

Physical Geography of Tamil Nadu



Exercise

I. Choose the Correct Answer:

1. The latitudinal extent of Tamil Nadu is

- a) $8^{\circ}5'N$ to $13^{\circ}35'N$
- b) $8^{\circ}5'S$ to $13^{\circ}35'S$
- c) $8^{\circ}0'N$ to $13^{\circ}5'N$
- d) $8^{\circ}0'S$ to $13^{\circ}05'S$

Ans: a) $8^{\circ}5'N$ to $13^{\circ}35'N$

2. The longitudinal extent of Tamil Nadu is

- a) $76^{\circ}18' E$ to $80^{\circ}20'E$
- b) $76^{\circ}18' W$ to $80^{\circ}20'W$
- c) $86^{\circ}18' E$ to $10^{\circ}20'E$
- d) $86^{\circ}18' W$ to $10^{\circ}20'W$

Ans: a) $76^{\circ}18' E$ to $80^{\circ}20'E$

3. The highest peak in Tamil Nadu is

- a) Anaimudi
- b) Doddabetta
- c) Mahendragiri
- d) Servarayan

Ans: b) Doddabetta

4. Which of the following passes is not located in the Western Ghats of Tamil Nadu?

- a) Palghat
- b) Shencottah
- c) Bhorghat
- d) Achankoil

Ans: c) Bhorghat

5. Which one of the following rivers is flow into the Arabian Sea?

- a) Periyar
- b) Cauvery
- c) Chittar
- d) Bhavani

Ans: b) Cauvery

6. The district with largest mangrove forest cover in Tamil Nadu is

- a) Ramanathapuram
- b) Nagapattinam
- c) Cuddalore
- d) Theni

Ans: c) Cuddalore

7. Retreating monsoon wind picks up moisture from

- a) Arabian sea
- b) Bay of Bengal
- c) Indian Ocean
- d) Timor sea

Ans: b) Bay of Bengal

- Kerala in the west,
- Andhra Pradesh in the north,
- Karnataka in the northwest and
- Indian Ocean in the south.

2. What is 'Teri'?

The sand dunes formed along the coast of Ramanathapuram and thoothukudi districts are called Teri.

3. How is coastal plain formed?

- Coastal plains of Tami Nadu are called Coromandel or cholamandalam plain.
- It is formed by the rivers that flow towards East drain in the Bay of Bengal.

4. Name the major islands of Tamil Nadu.

The major islands of Tamil Nadu are-

- | | | | |
|-------------------------------|-----------------------|-----------------|-------------------------|
| i) Pamban, | ii) Hare, | iii) Krusadai, | iv) Nallathanni Theevu, |
| v) Pullivasal | vi) Srirangam, | vii) Upputanni, | viii) Island Grounds, |
| ix) Kattupalli Island, | x) Quibble Island and | | |
| xi) Vivekananda Rock Memorial | | | |

5. Name the tributaries of river Thamirabarani.

The tributaries of river Thamirabarani are-

- | | | | |
|--------------|---------------|---------------|--------------|
| • Karaiyar, | • Servalar, | • Manimuthar, | • Gadanathi, |
| • Pachaiyar, | • Chittar and | • Ramanathi. | |

6. Define : Disaster Risk Reduction.

- Disaster Risk Reduction is the concept and practice of reducing disaster risks through systematic efforts to analyse and reduce the causal factors of disasters.
- This includes reducing exposure to hazards, lessening the vulnerability of people and property, wise management of land and environment and improving preparedness and early warning for adverse events.

7. During cyclone, how does the Meteorological department warn the fishermen?

- During cyclone, the meteorological department warns the fishermen through mobile phone, radio, T.V and news paper not to go into sea.
- They also warn the fishermen to keep boats and rafts tied up safely and have a radio to get the information about the situation.

VI. Distinguish between the following:

1. Thamiraparani and Cauvery

S.No	Thamiraparani	Cauvery
1.	It originates at Talacauvery of Kodagu District of Karanataka.	It originates from Pothigai Hills, Papanasam in Ambasamudram taluk.
2.	It flows through the district of Salem, Erode, Trichy and Thanjavur	It courses through the districts of Tirunelveli and Thoothukudi.
3.	The important tributaries of River Cauvery are Bhavani, Noyyal and Amaravathi.	It main tributaries are Karaiyar, Chittar, Servalar, Manimuthar, Gadanathi, Pachaiyar and Ramanathi.

VII. Give Reasons for the following:

1. Eastern Ghats are not a continuous range.

Eastern Ghats is a discontinuous and irregular one because it is dissected at many places by the rivers.

2. Tamil Nadu receives low rainfall during southwest monsoon.

- During the season of South-west monsoon, Tamil Nadu is located in the rain shadow region for the wind which blows from the Arabian Sea.
- As a result, Tamil Nadu receives only a meagre rainfall from this monsoon

3. Cuddalore is a multiprone disaster zone.

- A sudden natural catastrophe that causes great damage or loss to lives and properties is called as disaster.
- Cuddalore is often affected by flood, cyclone earth quakes, tremors and tidal waves. So, it is a multiprone disaster zone.

VIII. Answer the following in a paragraph:

1. Describe the nature of the plateau region of Tamil Nadu.

Plateaus of Tamil Nadu are located between the Western Ghats and the Eastern Ghats. It is roughly Triangular in shape. Its height increases from East to West. This plateau is broader in the North and very narrow in the South.

Bharamahal Plateau:

- Brahmalah plateau is a part of the Mysore plateau situated in the North-western part of Tamil Nadu.
- Its height ranges from 350 to 710 metres.
- Dharmapuri and Krishnagiri district are located in this region.

Coimbatore Plateau:

- It lies between the Nilgiris and Dharmapuri districts.
- Its height varies from 150 to 450 metres.
- This region includes Salem, Coimbatore and Erode Districts.
- Moyar River separates this plateau from the Mysore plateau.
- Rivers like Bhavani, Noyyal and Amaravathi originate from Western Ghats and form valleys in this region.

Madurai Plateau:

- This plateau found in Madurai district and extends up to the foot hills of the Western Ghats.
- Vaigai and Thamirabarai basins are located in this zone.

2. Write an account on river Cauvery.

- The river Cauvery originates at Talacauvery in the Brahmagiri hills of Kodagu(coorg) district of Karnataka in the Western Ghats. It serves as the boundary between Karnataka and Tamil Nadu for a distance of 64 km.
- About 416 km of its course falls in Tamil Nadu. It forms Hogenakkal waterfalls in Dharmapuri district.
- Mettur Dam, also called as the Stanley Reservoir, is located across this river in Salem district.
- A tributary called Bhavani joins Cauvery on the right bank about 45 km from the Mettur Reservoir. Thereafter, it takes easterly course to enter into the plains of Tamil Nadu.
- Two more tributaries, Noyyal and Amaravathi, confluence the river on the right bank at Thirumukkudal, 10 km from Karur. The river is wider in this region where it is called as 'Agandra Cauvery'.
- In Tiruchirappalli district, the river branches into two parts. The northern branch is called Coleroon or Kollidam and the southern branch remains Cauvery
- After flowing for about 16 km, the two branches join again to form the 'Srirangam Island'.
- The Grand Anaicut, also called as Kallanai was built across the river Cauvery.
- After Kallanai, the river breaks into a large number of distributaries and forms a network all over the delta.
- The network of distributaries within the delta of Cauvery in the coast is called as the 'Garden of Southern India'. It merges into Bay of Bengal to the south of Cuddalore.

3. Explain the characteristic features of summer and winter seasons of Tamil Nadu.

The state Tamil Nadu lies to the South of Tropic of Cancer which is near the Equator.

The temperature of the state is relatively high throughout the year. The annual temperature ranges from 18°C to 43°C.

The four seasons of Tamil Nadu are winter season, summer season, South-west monsoon and North-east monsoon.

Summer season:

- The apparent migration of the sun towards north during March, April and May results in the reception of vertical sun's rays by South India. Thus, there is a steady rise in temperature from the equator.
- Tamil Nadu located to the south of Tropic of Cancer, experiences high temperature. Generally the temperature varies from 30°C to more than 40°C.
- During this season particularly in the month of May, southern part of the state receives some rainfall from pre-monsoon showers (Mango/Blossom showers) and some parts experience convectional rainfall.

Winter season:

- During January and February, the vertical rays of the sun fall between the Tropic of Capricorn and the Equator. Hence, Tamil Nadu and India on the whole receive slanting rays from the sun.
- The weather is slightly cooler during these months. Winter temperature in Tamil Nadu varies from 15°C to 25°C.
- In the hill stations, the winter temperature drops below 5°C occasionally. This drop in temperature leads to the formation of thick mist and frost. This season is practically dry.

4. Bring out the types and distribution of soils in Tamil Nadu.

Soil is the loose material mainly formed by the weathering and erosion of rocks. It forms an important element of agriculture. It provides essential minerals and nutrients for the growth of vegetation. Soil is one of the important non-renewable resources in the world. The soils in Tamil Nadu are broadly classified into five types according to their characteristics.

Alluvial soil:

- Alluvial soils are formed by the deposition of silt by the rivers.
- Paddy, sugarcane, banana and turmeric are cultivated in this soil.
- It is found in the river valley regions and the coastal plains of Tamil Nadu.
- Generally this type of soil is found in the districts of Thanjavur, Tiruvarur, Nagapattinam, Villupuram, Cuddalore, Tirunelveli and Kanniyakumari.

Black Soil

- It is formed by the weathering of igneous rocks. It is also known as regur soil.
- Cotton, sorghum, cumbu and fodder crops are the major crops cultivated in the

black soil regions of Tamil Nadu.

- Black soils are found extensively in the districts of Coimbatore, Madurai, Virudhunagar, Tirunelveli and Thoothukudi.

Red Soil

- Red soils cover over two-thirds of the total area of Tamil Nadu. They are found particularly in the central districts of the state.
- This soil is sandy and loamy in texture. The colour of the soil is due to the presence of high content of iron oxides.
- Paddy, ragi, tobacco and vegetables are the chief crops grown in this soil. Almost all types of crops can be grown in this soil.
- It is dominantly found in Sivagangai and Ramanathapuram districts.

Laterite Soil

- Laterite soils are found in some parts of Kancheepuram, Tiruvallur and Thanjavur districts and some patches over the mountainous region in the Nilgiris.
- Crops grown in this soil are paddy, ginger, pepper and plantains.
- It is also suitable for the cultivation of tea and coffee plants.

Saline Soil

- Saline soils in Tamil Nadu are confined to the Coromandel coast. Vedaranyam has a pocket of saline soil.
- The tsunami of 2004 brought a lot of sand and deposited it all along the East coast of Tamil Nadu. The tsunami made the coastal areas unsuitable for cultivation to a considerable extent.

5. What are the Risk reduction measures taken before and after cyclone.

The coastal regions of Tamil Nadu are often hit by the tropical cyclones formed in Bay of Bengal during North-east monsoon. Based on the cyclone hit areas, the state of Tamil Nadu can be divided into five zones namely very high, high medium, low and very low cyclone prone zones.

We can see the risk reductions measures that are to be taken before and the after cyclone. They are –

Before:

- Ignore rumours, stay calm, don't be panic, keep you mobile phones charged to ensure connectivity, use sms, listen to radio, watch TV and read newspapers for weather updates.
- Keep your documents and valuables in water proof containers, prepare an emergency kit with essential items for survival, secure your house, carry out repairs, and don't leave sharp objects loose.

- Untie cattle/animals for their safety.
- Fishermen should keep a radio set with extra batteries handy; keep boats and rafts tied up safely and don't venture out in the sea.

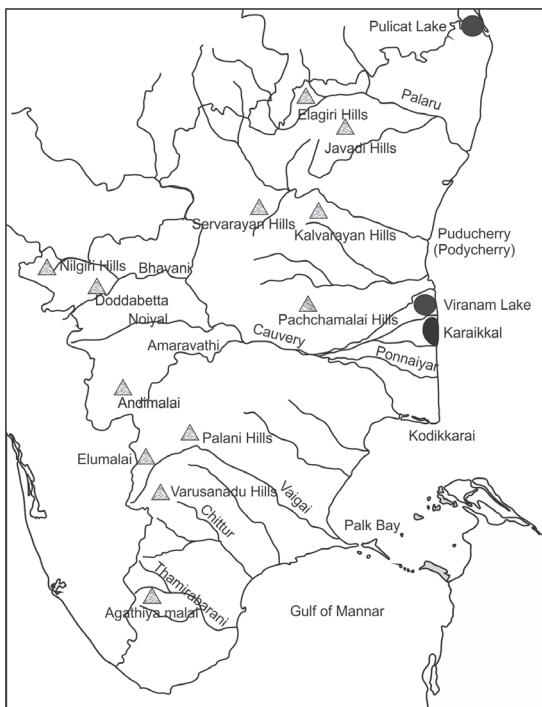
After:

- Those who shifted to the cyclone centre must remain there till instructions are received: strictly avoid loose electrical wires after the cyclone
- Beware of snakes and other insects immediately after the cyclone,
- Clear debris and carcasses from/near the premise after the cyclone and
- Report losses truthfully and accurately to the authorities.

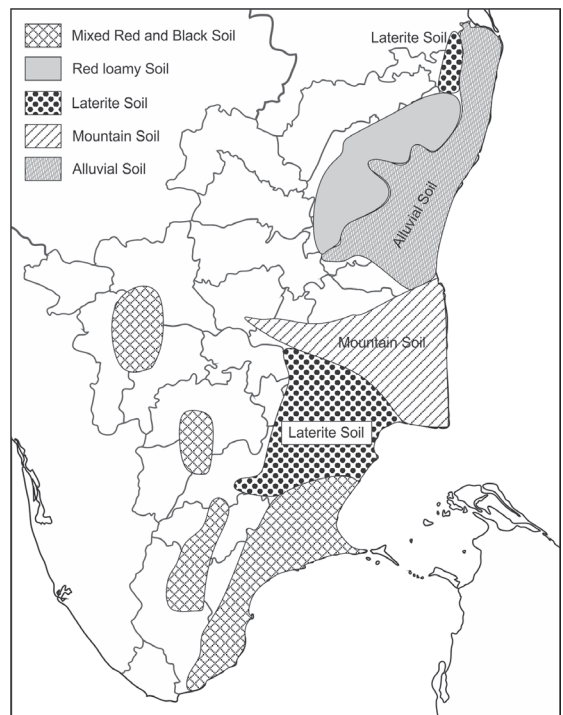
IX. Map Study:

1. Mark important rivers, distribution of soil and forest types on different Tamil Nadu maps.

Important rivers



Distribution of soil



The map illustrates the distribution of five forest types across Tamil Nadu, India. The legend identifies the following forest types and their corresponding patterns:

- Montane Temperate Forest: Represented by a grid of small squares.
- Tropical Evergreen Forest: Represented by a pattern of small dots.
- Mangrove Forest: Represented by a pattern of diagonal lines.
- Tropical Deciduous Forest: Represented by a pattern of horizontal lines.
- Tropical Thorn Forest: Represented by a pattern of vertical lines.

Key geographical features and locations labeled on the map include:

- Districts:** Nilgiri District, Coimbatore District, Virudhunagar, Tirunelveli, Kanyakumari, Palani, Madurai, Dharmapuri, Perambalur, Pichavaram, Vetharanyam, Muthupet, Thoothukudi.
- Hills:** Nilgiri Hills, Palani Hills, Anamalai Hills.

Ans: b) Tamil Nadu

5. **Tamil Nadu has the second longest coastline in India next to _____.**
a) Andhra Pradesh b) Karnataka
c) Odisha d) Gujarat **Ans: d) Gujarat**
6. **The Northern extremity of Tamil Nadu is marked by _____.**
a) Chennai b) Thiruppathi
c) Pulicat lake d) Vellore fort **Ans: c) Pulicat lake**
7. **Tamil Nadu is located on the Peninsular Plateau known as _____ Plateau.**
a) Malwa b) Chota-Nagpur
c) Kashmir d) Deccan **Ans: d) Deccan**
8. **Cardamom Hills are also known as _____.**
a) Palani hills b) Yela Mala hills
c) Anaimalai hills d) Nilgiri hills **Ans: b) Yela Mala hills**
9. **_____ hills feature richest biodiversity in the Western Ghats.**
a) Pothigai b) Palani
c) Anamalai d) Kalvarayan **Ans: a) Pothigai**
10. **Servarayan Hills is a mountain range located near the _____ city.**
a) Salem b) Dharmapuri
c) Erode d) Theni **Ans: a) Salem**
11. **Kolli Hills is a small mountain range located in _____ district.**
a) Tiruchirappalli b) Salem
c) Namakkal d) Coimbatore **Ans: c) Namakkal**
12. **_____, the hill station is known as Poor man's Ooty.**
a) Kodaikanal b) Mettupalayam
c) Yercaud d) Kolli hills **Ans: c) Yercaud**
13. **_____ river separates Coimbatore Plateau from the Mysore plateau.**
a) Cauvery b) Vaigai
c) Palar d) Moyar **Ans: d) Moyar**
14. **_____ is a popular seasonal agricultural fruit product of Pachai malai.**
a) Mango b) Jackfruit
c) Custard apple d) Papaya **Ans: b) Jackfruit**
15. **Coral rocks are found at the head of _____ in the east coastal plain.**
a) Andaman Islands b) Gulf of Mannar
c) Palk Strait d) Sri Lanka **Ans: b) Gulf of Mannar**

16. The river Cauvery originates at _____ in the Brahmagiri hills.
a) Thai Cauvery b) Talacauvery
c) Coorg d) Mettur **Ans: b) Talavcauvery**

17. River Cauvery forms _____ waterfalls in Dharmapuri district.
a) Silver b) Hogenakkal
c) Kutralam d) Tirumurthy **Ans: b) Hogenakkal**

18. Origin of the river Thamirabarani is associated with sage _____.
a) Agasthiyar b) Appar
c) Sundarar d) Vishnu **Ans: a) Agasthiyar**

19. The Western region of Tamil Nadu enjoys the _____ climate.
a) Maritime b) Hot
c) Mountainous d) Moderate **Ans: c) Mountainous**

20. Cyclone originating from _____ bring heavy rainfall to the east coastal regions of Tamil Nadu.
a) Arabian sea b) Bay of Bengal
c) Indian Ocean d) Persian Gulf **Ans: b) Bay of Bengal**

21. Soil is one of the important _____ resources in the world.
a) Renewable b) Non-renewable
c) Mineral d) Cheapest **Ans: b) Non-renewable**

22. The soils in Tamil Nadu are broadly classified into _____ types.
a) Three b) Four
c) Five d) Six **Ans: c) Five**

23. Chinnakallar near Valparai is the _____ wettest place in India.
a) Third b) Fourth
c) Second d) First **Ans: a) Third**

24. _____, near Valparai is the wettest place in Tamil Nadu.
a) Palani b) Coimbatore
c) Chinnakallar d) Ooty **Ans: c) Chinnakallar**

25. _____ is formed by the process of intense leaching.
a) Alluvial soil b) Black soil
c) Laterite soil d) Red soil **Ans: c) Laterite soil**

26. The forest cover of Tamil Nadu as per 2017 Indian Forest Report is
a) 20.21% b) 20.31%
c) 21.20% d) 21.30% **Ans: a) 20.21%**

27. _____ are formed by the deposition of silt by the rivers.

- a) Black soil
- b) Red soil
- c) Alluvial soil
- d) Saline soil

Ans: c) Alluvial soil

28. Pichavaram mangrove forest is located near _____ Cuddalore district.

- a) Velankanni
- b) Chidambaram
- c) Vedaranyam
- d) Puducherry

Ans: b) Chidambaram.

29. Tropical Evergreen forest is found in the regions that receive _____ rainfall.

- a) Moderate
- b) Scanty
- c) Heavy
- d) Low

Ans: c) Heavy

30. _____ is the most common trigger of a Landslide.

- a) Tsunami
- b) Volcano
- c) Water
- d) Fire

Ans: c) Water

31. _____ is the highest peak in the Western Ghats.

- a) Doddabetta
- b) Mukkuruthi
- c) Perumalmalai
- d) Vembadisolai

Ans: a) Doddabetta

II. Fill in the blanks:

1. Tamil Nadu is the _____ largest state in India.

Ans: Eleventh

2. The Nilgiri hills is located in the _____ part of Tamil Nadu.

Ans: North-western

3. _____ and Coonoor are the major hill stations located on the Nilgiri hills.

Ans: Ooty

4. The state animal Nilgiri Tahr is found in the _____.

Ans: Niligiri hills

5. Aliyar and _____ dams are located at the foothills of Anaimalai range.

Ans: Tirumurthy

6. _____ hills are located in the South-western part of Tamil Nadu.

Ans: Cardamom hills

7. The plains of Tamil Nadu may be divided into two namely Inland plains and _____.

Ans: Coastal Plains

8. Plateaus of Tamil Nadu are located between the Western Ghats and _____.

Ans: Eastern Ghats

9. Coastal plains of Tamil Nadu are also called Coromandel or _____ plain.

Ans: Cholamandalam

10. All the rivers of the State of Tamil Nadu are non-perennial except _____.
Ans: Thamirabarani
11. The river Cauvery originates at Talacauvery, _____ district of Karnataka.
Ans: Kodagu
12. The river Cauvery is wider in Karur region where it is called as _____.
Ans: Aganda Cauvery.
13. The delta of Cauvery in the coast is called as the _____.
Ans: Garden of Southern India
14. The annual temperature of Tamil Nadu ranges from _____. **Ans: 18° to 43°**
15. _____ soil is suitable for the cultivation of tea and coffee plants.
Ans: Laterite soil
16. _____ soil is formed by the process of intense leaching. **Ans: Laterite**
17. Natural vegetation refers to the _____ cover. **Ans: Forest**
18. As per the National Forest Policy, a minimum of _____ of the total geographical area must under forest cover.
Ans: One-third
19. _____ helps in the prevention of coastal erosion from waves and storms.
Ans: Mangroves
20. Pichavaram Mangrove forest is the _____ largest mangrove forest in the world.
Ans: Second
21. Vedanthangal Birds Sanctuary is located in _____ district. **Ans: Kancheepuram**
22. Tamil Nadu is depended mostly on _____ monsoon for its rain.
Ans: North-east
23. The state of Tamil Nadu is located in the _____ Earthquake zone.
Ans: Moderately low risk
24. Flood is common one in the coastal districts of Tamil Nadu during _____ monsoon.
Ans: North-east
25. A collapse of a mass of Earth or rock from a mountain of cliff is called _____.
Ans: Landslide
26. Tsunami affected coastal areas of Tamil Nadu in _____. **Ans: 2004.**

III. Match the following:

- | | | |
|---------------|---|-----------------------|
| 1. Coonoor | – | a) Anaimalai |
| 2. Valparai | – | b) Pothigai hills |
| 3. Kodaikanal | – | c) Mahendragiri hills |

- | | | |
|---------------------|---|------------------|
| 4. Southern Kailash | – | d) Nilgiri hills |
| 5. ISRO complex | – | e) Palani hills |

Ans: 1. d, 2. a, 3. e, 4. b, 5. c

- | | | |
|-------------------|---|---------------------|
| 6. Cauvery | – | a) Manimuthar |
| 7. Palar | – | b) Varusanadu hills |
| 8. Then Pennaiyar | – | c) Ponni |
| 9. Vaigai | – | d) Kollidam |
| 10. Thamirabarani | – | e) Pambar |

Ans: 6. d, 7. c, 8. e, 9. b, 10. a

- | | | |
|-----------------------|---|------------------------|
| 11. Stanley Reservoir | – | a) Yercaud |
| 12. Poor man's Ooty | – | b) River Cuvery |
| 13. Blossom showers | – | c) Chennai |
| 14. Silver Beach | – | d) Pre-monsoon showers |
| 15. Elliot Beach | – | e) Kanniyakumar |

Ans: 11. b, 12. a, 13. d, 14. e, 15. c

- | | | |
|-------------------|---|---------------------|
| 16. Black soil | – | a) Coromandel coast |
| 17. Red soil | – | b) Porous and loamy |
| 18. Laterite soil | – | c) Intense leaching |
| 19. Saline soil | – | d) Regur soil |
| 20. Alluvial soil | – | e) Iron oxides |

Ans: 16. d, 17. e, 18. c, 19. a, 20. b

IV. Assertion type question

1. **Assertion (A)** : Red soil is rich in iron oxides

Reason (R) : It is formed by leaching

- Both (A) and (R) are true and (R) explains (A).
- Both (A) and (R) are true but, (R) does not explain (A).
- (A) is true but, (R) is false.
- (R) is true but, (A) is false.

Ans: c) (A) is true but (R) is false.

2. **Assertion (A)** : Tamil Nadu has only 13 districts at the time of its formation. Now, it has more districts.

Reason (R) : The state was reorganised several times for the of administrative convenience.

- Both (A) and (R) are true and (R) explains (A).
- Both (A) and (R) are true but, (R) does not explain (A).
- (A) is true but, (R) is false.
- (R) is true but, (A) is false.

Ans: a) Both (A) and (R) are true and (R) explains (A).

4. **Assertion (A)** : Yela Mala hills are also known as Cardamom Hills.

Reason (R) : The hill acquired its name from the cardamom spice which is grown here.

- a) Both (A) and (R) are true and (R) explains (A).
- b) Both (A) and (R) are true but, (R) does not explain (A).
- c) (A) is true but, (R) is false.
- d) (R) is true but, (A) is false.

Ans: a) Both (A) and (R) are true and (R) explains (A).

5. **Assertion (A)** : Kolli hills is a small mountain range located in Pudukkottai district.

Reason (R) : Tea is a popular seasonal agricultural product of this hills.

- a) Both (A) and (R) are true and (R) explains (A).
- b) Both (A) and (R) are true but, (R) does not explain (A).
- c) Both (A) and (R) are false.
- d) (R) is true but, (A) is false.

Ans: c) Both (A) and (R) are false

6. **Assertion (A)** : Desertification is one of the major problems of Tamil Nadu.

Reason (R) : About 12% of the total geographical area is under desertification.

- a) Both (A) and (R) are true and (R) explains (A).
- b) Both (A) and (R) are true but, (R) does not explain (A).
- c) Both (A) and (R) are false.
- d) (R) is true but, (A) is false.

Ans: b) Both (A) and (R) are true but (R) does not explain (A).

V. Answer the following in brief:

1. Write the importance of Anamalai.

- Anaimalai is located in the border of Tamil Nadu and Kerala.
- It is located to the south of Palghat Gap.
- Anaimalai Tiger Reserve, Aliyar Reserved Forest, Valparai hill station, Kadamparai hydroelectric Power Plant are located on this hills.
- Aliyar and Tirumurthy dams are located at the foothills of this range

2. Write a note on the Inland plains of Tamil Nadu.

- Inland plains of Tamil Nadu are drained by the rivers Palar, Ponnaiyar, Cauvery and Thamirabarani.
- Cauvery plains is one of the most important fertile plains of the state.
- The plain of Cauvery is found in Salem, Erode, Karur, Tiruchirapalli, Pudukkottai, Thanjavur, Tiruvarur and Nagapattinam districts.

3. What are the other names of Pothigai hills? Write its importance.

- Its major part lies in Tirunelveli district with its southern slope in the Kanniyakumari district. Pothigai hills are called with different names such as the Shiva Jothi Parvath, Agasthiyar hills and Southern Kailash.
- This area is known for its rich evergreen forest, waterfalls and ancient temples. Kalakkad Mundanthurai Tiger Reserve is located in this region.

4. Write a note on the soils of Tamil Nadu.

- Soil is the loose material mainly formed by the weathering and erosion of rocks. It forms an important element of agriculture.
- The soil of a place depends on the factor like climate, parent rocks and vegetative cover of the respective places.
- The soils in Tamil Nadu are classified into five types such as alluvial, black, red, laterite and saline soils.

5. What are known as Sholas?

- The Montane Temperate Forest is found in sheltered valleys of Anaimalai, Nilgiris and Palani hills over a 1000 metres altitude.
- The trees in this forest are evergreen and usually short.
- They are known as 'Sholas'.

6. What is the role of Mangroves in Coastal Zone Management?

- Mangrove type of forest is found in the coastal areas, river deltas and tails of island.
- The vegetation of this forest is adapted to survive in tidal mud and salt water.
- It helps in the prevention of coastal erosion from waves and storms.
- It also protects coral reefs and sea grass meadows from being smothered in sediments.

7. Name any four Wildlife Sanctuaries in Tamil Nadu.

S.No	Wildlife Sanctuaries in Tamil Nadu	District
1.	Mudumalai Wildlife Sanctuary	The Nilgiris
2.	Mundanthurai Wildlife Sanctuary	Tirunelveli
3.	Indira Gandhi Wildlife Sanctuary	Coimbatore
4.	Kanniyakumari Wildlife Sanctuary	Kanniyakumari

8. Name any four Bird Sanctuaries in Tamil Nadu.

S.No	Wildlife Sanctuaries in Tamil Nadu.	District
1.	Pulicat Lake Birds Sanctuary	Tiruvallur
2.	Vedanthangal Birds Sanctuary	Kanchipuram
3.	Vettangudi Birds Sanctuary	Sivagangai

4.	Theerthangal Bird Sanctuary	Ramanathapuram
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9. Mention the Biosphere Reserves in Tamil Nadu.

S.No	Biosphere Reserves in Tamil Nadu.
1.	Nilgiri Biosphere Reserve
2.	Gulf of Mannar Biosphere Reserve
3.	Agasthiarmalai Biosphere Reserve

10. What are natural disasters? Give examples.

- A sudden natural catastrophe that causes great damage or loss to lives and properties is called disaster.
- Natural disasters are earthquakes, volcanoes eruptions, landslides, cyclones, droughts and forest fires.

11. Mention some of the methods of water conservation.

Some methods of water conservation are:

- Protection of water from pollution;
- Redistribution of water;
- Rational use of groundwater; population control;
- Renovation of traditional water sources;
- Use of modern irrigation methods; increasing forest cover;
- Changing crop pattern;
- Flood management and
- Use of geothermal water.

VI. Give Reasons for the following:

1. Alluvial soil is fertile.

- Alluvial soils are formed by the deposition of silt by the rivers.
- They are rich in minerals such as lime, potassium, magnesium, nitrogen and phosphoric acid.
- It is porous and loamy. So, Alluvial soils are generally fertile.

2. One of the major ranges of hills in the Eastern Ghats of Tamil Nadu is called Kalvarayan Hills.

- Kalvarayan Hills is another major range of hills in the Eastern Ghats of Tamil Nadu.
- The name 'Kalvarayan' comes from the word 'Karalar', the ancient name of the present tribes.

3. The lowest hill range spreads over the district of Perambalur, Trichirapalli and Salem is called as Pachai Malai.

- In Tamil language, pachai means green. The vegetation in this range is greener than the vegetative cover of the other hills in this region.
- Hence, it is named as 'Pachai malai'.

4. The Weather of Tamil Nadu in January and February is slightly cooler.

- During January and February, the vertical rays of the sun fall between the Tropic of Capricorn and the Equator.
- Tamil Nadu on the whole receives slanting rays from the sun.
- So, the weather is slightly cooler during these months.

5. It is necessary to take intensive care to conserve the soil resources.

- Soil is a non-renewable resource.
- It is very difficult to replace the soil once it gets degraded.
- Soil erosion reduces the fertility of the soils which in turn reduces agricultural productivity.

VII. Answer the following in a paragraph:

1. Name the areas which are affected by landslides. What will you do before, during and after landslides?

A collapse of a mass of earth or rock from a mountain or cliff is called landslide. Water is the most common trigger of a landslide. Nilgiris in Tamil Nadu is identified as one of the most vulnerable districts in the country and landslides pose a major threat in this area. The other regions are Coimbatore and palani hill of Dindigul district.

Risk Reduction Measures:

Before the landslide:

Create awareness; stay alert and awake; monitor the news updates; make evacuation plan; listen for any unusual sounds that might indicate moving debris such as trees cracking, boulders knocking and consider leaving the place of landslide if it is safe to do so.

During the landslide:

i) If indoors:

Find cover in the section of the building that is farthest away from the approaching landslide; take shelter under a strong table or bench. Hold on firmly and stay until all movement has ceased.

ii) If outdoors

Move quickly away from its likely path, keeping clear of embankments, trees, power

lines and poles; avoid crossing roads and bridges and stay away from the landslide because the slope may experience additional failures for hours to days afterwards.

After the landslide:

Stay away from the slide area; listen to local radio or television stations for the latest emergency information; watch for flooding, which may occur after a landslide or debris flow; check for injured and trapped persons near the slide, without entering the direct slide area.

2. Write a paragraph on Forest fire.

Tamil Nadu is a tropical state. The high temperature during summer leads to occasional forest fire in deciduous and thorn forests.

Risk Reduction Measures

Before forest fire:

Create defensible space to separate your home from flammable vegetation and materials (30 feet); follow all local fire and building codes; keep all trees and shrubs trimmed. Use approved fire resistant materials; make evacuation plans with family members which include several options with an outside meeting place.

During forest fire:

Listen to radio; watch television; read newspapers for updates; if adequate water are available fill buckets with water. turn a light on a room in case of smoke; turn off gas and electrical appliances and be ready to evacuate all family members.

After forest fire:

Check with fire officials before attempting to return to your home; use caution when re-entering a burned area - flare ups can occur; check grounds for hot spots and check the roof and exterior areas for sparks and embers



UNIT TEST – 6

Physical Geography of Tamil Nadu

Time : 45 mts.

Marks: 40

I. Choose the correct answer:

6×1=6

1. Which of the following passes is not located in the Western Ghats of Tamil Nadu?

- a) Palghat b) Shencottah c) Bhorghat d) Achankoil

2. The district with largest mangrove forest cover in Tamil Nadu is

- a) Ramanathapuram b) Nagapattinam
c) Cuddalore d) Theni

3. Retreating monsoon wind picks up moisture from

- a) Arabian sea b) Bay of Bengal c) Indian Ocean d) Timor sea

4. The district which has the largest forest cover in Tamil Nadu is

- a) Dharmapuri b) Vellore c) Dindigul d) Erode

5. The Northern extremity of Tamil Nadu is marked by _____.

- a) Chennai b) Thiruppathi c) Pulicat lake d) Vellore fort

6. Tamil Nadu is located on the Peninsular Plateau known as _____ Plateau.

- a) Malwa b) Chota-Nagpur c) Kashmir d) Deccan

II. Fill in the blanks:

4×1=4

7. The plateau which lies between the Nilgiris and Dharmapuri districts in _____.

8. The riverine island of Srirangam is located between _____ and _____.

9. _____ is the Tamil Nadu state animal.

10. Tamil Nadu is depended mostly on _____ monsoon for its rain.

III. Match the following:

5×1=5

- | | | |
|----------------------|---|-----------------------|
| 11. Coonoor | – | a) Anaimalai |
| 12. Valparai | – | b) Pothigai hills |
| 13. Kodaikanal | – | c) Mahendragiri hills |
| 14. Southern Kailash | – | d) Nilgiri hills |
| 15. ISRO complex | – | e) Palani hills |

IV. Answer in brief:

5×2=10

16. State the boundaries of Tamil Nadu

17. Name the major islands of Tamil Nadu.

18. Define : Disaster risk Reduction.
19. What is 'Teri'?
20. Give reason: a) Eastern Ghats are not a continuous range.
b) Cuddalore is a multiprone disaster zone.

V. Answer any one in a paragraph:

1×5=5

21. Write an account on river Cauvery
22. What are the rise reduction measures taken before and after cyclone.

VI. Map work:

10×1=10

23. On the outline map of India, mark the following-
 - i) River Cauvery
 - ii) River Vaigai
 - iii) Agasthiya malai
 - iv) Pamban island
 - v) Mettur dam
 - vi) Mudumalai wildlife Sanctuary
 - viii) Vedanthangal Bird Sanctuary
 - ix) Pulicut Lake
 - x) Point Calimore.

