

17th 3-Weeks Refresher Course in
GEOGRAPHY AND ENVIRONMENTAL STUDIES

July 2 – 22, 2014

Concept Note

Theme:

Population, Environment and Development

The 17th 3-Weeks (2nd July to 22 July 2014) refresher course in Geography and Environmental Studies main theme is “Population, Environment and Development”. This Refresher Course is sponsored by the UGC-Academic Staff College, Jamia Millia Islamia, New Delhi. The Course is organised by the Department of Geography, Faculty of Natural Sciences of the university, which is one of the academically distinct and recognised department, especially in the field of higher education, research and training, by the University Grants Commission (UGC), Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO), Department of Sciences and Technology (DST), Indian Council of Social Science Research (ICSSR) and several other national and international academic institutions.

The population is permanently inhabiting to all the six continents at large of the Earth. The world population experienced the continuous growth since 1350. During the 20th Century, the world population acknowledged the greatest increase which is rising from about 1.6 billion in 1900 to more than 6 billion in 2000, and subsequently crossed 7 billion mark in 2012. This increase is attributed by the number of factors as the decline in mortality rate, better quality of life, advances in medical facilities and increase in agricultural productivity through green revolution all around the world. Hence, the need arises for population control in order to alleviate environmental pressures on the natural resources at the global level.

The Human Environment mainly concerns with the philosophies for various national and international environmental issues, including human rights, natural resource and environment management, pollution prevention and the relationship between environment and development. So, at the global level, there is a prerequisite for the international environmental law to recognize the people’s rights to a healthy environment which should contain the principles concerning to the environment and development as well as several action plans and resolutions for environmental protection and management.

The Sustainable Development is the need of the hour which can be achieved by the forest conservations, protection of lands of indigenous peoples, controlling climate change and maintaining and conserving the biological diversity of the natural eco-regions, in order to avoid the environmental degradation at the global level. The sustainable development meets the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs as has been rightly pointed out in 1987 in the UN report on *Our Common Future*. So, there is a need for practical measures for implementing sustainable development by launching a process to develop a set of Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), which will build upon the Millennium Development Goals.

In this context, the refresher course encompasses to the essential sub-themes which are concerning with the basics concepts, current specific issues, latest tools and technological development, and practical and applications matters. All these concerns are to be presented and discussed in-depth by the distinguished academicians, invited key note speakers, panellists, researchers and scientists in different sessions of the *17th 3-Weeks Refresher Course in Geography and Environmental Studies* which are mentioned as follows:

Fundamental Concepts in Geography –Paradigms in Geography: Concepts and Challenges; Geographical Theory: Relevance and their Applicability; Geography of Global Environment and Development.

World Population and Natural Resources – World Population, Social & Gender Geography, People's Governance & Political Geography, Natural Resources: Land Water and Air; Urban Challenges: Urban and Regional Development and Planning.

Environmental Models and Issues – Physical Environment, Hydrology & Climatology, Environmental Impact Assessment, Environmental Issues: Lands Degradation and Desertification.

Global Economy and Sustainable Development – Agriculture & Economic Development, Globalisation of World Economy; Environmental Change, Management and Policy; Eco-development.

Research Methodology in Geography – Quantitative Techniques in Geography: A Recent Trends & Analyses; Qualitative Methods in Geography: Writing Skills, Presentation's and Publications

GI Sciences & Geospatial Technologies – Geoinformatics: Principles and Concepts of Remote Sensing, Basics of Photogrammetry, Geographic Information Systems, Global Positioning Systems.

GeoSpatial Analysis and Practical Geography – Digital Image Processing using Satellite Imagery, GeoVisualisation of Geographical Information, Review of Articles and Books, Writing Research Proposal, and Research Publication.

Consequently, the course participants are to be interactively involved in the refresher course which is scientifically designed with number of technical sessions, seminars presentations, panel discussions, geographical excursions and field visits, and many more academic activities in order to gratify the needs of the participants for teaching, research and higher education.

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