

FAQ

1. What are the conflicts between economic growth and environment protection?

Ans. Economic growth generally brings with it the degradation of environment. Normally, infrastructure projects are undertaken at the cost of environment. The growth in automobiles creates air pollution. Industrial growth is a key driver of economic growth and this seriously dents environment. Unless and until conscious efforts are put in for environment protection, economic growth will damage the environment.

2. What is command and control approach?

Ans. This approach is direct regulation of economic activity. The limitations are: it does not address the long term implication of environmental damage and it does not take care of broader objective of sustainable development (achieving environmental quality and economic prosperity). This is very difficult to achieve for the third world.

3. What is NAFTA?

Ans. NAFTA is North American Free Trade Agreement. This was reached by United States, Mexico and Canada in 1992 and approved by congress in 1993.

4. What is the role of WTO?

Ans. WTO is an organization that works for free trade. Following are the key functions of WTO :

- Administering trade agreements
- Facilitating trade negotiations and resolving trade disputes
- Overseeing national trade policies
- Helping developing nations in trade policy matters.

WTO is playing role in environmental issues as well.

5. How is the world moving towards sustainable development?

Ans. One of the key global goals is sustainable development. The idea is to manage the earth's resources such that their long term quality and abundance are ensured for future generations. In 1992 Rio summit, this was referred to as intergenerational equity.

6. What is environmental Kuznets curve?

Ans. This depicts a theorized relationship between economic development and environmental degradation. This can be depicted as an inverted U. During the early stage of economic development, there is faster degradation of the environment. However, the more advance development is associated with better regulation of environment issues and hence improvement of the same.

7. Name various global frameworks for sustainable development.

Ans. These are:

- UNCED (Agenda 21 and Rio Declaration)
- WSSD Johannesburg – 2002
- Rio + 20 – 2012

8. What are the economic benefits of free trade?

Ans. The benefits are:

- Greater consumer choice
- Higher world output
- Efficiency gains from specialization
- International political stability
- More competition and lower prices
- Increase in output, employment income and welfare

9. How is international trade affecting environmental objectives?

Ans. Advance countries are putting conditions on wage level while deciding to trade with developing countries. So, the overall sensitivity towards issues

connected with wage levels and environmental issues is increasing in developing countries also.

10. What was the key agenda of Doha ministerial conference held in 2001?

Ans. The commitment of WTO to environment was confirmed at Doha ministerial conference held in 2001. There was an agreement to begin a new round of negotiation on issues, dealing with trade and environment. A special session of CTE was created to focus on the influence of environmental measures on market access, intellectual property rights and environmental labelling requirements.