

UNIT 4: Harmony in Nature (Existence) (05 Hours)

4.1 Understanding Harmony in Nature

Nature is the world around us — including **plants, animals, air, water, soil, and humans**.

It functions smoothly because everything in nature is **interconnected and balanced**.

Harmony in Nature means that every component of nature works together in a cooperative and complementary way, maintaining balance and supporting each other.

Example:

Plants release oxygen which humans and animals need, and in return, animals exhale carbon dioxide which plants use.

This is **natural harmony**.

4.2 The Four Orders of Nature

According to Human Values philosophy, nature consists of **four orders** — four categories that coexist and support one another.

Order	Example	Main Function
1. Material Order (Padartha Awastha)	Soil, water, air, metals	Provides physical resources
2. Plant/Bio Order (Pranic Awastha)	Trees, crops, grass	Grows and enriches the material order
3. Animal Order (Jeevan Awastha)	Birds, animals, insects	Has physical needs and feelings
4. Human Order (Gyan Awastha)	Human beings	Has physical needs + understanding and responsibility

Each higher order depends on the lower one and also protects it — this is **mutual fulfillment**.

4.3 Interconnectedness and Mutual Fulfillment

Every part of nature plays a specific role to maintain the balance of the ecosystem.

Examples:

- Plants need soil, water, and sunlight to grow (dependence on material order).
- Animals depend on plants for food.
- Humans depend on plants, animals, and natural resources for survival.

But humans are also **responsible** for protecting and maintaining balance in nature.

This is called **mutual fulfillment** — each order fulfills the other's needs without exploitation.

4.4 Self-Regulation in Nature

Nature has its own **self-regulating system** — everything happens in a natural cycle.

Examples:

- Water cycle (evaporation → rain → rivers → sea → evaporation again)
- Oxygen-Carbon dioxide balance
- Plant growth and decay

When humans interfere excessively (e.g., pollution, deforestation), this self-regulation gets disturbed, leading to imbalance.

4.5 Realizing Existence as Co-existence at All Levels

All living and non-living things **exist together in harmony**.
Nothing exists alone; everything is in relationship with everything else.
This is called **co-existence**.

Example:

A tree cannot survive without sunlight, air, and soil.
Similarly, humans cannot live without the environment.

Conclusion:

When we realize that existence is co-existence, we start living responsibly and sustainably.

4.6 The Holistic Perception of Harmony in Existence

A **holistic perception** means understanding the **whole picture of existence**:

- Harmony in the Self
- Harmony in the Family
- Harmony in Society
- Harmony in Nature

When all these levels are balanced, we achieve **sustainable living, peace, and true happiness**.

Example:

Using natural resources carefully, planting trees, avoiding pollution, and living simply — all reflect holistic living.

Unit 4 – Summary

- Nature is made up of four interconnected orders: material, plant, animal, and human.
- Each order supports and fulfills the other (mutual fulfillment).
- Nature works through self-regulation and balance.
- Human beings should live responsibly, realizing coexistence.
- Holistic harmony = harmony at all levels of life and nature.

Exam-Oriented Questions

1. Explain the four orders of nature with examples.
2. What do you mean by harmony in nature?
3. What is meant by interconnectedness and mutual fulfillment among the four orders?
4. Explain self-regulation in nature with examples.
5. What is co-existence? How can we realize it in our life?