

Chapter :- Management of Natural Resources

Natural Resources :-

Resources provided to us by nature soil, air, water, forests, wildlife, coal and petroleum are used by man for his survival.

Types of Resources :-

- (a) Exhaustible :- present in limited quantity eg. coal, petroleum.
- (b) Inexhaustible :- present in unlimited quantity. eg. water, air etc.

Pollution in Ganga :-

- The river is used as a sewage dump for more than 100 cities stretching across Uttarpradesh, Bihar and West Bengal.
- Dumping of untreated sewage, excreta and chemicals from industries increases the toxicity of water.
- This makes it inhabitable for the flora and fauna in the river system.
- In 1985 the GAP (Ganga Action Plan) project was initialised to curb the poor quality of the water of river Ganges.

1993-94 Total Coliform (MPN/100ml) :-

- Minimum found in Rishikesh 600-650 MPN/100ml.
- Maximum found in Kannauj 1400 MPN/100ml.
- Minimum desired level 450 MPN/100ml.

The Three R's to save environment:-

- The three R's to save environment are Reduce, Recycle and Reuse.

Reduce:- It means using less of natural resources and avoiding wastage of natural resources.

Recycle:- It means the materials like paper, plastic, glass, metals etc used for making things can again be used for making new things instead of synthesizing or extracting new paper, plastic glass or metals.

Reuse:- It means using things again and again like the plastic bottles in which we buy jams, pickles etc can be again used for storing things in the kitchen etc.

We must be careful about the effect our choices of living make on the environment. Economic development is linked to environmental development. Thus, sustainable development is important.

Sustainable Development:- Economic development, that is conducted without depletion of natural resources. Sustainable development needs all stakeholders of forests resources to be satisfied.

The need to Manage Our Resources :-

1. They are limited in quantity
2. Due to increasing population, their demand has increased resulting in overuse of resources.
3. These resources take a really long time to form thus depletion will cause problems for the future generations.

Forests And Wildlife :-

Forests :- Forests are 'Biodiversity hotspots'.

- Hotspot means an area full of biological diversity.
- Biodiversity is the variety and range of plant and animal life in a particular habitat.
- Loss of biodiversity may result in loss of ecological balance and damage to the ecosystem.
- Conservation of biodiversity is important to maintain ecological stability.
- National Award for wildlife conservation - in the memory of Amrita Devi Bishnoi who lost her life in the protection of Khirri trees in Rajasthan along with 363 other people.
- Protection of Sal forest in West Bengal in 1972.

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Chipko Andolan :- The Chipko Andolan ("Hug the Trees Movement") is one such case of conflict between the industrial and local dwellers in 1970's.

- Originated in Reni Garhwal, high up the Himalayas.
- The conflict between local villagers and logging contractor in which women of the village stopped felling of trees by hugging them.

Stake Holders :- A person having interest or concern for something called as stake holder.

Stake holders of forest :- (their dependence on forests).

- Local people (depended on forest for survival)
- Forest department (Govt. who owns the land and controls resources).
- Industrialists (also use various forest products)
- Wild life (who want to conserve nature).

Sustainable Management :- Management of resources wisely to make them available for future generations.

Water:- Water is the basic necessity for all terrestrial forms of life.

- Irrigation methods like dams, tanks and canals have been used in various parts of India.
- Decrease in fresh usable water is due to the destruction of water table and disruption in water cycle.

Dams:- Advantages of Dams - Ensures adequate water for irrigation.

- Generate electricity
- Continuous supply of water in regions.

Disadvantages of dams:- No equitable distribution of water.

- Large no. of people displaced without compensation
- Causes deforestation and loss of biological diversity.

Rainwater Harvesting:- Type of harvesting is which the raindrops are collected and then stored for future use, rather than allowing them to run off.

Advantages of storing water in the ground:-

- (a) It does not evaporate.
- (b) It spreads out to recharge wells.
- (c) It provides moisture for vegetation.

Bawlis :- Old method of water harvesting in Delhi and near by region.

Coal and Petroleum :-

- Coal and petroleum are non-renewable natural resources.
- Coal was formed from remains of trees buried deep inside the earth some 500 million years ago.
- Petroleum is formed from bacterial decomposition of dead plants and animals.
- Coal and petroleum are called fossil fuels.
- Very soon coal and petroleum will be exhausted.

Harmful Effects of using fossil fuels :-

- Combustion of coal and hydrocarbons release a large amount of carbon monoxide, carbon dioxide, sulphur dioxide, nitrogen oxides etc.
- This causes air pollution and causes various diseases like respiratory and throat problems etc.
- Excessive emission of green house gases like carbon dioxide give rise in atmospheric temperature (Global warming).

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