

Decadal Trajectories: A Descriptive Analysis of the Evolution, Implementation, and Persistent Challenges in India's Environmental Legislation (1972–2025)

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Abstract: *Since the 1970s, India's environmental laws have transformed dramatically, sparked by international calls to action and homegrown crises like pollution and deforestation. In this straightforward look at those changes, we break down how the rules have shifted decade by decade—from the wake-up call of the 1972 Stockholm conference to today's push for climate-proof strategies in the 2020s. We zoom in on how these laws were created, how well they're actually put into practice, and the roadblocks holding them back, like scattered government efforts, tight budgets, and the pull of economic growth. By digging into major laws, court battles, and on-the-ground enforcement, we see a clear story: India's lawmakers have big ambitions for protecting the planet, but they're often tripped up by bureaucracy, lack of funds, and real-world pressures. Pulling from 12 key studies and real-life examples from the past 10 years, this paper spotlights the big misses—like slow project approvals and toothless fines—and suggests practical fixes. Ultimately, it calls for a more unified approach to make these laws truly support India's long-term goals for a sustainable future, giving decision-makers clear ideas as climate threats ramp up.*

Keywords: *environmental laws*

