Deforestation is the permanent destruction of indigenous forests and woodlands. The term does not include the removal of industrial forests such as plantations of gums or pines. Deforestation has resulted in the reduction of indigenous forests to four-fifths of their pre-agricultural area. Indigenous forests now cover 21% of the earth's land surface.

WHAT ARE FORESTS AND WOODLANDS?
In a forest the crowns of individual trees touch to form a single canopy. In a woodland, trees grow far apart, so that the canopy is open.

GOING, GOING GONE!
Of great concern is the rate at which deforestation is occurring. Currently, 12 million hectares of forests are cleared annually - an area 1.3 times the size of KwaZulu/Natal! Almost all of this deforestation occurs in the moist forests and open woodlands of the tropics. At this rate all moist tropical forest could be lost by the year 2050, except for isolated areas in Amazonia, the Zaire basin, as well as a few protected areas within reserves and parks. Some countries such as Ivory Coast, Nigeria, Costa Rica, and Sri Lanka are likely to lose all their tropical forests by the year 2010 if no conservation steps are taken.

HOW DOES IT HAPPEN?
Deforestation is brought about by the following:

* conversion of forests and woodlands to agricultural land to feed growing numbers of people;

* development of cash crops and cattle ranching, both of which earn money for tropical countries;

* commercial logging (which supplies the world market with woods such as meranti, teak, mahogany and ebony) destroys trees as well as opening up forests for agriculture;

* felling of trees for firewood and building material; the heavy lopping of foliage for fodder; and heavy browsing of saplings by domestic animals like goats.

To compound the problem, the poor soils of the humid tropics do not support agriculture for long. Thus people are often forced to move on and clear more forests in order to maintain production.
CONSEQUENCES OF DEFORESTATION
* Alteration of local and global climates through disruption of:

a) The carbon cycle. Forests act as a major carbon store because carbon dioxide (CO2) is taken up from the atmosphere and used to produce the carbohydrates, fats, and proteins that make up the tree. When forests are cleared, and the trees are either burnt or rot, this carbon is released as CO2. This leads to an increase in the atmospheric CO2 concentration. CO2 is the major contributor to the greenhouse effect. It is estimated that deforestation contributes one-third of all CO2 releases caused by people.

b) The water cycle. Trees draw ground water up through their roots and release it into the atmosphere (transpiration). In Amazonia over half of all the water circulating through the region's ecosystem remains within the plants. With removal of part of the forest, the region cannot hold as much water. The effect of this could be a drier climate.

* Soil erosion With the loss of a protective cover of vegetation more soil is lost.

* Silting of water courses, lakes and dams This occurs as a result of soil erosion.

* Extinction of species which depend on the forest for survival. Forests contain more than half of all species on our planet - as the habitat of these species is destroyed, so the number of species declines (see Enviro Facts "Biodiversity").

* Desertification The causes of desertification are complex, but deforestation is one of the contributing factors (see Enviro Facts "Desertification")

DID YOU KNOW?
* The World Resources Institute regards deforestation as one of the world's most pressing land-use problems.

* An area of forest equal to 20 football or rugby fields is lost every minute.

* South Africa's climate is such that less than 0.5% of its surface area is covered with indigenous forest - great care should be taken to conserve the little we have.
Trees are one of the most important aspects of the planet we live in. Trees are vitally important to the environment, animals, and of course for us humans. They are important for the climate of the Earth, they act as filters of carbon dioxide, they are habitats and shelters to millions of species, and they are also important for their aesthetic appeal. However, the trees on our planet are being depleted at a very fast rate. According to some estimates, more than 50 percent of the tree cover has disappeared due to human activity.

Although humans have been practicing deforestation since ages, it was in the mid-1800s that forests began to be destroyed at an unprecedented rate. As a matter of fact, throughout the earlier part of the medieval age, Europeans used to live amongst vast areas of forested land. But later, they began deforestation at such a high rate that they started to run out of wood for cooking and heating. Also, due to the depletion of their natural habitat, wild game too began disappearing, which the Europeans largely depended upon for their nutritional requirements. Today, parallels can clearly be observed in the deforestation that is occurring in most developing countries.

One of the most worrying factors today is the massive destruction of the rainforests of the world, which is affecting the biodiversity adversely, as well as being one of the major contributory factors of the Holocene mass extinction that is ongoing.

**What are the Causes of Deforestation?**

The destruction of the forests is occurring due to various reasons, one of the main reasons being the short term economic benefits. Given below are some more common causes of deforestation:

*Used for Urban and Construction Purposes:* The cutting down of trees for lumber that is used for building materials, furniture, and paper products. Forests are also cleared in order to accommodate expanding urban areas.

*To Grow Crops:* Forests are also cut down in order to clear land for growing crops.

*To Create Grazing Land:* Forests are cut down in order create land for grazing cattle.

*Used for Fuel:* Trees are cut down in developing countries to be used as firewood or turned into charcoal, which are used for cooking and heating purposes.

Some of the other causes of deforestation are: clearing forests for oil and mining exploitation; to make highways and roads; slash and burn farming techniques; wildfires; and acid rain.
What are the Effects of Deforestation?

There are a number of adverse effects of deforestation, such as:

Erosion of Soil: When forest areas are cleared, it results in exposing the soil to the sun, making it very dry and eventually, infertile, due to volatile nutrients such as nitrogen being lost. In addition, when there is rainfall, it washes away the rest of the nutrients, which flow with the rainwater into waterways. Because of this, merely replanting trees may not help in solving the problems caused by deforestation, for by the time the trees mature, the soil will be totally devoid of essential nutrients. Ultimately, cultivation in this land will also become impossible, resulting in the land becoming useless. Large tracts of land will be rendered permanently impoverished due to soil erosion.

Disruption of the Water Cycle: Trees contribute in a large way in maintaining the water cycle. They draw up water via their roots, which is then released into the atmosphere. A large part of the water that circulates in the ecosystem of rainforests, for instance, remains inside the plants. When these trees are cut down it results in the climate getting drier in that area.

Loss of Biodiversity: The unique biodiversity of various geographical areas is being lost on a scale that is quite unprecedented. Even though tropical rainforests make up just 6 percent of the surface area of the Earth, about 80-90 percent of the entire species of the world exist here. Due to massive deforestation, about 50 to 100 species of animals are being lost each day. The outcome of which is the extinction of animals and plants on a massive scale.

Flooding and Drought: One of the vital functions of forests is to absorb and store great amounts of water quickly when there are heavy rains. When forests are cut down, this regulation of the flow of water is disrupted, which leads to alternating periods of flood and then drought in the affected area.

Climate Change: It is well known that global warming is being caused largely due to emissions of greenhouse gases like carbon dioxide into the atmosphere. However, what is not known quite as well is that deforestation has a direct association with carbon dioxide emissions into the atmosphere. Trees act as a major storage depot for carbon, since they absorb carbon dioxide from the atmosphere, which is then used to produce carbohydrates, fats, and proteins that make up trees. When deforestation occurs, many of the trees are burnt or they are allowed to rot, which results in releasing the carbon that is stored in them as carbon dioxide. This, in turn, leads to greater concentrations of carbon dioxide in the atmosphere.
Cricket is the national game of the English. Of all outdoor games, it requires the most of the skill for playing. It is played in India also and has got so much interest that it has even well said it is worshipped as a new religion of Indians.

Cricket requires a very large ground covered with smooth, level, closely cut and well-rolled turf. It is played with a hard leather ball, bats made of willows wood fitted with one handle and wickets. There are two wickets, places twenty-two yards apart, each consisting of three short posts called stumps stuck upright in the ground and surmounted by two small wooden pegs called ‘bails’.

The players consist of batsmen, bowler and fielders. The essence of game is as follows. The bowler delivers the ball from one wicket to the batsman stationed at the opposite wicket. The object of the bowler is to get the batsman out by striking his wicket with the ball so that the bails are knocked off or by forcing him to strike the ball up in air so that it can be caught by one of the fielders before it touches the ground. In either case, the batsman is ‘out’ and another roof the same side must take his place.

The object of the batsman is to defend his wicket and get as many runs as he can. A run is taken when batsman strikes the ball to such a distance that he and his fellow batsman at the other end have time to run across to each other’s wicket. Every run counts a point and the side that gets the greatest number of runs before it is put out, wins the match. The business of fielders is to stop the ball when struck by the batsman and return it to the wicket keeper or bowler quickly so that the batsman gets no time to make a run.

Each match has two teams consisting of eleven players each. Cricket is a fine open-air exercise and also a good mental discipline for it trains the judgment and promotes good fellowship.

Books are our best friends. They are a great blessing. They are useful to us in many ways. When we have any problem, books give us the correct advice. They console us in our sorrows.

Books are our best companions as we never feel alone in the company of books. Books are written by very wise, experienced and intelligent persons. Therefore, they give us inspiration. Books teach us about good things and bad things. They are our best guides and philosophers.

Books fill our minds with noble thoughts. They enrich our minds. Bad books spoil our minds. Therefore, we should buy and read only good books. Our life will become very happy if we read good books.

One of the things man is afraid of is loneliness. In order to overcome his extreme fear of loneliness, he seeks company and lives in company. But that does not mean we can associate
ourselves with anybody and everybody. There must be something common that binds two people together. 'Only birds of the same feather flock together.'

But what is it that we seek in the company of others? Understanding? Exchange of words? Advice? or Sympathy? All these and perhaps many more are not only what a friend would provide, but also a good book. A good book is more than a companion. When you are alone, it drives away your loneliness. It advises you, when you are in need of it. When your heart feels heavy, it removes the unnecessary burden, wipes away your tears and makes you smile.

But like the bad odors that pollute the atmosphere, there are bad books which weaken and corrupt the innocent. Such books may be good to read, but once the reading is over, gloom settles down and a kind of restlessness surrounds you.

There is yet another class of books. It is not for pleasure that we read them but for knowledge. The knowledge we need to drive away the darkness from within, the knowledge that we need to lighten our lives, the knowledge that makes us real human beings. They are the books that enlighten our lives. They are The Holy Books – The Bible, The Gita, The Quaran and the like.

'Tell me your friend and I will tell you who you are…' goes a saying, since 'A man is known by the company he keeps.'

It simply means that you are what your friends are. In fact, goods are more than a companion, and can do much more than what your friends can ever dream of. They can educate you above and beyond.

People ask me why I love books more than people on two legs. To them I say,

'Close your books and come out in the open, nature is your teacher' said Wordsworth.

It's true that people like Wordsworth can learn more from nature than from classrooms and books. But all are not Wordsworths, are they? I know for one, that I cannot for the life of me learn more from nature than from books.

Granted that nature educates us about the nuances of life, I prefer turning to my ever trusty books which are my friends and companions, guides and councilors.

By books I do not mean the ones we study for examinations. They are necessary to pass exams and get degrees. They give us a passport to success in life.

But life is all about passing exams and getting degrees always right? Man does not live on bread alone and life comprises more excitement. The undefined contentment that defies words can be obtained from books and books alone.

When ever there is a stir in my thoughts, a void or restlessness in my mind, I go to my shelf, take a book, open it at random sit down and read. Of course I've got my selected brand of authors and
genres, ranging from Agatha Christie and Sir Arthur Conan Doyle to Shakespeare and Austen, romance and parody to adventure and comedy.

I laugh with Katherine the Shrew, weep with Lear, mock like Urea Heap, lecture like Anthony, romance with Edward, investigate with Nancy, observe with Holmes, wonder like Miranda and exclaim, 'Oh What a brave world this is!'

Yes. It is a world of my own. One which springs alive at the nod of my head and vanishes the moment I let the curtains fall down.

It is a world of my own.

Science as an intellectual enterprise has greatly contributed to human society and culture. Its development and applications have very much benefited human society.

Particularly modern science and technology have changed almost all aspects of our lives. "Science" and "Scientific" are very commonly used terms of our discourse.

But the terms are not used univocally and it is difficult to bring out their exact connotations. So conceptual clarity about the terms "science" and "scientific" will help us to understand the idea of scientific order, system and explanation.

The term science is sometimes used in a broad sense to mean any systematic body of knowledge.

Sometimes it is also used in a narrow sense to mean an experimental study. In the broad sense if science would be taken to mean systematic body of knowledge then many non-empirical disciplines would be included in the scope of science.

In this sense mathematics, ethics, aesthetics, logic will be called as science for in each of these branches of intellectual enterprise there is systematic body of knowledge.

Mathematics is termed as formal science in which from limited axioms and definitions theorems are deductively deduced. Ethics, aesthetics are termed as normative sciences for they are goal-oriented.

They fix up some idea or norm and regulate their enterprise for the realisation of some norm. Again sometimes the term science is used in a narrow sense to denote only experimental studies.

In this sense some social sciences will be excluded from the scope of science. But the term science is usually used in such a way that social sciences are a part of scientific study. We shall see that what we generally call science has a distinct method as well as subject matter.
Particularly the scientific method plays an important role in determining the scope of science from non-science.

Similarly the term scientific is generally used to mean reasonable explanation. Facts of experience are scientifically explained by following a definite procedure which is characterised as scientific procedure.

That means scientific explanation follows a general pattern of reasoning. In this pattern of reasoning conclusions are derived on the basis of empirical evidence. Any inquiry whether in professional science or in practical situation that adopts the general pattern of reasoning is characterised as scientific. In the course of illustration this will be discussed in this chapter.

Leaving aside the broad or the narrow sense of science let us see how it is generally used. Science is described as a systematic body of classified empirical knowledge obtained by the inductive procedure.

This description includes natural science as well as social science in the fold of scientific discourse. For in each case we derive systematic knowledge about the facts or phenomena that we come across. Facts, events and processes may relate to nature or to human society.

While physics, chemistry, astronomy, etc. come under the sphere of natural science, sociology, economics, politics etc. come under the sphere of social science.

The former group of sciences studies natural phenomena by systematically classifying them; the latter group studies in a like manner the social events. For our convenience we categorize them and bring them under different branches. More progress means more specialization.

Thus while natural sciences explain natural phenomena the social sciences explain social events. Both the areas deal with facts of experience.

Any observable phenomenon can be brought under some specialized branch and be explained under the methodological procedure of science.

Thus when we describe scientific knowledge as something empirical, it means its realm consists the facts of experience.

Facts of experience mean what is observable. We observe the phenomena by help of our sense organs. By our sense organs we know the external world. But sometimes our sense organs are not capable to perceive some phenomena because of their complexity, distance or peculiar nature.

So some apparatuses or even very sophisticated instruments are used to make our study accurate. For example, we use a telescope to see very distant things even the heavenly bodies, an X-Ray
instrument to know the inner part of human body, a stethoscope to listen the heart and its sound etc.

Thus what is observed either directly or indirectly, either by crude sense organs or by some sophisticated instrument, either from nature or under controlled conditions is termed as empirical facts.

Hence scientific knowledge is basically and fundamentally about the world of empirical facts. Scientific inquiry does not admit any supernatural or mystical events.

According to the assumption of science nothing is supernatural, theological or mystical. Something is supernatural if in principle it violates the natural order.

There are mysteries in nature but no miracle or supernatural event. A miracle is supposed to be an event that defies a well-established law of nature. Thus the realm of science is quite incompatible with the idea of supernaturalism or miracles.

Further scientific knowledge is progressive. Any theory of science is subject to change and modification in face of new evidence or fact. No scientific theory is infallible or sacrosanct.

Since nature is vast and unlimited our knowledge of nature cannot be final or ultimate. More progress in civilization means more exploration in the secrets of nature.

According to Bacon the book of nature is lying open before us to be explored and studied. What was a mystery in the past comes to the comprehension of a school-boy now and what appears a mystery at present will be explained in the days to come.

The horizon of scientific knowledge is ever expanding with new discoveries and explorations.

The most important characteristic feature of the scientific inquiry is its methodology. The scientific method provides the most viable and regenerative process of acquiring dependable knowledge.

The scientific method is always faithful to objectivity or realm of facts. That means the scientific method consists of observation of facts, formation of hypothesis and confirmation or verification of the hypothesis. Facts, events, processes, happenings etc. need explanation.

To seek an explanation means to give reasons why something is as it is. There are innumerable phenomena occurring around us and an inquisitive mind seeks to explain them.

Explanation demands observation. After careful observation we form a hypothesis to account for a possible explanation. Suppose a disease is to be explained. Some hypothesis can be formed after observing the relevant facts.
The hypothesis needs to be verified by further observation. If the facts corroborate the hypothesis in question, then it will be accepted. Lest the hypothesis will be rejected and a fresh one may be imagined.

A scientific hypothesis must be tested or in principle must be testable either to confirm it or to reject it.

This process continues till the proper explanation is found out. Once a hypothesis is confirmed it can act as a law or theory to explain same events under similar conditions. This procedure constitutes the significant feature of scientific method.

Thus the realm of scientific knowledge consists in the procedure or method that is adopted to have systematic knowledge.

This procedure keeps some studies outside the realm of scientific knowledge. Subjects like astrology, palmistry, numerology etc. give the impression that they have a scientific basis. But there areas do not fulfill the basic requirements of scientific study. An astrological prediction is not like scientific generalisations.

The possible laws of astrology or palmistry are not based on the principle of causality. Nor are they linked with any coherent system of knowledge. When exceptions are noticed in astrological predictions, the laws are not rejected.

Rather astrologers or soothsayers take their generalisations or laws as infallible. This is quite contrary to the very spirit of science. Thus science deals with phenomena which are observable, and follows a distinct method to explain them.

Thus scientific knowledge is systematic and methodical. Science systematizes the facts and classifies them by following some order.

Every branch of science centers round some very key concepts. Whether it is a branch of social science or natural science the facts are collected, observed, systematized by help of some important ideas.

The observed facts are welded together and explained by help of some definite set of ideas. Science aims at establishing an order in the process of systematization. Reaching an order is the very purpose of science. Let us see the concept of order in science.

Education must aim at the all-round development of children and youth. It is possible only if equal importance is given to extracurricular activities and particularly to games and sports. It has rightly been said that a sound mind lives in a sound body. A healthy person finds it much easier to take care of his mental and intellectual development. Games and sports keep the body fit and fresh.

They provide a healthy diversion from curricular studies and routine work of vocation. They generate the feelings of cheerfulness, friendliness and sociability. Regular players are always
cheerful and happy. They are extrovert and communicative. They are seldom found to be gloomy and morose. Nothing can teach us better than games and sports the invaluable qualities of discipline, punctuality and co-operation.

Life is a constant struggle and poses before us challenge after challenge. Games and sports give us the requisite power, patience and perseverance to fight out the battle of life. The Duke of Wellington once said, “The battle of Waterloo was won on the playgrounds of Eton”. Nothing illustrates better the value and importance of games and sports. Much has been said about the spirit of sportsmanship.

A true sportsman should play a game with strength and courage, in a team-spirit and according to the rules. He should not lose his temper and be affected by victory or defeat. In this highly competitive age, however, what is required is the killing instinct. It does not seem pragmatic or even desirable for the competitors to remain completely detached and equanimous. There are a host of indoor and outdoor games, some of which are internationally popular. Games like chess, cricket, hockey, tennis and football have become commercialized.

Bit money is involved and the lure of the lucre does affect the players. Live telecasts of some games, particularly oneday cricket international and tennis have created an unhealthy craze among the lovers of sports. Sportsmen of international stature go to the other countries and play matches. They serve as cultural ambassadors of their country. It is deplorable that our performance on the international scene has so far been miserably poor. Special attention must be paid and effective measures must be adopted to bring our sports standards to the international level.

introduction:

Impact of science on humanity is undeniable. On the face of it, science and its inventions appear to be an unalloyed blessing. However, if we ponder a little, disturbing signs too appear.

How a blessing?

Effect on material well-being and mental attitudes; advantages of scientific discoveries in daily life – gadgets to remove drudgery, electricity, communications, transport, entertainment, computers; health – medicine, preventive and curative, control of disease and epidemic; industry, agriculture and economic development – improvement of means of production and productivity. As for mental attitude – scientific perspective banishes obscurantism and superstition; develops questioning spirit, objective outlook.

How a curse? Each of the blessings cited above has a dark side to it – a curse. Material well – being has led to crass materialism and consumer culture; discoveries of science have also produced weapons and means of destruction; use of scientific technological means of production and comforts has degraded environment, caused pollution; new diseases resistant to drugs keep coming up technological devices mean to for health field misused to kill – feticide, for instance; spirit of inquiry and positivism, if carried too far, can suppress essential humanity and actually
restrict the free range of thought and imagination; gadgets and inventions can make man
dependent and, in fact, kill his creativity.

**Conclusion:**

So, is science a blessing or a curse? It would do well to recall what Milton said in a different
context – the mid is its own place, it can make a hell of heaven, or a heaven of it is man’s
responsibility. Man can use it creatively or destructively, turn it into a blessing or get crushed
under its curse.

Games and Sports cater to the all-round development of personality of pupils. Sound mind is
ensured in a sound body. Psychologically speaking, play is a biological and social necessity for
children.

Sports and games ensure the redirection of surplus of energy of adolescents to fruitful channels.
It is said that play is the most useful leisure time activity of the adolescents. It is training for
future. In the absence of opportunities for pay the pupils are forced to frequent cinemas, clubs,
hotels cafeteria, circus and theatres.

Good sportsmen have promising future to work. So play ground is said to be the "uncovered
school" and the "cradle of democracy".

The greatest lacuna in the present educational set-up in the country is the conspicuous absence of
facilities and opportunities for games and athletics. In many schools, there are no proper play
fields. Secondary Education Commission painfully observes the absence of play fields and
suggests that the municipal parks or any open space available in the neighborhood should be
utilized by the school.

Organization of games and sports should be there in each and every school as follows:

(i) Opportunity should be provided for every pupil in the school.

(ii) A time-schedule should be prepared for each of the games and sports available in the school.
Small groups and teams should be formed. Various periods may be allotted to different groups.

(iii) Arrangements should be made that every pupils gets necessary equipment from the school.
Poor students should not be expected to undergo expenses for sports materials.

(jv) Necessary guidance and coaching may be provided through physical education instructors.

A good variety of games must be introduced. Besides Football, Hockey, Cricket, indigenous
games like "Kabbadi", "Khokho" and Tug-O-War should be introduced in schools. Some very
common and popular country games prevalent in the locality may be there in the school. Simple
athletics like high jump, long jump, discus throw, javeline throw, putting the shot, hurdles race
and the like which do not require much space as playground should be practiced.
(v) Games suitable for girls should be introduced in girl schools and in co-education school.

(vi) The inter-school contest should not be given undue importance, sometimes, mutual jealousies spring forth. This should be avoided under circumstances.

The utilisation of leisure hours in pleasurable engagements is called hobby. The life style of every human being in the day to day world seems to be machine like. Despite the routine life, we find some spare time which we can utilise profitably and can earn some profit simultaneously. Thus hobby is a new kind of habit that is different from our normal work.

Man is generally guided by the natural habits inherent in him. When the number of good habits increases in an individual his goodness increases naturally to a considerable extent.

Once an individual acquires a hobby he becomes active and cheerful. In other words the acquisition of a hobby saves a man from being dull, inactive and sloth. It increases the existing knowledge of an individual. Hobbies or habits are formed by repetition.

Different individuals have different hobbies. Some people are on the hobby of collecting stamps or philately. Some have fascination for writing books and editing in newspapers. The person engaged in the. Hobby of philately develops a love for geography and a person continually engaged in writing establishes himself as a writer of future days. Without any hobby of our own, our life would have been void of charm and pleasure.

I engage myself in the hobby of gardening. I think by this way I make the proper use of time. I derive great pleasure as the saplings planted by me grow into big trees and the children of my neighborhood pass their time under it. My work in the garden in the leisure hours gives me untold pleasure. Moreover the work builds up my mind and body by utilising the time in gardening, I remain away from idleness and gossip.

The garden is at a little distance from my home. As I return from school I water the plants with the help of an electricity operated pump. The vegetable plants provide me, enough vegetables in the season of autumn. I also grow some mango, lemon, cashew, and coconut and guava plants in the garden. Another side of the garden is used for growing flower.

I prepare the soil as designed by the horticulturists for sowing flower seeds in them. I prepare beds for flowers and vegetable seeds timely. The flowers of different colours and scent seem to smile of me. I am punctual and industrious in attending the plants twice a day. I am assisted by a gardener when the tasks seem to be heavy. I plant the sapling in an orderly way so as to give the observers a beauteous look. As the flowers bloom and the fruit bearing trees bear fruit I forget my worries, anxieties. I never remain in the scarcity of vegetables and edible fruits.

Rather I derive some profit out of the sale of vegetables and fruits on the markets. The flowers are also of great demand during the occasion of Puja and marriage.
Thus, I have adopted a hobby that gives me profit and pleasure. I have taken this since I do not like aimlessly strolling about with idle companions or reading worthless books or to be engaged in useless occupations.

The computer is the most wonderful gift of science to the modern man. The computer can do all the works of man. Thus, after the invention of computer, the gap between man and machine has been bridged up.

The dictionary meaning of the word "Computer" is an electronic calculating machine. It is derived from the word compute which means to reckon. But the function of the computer has expanded beyond the act of reckoning. Though a machine, it contains and provides innumerable information's and artificial intelligence of a very high order. It may seem strange, but it is true that the memory and intelligence of a computer can surpass those of a living human being.

The mechanism of the computer is very simple. Information processing is the essence of computing. It is a data based machine. The data is fed into the machine. The machine is manipulated and then the due information is retrieved.

Computer was invented due to the pressures of World War-II which witnessed the use of such sophisticated weapons as night bombers, submarines, and long range guns on ships and tanks, etc. The defenders have to fight back by shooting at targets and those targets of the enemy can be located by radar.

Radar can inform not only about the location of the enemy but also about the direction and the speed of the enemy weapons. Detailed mathematical calculations are necessary to find out these things accurately. Firing tables are required by the front line soldiers. Thus the necessity of calculations of firing tables led to the invention of computers. Only computer could produce such firing tables with the required speed and accuracy.

High sums of money, and brain power were combined to produce the technology. ENIAC was the first computer produced by the Moore School of Engineering on behalf of the U.S. Army in 1946. ENIAC was able to produce the firing tables by carrying out the huge number of calculations accurately.

Computers today are used to forecast the weather, to operate machines, to cut shapes out of sheet metal and even to guide spacecraft to the moon. Computers are necessary in printing book and news papers, in diagnosing disease, in looking of obscure documents in archives and elusive criminals etc. Travel agents all round the world can know whether a seat or a bed will be available in an aero plane or in hotel, either today or a year from now. Companies use them for accounting, invoicing, stock control and pay rolls. Computer helps greatly in medical science, particularly in surgery and pathology.
The original objective for inventing the computer was to create a fast calculating machine, though today it is used for other purposes. Computer is something more than a calculating device only. It plays vital role in sending cosmonauts to the space and to the moon. Courses in computer technology have been introduced in colleges and universities because of the growing importance of computer.

Robot is another name of computer. Robot is an artificial man. It can do the work of many men. Robot can rescue a ship from drowning in the sea. It can save aero planes from disaster. Robot can make surgical operations like an expert physician. It can guide pilot less aero planes. Recently in the month of June, 1997 the World's No-1 chess player Gary Kasparov was defeated by a Robot in chess competition. Thus, the role of Robot or computer-man is very great in the world today.

It is a very good habit to have hobbies. Without them life becomes a boredom. They give us relaxation or amusement. But it should be noted that all recreations and amusements are not hobbies; for example gossiping, going to a talkie, or attending a musical performance are not hobbies.

Stamp collecting, coin collecting, gardening, painting and photography are a few hobbies. These are superior kind of recreation, for they provide intellectual enjoyment. A happy feature about a hobby is that it lacks seriousness—for, a hobby pursued in a serious spirit, becomes a task.

Let us take up stamp-collecting. Several resort to it as a hobby. We carefully remove the stamps from letters that have been addressed to us or to our friends and paste them on the pages of an album. We go on doing it for months and even years; we collect stamps of different countries and of different value.

We take pleasure in it and feel we have done something useful, which others have not. It may not be useful to us or to others immediately. But from such collections much historical, geographical and cultural information can be gained. Many research scholars are eager to have such collections relating to the past. Some collectors have made money by selling rare stamps.

Next take gardening. The plants we have ourselves planted and watered blossom into flowers. How happy we feel then. We do not feel any drudgery in the work. It improves our garden and our health. It is, therefore, useful.

Another hobby but a rather expensive one, is photography. Photography, as an art, has developed to such an extent that it has become a fine art. We enjoy taking photographs. So, it is one of the best hobbies, if we can afford to cultivate it. Music and painting, if cultivated purely for the love of art, are also real hobbies.

Every one of us should have a hobby within his or her means. Otherwise, life loses much of its charm, and becomes one long drudgery from beginning to end. By pursuing one's hobby, one learns the virtue of patience and intelligent research. It is not only a source of pleasure but also a means of healthy, vigorous and enlightened life.