

5. Natural Vegetation

1. Choose the right answer from the four alternatives given below

(i) Sandalwood is an example of:

- (a) Evergreen forest
- (b) Deciduous forest
- (c) Deltaic forest
- (d) Thorny forest

Answer: (b) Deciduous forest

(ii) Which one of the following was the purpose of Project Tiger?

- (a) to kill tigers
- (b) to put tigers in the Zoo
- (c) to protect tigers from illegal hunting
- (d) to make films on tigers

Answer: (c) to protect tigers from illegal hunting

(iii) In which one of the following states is the Nandadevi Biosphere reserve situated?

- (a) Bihar
- (b) Uttar Pradesh
- (c) Uttarakhand
- (d) Odisha

Answer: (c) Uttarakhand

(iv) How many of the Biosphere reserves from India are recognised by the UNESCO?

- (a) One
- (b) Two
- (c) Three
- (d) Four

Answer: (d) Four

(v) Which one of the following proportion of area of the country was targeted to be under forest in Forest Policy of India?

- (a) 33
- (b) 44
- (c) 55
- (d) 22

Answer: (a) 33

2. Answer the following questions in about 30 words

(i) What is natural vegetation? Under what climatic conditions are tropical evergreen forests develop?

Answer: Plants that grow naturally in nature, without any direct or indirect human help, are called natural vegetation. Evergreen forests are found in warm and humid areas with an annual precipitation of over 200 cm and mean annual temperature above 22°C.

(ii) What do you understand by social forestry?

Answer: Social Forestry Social forestry means the management and protection of forests and afforestation on barren lands with the purpose of helping in the environmental, social and rural development. It has three main components, viz., urban forestry, rural forestry and farm forestry.

(iii) Define Biosphere reserves?

Answer: Biosphere reserves are areas comprising terrestrial, marine and coastal ecosystems, which are internationally recognized within the framework of UNESCO's Man and Biosphere (MAB) Programme.

(iv) What is the difference between forest area and forest cover?

Answer: The forest area is the area notified and recorded as the forest land irrespective of the existence of trees, while the forest cover is the area occupied by forests with canopy actually.

3. Answer the following questions in not more than 150 words.

(i) What steps have been taken up to conserve forests?

Answer: After Independence, India laid down a forest policy in 1952. This policy laid stress on the sustainable forest management to conserve and expand forest resources on the one hand and to meet the local needs of the people on the other.

A new National Forest Policy was adopted in 1988 to stop further decrease in the forest cover. The forest policy aimed at:

- Bringing 1/3rd of the geographical areas under forest cover;

- maintaining environmental stability;
- conserving the natural heritage, biological diversity and genetic pool of the country;
- checks soil erosion, extension of the desert lands and reduction of floods and droughts;
- increasing the productivity of forests
- Creating of a massive people's movement to encourage planting of trees and stop cutting of trees

(ii) How can people's participation be effective in conserving forests and wildlife?

Answer: People's participation in conserving forests and wildlife can be effective in the following forms:

Social Forestry is the management and protection of forests and afforestation on barren lands with the purpose of helping in the environmental, social and rural development. This term was used for the first time by the National Commission on Agriculture in 1976.

Urban Forestry is concerned with the raising and management of trees in and around cities such as green belts, parks, roadside, industrial and commercial green belts, etc.

Rural Forestry lays emphasis on promotion of agro-forestry and community-forestry.

Agro-Forestry is the raising of trees and agriculture crops on the same land inclusive of the waste patches and altering the production food, fodder, fuel, timber, etc.

Community forestry involves the raising of trees on public or community land such as the village pasture and temple land, roadside, schools, etc.

Farm Forestry is a process under which farmers grow trees for commercial and non-commercial purposes of their farm lands.