

Class: 8th

Date: 18.11.2024

Subject: Geography

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Chapter: 9
(India: Climate, Flora and Fauna)

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→ Forest Resources of India — Flora

★ Introduction:

The flora of India is one of the richest in the world due to a wide range of climatic conditions, topography and environment in the country.

- There are over 10,000 species of flowering plants in India which account for 6% of the total species in the world.
- Total Forest cover of the country = 21.53%.

India: Types of Natural Vegetation

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(A) Forest Based on variation in Rainfall

- (i) Tropical Evergreen
- (ii) Deciduous monsoon
- (iii) Desert vegetation or Thorny forest

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(B) Forest Based on variation in Relief

- (i) Mountain
- (ii) Mangrove or tidal or littoral

(1) Tropical Evergreen Forest:-

- Climate: 25°C to 27°C
- Rainfall: 200 - 300 cm
- Forest and Trees: Dense, thick undergrowth, Tall trees in layers broad leaves, hardwood, bamboo, ferns.
- Species and Uses: Rosewood, Ebony and Shisham used for making furniture, Railway sleepers.
- Distribution: Western Ghats, Garo, Khasi, Jaintia Hills, Andaman & Nicobar Islands, Tamil Nadu, Maharashtra.

(2) Tropical Deciduous Forest:

- Climate: 20°C
- Rainfall: 150 - 200 cm
- Forest and Trees: Dense, shed leaves for 6-8 weeks in summer during condition of drought
- Species and Uses: Sal, Teak, Satalwood, Myrobalan used for furniture, Railway sleepers, shipbuilding, perfumes & handicrafts.
- Distribution: Shivalik, N.E Deccan Plateau, U.P., A.P., Telangana.

(3) Desert Forest:

- Climate: 20°C Above
- Rainfall: 25 - 100 cm

- Forest and Trees: 20°C Above Trees are widely scattered within the forest, long roots, glossy leaves & spines.
- species and uses: Khajuri, Khair, Babool
gum for tanning leather, edible, dye.
- Distribution: N.W India, Rain shadow region.

(4) Tidal Forests:

- Temperature: over 20°C
- Rainfall: over 200 cm
- Forest and Trees: Dense forests, have silts roots
- species and uses: Sundari is hardwood is used for boats, boxes and telephone posts.
- Distribution: Found in areas flooded by sea water eg - delta
- Bhatnagarputra, Mahanadi, Krishna.

(5) Mountain Forest:

- Temperature: less than 20°C
- Rainfall: 150 - 200 cm
- Forest and Trees: Sal, chipine, conifers, pine, fir, cedar.
- species and uses: Softwood of conifers used for making paper, matches, planks.
- Distribution:
 - Eastern Himalaya
 - Kumaon Hill
 - Jammu & Kashmir, U.P. H.P.