



## CHAPTER-1

### ENVIRONMENT

#### **NOTES:**

- Environment means the surrounding, i.e., place, people, nature and things of an organism. The food habits, economic activities, or dresses of the people vary from region to region.
- Environment is of two types, i.e., natural environment and human environment. Natural environment includes both biotic and abiotic environment while the human environment refers to the activities and creation of man.
- The natural environment is divided into four spheres-
  1. Lithosphere- It is the outer layer of the earth consisting of a variety of rocks. The continents are composed of rocks rich in silica and aluminium called sial. The rocks that are rich in silica and magnesium, is called sima, and they are found in the ocean basins.
  2. Atmosphere- It is the air-envelope that surrounds the earth.
  3. Hydrosphere- It is the part of the earth's surface, covered by water. Rivers, lakes, seas and oceans form this surface.
  4. Biosphere- It is the zone of the earth where life exists.
    - The variety of life form that is plants, animals and micro organisms is known as biodiversity.
    - Early human depended on food gathering and animal hunting. With the march of time, man built houses and thus created villages, town and cities. He constructed roads, railways, bridges etc.
    - After industrial revolution, many other activities like construction of dams, reservoirs, mining, drilling of mineral oil, agriculture, have been taken up by humans. Now we have faster modes of transport on land, air and sea. Cell-phone, fax, e-mail, internet and satellite facilities made communication speedy.

- Human beings are capable of influencing and changing the natural environment.
- Human activities like agriculture, industry, transport, road and building construction, etc. have adversely affected the natural environment in a number of ways. The natural environment has been polluted and is affecting the survival of human race. It is high time to initiate to stop environment damage.

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