ENVIRONMENTAL STUDIES – SEM 2

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**Lecture no 1**

**UNIT 1: Introduction to Environmental Studies.**

Environment means surroundings. Environmental Studies deals with the study of the physical, chemical and biological conditions of surroundings and living organisms.

The earth originated approximately 5 billion years back. Traces of living organisms were reported in the hydrosphere about 3.5 billion years back.

The earliest continent was Pangaea. Troposphere is the lower level of the atmosphere.

The part of atmosphere where temperature increases with increasing altitude is collectively known as Stratosphere and Thermosphere.

The region where life is found on earth is Biosphere. The land region of the earth is known as Lithosphere, which accommodates plants, organisms and animals. The water body of the earth is Hydrosphere.

The average temperature of the earth is 15**0**C.

Scope of the subject: (done in class).

Types of Environment: 1) Natural Environment 2) Social Environment (done in class)

Importance of the Subject: (done in class)

Important dates and occasions: (done in class)

Abbreviations: (done in class)

**UNIT 2: Natural Resources**

Natural Resources are of two types:

1. Renewable Resources
2. Non-Renewable Resources

Energy Resources, which can be used year after year continuously, are renewable resources. They are replenished and never get exhausted. Forests, water, fish etc. are examples of renewable resources.

Non- Renewable Resources do not get replenished through natural cycle or human activities. Examples are fossil fuels like coal, petroleum etc.

The importance of forests is immense.

1. They preserve the soil, check soil erosion and prevent droughts and floods.
2. They provide timber, fuel, bamboo, various medicinal herbs and gums and resins.
3. They provide shelter to wild life and thereby maintain the ecological balance of nature.

Human beings depend on natural resources to very large extent but indiscriminate use of these resources and their over exploitation pose a serious threat to nature.

Forest area is being depleted by over use of timber. Multinational companies engage in mass production of drugs and cosmetics from plants. Thus forest area is decreasing over the years. Deforestation due to overpopulation in India puts the entire eco system under stress.

CHIPKO MOVEMENT

 At times various mass movements have been undertaken to save nature from mindless human activities. The Chipko Movement is the most well-known people’s movement for environmental protection in India. The movement first started in the Himalayan area of Uttar Pradesh. Subsequently, it spread to other mountain areas such as the Western Ghats, the Aravalis and the Vindhyas. The common people of the villages devised a way to combat the widespread felling of trees. It was a non-violent and effective way to save nature. Whenever axemen camhe to cut down the trees, the women formed circles around the trees. They hugged the trees and called it the Chipko Movement. It was initiated in the year 1960. Sundarlal Bahuguna, the famous activist, joined the movement to offer support. It gained so much strength that the government of India that not a single tree could be touched for the next 15 years.

**Questions**

**Choose the correct option from the following:**

1. The earliest continent ever formed was –
2. Gondwanaland
3. Pangaea
4. Laurasia
5. The Earth was formed as a planet
6. 10 billion years ago
7. 5 billion years ago
8. 2 billion years ago
9. The region on Earth where life can be sustained is called
10. Atmosphere
11. Biosphere
12. All of them
13. World Environment Day is observed annually on –
14. 5September
15. 5November
16. 5June
17. 22 April is celebrated as –
18. Earth Day
19. Biodiversity Day
20. Wetland Day
21. The ozone layer is found in
22. Troposphere
23. Stratosphere
24. Ionosphere
25. The world renowned Chipko Movement was started in –
26. Kumaon
27. Himachal Pradesh
28. Teri-Garwhal
29. The full form of WWF is
30. World Wrestling Federation
31. World Wildlife Fund
32. World Worker’s Front
33. WCS is
34. World Conservation Strategy
35. World Conservation Society
36. None of the above

 10. World Day for Water is observed on

 a) 15 January

 b) 30 October

 c) 22 March