

CHAPTER -5 NATURAL VEGETATION AND WILDLIFE

GEOGRAPHY

Chapter 5 Natural Vegetation and Wildlife

Q1. What factors are responsible for the distribution of plants and animals in India?

Ans. The factors responsible for distribution of plants and animals in India are-

- **Climate-** India's climate is of monsoon type. The distribution of rainfall is different in various regions. So, with varying amount of rainfall there are various types of vegetation all over the country.
- **Soil-**Soil determined the type of plants over a region. The types of plants found further determines the animals. The soil type is different in various areas due to physical features like mountains, plateau, coastal area, island and desert .
- **Precipitation -** The amount of rainfall determines the type of vegetation. In India rainfall amount varies place to place.
- **Photoperiod(sunlight) :** The variation in duration of sunlight too affects the growth of vegetation because due to longer duration of sunlight, trees grow faster in summer.

Q2. What is a bio-reserve? Give two examples.

Ans.

- Biosphere reserves are multipurpose protected areas, where every plant and animal species are protected in its natural habitat.
- E.g.- Sundarbans in the West Bengal and Nanda Devi in Uttaranchal.

Q3. Name two animals having habitat in tropical and montane type of vegetation.

Ans.

- Tropical Deciduous Forests: Lion and Tiger
- Montane Forests: Kashmir stag and spotted deer

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Q4. Distinguish between :

Ans.

a) Flora and Fauna

	Flora	Fauna
(a)	The term flora is used to denote plants of a particular region or period.	The species of animals are referred to as fauna.
(b)	They make their food by photosynthesis.	They cannot make their own food and herbivore animals are dependent on flora for food.

b) Evergreen Forests and Tropical Deciduous Forests

	Tropical Evergreen Forest	Tropical Deciduous Forest
(a)	They grow in areas of heavy rainfall 200 cm and above.	They grow in areas receiving rainfall between 200 cm and 70 cm.
(b)	There is no definite time for trees to shed their leaves.	The trees shed their leaves for about 6 to 8 weeks in the dry summer.
(c)	Ebony, mahogany, rosewood, rubber and cinchona are the important trees of these forests.	Teak, Bamboo, Sal, Shisham, Sandalwood, Arjun, Peepal and Neem are the important trees of these forests.
(d)	Common animals found in these forests are elephants, monkeys, lemur, deer and the one horned rhinoceros.	Common animals found in these forests are lion tiger, deer and elephant.
(e)	The trees reach great heights up to 60 meters or even above.	A large part is cleared for cultivation and some parts used for grazing.
(f)	These forests are found in areas of the Western Ghats and the island group of Lakshadweep, Andaman and Nicobar, upper parts of Assam and the Tamil Nadu coast.	These forests are found mostly in eastern part of India, north eastern states along the foothills, the Himalayas, Jharkhand, Orissa, Chhattisgarh, on the western slopes of Western Ghats, Madhya Pradesh Bihar and Uttar Pradesh.

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Q5. Name different types of vegetation found in India and describe the vegetation of high altitudes.

Ans.

The different types of vegetation are as follows:

- a) Tropical Evergreen Forest
- b) Tropical Deciduous Forest
- c) Tropical Thorn Forest and Scrubs
- d) Montane Forest
- e) Mangrove Forest

Vegetation of high altitudes (Montane forest)

- In mountainous areas, the decrease in temperature with increasing altitude leads to a corresponding change in natural vegetation.
- The wet temperate type of forests are found between a height of 1000 and 2000 metres, where evergreen broad leaf trees such as oaks and chestnuts predominate.
- Temperate forests containing coniferous trees like pine, deodar, silver fir, spruce and cedar are found between 1500 and 3000 metres.
- These forests cover mostly the southern slopes of the Himalayas, places having high altitudes in southern and north east India.
- Temperate grasslands are common at higher elevations.
- At high altitudes, generally more than 3,600 metres above sea level, alpine vegetation is found. Silver fir, jumpers, pines and birches are the common trees of these forests.

Q6. Quite a few species of plants and animals are endangered in India. Why?

Ans.

- Many plants and animals in India are endangered because of the greediness of human beings for their commercial value.
- Humans are hunting animals for their skins, horns and hooves which are in demand and give a lot of profit.
- Deforestation on a wide scale destroys the habitat of animals and also leads to decline of the different species of trees and plants. Ecological balance is disturbed due to deforestation, which is harmful for both flora and fauna.

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Q7. Why has India a rich heritage of flora and fauna?

Ans. India has rich heritage of flora and fauna because of the following factors:

- It has a very large geographical area which includes the mountains, the Northern plains, plateaus and also islands.
- India has a varied climate from very dry to monsoon type and temperature ranges from very hot to cold and very cold, which is suitable for different kinds of flora and fauna.
- India has different types of soil like alluvial soil, red soil and black soil suitable for different plant types.
- India is blessed with perennial rivers which sustain aquatic life apart from supporting different kinds of flora and fauna.
- The mountains and plains are capable of supporting and sustaining different kinds of plants and trees and provide an environment and habitat for various kinds of animal species

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