Chapter 5: Natural Vegetation

Exercises — Exercises

Q1 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

(b) Deciduous forest. Sandalwood is listed among the main species of the moist deciduous forests, which grow where rainfall is 100-200 cm.

Q2 Choose the right answer from the four alternatives given below. (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

(c) to protect tigers from illegal hunting. Project Tiger (1973) aims to maintain a viable tiger population in India and preserve areas of biological importance as natural heritage.

Q3 Choose the right answer from the four alternatives given below. (iii) In which one of the following states is the Nandadevi Biosphere reserve situated? (a) Bihar (b) Uttar Pradesh (c) Uttarakhand (d) Odisha

(c) Uttarakhand. Table 5.1 lists the Nanda Devi Biosphere Reserve, designated in 1988, under Uttarakhand.

Q4 Choose the right answer from the four alternatives given below. (iv) How many of the Biosphere reserves from India are recognised by the UNESCO? (a) One (b) Two (c) Twelve (d) Four

(c) Twelve. India has 18 Biosphere Reserves, and twelve of them are recognised by UNESCO on the World Network of Biosphere Reserves.

Q5 Choose the right answer from the four alternatives given below. (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

(a) 33. The forest policy aimed at bringing 33 per cent of the geographical area under forest cover.

Q6 Answer the following questions in about 30 words. (i) What is natural vegetation? Under what climatic conditions do tropical evergreen forests develop?

Natural vegetation is a plant community left undisturbed for a long time, so its species adjust fully to local climate and soil. Tropical evergreen forests develop in warm, humid areas with annual precipitation above 200 cm and mean annual temperature above 22 degrees C.

Q7 Answer the following questions in about 30 words. (ii) What do you understand by social forestry?

Social forestry means managing and protecting forests and afforesting barren lands to help environmental, social and rural development. It has three categories: urban forestry, rural forestry (agro-forestry and community forestry) and farm forestry.

Q8 Answer the following questions in about 30 words. (iii) Define Biosphere reserves?

A Biosphere Reserve is a unique and representative ecosystem of terrestrial and coastal areas, internationally recognised within UNESCO's Man and Biosphere (MAB) Programme. India has 18 such reserves, twelve of them in UNESCO's World Network.

Q9 Answer the following questions in about 30 words. (iv) What is the difference between forest area and forest cover?

Forest area is land officially recorded or classified as forest in government records, whether or not trees stand on it. Forest cover is the area actually under tree canopy, as measured by satellite survey. So forest area can exceed actual forest cover.

Q10 Answer the following questions in not more than 150 words. (i) What steps have been taken up to conserve forests?

India adopted a forest policy in 1952, modified in 1988, stressing sustainable forest management. Its aims: bring 33 per cent of the geographical area under forest; maintain environmental stability and restore forests where ecological balance is disturbed; conserve the natural heritage, biodiversity and genetic pool; check soil erosion, desert extension, floods and droughts; raise forest cover through social forestry and afforestation of degraded land; raise forest productivity to supply timber, fuel, fodder and food to dependent rural people and encourage wood substitutes; and start a mass people's movement involving women to plant trees and stop felling. Social forestry (urban, rural and farm forestry) was initiated, with state forest departments giving free seedlings to small and medium farmers. Wildlife is protected through the Wildlife Act of 1972 (amended in 1991), national parks, sanctuaries, Project Tiger, Project Elephant and Biosphere Reserves.

Q11 Answer the following questions in not more than 150 words. (ii) How can people's participation be effective in conserving forests and wildlife?

Forests and wildlife can be conserved only when every individual understands their significance and contributes. People can plant trees under social forestry, including community forestry on village pastures, canal banks, roadsides and school land, and farm forestry on their own fields, using free seedlings from forest departments. A mass movement involving women can encourage planting and stop felling of trees. Local people can reduce pressure on forests by avoiding excess lopping for fodder and fuelwood and by controlling grazing and forest fires. Tribals, whose age-old knowledge of forestry is valuable, should be made growers of minor forest produce and encouraged to take part in conservation rather than being treated as mere collectors. People must also refuse hunting and poaching, and support national parks, sanctuaries and ecotourism that protect species and habitats.