

2/11/2024

Ch-5

Date _____
Page _____

Types of Vegetation

In India, the following major types of vegetation are found

- * Tropical Evergreen Forests
- * Tropical Deciduous Forests
- * Tropical Thorn Forests and Scrubs
- * Montane Forests
- * Mangrove Forests.

Montane Forests

- Montane forests are the forests which are found in the mountains.
- The wet temperate type of forests are found between a height of ~~1000~~ 1000 and 2000 m
- At high altitudes, generally, mo4

than 3600 m above the sea level temperate forests and grasslands give way to the Alpine vegetation.

- Alpine grasslands are used for grazing
- At higher altitude, mosses and lichens form part of tundra vegetation.
- The common animals found are Kashmir stag, spotted deer, wild sheep, jack, rabbit, Tibetan antelope, yak, snow leopard, squirrels, shaggy horn wild bear, bear and rare red panda, sheep and goats.

Mangrove Forests

- Mangroves are trees that line along tropical coastlines, rooted in salty sediments, often underwater.
- The Mangrove tidal forest are found in the areas of coasts influenced by tides. Mud and silt get accumulated on such coasts.
- Dense mangroves are the common varieties with roots of the plants submerged underwater.
- Sundari trees are found in Cranga - Brahmaputra delta and provide hard timber.
- Royal Bengal Tiger is a famous animal in these forests.

15/04/2021

Wildlife

- India is rich in its fauna.
- Elephants are found in the wet forest of Assam, Karnataka and Kerala.
- One-horned rhinoceroses are found in Assam and West Bengal.
- Rann of Kachchh is the habitat for wild ass whereas the Thar Desert is the habitat for camels.
- The natural habitat of the Indian lion is Gir forest in Gujarat.
- Tigers are found in the forests of Madhya Pradesh, the Sunderbans of West Bengal and the Himalayan region.
- Ladakh's freezing high altitude are home to yak, the shaggy horned wild ox, the Tibetan antelope, the ibex, wild sheep, and kiang.

- In the rivers, lakes and coastal area turtles, crocodiles and gharials are found.
- Peacocks, pheasant, dus etc are some of ^{birds}

Cause of Major Threats to flora and fauna

• Every species has an important role in the ecosystem. Hence conservation of ~~flora~~ and fauna is essential. About 1,300 plant species are endangered and 20 species are extinct. The main causes of this major threat to nature are:

- Hunting for commercial purposes
- Pollution due to chemical and industrial waste
- Rapidly cutting of the forests for cultivation and habitation.

Tropical Evergreen Forests

These forests are present in the Western Ghats and the island groups of Lakshadweep, Andaman and Nicobar, upper part of Assam and Tamil Nadu coast.

- These forests grow best in areas having rainfall more than 200cm with a short dry season.
- The trees reach great height up to 60 m or even above.
- It has the vegetation of all kinds trees, shrubs and creepers giving it a multilayered structure.
- These forests appear green all the year-round.
- Important trees of this forest are ebony, mango, rosewood, rubber and cinchona.
- Common animals found in these forests are elephant, monkey, lemur and deer.

Tropical Deciduous Forests

These forests are also called the monsoon forests.

- They are spread over the region having rainfall between 200 cm and 700 cm.
- They shed their leaves about 6 to 8 weeks in the dry summer.
- In these forests, the common animals found are lion, tiger, pig, deer and elephants.

These forests are further divide into:

- Moist deciduous

They are found in areas having rainfall between 200 and 1000 cm. Teak is the most dominant species of this forest. Bamboos, sal, Shishora, Sandalwood, khair, kusum, arjun and mulberry are other commercially imp species.

• Dry Deciduous

These are found in areas having rainfall between 100 cm and 70 cm. There are open stretches in which teak, sal, sheesham and neem grow.

The Thorn Forests and Scrubs

The natural vegetation consists of thorny trees and bushes. This type of vegetation is found in the north western part of the country, including semi arid areas of Gujarat Rajasthan, Madhya Pradesh, Chhattisgarh, Uttar Pradesh and Haryana.

• Trees are scattered and have long roots penetrating deep into the soil to get moisture. The stems are woody to conserve water.

- leaves are mostly thick and ~~so~~ small to minimize evaporation.
- Acacias, palms, euphorbias and cacti are the main plant species.
- Common animals are rats, mice, rabbits, fox, wolf, tiger, lion, wild ass, horses and camels.

Govt Initiative to Protect Flora and Fauna.

The govt has taken many steps to protect the flora and fauna of our country.

- 18 biosphere reserves have been set up in India to protect flora and fauna. 10 out of these have been included in the world network of biosphere reserves.
- Financial and technical assistance

has been provided to many botanical gardens by the govt since 1990. Project Tiger, Project Rhino, Project Elephant, Indian Bustard and many other eco-developmental projects have been introduced by the govt.

- 103 National parks, 535 Wildlife Sanctuaries and Zoological gardens are set up to take care of natural heritage.