



## **DELHI PUBLIC SCHOOL BANGALORE - EAST**

### **SOCIAL SCIENCE (GEOGRAPHY)**

### **NATURAL VEGETATION & WILDLIFE (NOTES)**

#### **I. Very Short answers:**

**1. Define the term ‘virgin vegetation’?**

Ans.

Natural vegetation refers to a plant community, which has grown naturally without human aid and has been left undisturbed by humans for a long time. This is termed as virgin vegetation.

**2. Why do trees grow faster in summer?**

Ans.

Due to longer duration of sunlight, trees grow faster in summer.

**3. When was the Wildlife Protection Act implemented in India?**

Ans.

Wild life protection Act was implemented in 1972 in India.

**4. What are migratory birds?**

Ans.

Migratory birds visit a warmer country during winter as in their native country the temperature falls below freezing point. These birds return to their native in summer.

**5. Explain with example how temperature can affect the type of vegetation?**

Ans.

On the slopes of the Himalayas, and hills of the Peninsula above, the height of 915m, the fall in the temperature affects the types of vegetation and its growth and changes it from tropical to subtropical temperature in the alpine vegetation.

**6. Mention the ways in which the desert plants adapt themselves to their surroundings.**

Ans.

- (a) Trees are scattered.
- (b) Have long roots which go deep into the soil to get moisture.
- (c) The stems are succulent to conserve water.
- (d) Leaves are thick and small to prevent excessive evaporation of moisture.

**7. Which migratory bird visits the Rann of Kachchh in winter? Why? How do we benefit from these birds?**

Ans.

- Siberian Crane is the migratory bird which visits the Rann of Kachchh in winter. It becomes extremely cold in Siberia so they come here and builds nest mounds from the salty mud and raise their young ones.
- The visit of the Siberian Crane is one among many extraordinary sights in the country. Many tourists and visitors come here to see them.

**8. What is a bio-reserve? Give two examples.**

Ans.

A protected area reserved for the conservation of endangered species of flora (plants) and fauna (animals) in their natural habitat. The **Sunderbans** in the West Bengal and **Nanda Devi** in Uttaranchal are the two examples.

## II. Answer in brief:

9. How are forests useful to us? Give Examples.

OR

How are forests important for human beings? Explain.

Ans.

- Forests provide food, fibre, fodder, timber, fuel wood and hosts of other essential items. It provides raw materials to industry and transport.
- It provides livelihood for many communities and offer panoramic or scenic view for recreation
- They control wind force and temperature and cause rains. They provide humus to the soil and shelter to the wildlife.
- It is a renewable resource and is widely used as domestic fuel.
- Forest also influences the environment by modifying local climate, controlling soil erosion and deposits humus in the soil, regulating stream flows.

10. Write the difference between dry deciduous forests and moist deciduous forests.

Ans.

### Dry Deciduous Forests-

- Dry deciduous forests are found in areas having rainfall 100cm and 70 cm.
- These forests are found in the rainier parts of the peninsular plateau and the plains of Bihar and Uttar Pradesh.
- The dominant species of trees found in these forests are Teak, Sal, Peepal, Neem etc.
- In these forests, the common animals found are lion, tiger, pig, deer and elephant.

### Moist Deciduous Forests-

- Moist deciduous forests are found in the eastern part of the country-northeastern states, along the foothills of the Himalayas, Jharkhand, West Odisha and Chhattisgarh, and on the eastern slopes of the Western Ghats.
- These forests are found in the areas where the rainfall is between 100 cm to 200 cm.
- Teak is the most dominant species of this forest. Bamboos, sal, shisham, sandalwood, khair, kusum, arjun, and mulberry are other commercially important species.

11. Write a short note on Montane forests.

Ans.

- Montane forests are found in mountainous areas, they consist of wet temperate forest between the altitudes of 1000 and 2000 metres.
- Trees in this forest typically have broad leaves these include chestnut and oak. Between 1500 to 3000 metres, the temperate forests containing coniferous trees like pine, deodar, silver fir, spruce and cedar are found.
- At higher elevations, temperate grasslands are common. At high altitudes, generally more than 3,600 metres above sea level, temperate forests and grasslands give way to Alpine vegetation. Silver fir, junipers, pines and birches are the common trees of these forests.
- Ultimately through shrubs and scrubs these forests merge into Alpine grasslands. These are used extensively by nomadic tribes, like the **Gujjars** and **Bakarwals**.
- The common animals found in these forests are Kashmir stag, spotted deer, wild sheep, jack, rabbit, Tibetan antelope, Yak, Snow leopard, Squirrels, etc.

**12. Give a brief description of the Mangrove Forests.**

Ans.

- The mangrove tidal forests are found in the areas of coasts influenced by tides.
- Mud and silt get accumulated on such coasts.
- Dense mangroves are the common varieties with roots of the plants submerged under water.
- The deltas of the Ganga, the Mahanadi, the Krishna, the Godavari and the Kaveri (Cauvery) are covered by such vegetation.
- In the Ganga- Brahmaputra delta, Sundari trees are found, which provide durable hard timber. Palm, coconut, keora, agar, etc. also grow in some parts of the delta. Royal Bengal Tiger is the famous animal found in these forests. Turtles, crocodiles, gharials and snakes are also found in these forests.

**13. Mention any five medicinal plants and their benefits.**

Ans.

- Sarpagandha- Used to treat blood pressure. It is found only in India.
- Neem- Has high antibiotic and antibacterial properties.
- Tulsi Plant-Is used to cure cough and cold.
- Babool- Leaves are used as a cure for eye sores. Its gum is used as a tonic.
- Arjun-The fresh juice of leaves is a cure for earache. It is also used to regulate blood pressure.

**14. Quite a few species of plants and animals are endangered in India. Why?**

Ans.

- Hunting and poaching by greedy hunters.
- Pollution due to chemical and industrial wastes, and acid deposits.
- Reckless cutting of the forests to bring land under cultivation and habitation.
- Introduction of alien species.

**15. What are the steps taken by the Government to protect flora and fauna?**

Ans.

- 18 biosphere reserves have been set up. Ten out of these have been included in the world network of biosphere reserves.
- Financial and technical assistance is provided to many Botanical Gardens since 1992.
- Project Tiger, Project Rhino, project Green Indian Bustard and many other eco-development etc. have been introduced.
- 103 National parks, 535 wildlife sanctuaries, and zoological gardens are set up.

#### **IV. Answer in detail:**

##### **16. Give a brief account of the thorn forests and scrubs.**

Ans.

- The thorn forests and scrubs are found in regions with less than 70 cm of rainfall. These Forests, thus, exist in the north-western part of the country including semi-arid regions of Gujarat, Rajasthan, Madhya Pradesh, Chhattisgarh, Uttar Pradesh and Haryana.
- The main plant species found in these forests are acacias, palms, cacti, euphorbias.
- Trees are scattered and have long roots penetrating deep into the soil in order to get moisture.
- The stems are succulent to conserve water.
- Leaves are mostly thick and small to minimize evaporation.
- The common animals found in these forests are rat, mice, rabbits, fox, wolf, tiger, lion, wild ass, horses and camels.

##### **17. Write a short note on wildlife in India.**

Ans.

India is rich in wildlife.

- There are 90,000 animal species, 2,000 species of birds and 2546 species of fish.
- India also shares between 5 and 8 percent of world's amphibians, reptiles and mammals.
- Elephants are found in the forests of Assam, Karnataka and Kerala. One horned rhinoceros, Indian Bison, Nilgai etc. are important animals.
- India is the only country that has both tigers and lions. The Gir forest in Gujarat is the last remaining habitat of Asiatic lion.
- In the rivers, lakes and coastal areas, turtles, crocodiles and gharials are found. Peacocks, ducks, cranes, pigeons etc. are some of the colourful birds

##### **18. Distinguish between Tropical evergreen and Tropical deciduous forests**

Ans.

<b>Tropical evergreen forests</b>	<b>Tropical deciduous forests</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Tropical evergreen forests are found on the eastern and western slopes of the Western Ghats and the island groups of Lakshadweep, Andaman and Nicobar ,upper parts of Assam and Tamil Nadu coast</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• These are the most widespread forests of India and they are also called the monsoon forests</li></ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• The tropical evergreen forests usually occur in areas receiving more than 200 cm of rainfall</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• These regions receive rainfall between 200 cm to 70 cm.</li></ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• There is no definite time for trees to shed their leaves. As such, these forests appear green all the year round.</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Trees of this forest type shed their leaves for about six to eight weeks in dry summer</li></ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Important trees are ebony, mahogany, rosewood, rubber and cinchona.</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Trees which are found in these forests are Teak, shisham, sal, neem, sandalwood etc.</li></ul>

- Animals found in these forests are elephants, monkey, lemur and deer. One horned rhinoceroses are found in the jungles of Assam and West Bengal

- The common animals found are lion, tiger, deer and elephant. A huge variety of birds, lizards, snakes and tortoises are also found here.

**19. Why does India possess a great variety of flora and fauna?**

Ans.

- **Land**-Land affects the natural vegetation directly and indirectly. The nature of land influences the type of vegetation. The fertile level is generally devoted to agriculture. The undulating and rough terrains are areas where grasslands and woodlands develop.
- **Soil** -The soils also vary over space. Different types of soils provide basis for different types of vegetation. The sandy soils of the desert support cactus and thorny bushes while wet, marshy deltaic soils support mangroves and deltaic vegetation.
- **Temperature**-The character and extent of vegetation are mainly determined by temperature along with the humidity in the air.
- **Photoperiod**-Sunlight is one of the important factors responsible for the growth of vegetation. The variation in duration of sunlight at different places is due to differences in latitude, altitude, season and duration of the day.
- **Precipitation**-Areas of heavy rainfall have more dense vegetation as compared to areas of less rainfall.

**20. Describe how India is one of the Indian mega bio-diversity countries of the world.**

Ans.

- Our country is one of the twelve mega bio-diversity countries of the world. With about 47,000 plant species India occupies tenth place in the world and fourth in Asia in plant diversity.
- There are about 15,000 flowering plants in India which account for 6 percent in the world's total number of flowering plants.
- The country has many non-flowering plants such as ferns, algae and fungi.
- India also has approximately 90,000 species of animals as well as rich variety of fish in its fresh and marine waters.
- The country has about 2,000 species of birds and 2,546 species of fish. It shares between 5 and 8 percent of world is amphibians, reptiles and mammals.

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