

## ENVIRONMENTAL STUDIES

### UNIT - I

**Multidisciplinary nature of Environmental Studies:** Definition, Scope and Importance –Sustainability: Stockholm and Rio Summit–Global Environmental Challenges: Global warming and climate change, acid rains, ozone layer depletion, population growth and explosion, effects. Role of information Technology in Environment and human health.

**Ecosystems:** Concept of an ecosystem. - Structure and function of an ecosystem. - Producers, consumers and decomposers. - Energy flow in the ecosystem - Ecological succession. - Food chains, food webs and ecological pyramids. - Introduction, types, characteristic features, structure and function of Forest ecosystem, Grassland ecosystem, Desert ecosystem, Aquatic ecosystems.

### UNIT - II

**Natural Resources:** Natural resources and associated problems

Forest resources – Use and over – exploitation, deforestation – Timber extraction – Mining, dams and other effects on forest and tribal people. Water resources – Use and over utilization of surface and ground water – Floods, drought, conflicts over water, dams – benefits and problems. **Mineral resources:** Use and exploitation, environmental effects of extracting and using mineral resources.

**Food resources:** World food problems, changes caused by non-agriculture activities-effects of modern agriculture, fertilizer-pesticide problems, water logging, salinity.

**Energy resources:** Growing energy needs, renewable and non-renewable energy sources use of alternate energy sources.

**Land resources:** Land as a resource, land degradation, Wasteland reclamation, man induced landslides, soil erosion and desertification. Role of an individual in conservation of natural resources. Equitable use of resources for sustainable lifestyles.

### UNIT - III

**Biodiversity and its conservation:** Definition: genetic, species and ecosystem diversity- classification - Value of biodiversity: consumptive use, productive use, social-Biodiversity at national and local levels. India as a mega-diversity nation - Hot-spots of biodiversity - Threats to biodiversity: habitat loss, man-wildlife conflicts. - Endangered and endemic species of India – Conservation of biodiversity: conservation of biodiversity.

### UNIT - IV

**Environmental Pollution:** Definition, Cause, effects and control measures of Air pollution, Water pollution, Soil pollution, Noise pollution, Nuclear hazards. Role of an individual in prevention of pollution. - Pollution case studies.

**Solid Waste Management:** Sources, classification, effects and control measures of urban and industrial solid wastes. Consumerism and waste products.

### UNIT - V

**Social Issues and the Environment:** Urban problems related to energy - Water conservation, rain water harvesting-Resettlement and rehabilitation of people; its problems and concerns. Environmental ethics: Issues and possible solutions. Environmental Protection Act -Air (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act. –Water (Prevention and control of Pollution) Act -Wildlife Protection Act -Forest Conservation Act-Issues involved in enforcement of environmental legislation. - Public awareness.

### UNIT - VI

**Environmental Management:** Impact Assessment and its significance various stages of EIA, preparation of EMP and EIS, Environmental audit. Ecotourism

The student should submit a report individually on any issues related to Environmental Studies course and make a power point presentation.