? We are worried more about future but still not taking proper steps in our present time. We are almost in the threshold of end time. We have to plan logically for our kids so that they get proper environment to live, unadulterated food to eat and all the basic amenities in their future. Intellectuals should stop worrying more about popularity and vote banks and should concentrate on the concrete problem of our society.

For the environment, sustainability and green development, the specific suggestions have been concerning the climate and energy considerations, natural cycles and their connected social processes, the urban-rural nexus, urban infrastructure and the transport systems, and the green development in future and its economic impacts. The spread of greenery has been considered to be a crucial factor in order to curb

weakening of natural resources and environmental degradation, there have been number of activities that are as a result of greening of rural development, improved resource conservation, improved resource efficiency, reduction in the negativities of environmental impacts, strengthening of the climatic resilience of communities and contribution to climate change mitigation. India is a developing nation, with the increase in industrialization and development of technology, innovation and other advancement, it is essential that measures and procedures should be implemented in order to curb all kinds of pollution, plant more trees, in other words, encourage greenery and follow particular waste management procedures; in order to preserve and safeguard natural resources, it is mandatory to follow appropriate measures and steps, as it is up to the human beings to curb man-made disasters such as industrial explosions to safeguard their lives.

For reference:-

- <https://www.preventionweb.net/risk/environmental-degradation>
- http://www.scielo.br/scielo.php?pid=S1414-753X2013000300004&script=sci_arttext&tlng=en
- <https://www.iucn.org/resources/issues-briefs/nature-based-solutions-disasters>

Additional Readings:-

- <https://www.theguardian.com/commentisfree/2019/sep/08/the-guardian-view-on-tourist-taxes-travellers-should-pay-their-way>
- <https://www.theguardian.com/commentisfree/2019/sep/02/the-guardian-view-on-good-business-profit-is-not-enough>
- <https://www.thehindu.com/opinion/editorial/tending-to-the-heart/article29334492.ece>
- <https://www.theguardian.com/commentisfree/2019/aug/23/the-guardian-view-on-the-global-economy-opportunities-wasted>