



# HOLY FAITH PRESENTATION SCHOOL

RAWALPORA SRINAGAR KASHMIR

U-III

*(Class 9<sup>th</sup> – Disaster Management)*

## CHAPTER: 4 MAN-MADE DISASTER

### Q. Write a short note on chemical disasters.

**Ans.** Chemicals which are helpful to mankind can be harmful to humans and environment. Some of these hazardous chemicals are commonly found in our homes like hair, sprays, deodorants, detergents, soaps, paints etc. The usage of chemicals has increased many fold for increasing crop yields, water purifications, painting of houses, washing of floors etc. But we hardly realize that these chemicals which are helpful to mankind can be harmful to humans and environment. Major chemical disasters are low in frequency but are very significant in terms of loss of lives, injuries, environmental impact and property damage. Chemical accidents can occur due to lack of safety measures, technical break down or due to human error. The Bhopal Gas Tragedy (methyl iso-cyanate) is a typical example of this disaster.

### Q. Illustrate some events of natural fires in J&K.

**Ans.** As per the report of the Forest department, nearly 781 forest fire incidents were reported in the state. Of the 781 incidents, 289 fire incidents were reported in Kashmir and 492 in Jammu.

- In the year 2018, massive forest fire occurred in Bandipore, Kupwara, Ganderbal and Anantnag districts of J&K.
- In the year 2017, 50 hectares of Tanpal forest were demolished due to forest fire.
- In the year 2016, there was a wildfire in Trikuta Hills near the Mata Vaishno Devi shrine.

### Q. Enlist some of the causes of road accidents.

**Ans.** Some of the causes of accident are:

1. High speed
2. Disobeying traffic rules
3. Use of alcohol or sedatives
4. Using cell phones, playing music while driving.
5. Low visibility during foggy conditions.
6. Avoidance of dipper during night.
7. Bad road conditions.
8. Driving by unauthorized persons without driving license.

### Q. What is forest fire? How can it be controlled?

**Ans.** Forest fire is uncontrolled combustion of forest fuels, such as dead leaves, grasses, pine needles, and branches on the ground. Forest fires can occur naturally by lightening, high temperature etc. and spread rapidly during periods of drought- not uncommonly, a single fire burns more than 100 000 hectares or by human negligence. Even many trees are known to give



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out resins and wax like substances which provokes forest fires. Once started, forest fires are seen to travel as much as 15 km per hour and continues until there is a heavy rain or the burning material is finished.

**CONTROL:** However, except for rare cases of lightening, fires are always man-made disasters. Such fires can be controlled if following measures are to be adopted.

1. Cigarette butts should not be thrown in fire prone areas.
2. Picnic makers throwing burning ambers should be checked.
3. Check on shepherds leaving behind burning wood pieces after cooking in forests.
4. Burning camp fires should not be left out.
5. Construction of walls or paths in forests in forests can reduce the risk of forests fires.

**Q. What do you understand by environmental degradation? What are the factors responsible for it?**

**Ans.** Environmental degradation is the process by which the environment i.e, air, water and land, is progressively contaminated, over exploited and destroyed. In specific terms, environmental degradation is the deterioration of the environment through depletion of resources such as air, water, soil and forest; the destruction of ecosystems and the extinction of wildlife. Whenever habitats are destroyed, biodiversity is lost or natural resources are depleted so the environment is hurt.

Factors responsible for environmental degradation:

1. Growing population: Rapid population growth has lead to excessive utilization of natural resources and huge production of wastes resulting to loss of biodiversity, pollution of air, water, and soil and increased pressure on arable land. The fast pace of urbanization has also been responsible for the depletion of forests and irrational use of other resources.
2. Changing life style: The fallout of the fast increasing use of modern amenities like motor cars, refrigerators, air conditioners etc. is release of harmful gases in the atmosphere that leads to pollution and global warming.
3. Agricultural development: Various kinds of farming activities, extensive use of fertilizers and pesticides have been a major source of contamination of water bodies and land degradation.
4. Industrialization: Rapid industrialization results in the depletion of natural resources, contamination of water, air and soil.
5. Solid waste: All over the world people throw away 1000 million tons of solid wastes annually.

Some Mitigation Measures of Environmental Degradation:

1. Sustainable development: Judicious use of resources that these remain available for use of our future generations as well.



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2. Pollution control: we should check and try to produce less pollution at our end.
3. Thinking of alternative sources of energy: e.g. solar energy, wind energy, hydro energy, gobar-gas plant energy etc.
4. Protection of wild animals and plants:
5. Plantation: more plantation means healthier environment and lessening the pollution in the environment.

## **Q. How a chemical disaster can be prevented?**

**Ans.** Chemical disaster can be prevented by using chemicals and petrochemicals with utmost care and scientific knowledge. Safety measures must be well looked before placing any chemical work. Also chemical industries should be placed away from densely populated areas. Chemical catastrophe can be minimized by restricting the usage of chemicals only for professionals.

## **Q. Give a concept of manmade disaster.**

**Ans.** A disastrous event caused directly and principally by one or more identifiable deliberate or negligent human actions is called as manmade disaster. Man made or anthropogenic disasters are the consequence of technological or human hazards. Examples include stampedes, fires, transport accidents, oil spills and nuclear explosions/ radiations.

## **Q. Fill in the blanks:**

1. Carbon Dioxide      2) Environmental Degradation      c) Bhopal
4. Forest fire      5) Sustainable development.