

THE ENVIRONMENT

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IMPORTANCE OF ENVIRONMENT:

- Living beings are the product of their environment.
- A good environment helps all-round development of one's personality.
- Right from mother's womb, one needs unpolluted air to breath, uncontaminated water to drink, nutritious food to eat & hygienic conditions to live in.
- These elements are sine qua non for sound development of human personality.
- Man, in order to survive, adapts itself to its environment but rarely pays due attention for its improvement. It may be because of-
 - his indifference towards it
 - his lack of ability to improve or change it
 - his ignorance of it

IMPORTANCE OF ENVIRONMENT:

- Even governmental organizations had paid scanty regard for it.
- On the contrary, in the name of development & progress through industrial and agricultural revolutions, environment is being affected adversely, day by day.
- In the decade of seventy, for the first time, the attention of the world was drawn towards environment.
- In 1972, from June 5 to 16, a conference was held at Stockholm(Sweden) under the auspices of UNO, known as- “The Stockholm Conference on Environment and Development 1972”.

IMPORTANCE OF ENVIRONMENT:

- The Declaration of Conference was divided into two parts besides the Preamble.
- First part had proclaimed “seven truths” about the man in relation to his environment & the second part had laid down “twenty six principles”.
- India did participate in the Conference & Mrs Indira Gandhi, the then Prime Minister, declared a remarkable environmental policy for the country. But the real awakening came only after Bhopal Gas Tragedy 1984.
- People, voluntary organizations and governmental agencies realized utmost significance of environment protection.

MEANING OF ENVIRONMENT:

- Word ‘environ’ is derived from French term ‘environner’ which means “to surround”.
- It means “surroundings, especially the material and spiritual influences which affect the development, growth & existence of living being.
- Environment is a combination of various physical and biological elements that affect the life of an organism.
- There are several environments and all are closely linked and combined constituting the whole Earth/atmosphere system.
- They vary in size- from microscopic to global touching up to ozone layer.

MEANING OF ENVIRONMENT:

- Environment may be sub divided depending upon their attributes/qualities-
 - Aquatic environment- includes the rivers, seas, oceans, lakes, aquifers etc.
 - Terrestrial environment- includes the land surface, hills plains, deserts, volcanoes etc.
 - Urban environment- includes all the concrete jungle i. e. buildings, roads, industries etc.
- The entire environment is based on the Mother Earth.
- Animals including human beings, plants survive in this environment. This type of environment is not found in other planets. This is speciality of our Earth.
- Environment in its very wide amplitude takes into account- all natural surroundings of human beings.

ENVIRONMENT: DEFINITION

Dr T N Khoshoo: The sum total of all conditions & influences that affect the development & life of all organs.

UN Council on Environmental Quality: Man's total environmental system includes not only the biosphere but also his interactions with his natural & man-made surroundings.

Encyclopedia Britannica: The entire range of external influence acting on an organism, both the physical & biological i.e. other organism, forces of Nature surrounding an individual



ENVIRONMENT: DEFINITION

The Environment (Protection) Act:

Sec-2(a): Environment includes water, air & land and the interrelationship which exists among & between water, air & land and human beings, other living creatures, plants, micro-organisms & property.

Environment is a very complex phenomenon. In order to understand it, one has to understand Ecosystem, Ecology & Biosphere.



ECOSYSTEM:

- Man is dependant upon Nature.
- Cereals-(soil+air+sunlight)-(rocks+sunlight energy).
- Man cannot escape from his physical environment.



ECOSYSTEM:

Physical Environment: includes plants, animals, light, temperature, water, gases & Earth.

Biotic Community: An assemblage of species of plants & animals inhabiting a common area & having effects on one another is known as biotic community.

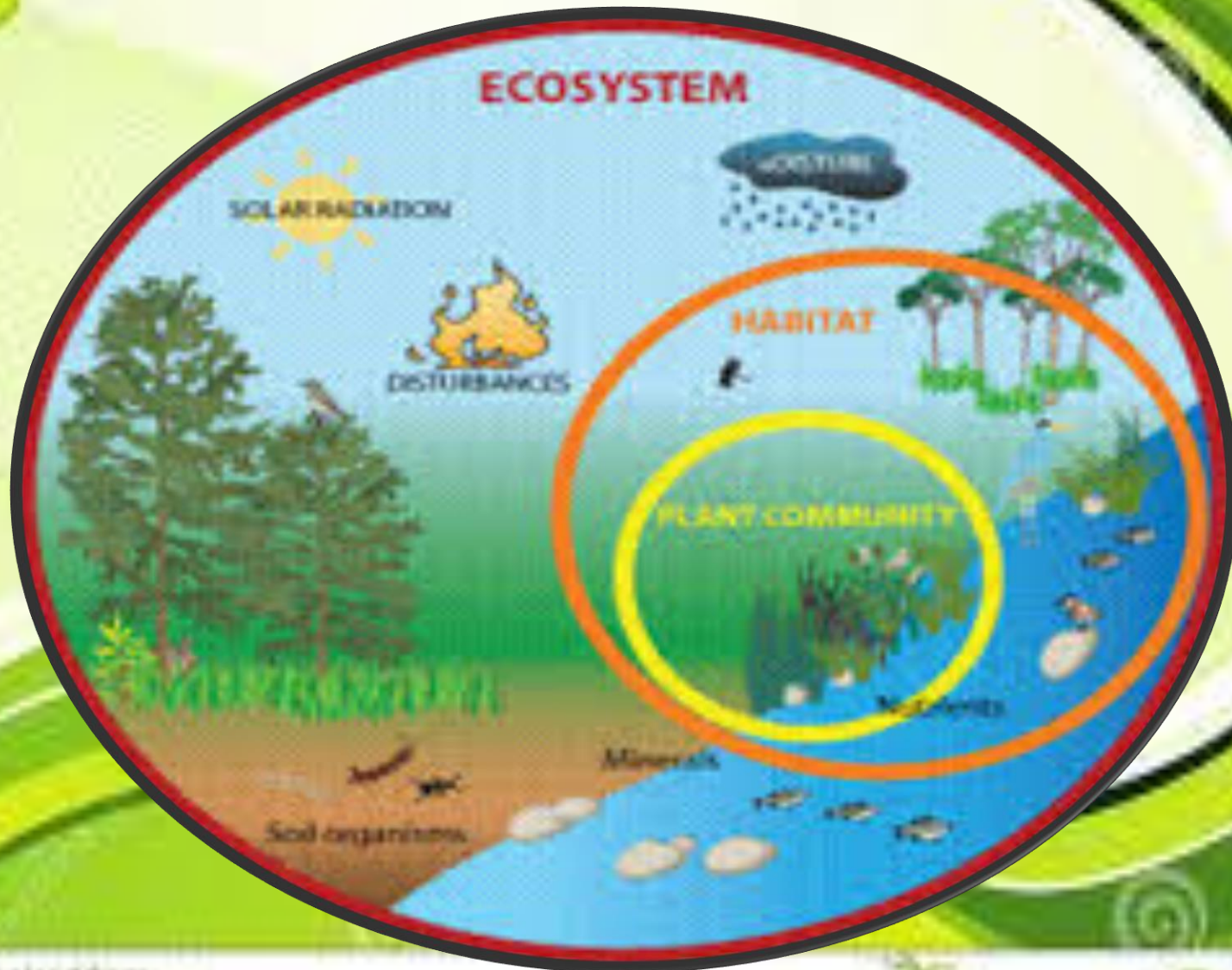
Ecosystem: A combination of such biotic community with the physical environment is known as Ecosystem.



BIOMES:

- Combinations of ecosystems or sometimes larger ecosystems which occur in similar climates & share similar character & arrangement of vegetation are known as Biomes.
- A biome is a unit resulting from the interaction of a regional climate, animal & plant life and substrate.

ECOSYSTEM:



BIOMES:



BIOMES:

Major Biomes of the World

desert

grassland

tropical rain forest

deciduous forest

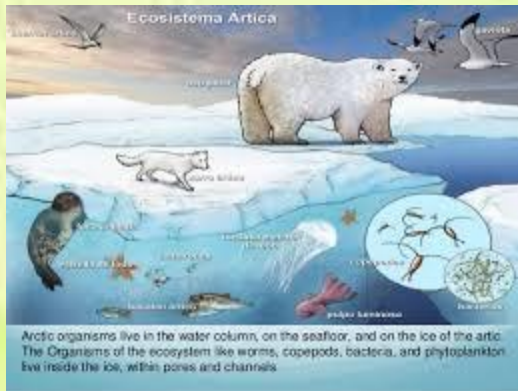
coniferous forest

tundra

ocean



ECOSYSTEMS:



ECOSYSTEMS:

- Ecosystem does not remain constant.
- Changes occurs continuously.
- System tries to maintain stability.
- Stability depends upon diversity.
- More interdependencies in an ecosystem greater the chances of resisting the change.



ECOSYSTEM:

- Cyclical changes are integral part of ecosystems.
- Major disruptions are caused by climatic change.
- Natural ecosystems & environment are self sustaining, but are adversely affected due to human interference.
- Industrialization, Urbanization & Modernization are the major threats to ecosystems & environment.

ECOLOGY:

- Ecology means the relationships between the organisms & their environment.
- Ecology is the study of ecosystems to determine how they are organized how the creatures within them interact & how total systems function.
- It is a science involved in the study of organisms in relation to their environment.
- It is a branch of biology dealing with relations of living organisms to their surroundings, their habits, modes of life etc.

BIOSPHERE:

Biosphere is the surface area of the Earth, made up of the atmosphere, the oceans, the upper surfaces of the land areas of the continents & islands and the fresh waters associated with them & the living things that inhabit this area.

