

**ENVIRONMENTAL STUDIES – I****Course Code: EVS 142****Credit Units: 02****Total Hours: 20****Course Objective:**

The term environment is used to describe, in the aggregate, all the external forces, influences and conditions, which affect the life, nature, behavior and the growth, development and maturity of living organisms. At present a great number of environmental issues, have grown and complexity day by day, threatening the survival of mankind on earth. Environment study is quite essential in all streams of studies including environmental engineering and industrial management. The objective of environmental studies is to enlighten the masses about the importance of the protection and conservation of our environment and control of human activities which has an adverse effect on the environment.

**Course Contents:****Module I: The multidisciplinary nature of environmental studies: (6 Hours)**

Definition, scope and importance

Need for public awareness

**Module II: Natural Resources: (8 Hours)**

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 using 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 III: Ecosystems: (3 Hours)**

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, ocean estuaries)

**Module IV: Biodiversity and its conservation: (3 Hours)**

Introduction – Definition: genetic, species and ecosystem diversity

Biogeographical classification of India

Value of biodiversity: consumptive use, productive use, social, ethical aesthetic and option values Biodiversity at global, national and local levels

India as a mega-diversity nation, Hot-spots of biodiversity

Threats to biodiversity: habitat loss, poaching of wildlife, man wildlife conflicts, Endangered and endemic

species of India

Conservation of biodiversity: In-situ and Ex-situ conservation of biodiversity

### Course Outcomes

Upon course completion, students will be able to understand:

- The multidisciplinary nature of environmental studies, including its definition, scope and need for public awareness.
- Our natural resources including renewable and non-renewable resources comprising of forest, water, mineral, food, energy and land resources.
- The ecosystem, their structure and function, energy flow, bio-geochemical cycles, community ecology, ecological succession, ecological pyramids, forest, grassland, aquatic and tundra ecosystem.
- Biodiversity and its conservation.
- Ecosystem diversity, species diversity and genetic diversity.
- Biological classification of India.
- Value of biodiversity.
- Biodiversity at global national and local level.
- Conservation of biodiversity.
- Characteristic of ideal ecosystem.
- Study of an artificial ecosystem.

### Examination Scheme:

| Components    | CT | HA | S/V/Q | A | ESE |
|---------------|----|----|-------|---|-----|
| Weightage (%) | 15 | 5  | 5     | 5 | 70  |

### Text & References:

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