

CBSE Test Paper 03
Ch-22 India Geographical Perspective

1. What do you mean by land degradation?
2. Mention any two sources of land pollution in India.
3. What is the main cause of acid rain?
4. Mention two states which have a poverty ratio of more than 40%.
5. Define the term air pollution. Explain any two harmful effects of air pollution.
6. Mention major problems associated with urban waste disposal in India.
7. Why is urban waste disposal a serious problem in India? Give any three reasons.
8. Mention the criteria used for identifying pollution.
9. What are the main sources of air pollution?
10. State any four pressing environmental concerns of India.

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Answer

1. Land degradation is generally understood either as a temporary or a permanent decline in the productive capacity of the land.
2. Two sources of land pollution in India are as follows:
 - i. Increasing use of chemicals like fertilizers and pesticides in agriculture.
 - ii. Increasing industrial activities.
3. Air pollution is the main cause of acid rain. Sulfur dioxide and nitrogen oxides released into the air by fossil-fuel power plants, vehicles and oil refineries are the biggest cause of acid rain.
4. Two states which have a poverty ratio of more than 40% are Orissa and Bihar.
5. Air pollution is taken as the addition of contaminants like dust, fumes, gas, fog, odour, smoke or vapour to the air in substantial proportion and duration that may be harmful to flora and fauna and to property.
Harmful effects of air pollution are:
 - i. It is responsible for many diseases related to our respiratory, nervous and circulatory systems.
 - ii. Air pollution is responsible for creating a smoky fog over cities which is known as urban smog. It has negative effects on human health.
6. Major problems associated with waste disposal in India are as follows:
 - i. Urban areas are generally marked by overcrowding, congestion, inadequate facilities to support the fast-growing population and consequent poor sanitary conditions and foul air.
 - ii. Environmental pollution by solid wastes has now got significance because of enormous growth in the quantity of wastes generated from various sources.
 - iii. The huge turn out of ashes and debris from industries, thermal powerhouses, and

building constructions or demolitions have posed problems of serious consequences. Solid wastes cause health hazard through the creation of obnoxious smell and harbouring of flies and rodents, which act as carriers of diseases like typhoid, diphtheria, diarrhoea, malaria, and cholera, etc.

7. Major problems associated with waste disposal in India are as follows:

- i. The household wastes is disposed off either on public lands or on private contractors' sites, whereas the solid wastes of industrial units are collected and disposed off through public (municipal) facilities at low lying public grounds (landfill areas). The huge turn out of ashes and debris from industries, Thermal power houses and building constructions or demolitions have posed problems of serious consequences.
- ii. Solid wastes cause health hazard through creation of obnoxious smell, and harbouring of flies and rodents, which act as carriers of diseases like typhoid, diphtheria, diarrhoea, malaria and cholera, etc. These wastes cause frequent nuisance as and when these are carelessly handled, spread by wind and splattered through rain water.
- iii. Concentration of industrial units in and around urban centres gives rise to disposal of industrial wastes. The dumping of industrial waste into rivers leads to water pollution. River pollution from city-based industries and untreated sewage leads to serious health problems downstream.

8. Usually three criteria are used for identifying pollution. These are:

- i. The waste material resulting from human activities and disposal of humans, wastes.
- ii. Damages caused by the disposal of human waste whether directly or indirectly.
- iii. Circumstances where the effect of damage is met by the third party.

9. Sources of air pollution:

- i. Burning of fuels like wood, cow dung cakes, coal and kerosene in homes pollute the air.
- ii. Exhaust gases emitted by motor vehicles which pollute the air are the major

source of air pollution in big cities.

- iii. Industries pollute air by releasing various types of pollutants such as sulphur dioxide, oxides of carbon, nitrogen oxide, chlorine, asbestos dust and cement dust.
 - iv. Thermal power plants pollute air by emitting sulphur dioxide and fly-ash.
 - v. Nuclear power plants pollute air by releasing radioactive rays.
 - vi. Use of fertilizers and pesticides in agriculture pollute the air.
 - vii. Mining activities releases particulate matter into the air and pollutes it.
 - viii. Indiscriminate cutting of trees and clearing of forests increases the amount of carbon dioxide in the atmosphere and thereby pollutes it.
 - ix. Use of chlorofluorocarbons in refrigeration, fire extinguishers and aerosol sprayers pollutes air by depleting the ozone layer.
10. Four pressing environmental concerns in India are:
- i. Water pollution: India has major water pollution issues. Discharge of untreated sewage is the single most important cause for pollution of surface and ground water in India. There is a large gap between generation and treatment of domestic waste water in India. The problem is not only that India lacks sufficient treatment capacity but also that the sewage treatment plants that exist do not operate and are not maintained.
 - ii. Air pollution: Air pollution in India is a serious issue with the major sources being fuelwood and biomass burning, fuel adulteration, vehicle emission and traffic congestion. Fuel wood, agri waste and biomass cake burning releases over 165 million tonnes of combustion products into India's indoor and outdoor air every year. These biomass-based household stoves in India are also a leading source of greenhouse emissions contributing to climate change.
 - iii. Solid waste pollution: Trash and garbage is a common sight in urban and rural areas of India. It is a major source of pollution. Indian cities alone generate more than 100 million tons of solid waste a year. Street corners are piled with trash. Public places and sidewalks are despoiled with filth and litter, rivers and canals

act as garbage dumps. In part, India's garbage crisis is from rising constition. They have become significant sources of greenhouse emissions and! breeding sites for disease vectors such as flies, mosquitoes, cockroaches, rats, and other pests.

- iv. Land Degradation: Land degradation is happening because of loss of vegetation occurring due to deforestation, unsustainable fuel wood and fodder extraction, encroachment into forest lands, non adoption of adequate soil conservation measures, indiscriminate use of chemicals, improper planning and management of irrigation system.
- v. Certainly, correction of environmental degradation involves an opportunity cost in the form of adverse health conditions, poor quality of life in poor environmental conditions and expenditure by government on correcting the harm done by environment.