



CODE: MC-03

SUBJECT NAME: ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCES

CREDITS: 3

SESSIONAL: 25
THEORY EXAM: 75
TOTAL: 100

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Course Objectives:

1. The prime objective of the course is to provide the students a detailed knowledge on the threats and challenges to the environment due to developmental activities.
2. The students will be able to identify the natural resources and suitable methods for their conservation and sustainable development.
3. The focus will be on awareness of the students about the importance of ecosystem and biodiversity for maintaining ecological balance.
4. The students will learn about various attributes of pollution management and waste management practices. The course will also describe the social issues both rural and urban environment and environmental legislation

Course Contents:

MODULE-1: The Multidisciplinary Nature of Environmental Studies

Definition, scope and importance. Need for public awareness.

MODULE-2: Natural Resources: Renewable and Non-Renewable Resources

Natural resources and associated problems:

- Forest resources: Use and over-exploitation, deforestation, case studies. Timber extraction, mining, dams and their effects on forests 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 mineral resources, case studies.
- Food resources: World food problems, changes caused by agriculture and overgrazing, effects of modern agriculture, fertilizer-pesticide problems, water logging, salinity, case studies.
- Energy resources: Growing energy needs, renewable and non- renewable energy sources, use of alternate energy sources. Case studies.
- Land resources: Land as a resource, land degradation, man induced landslides, soil erosion and desertification.
- Role of an individual in conservation of natural resources. Equitable use of resources for sustainable lifestyles.

MODULE-3: 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 the following ecosystem: a) Forest ecosystem b) Grassland ecosystem c) Desert ecosystem d) Aquatic ecosystems (ponds, streams, lakes, rivers, oceans, estuaries).

MODULE-4: Biodiversity and its Conservation