

UNIVERSITY GRANTS COMMISSION

Ability Enhancement Compulsory Course (AECC – Environment Studies)

Unit 1 : Introduction to environmental studies

- Multidisciplinary nature of environmental studies;
- Scope and importance; Concept of sustainability and sustainable development.

(2 lectures)

Unit 2 : Ecosystems

- What is an ecosystem? Structure and function of ecosystem; Energy flow in an ecosystem: food chains, food webs and ecological succession. Case studies of the following ecosystems :
 - a) Forest ecosystem
 - b) Grassland ecosystem
 - c) Desert ecosystem
 - d) Aquatic ecosystems (ponds, streams, lakes, rivers, oceans, estuaries)

(6 lectures)

Unit 3 : Natural Resources : Renewable and Non-renewable Resources

- Land resources and land use change; Land degradation, soil erosion and desertification.
- Deforestation: Causes and impacts due to mining, dam building on environment, forests, biodiversity and tribal populations.
- Water : Use and over-exploitation of surface and ground water, floods, droughts, conflicts over water (international & inter-state).
- Energy resources : Renewable and non renewable energy sources, use of alternate energy sources, growing energy needs, case studies.

(8 lectures)

Unit 4 : Biodiversity and Conservation

- Levels of biological diversity : genetic, species and ecosystem diversity; Biogeographic zones of India; Biodiversity patterns and global biodiversity hot spots
- India as a mega-biodiversity nation; Endangered and endemic species of India
- Threats to biodiversity : Habitat loss, poaching of wildlife, man-wildlife conflicts, biological invasions; Conservation of biodiversity : In-situ and Ex-situ conservation of biodiversity.
- Ecosystem and biodiversity services: Ecological, economic, social, ethical, aesthetic and Informational value.

(8 lectures)

Unit 5 : Environmental Pollution

- Environmental pollution : types, causes, effects and controls; Air, water, soil and noise pollution
- Nuclear hazards and human health risks
- Solid waste management : Control measures of urban and industrial waste.
- Pollution case studies.

(8 lectures)

Unit 6 : Environmental Policies & Practices

- Climate change, global warming, ozone layer depletion, acid rain and impacts on human communities and agriculture

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