

Born in 1946, in the State of Jammu & Kashmir, India, M. C. Mehta is one of the world's most well-known and effective environmental lawyers. In 1983, he began his career as a lawyer in the Supreme Court of India. Since then, he has filed dozens of major cases, on environment and human rights, before the Court—and won them all.

From saving some of India's greatest treasures, including the Taj Mahal and the Ganges River, to introducing much needed reform, such as the conversion of Delhi's vehicle fleet to compressed natural gas, increased enforcement of child labour laws and the

institution of nationwide environmental education, Mr. Mehta has spent a lifetime defending the Indian environment and people

In the process, Mr. Mehta has been instrumental in pioneering advancements in the body of Indian environmental jurisprudence, including the Right

to a Healthy Environment, the Public Trust Doctrine, the concept of Strict and Absolute Liability and the Polluter Pays and Precautionary Principles. These legal doctrines have made Mr. Mehta an international figure in environmental jurisprudence, emulated by jurists and lawyers throughout the globe.

In recognition of his many accomplishments, Mr. Mehta has been the recipient of several international awards, most notably the Goldman Environmental Prize for Asia, the UNEP Global 500 Award and the Ramon Magsaysay Award. He now spends his time engaged in his legal practice, lecturing on environmental jurisprudence, conducting environmental campaigns and directing the initiatives of the M. C. Mehta Environmental Foundation, a non-profit, nongovernmental organization that works throughout India for the protection of the environment and human rights.



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U-1 Green Park Extension
New Delhi, 110016
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"It is only when concerned citizens come out and sacrifice their time, status and finances to become a voice for the voiceless, that movements against injustice, inequality, corruption, crime, violence, environmental vandalism, social and economic disparities can be fought effectively."

-- M. C. Mehta

Join the movement for a green, clean, environment

IN THE PUBLIC INTEREST

By

M. C. Mehta



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IN THE PUBLIC INTEREST

PURCHASE

"Of the many environmental books I have read over the past number of years, this is the one that will be used by this academic as a powerful teaching tool to illustrate to my students how the law, in the hands of the right individuals, be they judges, lawyers or parliamentarians can improve our prospects for a brighter future."



--Prof. Michael Jeffrey, Macquarie University

"Environment law personified. A story of commitment and dedication that covers all aspects of investigation and preparation leading to judicial decisions".

--Hon. Justice Saleem Akhtar, Supreme Court of Pakistan

"Mr. Mehta is a warrior leading battle in the courts as an adept and eminent environmentalist lawyer. He is a great protector and dedicated lover of all of God's creation, and, in ensuring the continuity of these concerns, and educator for the young lawyers of South Asia."

--Hon. Justice Shiranee Tilawardane, Supreme Court of Sri Lanka

"Albert Einstein observed that only a life lived for others is a life worthwhile. M. C. Mehta has dedicated his adult life to serving others. Selflessly, steadfastly and assiduously, M. C. Mehta has championed the rights of present and future generations through the courts. His life is exemplary. This is his compelling story."

--Hon. Chief Judge Brian J. Preston, Land and Environment Court of New South Wales

In Volume I, Mr. Mehta shows the narrative talent that has served him so well throughout his legal practice and weaves a compelling account of his life and times. The books contain a description of Mr. Mehta's personal crusade to save the Taj Mahal, his attempts to preserve the neglected historical and cultural sites throughout Delhi and his on-going struggle to protect the Holy Ganga, India's forsaken mother, from pollution. From cultural heritage and wildlife protection, to child labor and environmental pollution, Mr. Mehta writes about his battle for the Earth and its inhabitants against the forces of greed, injustice and brutal neglect.

Volume II and III contain the verbatim orders and judgments of one of the most progressive judicial bodies in the world, the Supreme Court of India. In a country paralyzed by corruption

and bureaucracy while facing overwhelming environmental degradation, the Supreme Court has cut through a swath of obstacles to establish wide-ranging and internationally applicable tenants of environmental jurisprudence. For the first time, these judgments have been compiled in the same place as a reference for all of those interested in using the law as a tool of environmental and social change.

In the Public Interest is a remarkable study written by a remarkable man. The books are a must-read for those working in law, the environment and development, as well as those who want a cleaner, safer, better India. Just as untold millions have been served by his litigation, concerned citizens, the world over, would benefit from Mr. Mehta's story.

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Prakriti Publications
Post Office Box 4392
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New Delhi, 110016
India
Telephone: +91 11 41756519
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Fax: +91 11 41756519
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"The scale of injustice occurring on Indian soil everyday is catastrophic... It is an all-out assault on Indian's environment—and it goes largely unreported. Yet the problems are everywhere: you need to only open your eyes and look around. The environment has become so degraded that instead of nurturing our bodies it poisons us."

--M. C. Mehta