

PEOPLE AND ENVIRONMENT

Concerns and Challenges



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IMPACT OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY ON ENVIRONMENT

Dr J. Anjana

All things are connected like the blood which unites one family. All things are connected. Whatever befalls the Earth befalls the sons of the Earth

Chief Seattle

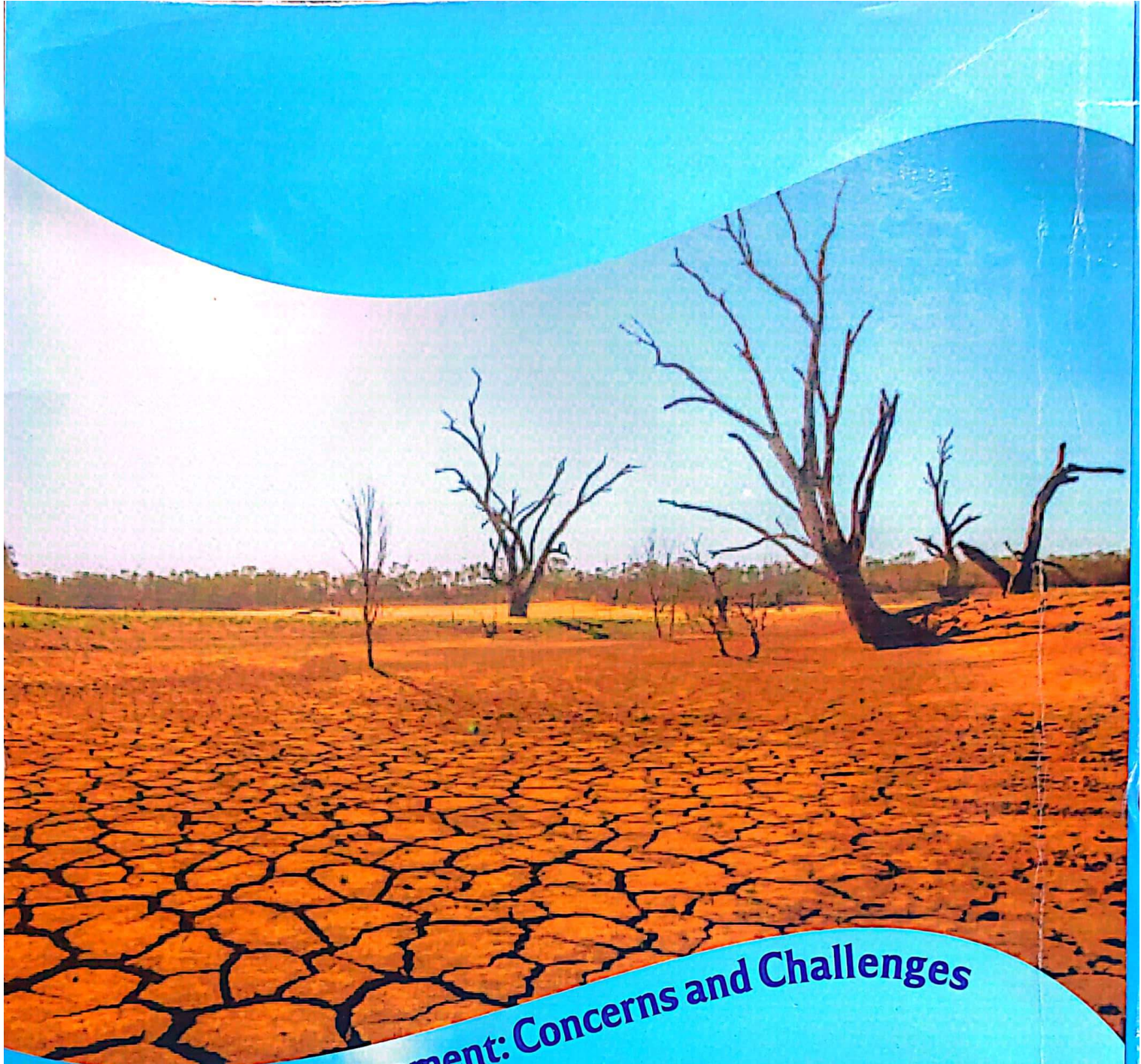
Introduction

Of all the celestial bodies in this entire solar system, earth is the only one which has all the conditions needed for life to thrive. Earth is the beautiful book of which God almighty is the author. Right from the beginning of civilization, man had maintained an inextricable nexus with the natural environment. Man worshipped her as mother earth and was cautious in tampering and meddling with her. Our Epics and Vedas stand testimony to the fact that how man has venerated and respected the natural environment. There existed a perfect symbiotic relationship between human beings and mother earth. It was his immediate physical world that shaped his thoughts, his culture and his habits. Life always depended on the vagaries and variations of the natural world. That was a time when there was a mutual coordination among all things in this universe be it living or non living. Life moved in with a symbiotic sustenance. Earth has nurtured and nursed life providing each and everything needed for its development. Life in all forms flourished on her calm, cosy lap over centuries.

Mankind surged ahead with riveting speed, there was no looking back for him. The eternal craving for conquering and subjugating everything and anything made him oblivious to palpable world around him. Slowly but steadily, man began to creep into the pristine natural world around him for his selfish, dubious motives. As mankind progressed, their needs also increased on a large scale and he gradually began to exploit our mother earth for his selfish interests. His wants were not restricted, desires were boundary less, and his tenacity of finding reason for everything made him an undefined greedy creature. A huge gulf began to creep in between man and nature. All that were considered as the blessings of the nature so far were exploited and looted scrupulously. All natural resources, air, water, earth were subjected to unending molestation. The beautiful balance that maintained between man and nature was ruthlessly destroyed. When this balance was disturbed, there started to emerge certain anomalies in nature which adversely affected the human race.

Environment – Impact of Science and Technology

Man with his innate ability to surge ahead has become successful with new inventions and discoveries. Necessity and curiosity were the basis of all advancements. Slowly and steadily mankind progressed. Industrialization and



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