

3) Does amending and updating the Air (act), 1981 will help in the battle against pollution in the country? Comment.

A) Clean Air, is an fundamental right of the Every Citizen of the Country under Article 21 of the Constitution. But increased emissions of pollutants into the atmosphere lead to the degradation of quality of air in the country.

To address the menace of air pollution, there is an urgent need to amend and update the existing India's Air Act, 1981 to be in conformity with the changing needs of the citizens.

Amendments required for effective functioning of the Act:-

- 1) Empowering the Central & state Pollution Control Boards to [PCBs] Penalise any institution (or) company & impose fines & penalties in case of non-conformity with the law.
- 2) Assigning powers to the (PCBs) at par with the NGT.
- 3) Measures to bring in Synergy between State & Central PCBs.
- 4) Financial independence to the Boards for better efficiency.
- 5) Allocation of more funds to National Clean Air Programme
- 6) "Polluters pay" approach should be adopted & implemented
- 7) Regular collection of data & releasing pollution bulletin for the awareness generation among citizens.

With 22 out of top 30 most polluting cities in the Indian world, India is at the cusp of becoming a gas chamber. It is high time that the govt should bring in effective changes to the air policies & acts in the country to avert the disaster.