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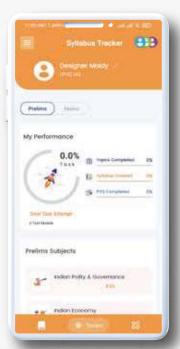
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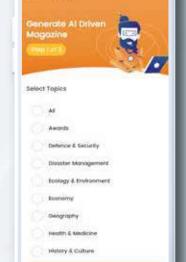
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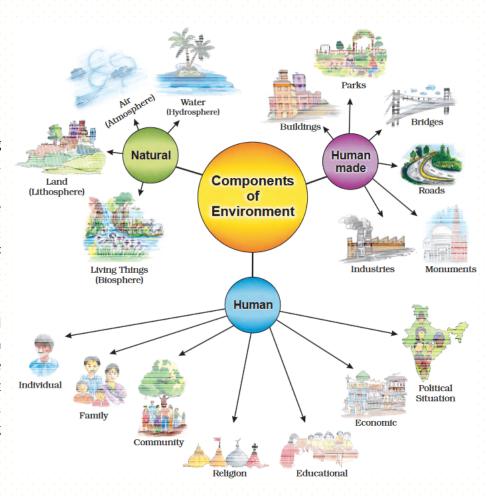
Environment, Ecology, Ecosystem, Biosphere, and Biomes

Environment

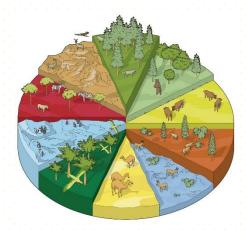
The environment can be defined as a sum total of all the living and nonliving elements and their effects that influence human life. It means anything that surrounds us.

It can be living (biotic) or non-living (abiotic) things. It includes physical, chemical, and other natural forces. All living or biotic elements are animals, plants, forests, fisheries, and birds, non-living or abiotic elements include water, land, sunlight, rocks, and air.

They constantly interact with it and adapt themselves to conditions in their environment. the environment, there are different interactions between, animals, plants, soil, water, and other living and non-living things.



Habitat



Habitat refers to the natural environment or physical surroundings where a particular species of plant, animal or organism lives and thrives. It includes all the living and non-living things that provide the necessary resources, such as food, water, shelter, and space, for an organism to survive and reproduce.

Habitats can be diverse and range from the depths of the ocean, to dense forests, arid deserts, grasslands, and even human-built environments like cities. The characteristics of a habitat are determined by factors such as climate, geology, topography, and the presence of other living organisms.

Ecology

About: Ecology is the study of organisms and how they interact with the environment around them.

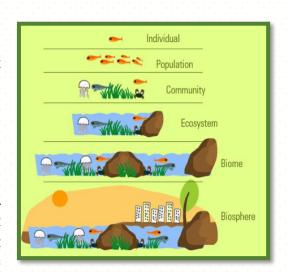
Levels of organisations in ecology

- **Individuals:** They are living beings who function independently such as bacteria, fungi, plants, etc.
- **Population:** Multiple individuals or organisms of a single species that live within a particular geographical area.
- **Community:** Two or more populations of different species occupying the same space simultaneously.

Ecology can be broadly classified as the following

Autecology: It is the study of an individual organism, an individual type of a species, or a population with respect to the natural habitat they are present. Here, only a single species of organism is taken into consideration; this could be accommodated within a laboratory.

Synecology: It is the study of a group of organisms belonging to different species and communities with respect to their natural habitat. Synecology is also termed as community ecology. A community is a group of organisms belonging to different populations including two or more different species that interact together in a defined geographical location in a particular time period.



Synecology is further divided into following

- **Operation Ecology**: Study of interactions of individuals- population of single species with each other.
- **Community Ecology:** The study of inter-relationships and inter-dependencies of groups of individuals of distinct species of plants, animals and micro-organisms together.
- **Biome Ecology:** The study of interactions and interrelationships of more than one biological community in various stages of succession under similar climatic condition of the area concerned in the study.

Ecosystem Ecology: The study of interactions and inter-relationships of all organisms among themselves and with their environment

Global Ecology: Global ecology is the study of the interactions among the Earth's environments, land, air and seas.

Landscape Ecology - It deals with the study of the exchange of vitality, materials, living beings, and various other parts of the ecosystem. It also depicts the role of human impacts on landscape structures and functions.

Ecosystem Ecology: Ecosystem ecology is the integrated study of living and non-living components of biological systems. It also deals with their interactions inside an ecosystem.

Organismal Ecology: Organismal ecology is the study of an individual organism's conduct, morphology, physiology, etc. in relation to natural changes.

Molecular Ecology: Molecular ecology is the study of the environment on the generation of proteins and how these proteins influence life forms and their environment. This happens at the molecular level. DNA shapes the proteins that are connected with the environment. These interactions give rise to a few complex living beings.

Importance of Ecology

- **I**t helps with the conservation of the environment.
- **⊘** It helps in the allocation of resources.
- **OPERATE** Proper knowledge of ecological requirements can prevent the wastage of natural resources.
- **The study of ecology encourages the adoption of a lifestyle that can protect the environment.**

	Point to be remembered for Prelims trap
Deep Ecology	Definition : It is considered as a movement or a concept that leads radical measures to protect the natural environment irrespective of their effects on human welfare.
Shallow ecology	Definition : It means preserving the natural environment and the ecosystems only if they are useful and valuable for human society.
Ecosophy	<i>Definition:</i> It is a philosophy of ecological harmony or equilibrium in the global natural ecosystems/environmental system

Table -1

Invasive Species An invasive species is an organism that is not indigenous, or native, to a particular area.			
Species	About	Native to	Distributed in India
Black Mimosa	Dense and Thorny	Tropical America	Across the country
Prosopis Julifora	Water depended	Mexico	Across the country