

Chapter 05

Coal and Petroleum

Petroleum:

Petroleum is one of the liquid fossil fuel. The word petroleum is derived from two words namely petro + oleum.

Petro means Rock and oleum means oil. It means petroleum can also be called as Rock oil. It is called because petroleum is obtained from mining between the rocks.

- Petroleum is majorly obtained under the sea. When Dead Sea organisms are buried under the soil and compressed due to high pressure and temperature, in the absence of air, the petroleum liquid is formed.
- Above the petroleum liquid, a layer of gas is obtained, which is also called as natural gas.
- First oil source of petroleum is found in Pennsylvania and in India. We find in Assam, Gujarat, Mumbai and Krishna and Godavari river basins.
- Petroleum is a dark oily liquid, which is a mixture of about 200 different products. These can be separated through a process called refining and carried out in refinery.
- Different products present in petroleum are separated by fractional distillation. The different products, which are obtained from fractional distillation of petroleum, are petrochemicals like Petrol, Diesel and Paraffin Wax etc.
- Because of its commercial importance, petroleum is also called Black gold.