

FUNDAMENTALS OF PHYSICAL GEOGRAPHY

TEXTBOOK FOR CLASS XI



11092



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FOREWORD

The National Curriculum Framework (NCF), 2005, recommends that children's life at school must be linked to their life outside the school. This principle marks a departure from the legacy of bookish learning which continues to shape our system and causes a gap between the school, home and community. The syllabi and textbooks developed on the basis of NCF signify an attempt to implement this basic idea. They also attempt to discourage rote learning and the maintenance of sharp boundaries between different subject areas. We hope these measures will take us significantly further in the direction of a child-centred system of education outlined in the National Policy on Education (1986).

The success of this effort depends on the steps that school principals and teachers will take to encourage children to reflect on their own learning and to pursue imaginative activities and questions. We must recognise that, given space, time and freedom, children generate new knowledge by engaging with the information passed on to them by adults. Treating the prescribed textbook as the sole basis of examination is one of the key reasons why other resources and sites of learning are ignored. Inculcating creativity and initiative is possible if we perceive and treat children as participants in learning, not as receivers of a fixed body of knowledge.

These aims imply considerable change in school routines and mode of functioning. Flexibility in the daily time-table is as necessary as rigour in implementing the annual calendar so that the required number of teaching days are actually devoted to teaching. The methods used for teaching and evaluation will also determine how effective this textbook proves for making children's life at school a happy experience, rather than a source of stress or boredom. Syllabus designers have tried to address the problem of curricular burden by restructuring and reorienting knowledge at different stages with greater consideration for child psychology and the time available for teaching. The textbook attempts to enhance this endeavour by giving higher priority and space to opportunities for contemplation and wondering, discussion in small groups, and activities requiring hands-on experience.

The National Council of Educational Research and Training (NCERT) appreciates the hard work done by the textbook development committee responsible for this book. We wish to thank the Chairperson of the advisory committee for textbooks in Social Sciences, at the higher secondary level, Professor Hari Vasudevan and the Chief Advisor for this book, Professor M.H. Qureshi for guiding the work of this committee. Several teachers contributed to the development of this textbook; we are grateful to their principals for making this possible. We are indebted to the institutions and organisations

which have generously permitted us to draw upon their resources, material and personnel. We are especially grateful to the members of the National Monitoring Committee, appointed by the Department of Secondary and Higher Education, Ministry of Human Resource Development under the Chairpersonship of Professor Mrinal Miri and Professor G.P. Deshpande, for their valuable time and contribution. As an organisation committed to systemic reform and continuous improvement in the quality of its products, NCERT welcomes comments and suggestions which will enable us to undertake further revision and refinement.

New Delhi

20 December 2005

Director
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CONTENTS

FOREWORD	iii
UNIT I : GEOGRAPHY AS A DISCIPLINE	1-12
1. Geography as a Discipline	2
UNIT II : THE EARTH	13-38
2. The Origin and Evolution of the Earth	14
3. Interior of the Earth	21
4. Distribution of Oceans and Continents	30
UNIT III : LANDFORMS	39-70
5. Minerals and Rocks	40
6. Geomorphic Processes	45
7. Landforms and their Evolution	55
UNIT IV : CLIMATE	71-106
8. Composition and Structure of Atmosphere	72
9. Solar Radiation, Heat Balance and Temperature	75
10. Atmospheric Circulation and Weather Systems	84
11. Water in the Atmosphere	94
12. World Climate and Climate Change	99
UNIT V : WATER (OCEANS)	107-121
13. Water (Oceans)	108
14. Movements of Ocean Water	116
UNIT VI : LIFE ON THE EARTH	122-136
15. Life on the Earth	123
16. Biodiversity and Conservation	131
GLOSSARY	137-140

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Part III (Articles 12 – 35)

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- before law and equal protection of laws;
- irrespective of religion, race, caste, sex or place of birth;
- of opportunity in public employment;
- by abolition of untouchability and titles.

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- of expression, assembly, association, movement, residence and profession;
- of certain protections in respect of conviction for offences;
- of protection of life and personal liberty;
- of free and compulsory education for children between the age of six and fourteen years;
- of protection against arrest and detention in certain cases.

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- freedom as to payment of taxes for promotion of any particular religion;
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