

**PEDAGOGY OF PHYSICAL SCIENCE, 1ST YEAR, COURSE-7(A), UNIT -01,
FOUNDATION OF PHYSICAL SCIENCE, -----BY RAJU KUMAR**

(LECTURE SERIES NO.- 01)

1.1 What is science?

Humans are curious by nature. This curiosity has driven them since time immemorial to explore the world around them. Over time, manipulation and controlling nature for the benefit of humans has become an objective of exploration. Initially the pace of exploration was slow. But with the availability of better tools of exploration in the last few hundred years and also as a result of industrial revolution in the west, the pace of exploration has increased manifold. Unfortunately, the industrial revolution introduced an undesirable element into the exploration of nature. Exploration became a tool for not only modifying and controlling nature for the benefit of all, but also for controlling natural resources for the benefit of a select few. Humans' exploratory activities have resulted in the accumulation of a vast source of knowledge called natural science. In natural science, we study about nature which means the entire universe. The knowledge is now organised in several disciplines for the convenience of study. This knowledge is based on inquiry, observations and logical extensions, and is testable by experiment or has logically convincing explanation. It is this organised knowledge with inquiry, logical reasoning and experimentation as its central themes, that we call science. Science may rightly be said to be a domain of inquiry.

Physical science is a branch of **natural science** that studies non-living systems, in contrast to life **science**. It in turn has many branches, each referred to as a "**physical science**", together called the "**physical sciences**"