

SPECIAL TOPIC*

PROMOTING SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT : CHALLENGES FOR ENVIRONMENT POLICY

With its geographic, climatic and biological diversity, India has a unique environmental heritage. The country represents almost all types of habitats of the world and the land mass of the country and its water bodies sustain an extremely rich variety of plants and animals. However, development based on intense utilisation of natural resources and polluting and energy intensive industrial technology along-with pressures of population and poverty have taken a heavy toll of these environmental assets over the years.

2. This Chapter aims at reviewing the current state of the environment and identifying policy issues for promoting sustainable development. It is broadly divided into five sections : environment-economy linkages; review of our major environmental concerns; the underlying causes of environmental degradation; discussion on policy response and current initiatives in this area; and the challenges/issues in environment policy which have a bearing on promoting sustainable development.

* This chapter reflects innovation to discuss one major economic issue in each Economic Survey. This year the issue chosen is Promoting Sustainable Development : Challenges for Environment Policy.