

VERY SHORT ANSWER QUESTIONS

EARTHQUAKES

1. Name some dangerous events caused by an earthquake?

Ans. Dangerous events caused by an earthquake are Landslides, tsunami, fires and floods.

2. What is tsunami? How is it caused?

Ans. Tsunami is seismic seawave or destructive tidal wave generated by an underwater earthquake.

3. India is divided into how many seismic zones?

Ans. India is divided into four seismic zones, i.e., II, III, IV and V zones. Zone V is the most severe.

4. Which regions of India are on V Seismic zone?

Ans. The entire north-east and Kutch region of Gujarat is in zone V.

5. Which seismic zone does your city fall in? Has your city even experienced an earthquake?

Ans. My city, Delhi is in zone IV. It has experienced earthquakes many times, but not destructive.

6. What is the function of 'The Bureau of Indian Standards'?

Ans. Function of 'The Bureau of Indian Standards' are: To publish building codes and guideline for safe construction.

7. Give two examples of sudden onset hazards.

Ans. Sudden onset hazards are:
Earthquakes, Tsunamis, Volcanic eruptions, Floods.

8. Give two examples of slow onset hazards.

Ans. Slow onset hazards are:
Drought, Famine, Desertification, Pest infestation.

9. Give two examples of industrial/technological hazards.

Ans. Industrial/technological hazards are:
System failures, Fire, Explosion, Chemical leakage/spillage.

10. State any two mitigation strategies of earthquake.

Ans. Mitigation strategies of earthquake are:

To analyse soil type before construction, alluvial or wind-blown soil is not favourable.

To follow building codes and guidelines published by Bureau of Indian Standards.

Building plans should be checked by the Municipality by laws.

Retrofitting techniques should be followed.

Public awareness is to be created through programmes for builders, Constructors engineers, masons, house owners etc.

LANDSLIDES

11. Which are the areas generally prone to landslides?

Ans. Area prone to landslides are:

(a) Hilly regions having heavy rainfall.

(b) Steep slopes having sedimentary rocks.

12. What are the elements of risk in landslide prone areas?

Ans. Elements of risk in landslide prone areas are settlements built on the steep slopes, built at the toe and those built at the mouth of the streams flowing from the mountains.

13. What is the most cheapest way to prevent run-off and soil erosion due to landslides?

Ans. To increase vegetation cover along the slopes, to bind the top layer of the soil with layers below.

14. Name the common factors triggering landslides?

Ans. Common factors triggering landslides are heavy rainfall, earthquakes, deforestation along the slopes.

FLOODS

15. What are the causes of flooding?

Ans. Causes of flooding:

(a) Due to heavy rainfall the water level increases in reservoir or rivers causing floods.

(b) Cyclones, storm surge along coast, tsunami or dam burst.

16. Which two regions are the most flood prone in India?

Ans. Two regions which are most flood prone in India:

- (a) The most flood prone regions are the Brahmaputra, Ganga and Meghna river basins.
- (b) In the Indo-Gangetic-Brahmaputra plains in north and north-east India which carry 60% of the total river flow. It spreads over 15 states.
- (c) Other flood prone areas are north-west regions of river Narmada and Tapi. Areas of east flowing river like Mahanadi, Krishna, Godavari and Kaveri.

17. Which is the main season for floods in India?

Ans. The main season for floods in India is the period of south-west monsoons, June to September as about 75% of total rainfall is concentrated in this period.

18. Mention any two types of flood control measures.

Ans. Two types of flood control measures:

- (a) Increase plantation cover.
- (b) Construct dams, embankments and channels.
- (c) Clean debris from streams, lakes and ponds.

CYCLONES

19. What is Super-cyclone? Where and when did it strike?

Ans. On 29th October 1999, Super-cyclone with winds 260-300 km per hour hit 90 miles coast of Orissa. Waves rose to 30 feet higher than normal. It travelled more than 250 km. inland.

20. Which are cyclone-prone areas in India?

Ans. The entire eastern coast of India is vulnerable to cyclones. About 80% of the total cyclones generated in the region hit the eastern coast.

21. Name the two states most affected by cyclones in India.

Ans. The states most affected by cyclones are West Bengal, Orissa, Andhra Pradesh and Tamil Nadu.

22. In which two water bodies the frequency of tropical cyclones is the greatest?

Ans. The frequency of tropical cyclones is greatest in the Bay of Bengal and Arabian Sea.

23. Name the organisation which is responsible to issuing warnings against cyclones.

Ans. The Indian Meteorological Department issues warning against tropical cyclones.

24. By which means is cyclone warning disseminated?

Ans. Cyclone warning is disseminated by satellite based disaster warning systems, radio, television, telephone, fax, high priority telegram, public announcements and bulletins in press.

DROUGHT

25. What is meant by drought?

Ans. Drought is a slow onset disaster that results from falling rainfall levels, falling groundwater levels, drying wells and poor agricultural production.

26. When does a country face drought conditions?

Ans. The country is said to be drought affected when the overall rainfall deficiency is more than 10 per cent and more than 20 per cent of the country area is affected.