

UNIT

6

Man and Environment

Learning objectives

- To know the components of environment
- To understand the various features of human-environment interaction
- To know various settlement patterns
- To know the different economic activities of man
- To understand the environmental effects of human behaviour



Introduction

Environment is a set of relationships between man and nature. Man has survived through the ages, dwelling within his surrounding called the environment. The word 'environment' is derived from the French word 'environ' meaning encircled or surrounded. Environment includes both living (biotic) and non living (abiotic) components.



The **Stockholm Conference**, 1972, declared man as both a creator and moulder of his environment. 'The Earth Summit', formally known as the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development (UNCED) was held in Rio de Janeiro in 1992.

Classification of Environment:

Environment is generally classified as

- Natural environment
- Human environment and
- Man made environment

6.1 Man and Environment

Early man depended entirely on nature for food, clothing and shelter. Man has enjoyed a dominant position over the other living organisms around him because of his erect posture, hands and intelligence. From the paleolithic period to the neolithic period, man has invented and developed the wheel, fire, tools and patterns of agriculture and housing to his comfort, which led him to improve the standard of living making himself technologically advanced. Thus, modern man modified the environment where he multiplied in numbers to increase population and has always extended his territories, leading to the exploitation of natural resources.

