

## AUD1E01 ENVIRONMENTAL STUDIES

### Module 1:

Introduction – Environment in the Indian context: Concept of an ecosystem, Multidisciplinary nature of environmental studies. Components of environment- Atmosphere, hydrosphere, lithosphere and biosphere. Definition, scope and importance. Concept of sustainability and sustainable development.

### Module 2:

Natural Resources : Renewable and non-renewable resources : Natural resources and associated problems. a) Forest resources : Use and over-exploitation, deforestation, case studies. Timber extraction, mining, dams and their effects on forest and tribal people. b) Water resources : Use and over-utilization of surface and ground water, floods, drought, conflicts over water, dams-benefits and problems. c) Mineral resources : Use and exploitation, environmental effects of extracting and using mineral resources, case studies. d) Food resources : World food problems, changes caused by agriculture and overgrazing, effects of modern agriculture, fertilizer-pesticide problems, water logging, salinity, case studies. e) Energy resources : Growing energy needs, renewable and non renewable energy sources, use of alternate energy sources. Case studies. f) Land resources : Land as a resource, land degradation, man induced landslides, soil erosion and desertification. • Role of an individual in conservation of natural resources. •Carbon footprint Water conservation, rain water harvesting, watershed management.

### Module 3:

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 • 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. • Hot-spots of biodiversity. • Threats to biodiversity : habitat loss, poaching of wildlife, man-wildlife conflicts. • Endangered and endemic species of India • Conservation of biodiversity :

#### Module 5:

Environmental Pollution Definition • Cause, effects and control measures of :- a. Air pollution b. Water pollution c. Soil pollution d. Marine pollution e. Noise pollution f. Thermal pollution g. Nuclear hazards • Solid waste Management : Causes, effects and control measures of urban and industrial wastes. • Role of an individual in prevention of pollution.

#### Module 6:

Environmental Policies and practices: Climate change, global warming, acid rain, ozone layer depletion, nuclear accidents.