B.H.I.E.-143: HISTORY OF ENVIRONMENT
(TUTOR MARKED ASSIGNMENT)

Course code: BHIE-143

Assignment Code: BHIE-143/ASST/TMA/2026-27

Marks: 100

Note: There are three Sections in the Assignment. You have to answer all questions in the Sections. Marks are indicated in front of each question.

Section-1 Answer in about 500 words each.

1. What do you understand by the term 'Ecofeminism'? Elucidate with particular reference to Ecofeminism in the Indian context. **20**

2. Comment on the role N.G.O.s and Environmental movements have played in India for protecting our environment. **20**

Section-2 Answer in about 250 words each.

3. How do you see man-environment relationship, interaction and interface during medieval India? **10**

4. Define 'Green Imperialism'. Assess the attitude of European colonialism towards Green Imperialism.
10

5. How are environmental elements and components like forests, lakes etc. envisioned in Indian philosophy? **10**

Section-3 Write short notes on each of the following in about 100 words each.

6. Environmental history **6**
7. Role of water resources in river-valley civilizations during ancient India **6**
8. Animal hunting under East Indian Company **6**
9. Biodiversity and environmental protection
6
10. *Tinai* concept during *Sangam* age **6**

1. What do you understand by the term ‘Ecofeminism’? Elucidate with particular reference to Ecofeminism in the Indian context. 20

Answer

Ecofeminism is a perspective that links the subordination of women with the exploitation of nature. It argues that both are shaped by unequal relations of power and by ways of thinking that treat women, forests, water, land and animals mainly as resources available for control. Ecofeminism does not simply say that women are naturally closer to nature. Rather, it asks why women often undertake essential environmental work, why their knowledge is ignored, and how the burdens of ecological damage are distributed. The term came into wider use through the writings of Françoise d'Eaubonne in the 1970s, when feminist and ecological movements were questioning established ideas of progress.

Principal ideas

A central idea is that domination is interconnected. Patriarchal arrangements can undervalue women's unpaid labour, while economic systems may undervalue the services of forests, rivers and soils because these do not appear adequately in market prices. A development project might increase commercial output yet make women walk much farther for fuelwood or drinking water. Ecofeminists therefore assess development through daily life, dignity, ecological health and the right to participate in decisions, not only through income or production figures.

There are different strands within ecofeminism. Some emphasize cultural and spiritual connections between women and nature; others stress social institutions, class, caste, land ownership and the gendered division of labour. Material approaches point out that women who collect water, fodder, fuel and wild foods may know local ecological changes intimately because of their work. This practical knowledge is historically produced; it is not evidence of an inborn or universal female quality. Ecofeminism also stresses non-violence, cooperation, biodiversity, care and sustainable resource use, although these values are not exclusive to women.