PREFACE

The present study concerns the movements on environmental protection in the United States and India. It has within its purview a few illustrative nuances of the ecological imbalances that have been confronting the two respective societies. The dissertation bears a modest index to several initiatives and programmes that have been undertaken, linked with networks on technical, health, climate and long-range monitoring of various systems.

However, the present dissertation is not a study in scientific-ecological explanation or such other technical exposition. Nor is it an abject comparative analysis based on issue-to-issue, and movement-to-movement, of the two countries. It only endeavours to bring out two different categories of challenges and the environmental problems that are faced, both by India and the United States. It also focuses on the identical "stresses and strains" on the issues relating to the environmental degeneration. In doing so, both the countries have found an increasing awareness among its people and organizations which in turn have compelled their respective governments to launch State-sponsored programmes.

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Although the quantum and degree to which the consciousness that exists in the two countries differ, they nevertheless show some positive trends for evaluation on the part of a scholar.

This has been the guiding factor in the present dissertation for undertaking the work.

In recent years the studies on environmental changes in various forms -- the "Greenhouse effect", "desertification", "rising sea-level" and such other ecological imbalances -- have been in vogue all over the world. The Planet Earth confronting such adversities has invited the concern of all societies. Hence the UN constituted a Global Environment Monitoring Systems (GEMS) which has been responding to several such challenges. Various organizations and associations have come into existence. The State-governments have also initiated "environmental quality", "environmental planning", "environmental ethics" and "environmental action" programmes through legislation. India and the United States are no exceptions to this prevailing mood in terms of their governmental and societal activities. The present dissertation is divided into six chapters with a few appendices and a select bibliography.
The first chapter titled "The Environment Renaissance", deals with a historical purview of the ecological movement in general terms. It highlights the various aspects of the movement and vital concern shown on this subject. It also traces the issues that seem to face the two countries -- the US and India -- in regard to the ecological depression.

The second chapter titled "US : The Environment Concern" indicates the rising national consciousness on the environmental problems. It also brings out several technical, political and governmental role in the pursuit of respective programmes in the US.

Chapter third, titled, "The US Objective", provides a comprehensive political-social tactics towards protecting the environment there. It also highlights the policy formulations on the part of US Government and the NGOs there to upgrade the environment.

Chapter four, titled, "India - The Half-way House", is an exercise in the study of features of the environmental movement in India. It gives some of the striking examples of community oriented crusade in our country. It has also identified a few select NGOs that are concerned with environmental activities.
Chapter five, titled, "India - The Goal Ahead", is a description of suggestive nature wherein the environment movement in India is caught-up at a crucial juncture. The management aspect of the movement with governmental efforts and a few resurrective measures have also been analysed.

The last is the conclusion of the present dissertation. It gives a "sum-up" of what the present researcher has examined with humility and painstaking efforts.

A select bibliography of the dissertation has been provided in this work.

I am indebted to various libraries and their staff members for their cooperation from time to time in writing the dissertation. They are: The Library of Jawaharlal Nehru University, the American Studies Research Centre (Hyderabad), the Indian Council of World Affairs, the Teen Murty Library, Indian Institute of Public Administration, The Centre for Science and Environment (New Delhi), The Ratan Tata Library (Delhi School of Economics, Delhi University), and the American Centre Library.

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