Environmental pollution is one of the most serious problems facing humanity and other life forms on this planet today. The growing population graph of India has increased the burden on natural sources manifold as compared to the situation that existed fifty years ago in this country. The purity of the environment has been threatened to an appalling extent with the growing technological advancement and industrialization. The present generation of humans needs to protect and improve the environment for the peaceful survival of man-kind and other life forms on this planet and therefore the right to environment has emerged as a fundamental human right today which found place in all constitutions of the world.

The environmental problems in India are growing rapidly. The increasing economic development and a rapidly growing population that has taken the country from 300 million people in 1947 to more than 1.2 billion people today is putting immense strain on the environment, infrastructure, and the country’s natural resources. Industrial pollution, soil erosion, deforestation, rapid industrialization, urbanization, and land degradation are all worsening problems.

Over exploitation of the country's resources, be it land, water or space and the industrialization process has resulted environmental degradation of resources. Over the last two decades, the Indian judiciary has fostered an existence and innovative approach to environmental rights in the country. Complex matters of environmental management have been resolved and consequently a series of innovative procedural remedies have evolved to accompany this new substantive right. The new environmental right is therefore championed as a legal gateway to speedy and inexpensive legal remedy. The national expansion of right to life was recognized even in the absence of a specific reference to direct violations of the Fundamental right. Placed in a nutshell, the human right culture has percolated down to Indian human right regime within a short period of time. An interdisciplinary approach to environmental protection may be another reason for the operation of the right to healthy environment. This has been undertaken through international environmental treaties & conventions, national legislative measures and in judicial responses. The environmental law is the most significant legislative measure amongst all the available laws in India and its importance has increased manifold today because of
possible threats to the existence of the earth due to unbridled pollutants and industrial hazards.

On undertaking a comprehensive study of environmental law, policy and problems the present subject matter involved in this thesis has been divided into seven chapters. The very first chapter starts with the “INTRODUCTION” which throws light on the environment, its definition, and sphere of environment problems.

The Third chapter is HISTORICAL PERSPECTIVE OF ENVIRONMENT PROTECTION wherein the historical aspect of environment has been discussed from Vedic India till today.

The Third chapter is ENVIRONMENTAL PROBLEMS IN INDIA. A number of environmental problems have been discussed in this chapter.

The Forth chapter is SOCIAL AND LEGAL MEASURES RELATING TO ENVIRONMENT PROTECTION IN INDIA. In this chapter the socio-legal aspect of environment has been discussed at length and apart from it, the light has been thrown into the major social movements relating to environment protection in India and the initiatives taken by the government of India to make India clean have also been discussed.

The fifth chapter is ROLE OF NATIONAL GREEN TRIBUNAL. This chapter deals with the National Green Tribunal and includes its evolution, structure and composition, jurisdiction powers and functions.

The sixth chapter is JUDICIAL TRENDS IN INDIA. In this chapter i have discussed that how courts are protecting the environment by fiving environment favouring decisions.

The last chapter of this research work is CONCLUSION AND SUGGESTIONS. In this chapter I have tried to draw the inferences based on the foregoing chapters of research work. I have drawn a number of suggestive for the protection of environment.

*I have faith that this research work will give benefit for students, researchers, scholars and other stakeholders, who are going to study on this topic. It will widen scope for further studies on environment protection.*

Urmila