

Chapter 02

POLYNOMIALS

SUMMARY:

In this chapter, you have studied the following points:

- ◆ An algebraic expression in which the variables involved only non-negative integral powers is called a polynomial.

(OR)

An expression of the form

$$P(x) = a_0x^n + a_1x^{n-1} + a_2x^{n-2} + \dots + a_{n-1}x + a_n.$$

Where $a_0, a_1, a_2, \dots, a_{n-1}, a_n$ are real numbers and $a_0 \neq 0$, is called a polynomial in 'x' of degree 'n'.

- ◆ A polynomial of one term is called a monomial.
- ◆ A polynomial of two terms is called a binomial.
- ◆ A polynomial of three terms is called a trinomial.
- ◆ A polynomial of degree one is called a linear polynomial.
- ◆ A polynomial of degree two is called a quadratic polynomial.
- ◆ A polynomial of degree three is called a cubic polynomial.
- ◆ A real number 'a' is a zero of a polynomial $p(x)$ if $p(a) = 0$. In this case, 'a' is also called a root of the equation $p(x) = 0$.
- ◆ Every linear polynomial in one variable has a unique zero, a non-zero constant polynomial has no zero, and every real number is a zero of the zero polynomial.
- ◆ Remainder Theorem: If $p(x)$ is any polynomial of degree greater than or equal to 1 and $p(x)$ is divided by the linear polynomial $x - a$, then the remainder is $p(a)$.
- ◆ Factor Theorem: $x - a$ is a factor of the polynomial $p(x)$, if $p(a) = 0$. Also, if $x - a$ is a factor of $p(x)$, then $p(a) = 0$.