

**DETAILED SYLLABUS FOR THE POST OF RANGE FOREST OFFICER IN KERALA  
FOREST AND WILDLIFE DEPARTMENT - Direct Recruitment**

**(Cat.No. : 296/2023)**

**(Total Marks- 100)**

**1. Forest Ecology and Biodiversity (7 Marks)**

World forest resources, Forest types of India and Kerala. Basic concepts of ecology and ecosystems, forest community structure, vegetation dynamics — succession, retrogression, pioneer and climax communities. Fauna and flora in forests, animal and plant biodiversity in relation to ecological niches, endemism, rarity of species, conservation of biodiversity.

**2. Silviculture (7 Marks)**

Site factors, reproduction methods, pure and mixed stands, even and uneven aged stands, site quality, stand density indexes, silvicultural characteristics of stands and trees, stand development, biology of stand growth. Regeneration techniques. Sowing vs. planting, forest nurseries. Site preparation. Tending and intermediate cutting. Methods and application of thinning. Silvicultural systems. Silviculture of trees. Plantation forestry in India. Choice of species. Fertilization in plantations. Clonal plantations.

**3. Agroforestry and Social Forestry (7 Marks)**

Tropical deforestation, rising demands of fuelwood, fodder and timber. Classification of agroforestry systems. Agroforestry for wasteland development, woodlots and biofuel plantations. Agroforestry for soil and water conservation. Micro-site enrichment by trees. Adverse effects of trees on soils. Choice of species in agroforestry. Crown and root

architecture, tree management - thinning, lopping, pollarding, pruning. Social forestry. Multipurpose trees. Agroforestry and social forestry for climate change mitigation and adaptation. Phytoremediation.

#### **4. Forest Hydrology and Watershed Management (7 Marks)**

Hydrological cycle. Energy and water balance equations. Hydrological processes. Paired watersheds. Surface water, run off and hydrograph. Soil water energy concept, movement, availability. Watershed management. Water harvesting. Forest treatment and water yield.

#### **5. Tree Seed Technology (6 Marks)**

Seed production areas. Seed collection. Fruit and seed handling, Seed processing. Seed storage, Harrington's rule of thumb. Seed dormancy. Treatments for breaking dormancy. Seed dressing and pelleting. Seed testing, viability tests. Deterioration of seeds. Concept of seed vigour. Cryopreservation - genetic conservation. Seed Act and seed law enforcement.

#### **6. Forest Mensuration, Inventory and Yield Prediction(6 Marks)**

Diameter, girth, height, and basal area measurements. Volume measurements of standing trees, logs, branchwood. Volume tables. Determination of growth of trees. Increment - CAI and MAI. Stump and stem analysis. Tree stem form - Metzgr' s theory. Forest Inventory. Point sampling. Growth and yield prediction, crown competition factor, yield tables.

#### **7. Forest Management, Policy and Legislation(6 Marks)**

Principles of forest management. Sustained yield principle and its limitations. Rotation - factors influencing length of rotations. Normal forest, regular and irregular forests. Working plans. Joint forest management. Forest policies in India, Forest Laws and Acts, The Wildlife (Protection) Act 1972, Forest (Conservation) Act 1980, Environment (Protection)

Act

1986. International Treaties like CITES, CBD, RAMSAR. The Biological Diversity Act, 2002.

### **8. Forest Protection (6 Marks)**

Injury to forest due to fires, causes and character of forest fires, fire prevention, fire suppression and fire control policy and objectives.

Injury to

forests due to man, lopping, cutting for fuelwood, encroachment, illegal

felling. Forest weeds and weed management, management of woody climbers, parasites and epiphytes.

### **9. Forest Entomology and Nematology (6 Marks)**

Pest problems in forest nurseries. Biology and control of important insect

pests of economically important tree crops. Insect vectors of tree diseases.

Risk in the use of pesticides in forest ecosystems. Newer methods of control,

pheromones, antifeedants, hormone mimics, chitin inhibitors and biocontrol

agents. Integrated pest management. Insect pests of felled trees and storage

yards and their control. Termite problems. Forest nematology - nematode

management.

### **10. Forest Pathology (6 Marks)**

Losses due to forest tree diseases - root, stem and foliar diseases of major

species - etiology, symptoms, mode of spread, epidemiology and management (chemical, biological, cultural and silvicultural practices).

Nursery diseases. Timber decay and its management. Beneficial fungi

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Mycorrhizal association of forest trees - edible mushrooms.

## **11. Remote Sensing and GIS in Forestry (6 Marks)**

Aerial and space remote sensing; Aerial photographs, Photointerpretation; Satellite remote sensing, Indian Remote Sensing Programme; Visual and digital image processing - vegetation mapping using satellite imagery; Forest cover monitoring and damage assessment; GIS and conventional cartography. Spatial and non-spatial data.

## **12. Logging and Utilization of Timber (6 Marks)**

Logging in India and other countries, felling and conversion - implements used. Season and method of felling. Safety measures in logging. Reduced impact logging. Converted wood. Transportation of timber and firewood. Extraction methods. Girdling. Modern methods of harvesting and transportation. Marketing and sales. Storage, management of depots. Non wood forest produces.

## **13. Ecotourism and Urban Forestry (6 Marks)**

Ecotourism potentials of Kerala — management of eco-parks and ecotourists. Economics of ecotourism. Forest recreation. Principles and practices of landscaping - landscape ecology. Urban forestry, Management of urban forest. Arboriculture.

## **14. Tree Breeding (6 Marks)**

Tree breeding. Quantitative inheritance. Hardy-Weinberg law - genetic drift. Methods of breeding - heterosis breeding in trees. Types of genetic interactions - additive and dominance theories. Provenance testing and ecogeographic surveys. Plus tree identification - establishment of seed orchards. Clonal propagation - second generation seed orchard.

## **15. Wood Science and Technology (6 Marks)**

Formation of wood - sapwood and heartwood, hardwood and softwood. Physical and mechanical properties of wood. Chemistry of wood. Seasoning. Defects in timber Uses of wood. Primary conversion - sawing, veneering and chipping. Composite wood. Improved wood. Pulp and paper manufacturing. Wood bio-deterioration. Wood preservation. Fire retardant chemicals.

## **16. Wildlife Sciences (6 Marks)**

Animals in relation to man - free living, captive, domesticated and feral animals. Habitat use concept. Role of wildlife management in conservation. Wildlife management techniques. Wildlife census. Wildlife damage control - capture, telemetry. Healthcare. Utilizational categorization of captive wildlife - taming and training of captive wildlife. Central Zoo Authority. Utilization of captive wildlife. Management of zoological gardens, deer parks and safari parks.

***NOTE: - It may be noted that apart from the topics detailed above, questions from other topics prescribed for the educational qualification of the post may also appear in the question paper. There is no undertaking that all the topics above may be covered in the question paper***