

Compulsory course on Environment Studies at UG level (AECC I)
BA/BCOM HONOURS AND PROGRAM COURSE
BIRSA MUNDA COLLEGE
(UNIVERSITY OF NORTH BENGAL)

PREFACE:

The Indian Constitution, which guarantees each citizen the "right to life," necessarily includes the "right to a healthy environment." The implications of this ruling are far-reaching: each Indian citizen now has the right to seek enforcement of India's environmental laws by filing a writ petition to the Supreme Court of India, or a State High Court. M.C. Mehta has achieved unparalleled success protecting the environment and public health through law in India, winning numerous Supreme Court judgments on behalf of India's citizens to preserve India's natural resources and cultural heritage. The Supreme Court of India to enforce a decision in 1991 requiring environmental studies as a compulsory subject at all levels of Indian education. The December, 2003, court order requires that green curricula be taught in all of India's 28 states. In 1991, M.C. Mehta obtained the original Supreme Court order requiring mandatory environmental education to fulfil the fundamental duties of citizens to "protect and improve the natural environment", as set out in India's Constitution.

PROGRAM OUTCOME:

Environment studies is all about learning the way we should live and how we can develop sustainable strategies to protect the environment. It helps individuals to develop an understanding of living, and physical environment, and how to resolve challenging environmental issues affecting nature. In addition to studying the physical aspects of the environment, it also emphasizes the need to conserve biodiversity and adopt a more sustainable lifestyle and utilize resources in a responsible way. To create awareness among today's generation on pressing environmental problems, the University Grants Commission (UGC) has made it mandatory for the universities to introduce a course in environmental studies and teach students about the eco-system, pollution and problems concerned with the environment.

COURSE OBJECTIVES:

1. Empowering to learn a variety of facts and develop a fundamental grasp of nature and environments.
2. Helping social groups and individuals adopt a perspective on the environment that will motivate them to actively contribute to its improvement and protection.
3. Improving social groups and individuals' awareness of and response to environmental problems.
4. Specific involvement of individuals and social group the chance to join in efforts to speak environmental issues at their level.

COURSE LEARNING OUTCOMES

The course will empower the undergraduate students by helping them to:

- i. Gain in-depth knowledge on natural processes that sustain life, and govern economy.
- ii. To develop concept and need of conservation of natural resources.
- iii. Develop knowledge of ecosystem diversity in India and understanding ecosystem services.
- iv. Develop critical thinking for shaping strategies (scientific, social, economic and legal) for environmental protection and conservation of biodiversity, social equity and sustainable development.
- v. Acquire values and attitudes towards understanding complex environmental-economic social challenges, and participating actively in solving current environmental problems and preventing the future ones.
- vi. Develop an understanding the types of pollution and their adverse impact on environment and health system: controlling measures and policies.
- vii. Understanding crucial social issues related to environment