



UNIT II
FOREST AND WILDLIFE RESOURCES

SOLUTIONS

TEXTUAL QUESTIONS & ANSWERS

Q1. Choose the correct answer from the given alternatives:

(i) Which one of the following belongs to the region with 40 – 60 per cent forest area?

- (a) Manipur
- (b) Meghalaya
- (c) Mizoram
- (d) Uttarakhand

Ans: (b) Meghalaya

(ii) The most valuable forest type in from the conversation point of view is

- (a) Reserved forest
- (b) Unclassed forest
- (c) Protected forest
- (d) Mangrove forest

Ans: (a) Reserved forest

(iii) 'Project Hangul ' connected with the conservation of

- (a) Indian Tiger
- (b) One –horned Rhinoceros
- (c) Kashmir stag
- (d) Elephant

Ans: (c) Kashmir stag

Q2. Answer the following questions briefly:

(i) What is the percentage of forest cover in India as desired by the National Forest Policy, 1988?

Ans: 33.3 percentage of forest cover in India is desired by the National Forest policy 1988.





(ii) Give one reason why the forest and wildlife resources are being depleted.

Ans: The forest and wildlife resources are being depleted due to over grazing, collection of fuel wood, deforestation, forest fires, habitat destruction etc.

(iii)“In India forest are being degraded due to the development of river valley projects”. Cite one example.

Ans: In India, the infrastructural developments such as large river valley projects are responsible for clearing of forests. For example, the Narmada Sagar Project in Madhya Pradesh.

(iv)“Collection of firewood by the local people increases adverse pressure on the existing forests of India.” Suggest one measure to reduce such a pressure.

Ans: The pressure on the existing forests could be reduced if alternative fuels at affordable cost are made available to the people who have been living on forest firewood for a long time.

(v) Why did the government set up the Keibul Lamjao National Park?

Ans: The Government set up the **Keibul Lamjao National Park** in order to protect the brown-anteloped deer [*Cervus eldi eldi* (**Sangai**)] from extinction.

Q3. Answer the following questions in about 40 words each:

(i) Explain the importance of forests considering the benefits that we obtain directly and indirectly from them.

Ans: The importance of forests considering the benefits that we obtain directly and indirectly are:

- (a)** Forests are beneficial not only to our living but also for the maintenance of ecological balance.
- (b)** To obtain a wide variety of commodities from them such as timber, firewood, wood pulp, medicinal plants and other products of industrial commercial use.
- (c)** They play an important role in checking soil erosion and air pollution.
- (d)** They provide natural habitat to a variety of wild life too.
- (e)** Forests re-create the quality of air we breathe, the water we drink and the soil that produces our food without which we cannot survive.



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(ii) Explain how human activities lead to the depletion of the flora and fauna of India.

Ans: Human activities that lead to the depletion of the flora and fauna of India are:

- (a) Expansion of agriculture, transport and communication, forestry and mining during colonial period.
- (b) Forest lands are also being degraded by shifting cultivation especially in the North – Eastern and Central India affecting the existence of wildlife.
- (c) Infrastructural developments such as large river valley projects are responsible for clearing of forests in India exploiting the habitats of Flora and Fauna.
- (d) Moreover, overgrazing, collection of fuel wood, over-exploitation due to expanding industrial-urban economy and forest fires also lead to the depletion of flora and fauna of India.

(iii) What is the difference between Reserved and Protected forests?

Ans:

DIFFERENCES	
RESERVED FOREST	PROTECTED FOREST
1. They are the permanent forest estates reserved for producing timber and other forest products and most important in view of conservation of forests.	1. They are also permanent forest estates of second order in view of conservation of forests.
2. Grazing of animals and farming are not allowed in these forests.	2. Grazing of animals and even cultivation are allowed in specific regions.
3. They account for more than half of the total country's total forests.	3. They account for about one – third of forests area of the country.



(iv) Suggest two measures which would be helpful in increasing the forest cover area of the country.

Ans: The two measures which would be helpful in increasing the forest cover area of the country are:

- (a) To take up social, agro – community forestries and afforestation programmes on degraded lands.
- (b) To create massive movement of the people involving women in planting trees and checking deforestation in the country.

(v) Write an account of two projects launched by the government of India in order to protect wildlife from extinction.

Ans: The two projects launched by the government of India in order to protect wildlife from extinction are:

Project Tiger: Project Tiger is one of the well-publicized wildlife campaigns in the world launched in **1973** in order to save Indian Tigers from extinction. It is to ensure the maintenance of visible population of Tigers in India. For this, there are **27 tiger reserves** at present in India covering an area of 37,761 sq. km.

Project Elephant: Project Elephant was launched in 1992 ensuring long – term survival of identified visible population of elephants in their natural habitats.

EXTRA QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

Answer the following questions briefly:

Q1. What are the different forest zones of India?

Ans: The different forest zones are as follows:

- (i) Regions with 60 percent and above forest area – Manipur and Arunachal Pradesh
- (ii) Regions where forest cover ranges between 40 to 60 percent - Nagaland and Meghalaya
- (iii) Regions which have forest cover between 20 to 40 percent – Assam and Madhya Pradesh
- (iv) Regions with less than 20 percent forest area – Punjab and Rajasthan.



Q2. Write an account of the important trees found in different forests type of India.

Ans:

- (i) Tropical evergreen and semi evergreen forests
- (ii) Tropical evergreen - Ebony, rosewood
- (iii) Semi - evergreen - Oak , Chirpine
- (iv) Tropical deciduous forest - Teak, Sal
- (v) Thorne forest and scrubs - Palms, Khair
- (vi) Mangrove forests - Sundari trees
- (vii) Montane forests - Fir, Silver

Q3. Write an account of the distribution of different forests type of India.

Ans: The distribution of different forest types of India are:

- (i) Tropical evergreen and semi - evergreen forests - western slopes of the Western Ghats, hills of North Eastern region. Semi evergreen forests are found in less rainy parts of these regions.
- (ii) Tropical deciduous forests - foothills of the Himalaya, Eastern slopes of the Western Ghats.
- (iii) Thorn forest and scrubs - Gujarat , Rajasthan
- (iv) Montane forest - Himalayas in the north and hills of the south
- (v) Mangrove forests – Sundarbans of West Bengal, Deltas of Mahanadi, Godavari and Krishna.

Q4. Write an account of the climatic conditions of the tropical evergreen and semi - evergreen forests, tropical deciduous forests, and thorn forests and scrubs.

Ans:

- (i) Tropical evergreen and semi – evergreen forests – characterized by high temperature and heavy rainfall, less rainy parts of the region.
- (ii) Tropical deciduous forests – Occur in the areas of 70 to 200 cm of annual rainfall.
- (iii) Thorn forests and scrubs – Less rainfall areas of below 50 cm in a year.



Q5. Explain the main characteristics of the evergreen, deciduous and the thorn forests of India in respect of climate and natural negation.

Ans:

i) Evergreen forests -

- (a) High temperature and heavy rainfall
- (b) Trees - Ebony, rose wood
- (c) They appear green throughout the year.

ii) Deciduous forests -

- (a) Annual rainfall of 70 to 200 cm
- (b) Trees – Teak, Sal

iii) Thorn forests -

- (a) Annual rainfall below 50 cm
- (b) Trees – Babul, Kikar

Q6. Classify Indian forests from the administrative point of view.

Ans: Categories of forests based on administration are -

- (i) **Reserved forests** – Permanent forests, grazing of cattle and farming are not allowed.
- (ii) **Protected forests** – Permanent forests, grazing of cattle and cultivation are allowed in specific region.
- (iii) **Unclassed forests** – Include forests and wastelands belong to the government, individuals and communities.

Q7. Give the distinguishing features of Reserved, protected and unclassified forests of India.

Ans:

- (i) Reserved forests – Grazing of animals and farming are not allowed, covers half of India's forest area.
- (ii) Protected forests – Grazing of animals are allowed in specific region, covers one – third of the total forests area.
- (iii) Unclassed forests – Other forests and wastelands, belong to the government, private and communities, worst type of forests.



Q8. What are the importance of conservation of forests and wild life?

Or

Suggest the measures taken up for the conservation of forests and wild life.

Ans:

- (i) The conservation of forests is of vital importance to the survival and prosperity of human kind.
- (ii) Wild life is a national property which is to be inherited by our younger generations.
- (iii) Conservation of wild life not only helps in protecting the threatened endangered species of animals and birds, but also in maintaining the eco - tourism and natural heritage of the country.

Q9. Suggest three measures that would help increase the actual forest cover area in India.

Ans:

- (i) To take up afforestation programmes on degraded lands through social, agro – community foresteries and other afforestation programmes.
- (ii) To create massive movement of the people involving women in planting trees and in checking deforestation in the country.
- (iii) To reduce the pressure on the existing forests by providing alternative fuels at affordable cost to the people who have been living on forest firewood for a long time.

Q10. Mention three steps that have been taken up by the government for the conservation of wildlife in India.

Ans:

- (i) A comprehensive wildlife act has been enacted in 1972 in order to provide the main legal framework for the conservation purpose.
- (ii) A number of biosphere reserves, national parks, wildlife sanctuaries and zoological gardens have been established.
- (iii) A number of wildlife projects have also been launched in different parts of the country.
- (iv) A wildlife week is observed once in a year throughout the country in order to increase the awareness of the people about the importance of wildlife in our sustainable living.



Q11. How do forests help in maintaining the ecological balance?

Ans:

- (i) It also plays an important role in checking soil erosion and air pollution
- (ii) It provide natural habitat to a variety of wild life too.
- (iii) Forests re-create the quality of air we breathe, the water we drink and the soil that produce our food without which we cannot survive.

