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# NATURAL VEGETATION AND

# WILDLIFE

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Page 8

## Natural Vegetation and Relief features:-

- ⇒ Natural Vegetation refers to a plant community, which has grown naturally without human aid and has been left undisturbed by humans for a long time. This is termed as virgin vegetation.
- ⇒ The term 'flora' is used to denote plants of a particular region or period. The species of animals are referred to as fauna.

## Relief Features:-

- ⇒ Land affects natural vegetation directly and indirectly.
- ⇒ The fertile level is generally devoted to agriculture.
- ⇒ The undulating and rough terrains are areas where grassland and woodlands develop and give shelter to a variety of wildlife.

## Soil :-

- ⇒ Different types of soils provide a basis for different types of vegetation.
- ⇒ The sandy soils of the desert support cactus and thorny bushes, while wet, marshy, deltaic soils support mangroves and deltaic vegetation.
- ⇒ The soil at the hill slopes has conical trees.

## CLIMATE

### Temperature :-

The character and extent of vegetation are mainly determined by temperature along with humidity in the air, precipitation & soil.

The fall in the temperature affects the vegetation and growth.

PHOTO PERIOD :-

The variation in the duration of sunlight at different places is due to difference in latitude, altitude, season and duration of the day. Due to the longer duration of sunlight trees grow faster in summer.

Precipitation:-

Areas of heavy rainfall have more dense vegetation as compared to areas of less rainfall.

Types of Vegetation:-

- Tropical Evergreen Forests -
- Tropical Deciduous forests -
- Tropical Thorn forests & scrubs -
- Montane Forests -
- Mangrove forests -

## TROPICAL EVERGREEN FORESTS :-

- ⇒ These forests are present in the western Ghats and the island groups of Lakshadweep, Andaman & Nicobar, upper parts of Assam & Tamil Nadu coast.
- ⇒ These forests grow best in areas having rainfall more than 200 cm with a short dry season.
- ⇒ The trees reach great heights up to 60 metres or even above.
- ⇒ It has the vegetation of all kinds i.e. trees, shrubs and creepers giving it a multilayered structure.
- ⇒ These forests appear green all the year round.
- ⇒ Important trees of this forest are ebony, Mahogany, rosewood, rubber and cinchona.
- ⇒ Common animals found in these forests are elephant, monkey, tiger and deer.

## TROPICAL DECIDUOUS FOREST :-

- ⇒ These forests are also called the monsoon forests.
- ⇒ They are spread over the region having rainfall between 200 cm & 70 cm.
- ⇒ They shed their leaves about 6-8 weeks in the dry summer.
- ⇒ In these forests, the common animals found are lion, tiger, pig, deer and elephant.

These forests are further divided into two :-

### MOIST DECIDUOUS :-

- ⇒ These are found in areas having rainfall between 200 and 100 cm. Teak is the most dominant species of this forest. Bamboos, sal, shisham, sandalwood, khair, kusum, Argum and Mulberry are other commercially important species.

DRY DECIDUOUS:-

These are found in areas having rainfall between 100 cm & 70 cm. There are open stretches, in which ~~to~~ teak, sal, peepal & neem grow.

TROPICAL THORN AND SCRUBS

9-11-21

Characteristics:-

- i) The amount of precipitation is 70 cm annually.
- ii) The trees are scattered and have long rooted roots which taps the water ~~to~~ from the deeprooted underground.
- iii) The leaves of the trees are very minimised and small which keeps the moisture within in as a result, the transpiration process is minimised.
- iv) These types of forests are found in arid areas of Rajasthan, Gujarat, Madhya Pradesh, Chhattisgarh, Karnataka, and some parts of Uttar Pradesh.
- v) Acacia, cactus, & ~~xxxxx~~ euphorbias etc. trees.

vi) fox, rat, mice, snakes, lizards, camels, lion, tiger → wildlife

### MONTANE FOREST :-

- i) These forests are found in the high altitude areas.
- ii) These areas <sup>temperature</sup> are wet & dry, according to the seasons.  
ex - In summer,  $25^{\circ}\text{C}$ .  
In winter,  $-10^{\circ}\text{C}$ .
- iii) These forests are covered with Alpine vegetation and few areas are covered with grasslands. (Specifically the valley areas)
- iv) The nomads like Gujjars, they travel across their grasslands for their daily dwellings.
- v) Few areas ~~under~~ are covered under Tundra Vegetation.
- vi) The dominated areas are southern part of Himalayas & Southern part of North East India.

vii) Yak, Wildsheep, Antelope, red panda etc.

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Q1) What do you mean by multilayering vegetation?

Q2) What is the dominant species in moist deciduous forest?

Q3) Where do the temperate forests are found in India?

ANSWERS:

Q1) Layering is a technique of plant propagation where the new plant remains at least partially attached to the mother plant while forming new roots and can occur naturally through modified stem structures.

Q2) Teak is the most dominant species in moist deciduous.

Q3) Temperate forests are mainly found in the regions of high altitudes and in

maximum rainfall areas. They are found in North & North Eastern states of India.

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Q1) What will happen if plants and animals disappear from the Earth's surface?

ans:- If the plants and animals disappear from the Earth's surface,

\* The food chain will disrupt.

\* Due to absence of oxygen ~~and~~ from plants and commodities from animals, no humans can live.

Q2) Can the human beings survive under such circumstances?

No, because, they will not get food to eat and no oxygen to survive.

Yes, human can!

Q3) Why is biodiversity necessary and why should it be conserved?

Biodiversity refers to the plants and animals kept away from human disturbance. It should be conserved because if we don't keep saving them, then plant species and animal species will get extinct.

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### MANGROVE FOREST :-

11.11.21

- ⇒ These forests are also known as Tidal forests.
- ⇒ These forests are very dense which have deep rooted roots under the submerged ocean water.
- ⇒ These forests are mostly located near to deltaic region.
  - For ex → Ganga, Brahmaputra, Delta.
  - Kaveri Delta.
  - Mahanadi Delta. (Bhitarkanika)
- ⇒ These trees are hard wood which is used for timber.

⇒ The ~~Sunderban~~ Sundari trees are named after Sunderban Delta which are located near Brahmaputra Delta.

⇒ Species of animals:- Royal Bengal Tiger, Rhinoceros, crocodiles, turtles, Snakes.

Vegetation Zone	Mean annual Avg. Temp	Mean Temp in January	Remarks:-
Tropical	Above 24°C	Above 19°C	No frost
Sub Tropical	17°C - 24°C	10°C - 18°C	Frost is rare.
Temperate	7°C - 17°C	-1°C - (-10)°C	Frost some snow
Alpine	Below 7°C	Below -1°C	Snow.

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WILDLIFE

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→ Governmental steps for protecting flora and fauna:-

→ In 1972, the first wildlife protection Act was implemented.

→ There are 103 national parks, 535 wildlife sanctuaries and 18 biosphere reserves in India.

→ The famous biosphere reserves are: Nanda Devi, Sundarban, Gulf of Mannar, Nilgiri hills, Simlipal, Manas, ~~and~~ Great Nicobar, Amarkantak, Pachmarhi, are the few examples of India's biosphere reserve.

### MEDICINAL PLANTS :-

→ In the world Tourism, India is ~~also~~ known for Ayurvedic Treatment, ~~it~~ it has medicinal plants like Neem, Tulsi, Jamun, Babool, Arjun, Sarpagandha, Kachnar are the famous commonly used medicinal plants, which are found in different regions in India.

18.11.21

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### DISTRIBUTION OF WILDLIFE IN INDIA

- The one horned rhinos are found in swampy and marshy areas of Assam.
- The elephants are found in the hot wet areas of Assam, Karnataka and Kerala.
- The Wild Ass and camel are found in

arid areas of Rann of Kutch & Thar desert respectively.

→ The Gir National Park is famous for Asiatic the world's Asiatic Lion as a remaining Habitat.

→ The tigers, ~~at Gir~~ are found in Corbett national park, however the White tigers are the species which are the remaining habitats of Sundarbans (West Bengal).

→ yak, shaggy horned, wild, ~~don~~, Antelope, Blue sheep, wild sheep are the major wildlife which are distributed at the higher altitudes of Himalayas.

→ Turtle, crocodiles and Gharials are the major species of wildlife which are distributed across the Deltaic region.