

Forest Society and Colonialism

Fastrack Revision

- ▶ Forests play an important role in our life. Paper for reading, desks and tables, doors and windows, the dyes that colour our clothes, spices, the cellophane wrapper of toffee, *Tendu* leaf in *Bidis*, gums, honey, coffee, tea and rubber, etc., all are obtained from forests.
- ▶ However, between 1700 and 1995, the period of industrialisation, 13.9 million sq km of forests or 9.3% of the world's total area was cleared for industrial uses, cultivation, pastures and fuel wood. The disappearance of forests is referred to as deforestation.
- ▶ The colonial state thought that forests were unproductive. If they were brought under cultivation then they would yield agricultural products and revenue and enhance the income of the State.
- ▶ The spread of railways from the 1850s, created a new demand for wood as a fuel to run locomotives and for laying down sleepers to hold the tracks together. Because of this larger number of trees were cut.
- ▶ To give legal sanction to Brandis's system, the Indian Forest Service was set up in 1864 and it helped to formulate the Indian Forest Act of 1865. The first forest research institute, Imperial Forest Research Institute was set up at Dehradun in 1906.
- ▶ In 1878, the Act divided forests into three categories, viz., reserved, protected and village forests.
- ▶ The best forests were called reserved. Villagers could not take anything from these forests. For building houses or for using as fuel, wood could be taken either from protected or village forests.
- ▶ With the passing of the Forest Act, the lives of the local people were affected adversely as cutting wood for houses, grazing cattle, collecting food, hunting and fishing, all became illegal.
- ▶ One of the major impacts of European colonialism was on the practice of shifting cultivation or swidden agriculture. In shifting cultivation, parts of forests are cut and burnt in rotation.
- ▶ Europeans regarded this practice as harmful for the forests. When a forest was burnt, there was the added danger of the flames spreading and burning valuable timber. They also felt that the land which has been used for cultivation for few years cannot grow timber which can be used in railways. Because of this, many communities were forcibly displaced from their homes in forests and they had to change their occupation.

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Each mile of a railway track required 1,760 to 2,000 sleepers. In the early 1850s, in the Madras Presidency alone, 35,000 trees were being annually cut for sleepers.

- ▶ The Britishers wanted that the forests in India should be able to fulfil their need of wood. They were worried that the use of forests by local people and cutting down of trees by traders would destroy forests, and hence their objective will be defeated. So, they decided to invite German expert Dietrich Brandis, for advice and made him the first Inspector General of Forests in India.
- ▶ Brandis was of the view that felling of trees and grazing had to be restricted so that forests could be preserved for timber production. Anybody who cut trees without due sanction was to be punished.

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Shifting cultivation has many local names such as *lading* in South-East Asia, *milpa* in Central America, *chitemene* or *tavy* in Africa, and *chena* in Sri Lanka. In India, *dhya*, *penda*, *bewar*, *nevad*, *jhum*, *podu*, *khandad* and *kumri* are some of the local terms used for shifting cultivation or swidden agriculture.

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Over 80,000 tigers, 1,50,000 leopards and 2,00,000 wolves were killed for reward in the period between 1875-1925. The Maharaja of Sarguja alone shot 1,157 tigers and 2,000 leopards by 1957.

- ▶ Before the forest laws, many people who lived in or near forests had survived by hunting deer, partridges and a variety of small animals. This customary practice was prohibited by the forest laws and common man was punished for poaching. However, for the royalty, the Britishers hunting became a sport and a means of recreation.
- ▶ The Forest Act affected traders and employment in many ways. Many communities left their traditional occupations and started trading in forest products.
- ▶ Later on the British totally regulated this trade by giving many large European trading firms the sole right to trade in the forest products of a particular area.

Because of these restrictions, many pastoralists and nomadic communities like the *Korava*, *Karacha* and *Irula* of the Madras Presidency lost their livelihoods.

Some of them began to be called 'criminal tribes'. These tribes were forced to work in factories, mines and plantations.

- ▶ Both men and women from forest communities like *Santhals* and *Oraons* from Jharkhand and *Gonds* from Chhattisgarh were recruited to work on tea plantations in Assam. Their wages were low and working conditions were bad. They were also not allowed to return to their villages.
- ▶ Forest communities rebelled against the changes that were being imposed on them and leaders like *Siddhu* and *Kanu* in the Santhal Parganas, *Birsa Munda* of Chota Nagpur and *Alluri Sitarama Raju* of Andhra Pradesh, played vital roles in such rebellions. One such important rebellion took place in Bastar in 1910.

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In India, there are records of adivasis trading elephants tusks, hides, horns, silk cocoons, ivory, bamboo, spices, fibres, grasses, gum and resins, through nomadic communities like the Banjaras.

- ▶ Bastar is located in the southernmost part of Chhattisgarh and borders Andhra Pradesh, Odisha and Maharashtra. Different communities live in Bastar such as *Marla* and *Muria Gonds*, *Dhurwas*, *Bhatras* and *Halbas*. They speak different languages but share common customs and beliefs.
- ▶ The reservations imposed by the colonial rulers caused the people in Bastar to revolt against the Britishers.
- ▶ People began to gather and discuss the atrocities of the Britishers in their village councils, in bazaars and at festivals or wherever the headmen and priests of several villages were assembled.
- ▶ The initiative was taken by the *Dhurwas* of the Kanger forest, where reservation first took place. Their leader was *Gunda Dhur* from village Nethanar.

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In 1910, mango boughs, a lump of earth, chillies and arrows, were being circulated between villages in Bastar. It was a call to rebel against the British.

- ▶ The British were able to suppress the rebellion and punished the rebellions.
- ▶ The rebellions took shelter in the jungles and it took Britishers approximately three months (February-May) to regain control. However, they never managed to capture *Gunda Dhur*.
- ▶ This rebellion forced the Britishers to temporarily suspend the work on reservation. They also reduced the area to be reserved to roughly half of that planned.

- ▶ The transformations in forest laws were also responsible for the hardships of the forest communities in Java and caused them to revolt against the colonial rule.
- ▶ The *Kalangs* of Java were a community of skilled forest cutters and shifting cultivators.

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Java is famous as a rice-producing island in Indonesia, but once upon a time it was covered mostly with forests. The Dutch started forest management here.

- ▶ When the Mataram Kingdom of Java split in 1755; 6,000 *Kalang* families got equally divided between two kingdoms.
- ▶ When the Dutch began to gain control over the forests, they tried to make the *Kalangs* work under them. In 1770, the *Kalangs* resisted by attacking a Dutch fort at Joana, but were suppressed.
- ▶ In the 19th century, the Dutch enacted the forest laws in Java, restricting villagers' access to forests. Now forests could only be cut by the locals for specified purposes like making boats or constructing houses and that too under close supervision.
- ▶ Villagers were punished for grazing cattle, transporting wood without a permit or travelling on forest roads with horse carts and cattle.
- ▶ These laws were challenged by the forest communities and the most important rebellion was led by *Surontiko Samin* of Randublatung village.
- ▶ A widespread movement started and Samin's sons-in-law helped in organising it.
- ▶ Some Saminists protested by lying down on their land when the Dutch came to survey it, while others refused to pay taxes or perform labour. 3,000 families were following his ideas by 1907.
- ▶ The First and the Second World War also had a major impact on forests.
- ▶ In India, working plans were abolished and trees were cut to meet British war needs.
- ▶ In Java, the Dutch followed 'a scorched Earth' policy, destroying sawmills and burning huge piles of giant teak logs so that they would not fall into Japanese hands.
- ▶ Since 1980s, the Governments across Asia and Africa have seen that scientific forestry and the policy of keeping forest communities away has resulted in many conflicts. Conservation of forests has become a more important goal rather than collecting timber.
- ▶ The government has recognised that people who live near the forests must be involved in forest conservation practices. Across India, from Mizoram to Kerala, dense forests survived only because villagers protected them in sacred groves known as *Sarnas*, *Devarakudu*, *Kan*, *Rai*, etc.



Important Dateline

	—	Important Events	1865	—	Indian forest service.
1755	—	The Mataram kingdom of Java split into two kingdoms.	1878	—	Enactment of Indian Forest Act.
1770	—	The <i>Kalongs</i> rose in rebellion against the Dutch but were suppressed.	1899-1900	—	Indian Forest Act divided forest into three categories—reserved, protected and village forest.
1860s	—	Rapid expansion of railway network.	1906	—	First terrible famine.
			1907-1908	—	Imperial Forest Research Institute was set up.
				—	Second terrible famine.



Practice Exercise



Multiple Choice Questions

- Q 1. How much per cent of world forest area was cleared for industrial uses, cultivation, pastures and fuel wood between 1700 and 1995?
a. 19.3% b. 9.3% c. 6.3% d. 16.3%
- Q 2. Colonial rules considered forests as unproductive because:
a. the forest are not fit for habitation
b. forests only have naturally grown trees
c. forests did not yield revenue to enhance income of the state
d. forests are full of wild animals
- Q 3. Which of the following was the most essential for colonial trade and movement of goods?
a. Roadways b. Railways
c. Airways d. Riverways
- Q 4. Wooden planks laid across railway tracks to hold these tracks in a position are called as:
a. Beams b. Sleepers
c. Rail fasteners d. None of these
- Q 5. Which of the following correctly defines deforestation?
a. The disappearance of forests
b. Unplanned cutting of trees
c. Cutting trees for agriculture only
d. None of the above
- Q 6. How many sleepers were required for each mile of railway track?
a. 1200 to 1500 b. 1760 to 2000
c. 2000 to 2200 d. None of these
- Q 7. By 1890, about of railway track has been laid in India.
a. 25500 km b. 20000 km
c. 30000 km d. 10000 km
- Q 8. Which species of trees are suited for building ships and railways?
a. Teak b. Mahogany
c. Sal d. Both a. and c.
- Q 9. A German expert invited by the Britishers for Scientific Forestry was:
a. Dietrich Brandis b. Birsa Munda
c. Lord Curzon d. All of these
- Q 10. The Forest Research Institute is situated in:
a. Bhopal b. Dehradun
c. Shimla d. Hyderabad
- Q 11. When was the Indian Forest Service set up by Brandis?
a. 1863 b. 1864 c. 1865 d. 1866
- Q 12. Who among the following was the first Inspector General of Forests in India?
a. Dietrich Brandis b. John Dawson
c. Nagurunderi d. None of these
- Q 13. When and where was Imperial Research Institute set up?
a. At Lahore in 1906 b. At Peshawar in 1916
c. At Nagpur in 1908 d. At Dehradun in 1906
- Q 14. What were *Sladi* creepers used for?
a. To extract oil for cooking purposes
b. For lighting lamps
c. To make ropes
d. To make alcohol
- Q 15. By which Act many local communities, traders and pastoralists were classified as criminal tribes?
a. The Vernacular Act b. The Forest Act
c. The Criminal Tribe Act d. All of these
- Q 16. The Saminist Movement was led by:
a. Birsa Munda b. Mahatma Gandhi
c. Surontiko Samin d. The Dutch
- Q 17. The Criminal Tribe Act was passed in:
a. 1861 b. 1871
c. 1881 d. 1891

The leader of the initiative taken by the *Dhurwas* of the Kanger Forest, where reservation first took place was:

- a. *Muria Gonds* b. *Maharaja of Sarguja*
c. *Gunda Dhur* d. *Surontiko Samin*

Q 19. What was called the fee paid by people from one village to another?

- a. *Devsari* b. *Jhum*
c. *Kumri* d. *Kan*

Q 20. Who was the leader of rebel foresters in Andhra Pradesh?

- a. John Dawson b. Alluri Sitarama Raju
c. Birsa Munda d. Maharaja of Sarguja

Q 21. From which place Birsa Munda belonged to?

- a. Dehradun b. Bastar
c. Chotanagpur region d. Madras

Q 22. Oils from the *Mahua* trees are used for:

- a. cooking foods b. lighting lamps
c. hair oil d. Both a. and b.

Q 23. Find the correct sequence.

- A. Indian Forest Service is set up.
B. Imperial Forest Research Institute is set up.
C. Dietrich Brandis introduces Scientific Forestry in India.
D. Indian Forest Act is enacted.
- a. C-A-B-D b. C-A-D-B
c. C-B-D-A d. A-B-D-C



TIP

Arrange the events year/date wise and then find the correct code.

Q 24. Identify the correct statement regarding Indian Forest Act, 1865.

- a. Dietrich Brandis helped to formulate the Indian Forest Act of 1906.
b. The Forest Act of 1865 was amended twice once in 1878 and then in 1927.
c. A large number of pastoralists were allowed access to forests which produced commercially valuable timber.
d. The Indian Forest Act 1878 divided the forest into two categories.

Q 25. To which of the following the *Gond* forest community belongs?

- a. Chhattisgarh b. Jharkhand
c. Jammu and Kashmir d. Gujarat

Q 26. Which one of the following is not a local name of shifting cultivation?

- a. *Dhya* b. *Kumri*
c. *Podu* d. *Rai*

Q 27. The local name of shifting cultivation in South-East Asia is:

- a. *Milpa* b. *Podu*
c. *Lading* d. *Nevad*

Q 28. What is the name of shifting cultivation in Central America?

- a. *Milpa* b. *Lading* c. *Nevad* d. *Podu*

Q 29. What is the local name of *Madhuca Indica*?

- a. *Mohua* b. *Deodar*
c. *Hyperion* d. *Methuselah*

Q 30. Match the following:

Column I	Column II
1. <i>Mundurucu</i> people	A. Madras Presidency
2. <i>Korava, Korocha and Yerukula</i>	B. Jharkhand
3. <i>Santhals and Oraons</i>	C. Bastar
4. <i>Maria and Muria Gonds, Dhurwas, Bhatras and Halbas.</i>	D. Brazilian Amazon

1 2 3 4

a. C B D A

b. B D A C

c. D A B C

d. A C B D

Q 31. Where is Bastar located?

- a. Southernmost part of Chhattisgarh
b. Northernmost part of Madhya Pradesh
c. Easternmost part of Chhattisgarh
d. None of the above

Q 32. In which year did the Bastar rebellion take place?

- a. 1910 b. 1912 c. 1915 d. 1920

Q 33. In Bastar was divided into three districts, Kanker, Bastar and Dantewada.

- a. 1956 b. 1960 c. 1980 d. 1998

Q 34. Which tribal community(s) is/are living in Bastar?

- a. *Maria and Muria Gonds* b. *Dhurwas*
c. *Bhatras and Halbas* d. All of these

Q 35. What is common in different tribal communities of Bastar?

- a. Customs b. Beliefs
c. Language d. Both a. and b.

Q 36. Read the following statements carefully and choose the correct option:

Statement (I): In the 1890s, Surontiko Samin a teak forest villager began questioning state ownership of the forest.

Statement (II): He agreed that the state had created the wind, water, earth and wood, so it could own it.

- a. Statement (I) is correct and (II) is incorrect.
b. Statement (I) is incorrect and (II) is correct.
c. Both statements are incorrect.
d. Both statements are correct.

Read the following statements carefully and choose the correct option:

Statement (I): Forest Management had a great impact on shifting cultivators.

Statement (II): This type of cultivation also made difficult for the government to calculate taxes.

- a. Statement (I) is correct and (II) is incorrect.
- b. Statement (I) is incorrect and (II) is correct.
- c. Both statements are incorrect.
- d. Both statements are correct.

Q 38. Read the following statements carefully and choose the correct option:

Statement (I): The Indian Forest Act 1878 divided the forest into two categories.

Statement (II): A large number of pastoralists were allowed access to forest which produced commercially valuable timber.

- a. Statement (I) is correct and (II) is incorrect.
- b. Statement (I) is incorrect and (II) is correct.
- c. Both statements are incorrect.
- d. Both statements are correct.



Assertion & Reason Type Questions

Directions (Q.Nos. 39-43): In the following questions given below, there are two statements marked as Assertion (A) and Reason (R). Read the statements and choose the correct option:

- a. Both Assertion (A) and Reason (R) are true and Reason (R) is the correct explanation of Assertion (A).
- b. Both Assertion (A) and Reason (R) are true, but Reason (R) is not the correct explanation of Assertion (A).
- c. Assertion (A) is true, but Reason (R) is false.
- d. Assertion (A) is false, but Reason (R) is true.

Q 39. Assertion (A): The First and Second World War had a major impact on forests.

Reason (R): In India, trees were cut to meet British war needs.

Q 40. Assertion (A): The Forest Department made new laws and rules to protect the new forests it was planting.

Reason (R): Through these rules, it tried to ensure that the old forests did not vanish completely but were cut more carefully.

Q 41. Assertion (A): Scientific Forestry was implemented during the colonial period in India.

Reason (R): Policies of the British aimed to increase forest cover and protect natural resources.

Q 42. Assertion (A): People of Bastar were most worried during the colonial rule.

Reason (R): The colonial government (British) proposed to reserve 2/3rd of the forests in 1905 and stop shifting cultivation, hunting and collection of forest produce.

Q 43. Assertion (A): New opportunities in trade of forest products improved the life of the forest people.

Reason (R): Forest communities were recruited to work on tea plantations in Assam.

Answers

- | | | | | |
|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|
| 1. (b) | 2. (c) | 3. (b) | 4. (b) | 5. (a) |
| 6. (b) | 7. (a) | 8. (d) | 9. (a) | 10. (b) |
| 11. (b) | 12. (a) | 13. (d) | 14. (c) | 15. (c) |
| 16. (c) | 17. (b) | 18. (c) | 19. (a) | 20. (b) |
| 21. (c) | 22. (d) | 23. (a) | 24. (b) | 25. (a) |
| 26. (b) | 27. (c) | 28. (a) | 29. (a) | 30. (c) |
| 31. (a) | 32. (a) | 33. (d) | 34. (d) | 35. (d) |
| 36. (a) | 37. (d) | 38. (c) | 39. (a) | 40. (a) |
| 41. (c) | 42. (a) | 43. (d) | | |



Source Based Questions

Source 1

Read the source given below and answer the questions that follow by choosing the most appropriate option:

Brandis realised that a proper system had to be introduced to manage the forests and people had to be trained in the science of conservation. This system would need legal sanction. Rules about the use of forest resources had to be framed. Felling of trees and grazing had to be restricted so that forests could be preserved for timber production. Anybody who cut trees without following the system had to be punished. So, Brandis set up the Indian Forest Service in 1864 and helped formulate the Indian Forest Act of 1865. The Imperial Forest Research Institute was set up at Dehradun in 1906. The system they taught here was called 'Scientific Forestry'. Many people now, including ecologists, feel that this system is not scientific at all.

In Scientific Forestry, natural forests which had lots of different types of trees were cut down. In their place, one type of tree was planted in straight rows. This is called a plantation. Forest officials surveyed the forests, estimated the area under different types of trees, and made working plans for forest management. They planned how much of the plantation area to cut every year. The area cut was then to be replanted so that it was ready to be cut again in some years.

After the Forest Act was enacted in 1865, it was amended twice, once in 1878 and then in 1927. The 1878 Act divided forests into three categories: reserved, protected and village forests. The best forests were called 'reserved forests'. Villagers could not take anything from these forests, even for their own use. For house building or fuel, they could take wood from protected or village forests.

Read the source given below and answer the questions that follow:

In India, the trade in forest products was not new. From the medieval period onwards, we have records of adivasi communities trading elephants and other goods like hides, horns, silk cocoons, ivory, bamboo, spices, fibres, grasses, gums and resins through nomadic communities like the Banjaras.

With the coming of the British, however, trade was completely regulated by the government. The British Government gave many large European trading firms the sole right to trade in the forest products of particular areas. Grazing and hunting by local people were restricted. In the process, many pastoralist and nomadic communities like the *Korava*, *Karacha* and *Yerukula* of the Madras Presidency lost their livelihoods. Some of them began to be called 'criminal tribes', and were forced to work instead in factories, mines and plantations, under government supervision.

Q 1. Which products were used to be traded by adivasi and nomadic communities during the medieval period?

Ans. During the medieval period, the following products were traded:

- (i) Adivasi Communities: Elephants.
- (ii) Nomadic Communities: Hides, horns, silk cocoons, ivory, bamboo, spices, fibres, grasses, gums and resins.

Q 2. What was the condition of trade in India during the British rule?

Ans. During the British rule, the trade suffered the following conditions:

- (i) It was completely regulated by the government.
- (ii) Large European trading firms were given the sole right to trade in the forest products of particular areas.

Q 3. Which communities lost their livelihoods with the coming of the British?

Ans. With the coming of the British, pastoralist and nomadic communities such as Korava, Karacha and Yerukula of Madras presidency lost their livelihoods.



Very Short Answer Type Questions ▾

Q 1. Study the picture and answer the question that follows:



Why do you think the forests are being burnt in the above picture?

Ans. The forest is being burned to clear land for shifting cultivation.

Q 2. Why did the Britishers encourage the production of commercial crops?

Ans. The Britishers encouraged the production of commercial crops because they needed raw materials for their industries.

Q 3. Into how many categories did the Indian Forest Act divide forests?

Ans. The Indian forest Act divided forests into three categories, viz., reserved, protected and village forests.

Q 4. What were *sladi* creepers used for?

Ans. *Sladi* creepers were used to make ropes.

Q 5. Why are *Mahua* trees precious?

Ans. *Mohua* trees are precious because they are an essential part of village livelihood. The flowers of the trees are used to make alcohol. The seeds are used to extract oil for cooking purposes and lightning lamps.

Q 6. Which transport system was most essential for colonial trade and movement of goods?

Ans. Railways were most essential for colonial trade and movement of goods.

Q 7. What were the wooden planks laid down across railway tracks to hold tracks in a position called?

Ans. The wooden planks laid down across railway tracks to hold tracks in a position are called sleepers.

Q 8. Mention the impact of the disappearing oak forests in England.

Ans. Disappearing oak forests created a problem of timber supply for the Royal Navy.

Q 9. State any one feature of Scientific Forestry.

Ans. Natural forests were cut down and in their place one type of tree was planted in straight rows.

Q 10. How much sleepers are required in each mile of a railway track?

Ans. Approximately 1760-2000 sleepers are required in each mile of a railway track.

Give any four local terms for shifting agriculture.
Dhya, Penda, Jhum, Kumri are the local terms for shifting agriculture.

COMMON ERROR

Students do not learn the local terms properly and write incorrect names.

Q 12. Who were the Kalangs?

Ans. The Kalangs were a community of Java who were skilled forest cutters and shifting cultivators.

Q 13. What was called the fee paid by people from one village to another?

Ans. The fee paid by people from one village to another was called devsari, dand or man.

Q 14. What were reserved forests?

Ans. Reserved forests were the best forests which produced commercially valuable timber. No individual was allowed access to these forests.

Q 15. Which forests were regarded as the best forests?

Ans. Reserved forests were regarded as the best forests.

Q 16. Name the plants which were known as sacred grooves.

Ans. Sarnas, Kon, Rai and Davarakudu were known as sacred grooves.

Q 17. What was the basic cause of the rebellion in the forest of Bastar?

Ans. The basic cause of the rebellion in the forest of Bastar was the reservation of two thirds of the forests.

Q 18. Who was Gunda Dhur?

Ans. Gunda Dhur was a tribal leader of the Dhurwas of the Kanger forest. The tribal people revolted against the unjust policies of the British under his able leadership.

Q 19. Mention two factors which prompted the people of Bastar to rebel against the Britishers.

Ans. The two factors are:
(i) The British Government's decision to reserve two-thirds of the forest.
(ii) To ban shifting cultivation.

Q 20. Who was Surontiko Samin?

Ans. Surontiko Samin was the tribal leader who was responsible for launching the Samin Movement against the Dutch government.

Q 21. 'The ship industry of England was also responsible for deforestation in India'. Substantiate your answer with any two reasons.

Ans. The ship industry of England was also responsible for deforestation in India due to:
(i) The high demand, oak forests in England were disappearing.
(ii) Problem of timber supply for the Royal Navy which required to build ships.



Short Answer Type Questions

Q 1. What is forestry?

Ans. Forestry is a science, an art or a craft for creating, managing, using, conserving and repairing forests and associated resources in a sustainable manner to meet the desired goals, needs and values for human benefit.

The eminent aim of forestry is to create and implement a system that allows forests to provide a sustainable provision of environmental supplies and services. The challenge of forestry is to create systems that are socially acceptable while sustaining the natural resources.

Q 2. Initially, it was common perception that forests were unproductive. State the factors which supported this perception.

Ans. The following factors supported this perception are:

- (i) Increased population led to an increased demand for food, therefore the peasants extended the boundaries of cultivation by clearing forests and breaking new land.
- (ii) The colonial state thought that forests were unproductive. If they were brought under cultivation then they would yield agricultural products and revenue and enhance the income of the State.

Q 3. Explain the ideas of Dietrich Brandis for the management of forests in India during the British period.

Ans. Ideas of Dietrich Brandis for the management of forests in India were:

- (i) He wanted to introduce a proper system to manage forests.
- (ii) He wanted to train people in the science of conservation.
- (iii) He wanted to introduce a legal act that contained rules about the use of forest resources.
- (iv) He wanted to establish research and training institutions.

Knowledge BOOSTER



On his recommendation Imperial Forest Research Institute was set up at Dehradun in 1906.

Q 4. State the characteristics of Scientific Forestry.

Ans. The following were the characteristics of Scientific Forestry:

- (i) Natural forests which had lots of different types of trees were cut down. In their place one type of tree was planted in straight rows.
- (ii) The forest officials were required to survey the forests, estimate the area under different types of trees and make plans for forest management.
- (iii) The forest officials also planned how much of the plantation area should be cut every year.
- (iv) The area cut was also to be replanted so that it was ready to be cut again in future.

the techniques of Scientific Forestry suffered from certain defects'. Explain.

The following are the defects in the techniques of Scientific Forestry:

- (i) In scientific forestry, natural forests which had lots of different types of trees were cut down. In their place, one type of trees were planted in straight rows. Because of this, natural forest diversity was harmed.
- (ii) It also affected the ecological balance as multi-species forests gradually got converted into plantation.
- (iii) This system advocated the planting of only those trees which provided timber.

COMMON ERROR

Students do not give defects in the techniques of Scientific Forestry but only provide explanation of statement.

Q 6. How did the villagers and Britishers differ in the ideas of a good forest?

Ans. According to the villagers, a good forest was one which had a mixture of different species of trees and shrubs which could satisfy their needs of fuel, fodder, food, etc.

On the other hand, according to the Britishers, a good forest was one which had sal and teak trees only, as these trees were suitable for building ships or railway sleepers.

Q 7. State the features of shifting cultivation.

Ans. The following are the features of shifting cultivation:

- (i) Shifting cultivation has many local names such as *lading* in Southeast Asia, *milpa* in Central America, *chitemene* or *tavy* in Africa, and *chena* in Sri Lanka. In India, *dhya*, *penda*, *bewar*, *nevad*, *lhum*, *podu*, *Khondod* and *kumri* are some of the local terms used for shifting cultivation or swidden agriculture.
- (ii) Seeds are sown after first monsoons and the crop is harvested by October-November.
- (iii) Such plots are cultivated for a couple of years and then left fallow for 12 to 18 years for the forest to grow back.

Q 8. Why did the Europeans regard the practise of shifting cultivation as harmful for the forests?

Ans. The Europeans regarded the practice of shifting cultivation as harmful because of the following reasons:

- (i) When a forest was burnt, there was the added danger of the flames spreading and burning valuable timber.
- (ii) They felt that the land which has been used for cultivation for few years cannot grow timber which can be used in railways.
- (iii) Shifting cultivation also made it harder for the government to calculate taxes.

Q 9. Who were called the criminal tribes and what activities they got involved into?

Ans. The British colonial government passed the Forest Act in 1865 with the following restrictions:

- (i) This Act restricted the activities of the forest communities. They were not allowed to graze their cattle in forests.
- (ii) Cutting of trees and hunting of animals was also prohibited.
- (iii) The trade of forest goods such as hides, horns, silk cocoons, ivory, bamboo, etc., was also completely regulated by the Britishers.
- (iv) Because of this, many pastoralist and nomadic communities like the *Korava*, *Karacha*, *Yerukula*, etc., lost their livelihoods and started undertaking criminal activities, such as stealing wood and forest produce from the forest, illegally hunting animals, etc. So, they were referred to as 'criminal tribes'.

Q 10. How did Indian labourers suffer at the hands of British in plantations?

Ans. Indian labourers suffered at the hands of British in the plantations in the following ways:

- (i) Their wages were low and conditions of work were very bad.
- (ii) They could not return easily to their home villages, as they were kept as bonded labourers.

Q 11. Under colonial rule, why did the scale of hunting increase to such an extent that various species became almost extinct?

Ans. In India, hunting of tigers and other wild animals became a game or source of entertainment for the kings and nobles. Under the British rule, the scale of hunting increased because of the below mentioned reasons:

- (i) The British saw large animals as a sign of a wild, primitive and savage society.
- (ii) They believed that by killing dangerous animals, the British would civilise India.
- (iii) They gave rewards for killing of tigers, wolves and other large animals.

Q 12. State the acts of the colonial government which spread fear amongst the forest communities.

Ans. The following acts of the colonial government spread fear amongst the forest communities:

- (i) The colonial government banned hunting, shifting cultivation and collection of forest produce.
- (ii) Some villages were allowed to stay on in the reserved forests on the condition that they work free for the forest department in cutting and transporting trees, and protecting the forest from fires. They came to be known as 'forest villages'.
- (iii) People of other villages were displaced without any notice or compensation.

Explain the beliefs and practices of the people of Bastar.

The beliefs and practices of the people of Bastar can be understood with the help of the following points:

- (i) They believed that each village was given its land by Earth, and in return they looked after the Earth by making some offerings at each agricultural festival.
- (ii) They also showed respect to the spirits of the river, the forest and the mountain.
- (iii) They looked after the natural resources of their areas.

Q 14. How did the local people protect the forests in Bastar region?

Ans. The local people protected forests in Bastar region by taking the following steps:

- (i) They protected their forests by engaging watchmen.
- (ii) If people from a village wanted to take some wood from the forest of another village, they were required to pay a small fee called *devsari*, *dand* or *man* in exchange.
- (iii) The headmen of villages in a *pargana* met annually to discuss forest related issues.

Q 15. Who were the *Kalangs* and why were they important?

Ans. The *Kalangs* were a community of skilled forest cutters and shifting cultivators of Java, Indonesia. They were important because of the following reasons:

- (i) Without their expertise it was difficult to harvest teak and for the kings to build their palaces.
- (ii) They were so valuable to the king that in 1755, when the Mataram kingdom of Java split, the 6000 *Kalang* families were equally divided among the two kingdoms.

Q 16. Mention any three provisions of the forest laws passed by the Dutch.

Ans. The three provisions of the forest laws passed by the Dutch are as follows:

- (i) Villagers were punished for grazing cattle in young stands.
- (ii) The new laws restricted villagers' access to the forest.
- (iii) Wood was allowed to be cut for specific purposes like making river boats or constructing houses and that too only from specific forests under close supervision.

Q 17. Who was *Surontiko Samin*? Describe in brief the Saminist Movement of Indonesia.

Ans. *Surontiko Samin* was a villager who lived in the Randublatung village, in Indonesia. He started a movement questioning state ownership of forests. This movement came to be referred as the Saminist Movement.

The movement gained momentum and by 1907, 3,000 families were following his ideas.

Some of the Saminists protested by lying down on their land when the Dutch came to survey it, others refused to pay taxes, fines or perform any labour.



Long Answer Type Questions

Q 1. State the importance of forests.

Ans. The importance of forests can be understood with the help of the following points:

- (i) Paper for reading wood for desks and tables, doors and windows, the dyes that colour our clothes, spices, the cellophane wrapper of toffee, *tendu* leaf in *bidis*, gums, honey, coffee, tea and rubber, all are obtained from forests.
- (ii) Oil in chocolates comes from *sal* seeds. Tannin is used to convert skins and hides into leather.
- (iii) Herbs and roots are used for medicinal purposes.
- (iv) Forests also provide bamboo, wood for fuel, grass, charcoal, fruits, flowers, animals, birds and many other things.
- (v) In the Amazon forests or in the Western Ghats, it is possible to find as many as 500 different plant species in one forest patch. So, they are also the centres of biodiversity.

Q 2. How did the people in forest areas use forest products to fulfil their daily needs?

Ans. The people in forest areas used forest products to fulfil their daily needs in the following ways:

- (i) They ate fruits and tubers, especially during monsoons, before the harvest came in.
- (ii) Herbs were used for medicine and wood for making agricultural implements like yokes and ploughs.
- (iii) Bamboo was used to make fences and was also used to make baskets and umbrellas.
- (iv) Leaves were stitched to make disposable plates and cups, the *sladi* (*Bauhinia vahlii*) creepers were used to make ropes and the thorny bark of the *semur* (silk-cotton) tree was used to grate vegetables.
- (v) Oil for cooking and to light lamp was pressed from the fruit of the *mahua* tree.

Q 3. Explain any four causes of deforestation in India under the colonial rule.

OR

Mention the causes of deforestation in India during the colonial period.

Ans. The following are the causes of deforestation in India under colonial rule:

- (i) As population increased over the centuries and the demand for food went up, peasants extended the boundaries of cultivation by clearing forests.

- i) Large areas of natural forests were cleared to make way for tea, coffee and rubber plantations so as to meet Europe's growing need for these commodities.
- (iii) The British encouraged the production of commercial crops like jute, sugar, tea, coffee, etc. by clearing forests.
- (iv) The colonial government thought that forests were unproductive and hence should be cleared for productive activities such as agriculture and manufacturing.
- (v) They cleared forests to provide wood for making railway sleepers, fuel for locomotives, etc.

Q 4. Explain the impact of various forest laws and policies which were adopted by the colonial rulers over the colonial people.

OR

How did the 'forest acts' cause severe hardships for villagers across the country?

Ans. The impact of various forest laws and policies over the colonial people can be understood with the help of the following points:

- (i) After the Act, everyday activities such as cutting wood for houses, grazing cattle, collecting fruits and roots, hunting, etc., became illegal.
- (ii) People were forced to steal wood from the forests, and if they were caught, they were at the mercy of the forest guards who took bribes from them.
- (iii) Even women were not allowed to collect fuelwood from the forests. Because of this, it was becoming difficult to even cook food.
- (iv) Police constables and forest guards used to harass people by demanding free food from them.
- (v) With the banning of shifting cultivation, the people faced the problem of livelihood.



TiP

Discuss the adverse effects of the forest laws and policies adopted by the colonial rulers in separate points.

Q 5. In India, when was the Forest Act enacted? In which three categories, the forests were divided after the amendment of Forest Act in 1878? What was the effect of this amendment on the life of the villagers?

Ans. In India, the Forest Act was first enacted in 1865. The amendment in the Forest Act in 1878 divided forests into three categories, viz., reserved, protected and village forests. The best forests were called 'reserved forests' and people were denied entry in these forests.

Effects of the amendment of Forest Act on the lives of the villagers are as follows:

- (i) Villagers could not take anything from 'reserved forests'. They could take wood from protected or village forests for house building or fuel. They were encouraged to plant only teak and sal as required for commercial use.
- (ii) The Forest Act meant severe hardship for the villagers as all their everyday practices such as cutting wood for their houses, grazing their cattle, hunting and fishing became illegal.
- (iii) Villagers were forced to steal wood and if they were caught, they were at the mercy of the forest guards who even claimed bribe for them.
- (iv) Women were scared of forest guards especially those who used to collect fuelwood.
- (v) It was a common practice for police constables and forest guards to harass the villagers by demanding free food for themselves.

Q 6. What are the similarities between colonial management of the forests in Bastar and in Java?

Ans. There were many similarities in the forest control laws in Bastar and Java:

- (i) Like the British, the Dutch wanted timber from Java to build ships. They restricted villagers from practising shifting cultivation and limited their access to forests.
- (ii) Both the colonial powers enacted laws in their own favour and exploited forests on a massive scale.
- (iii) Like British, the Dutch imposed these laws on the villagers or the forest dwellers with great severity.
- (iv) The forest laws deprived people of their customary rights to forest products such as roots, leaves, fruits, etc. They were fined if they dared to enter the forest without permission.
- (v) The policies of both the colonial powers were too severe on the villagers. As a result, the villagers became aggressive in due course. They began to view their rulers as their enemies. They began to resist them through rebellions.

Q 7. How did commercial farming led to a decline in forests cover during colonial period?

Ans. Commercial farming led to a decline in forests cover during colonial period in the following ways:

- (i) The colonial powers had the opinion in the early 19th century that the forests were unproductive and were in no way useful in increasing the income of the state.
- (ii) The Britishers encouraged the production of commercial crops like jute, sugar, wheat and cotton as well as plantation of tea, coffee and rubber. So, the Indian farmers cleared forests for the commercial crops.
- (iii) The Britishers gave vast areas to European planters due to which they cleared forests and planted tea, coffee, etc. in the enclosed areas.

- (iv) Expansion of the railway was another reason for clearing forest as a large number of sleepers were required for railway tracks.
- (v) With the increase in population, the demand of food raised due to which the forests were cleared for the expansion of agricultural land.

Q 8. Why and how were plantations started in colonial India?

Ans. Britishers came to India with the objective of exploiting natural resources so as to enrich themselves. Plantation Industry was started due to the following reasons:

- (i) It considered forests as unproductive.
- (ii) There was growing need of commodities in European countries.
- (iii) There was need to enhance revenue of British Government.
- (iv) It was needed to control the misuse of forest by local people as in shifting cultivation.

To start plantation industry, government gave vast areas of forest to contractors and European planters at cheap rates. These European planters started recklessly felling of trees to make way for tea, coffee and rubber plantations.

German Expert, Dietrich Brandis was appointed as the first Inspector General of Forest by the British Government. He recommended formation of rules and regulation of Forest Management and helped formulate Indian Forest Act, 1865. Scientific forestry was introduced when forest was cleared for plantation.

Q 9. Why are forests affected by wars?

OR

Explain the impact of wars on forests.

Ans. Forests are affected by wars due to the following reasons:

- (i) Both the world wars created a havoc for the forests. In India, working plans were abandoned during these wars and the forest department cut trees freely to meet British war needs.

- (ii) In Java just before the Japanese occupied the region, the Dutch followed 'a scorched Earth policy' destroying mills and burning huge piles of giant teak logs so that they would not fall into Japanese hands.

- (iii) The Japanese too exploited the forests for their needs.

- (iv) Many people took advantage of the war situation and cleared forest lands and expanded cultivation.

- (v) Sometimes, the occupying forces recklessly cut down trees for their own war industries, as was done by the Japanese during the occupation of Indonesia in the Second World War.

Q 10. 'The introduction of railway had an adverse impact on the forests.' Justify by giving examples.

Ans. The given statement can be justified by the following examples:

- (i) The railway network expanded rapidly from the 1860s. Sleepers were the basic inputs required for constructing a railway line and each mile of a railway track required between 1760 to 2000 sleepers. So, a large number of trees were felled so as to meet this demand.

- (ii) Wood was needed as fuel to run the locomotive. More of it was required as railway was being spread throughout India.

- (iii) The government gave out contracts of individuals to supply the required quantities. These contractors began indiscriminate cutting of trees due to which forests around the railway tracks started disappearing fast. Around 35,000 trees were being cut annually for sleepers in the Madras presidency alone in the early 1850s.

So, it can be said that the introduction of railway had an adverse impact on the forests.



Chapter Test

Multiple Choice Questions

Q1. Wooden planks laid across railway tracks to hold them in a position are called:

- a. Beams
- b. Sleepers
- c. Rail fasteners
- d. None of these

Q 2. What was the policy followed by the British in India towards forests during the First and the Second World Wars?

- a. The forest department cut trees freely to meet British war needs.
- b. Cutting of trees was strictly prohibited for everyone including the British.

- c. More and more trees were planted to give employment to Indians.

- d. None of the above

Q 3. Which of the following is a community of skilled forest cutters?

- a. Maasals of Africa
- b. Mundas of Chotanagpur
- c. Gonds of Odisha
- d. Kolangs of Java

Q4. Who was Gunda Dhur?

- a. A rebel of Java
- b. First Inspector General
- c. A leader of Santhal rebellion
- d. A leader of Dhurva tribe

Why was shifting banned in India by the government?

European foresters regarded this practice as harmful for the forests.

- b. When a forest was burnt, there was the danger of flames spreading and burning the valuable timber.
- c. It made it difficult for the government to collect taxes.
- d. All of the above

Assertion and Reason Type Questions

Directions (Q.Nos. 6-7): In the following questions given below, there are two statements marked as Assertion (A) and Reason (R). Read the statements and choose the correct option:

- a. Both Assertion (A) and Reason (R) are true and Reason (R) is the correct explanation of Assertion (A).
- b. Both Assertion (A) and Reason (R) are true, but Reason (R) is not the correct explanation of Assertion (A).
- c. Assertion (A) is true, but Reason (R) is false.
- d. Assertion (A) is false, but Reason (R) is true.

Q 6. Assertion (A): Dutch introduced forest laws to restrict villager's access to forest.

Reason (R): Villagers were punished for grazing cattle or transporting wood without a permit.

Q 7. Assertion (A): The ship industry of England was responsible for deforestation in India.

Reason (R): To get the supply of oak for the ship industry, Britishers started exploring Indian forests on a massive scale and trees were being felled on large scale.

Source Based Question

Q 8. Read the source given below and answer the questions that follow:

When the colonial government proposed to reserve two-thirds of the forest in 1905, and stop shifting cultivation, hunting and collection of forest produce, the people of Bastar were very worried. Some villages were allowed to stay on in the reserved forests on the condition that they worked free for the forest department in cutting and transporting trees, and protecting the forest from fires. Subsequently, these came to be known as 'forest villages'. People of other villages were displaced without any notice or compensation. For long, villagers had been suffering from increased land rents and frequent demands for free labour and goods by colonial officials. Then came the terrible famines, in 1899-1900 and again in 1907-1908. Reservations proved to be the last straw.

People began to gather and discuss these issues in their village councils, in bazaars and at festivals or wherever the headmen and priests of several villages were assembled. The initiative was taken by the *Dhurwas* of the Kanger forest, where reservation first took place.

Although there was no single leader, many people speak of *Gunda Dhur*, from village Nethanar, as an important figure in the movement. In 1910, mango boughs, a lump of Earth, chillies and arrows, began circulating between villages. These were actually messages inviting villagers to rebel against the British.

- (i) What was the main cause of worry for the people of Bastar?
- (ii) What proportion of forests was proposed to be reserved by the colonial government?
- (iii) What are forest villages? Where did the reservation first take place in Bastar?

Very Short Answer Type Questions

- Q 9. Why did the government decide to ban shifting cultivation?
- Q 10. Which forest community is found in Central India?
- Q 11. What was the effect of Forest Act on the people living nearby?
- Q 12. How was *Sladi* creeper used for?

Short Answer Type Questions

- Q 13. What were the defects of 'Scientific Forestry' technique?
- Q 14. Why were the *Kalangs* of Java known as a community of skilled forest cutters?
- Q 15. What do you understand by swidden agriculture? Describe its main features.
- Q 16. What compelled the *Kalangs* of Java to rebel against the *Dutch* and to what extent?

Long Answer Type Questions

- Q 17. Describe the Brandis's proposal for the management of forests.
- Q 18. How did commercial farming led to a decline in forest cover during colonial period?