

Class - xi

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A recent report of our Parliament's Estimates Committee has highlighted the near **catastrophic depletion** of India's forests over the last four decades. India, according to reliable data, is losing its forests at the rate of 3.7 million acres a year.

Word Meaning

Recent New, Current, Fresh

Highlighted Drawn attention, Emphasised

Catastrophic Terrible, Disastrous

Depletion Reduction, Decrease

Reliable Dependable, Authentic

A new report from our Parliament's Estimates Committee has drawn attention to disastrous reduction of forests in India during last 40 years. According to authentic data, forests in India are reducing by about 3.7 million acres per year.

Large areas, officially designated as forest land, "are already virtually treeless". The actual loss of forests is estimated to be about eight times the rate indicated by government statistics.

Large areas which are officially called as forest land is practically without any trees. It is estimated that actual loss of forest is about eight time the rate of depletion provided by government.

A three-year study using satellites and aerial photography conducted by the United Nations, warns that the environment has deteriorated so badly that it is 'critical' in many of the eighty-eight countries investigated.

Word Meaning

Aerial photography Photos taken while flying over the area

Investigated Inspected, Analysed, Studied.

A study of three year duration has been conducted by United Nations. Satellites and aerial photography has been used in this study. It has studied condition of 88 countries. The study says that in most of these countries condition of environment has been damaged severely.

There can be no doubt that the growth of world population is one of the strongest factors distorting the future of human society. It took mankind more than a million years to reach the first billion. That was the world population around the year 1800.

Word Meaning

Factor Reason

Distort Damage, Twist,

Certainly the increase in population of the world is the biggest reason in damaging future of human society. In one million years population of the world reached one billion. The population reached this number around the year 1800.

By the year 1900, a second billion was added, and the twentieth century has added another 3.7 billion. The present world population is estimated at 5.7 billion. Every four days the world population increases by one million.

From 1800 to 1900 population increased by one more billion. Thus in 1900 the world population became two billion. At present world population is about 5.7 billion. World population increases by one million in four days.

Fertility falls as incomes rise, education spreads, and health improves. Thus development is the best contraceptive. But development itself may not be possible if the present increase in numbers continues.

Word Meaning

Fertility- Rate of increase of population

Contraceptive -Method to prevent population increase.

When income rises, education spreads, health improves and rate of increase of population reduces. Hence development of society is the best method to reduce rate of population increase. But if the number of people goes on increasing, development of society may not be possible.

The rich get richer, and the poor beget children which condemns them to remain poor. More children does not mean more workers, merely more people without work.

Word Meaning

Beget Produce, Generate

Condemns Sentences, Forced into

The rich person would get richer. Children of poor people are forced to remain poor. Having more children does not mean that we would have more workers. It means that we will have more people without work.

It is not suggested that human beings be treated like cattle and compulsorily sterilised. But there is no alternative to voluntary family planning without introducing an element of coercion. The choice is really between control of population and perpetuation of poverty.

Word Meaning

Suggest Recommend

Cattle Animal

Sterilised Made unproductive

An element of Some amount of

Coercion Force, Compulsion

Perpetuation Continuation

It is not recommended that human beings should be treated like animals and made unproductive. But voluntary family planning would certainly need some amount of compulsion. We would need to choose one of the two options – either control population or increase poverty.

The population of India is estimated to be 920 million today — more than the entire populations of Africa and South America put together. No one familiar with the conditions in India would doubt that the hope of the people would die in their hungry huts unless population control is given topmost priority.

Word Meaning

Familiar Known

Presently population of India is estimated to be about 920 million. It more than the combined population of Africa and South America. Everybody who knows conditions of India is sure that population control needs to be given highest priority in India. Otherwise people of India may die due to poverty and hunger.

For the first time in human history we see a **transcending concern** — the survival not just of the people but of the planet. We have begun to take a holistic view of the very basis of our existence.

Word Meaning

Transcending Increasing, Extraordinary Holistic-Overall

In the history of human being an increasing concern is being seen for the first time. People are talking about survival of the complete planet rather than only of human beings. We have started taking an overall view about our existence.

The environmental problem does not necessarily signal our demise, it is our passport for the future. The emerging new world vision has ushered in the Era of Responsibility.

Word Meaning

Demise Death
Passport Path, Key
Emerging Growing, Developing,
Ushered in Started
Era Period, Age

The present problem of environment may not definitely mean that all human beings will be eliminated from the earth. But environment is the path or key for our future. This growing new thought has started a new period or age of responsibility.

It is a holistic view, an ecological view, seeing the world as an integrated whole rather than a dissociated collection of parts.

Word Meaning

Integrated Combined
Dissociated Separated

This is an overall view towards ecology. It is about considering the complete world as one instead of collection of separate parts.

Industry has a most crucial role to play in this new Era of Responsibility. What a transformation would be effected if more businessmen shared the view of the Chairman of Du Pont, Mr Edgar S. Woolard who, five years ago, declared himself to be the Company's "Chief Environmental Officer".

Word Meaning

Crucial Important
Transformation Change
Effected Made

Industry needs to play the most important role in the period of responsibility. A great change can be made if every businessman followed the views of Chairman of Du Pont Mr S Woolard. Five years ago he had declared that he was the Chief Environmental Officer of his organisation.

He said, "Our continued existence as a leading manufacturer requires that we excel in environmental performance."

Word Meaning

Leading Prominent

He said that to continue to exist as the prominent manufacturer, it was necessary to do excellent work in environmental aspects.

Of all the statements made by Margaret Thatcher during the years of her Prime Ministership, none has passed so decisively into the current coin of English usage as her felicitous words: "No generation has a freehold on this earth. All we have is a life tenancy — with a full repairing lease".

Word Meaning

Decisively Convincingly
Felicitous Appropriate, Suitable

Margret Thatcher had made several statements when she was Prime Minister. One of her statements is considered as the most appropriate statement in English language about environment. She said that nobody is the owner of this earth. We all have come here as a tenant for our life time. It is our duty to repair whatever damage we cause to earth.

In the words of Mr. Lester Brown, "We have not inherited this earth from our forefathers; we have borrowed it from our children."

Word Meaning

Inherited Received from ancestors

Mr. Lester brown has said that we have not received this earth from our ancestors as our own property. We have borrowed it from our children. We must return it to them in good condition.

