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Ch8-India-Vegetation and Wildlife

Tropical Rain Forests

These occur in regions of very heavy rainfall (more than 200 cms). The forests are very dense. Different trees shed their leaves at different times of the year in these forests.

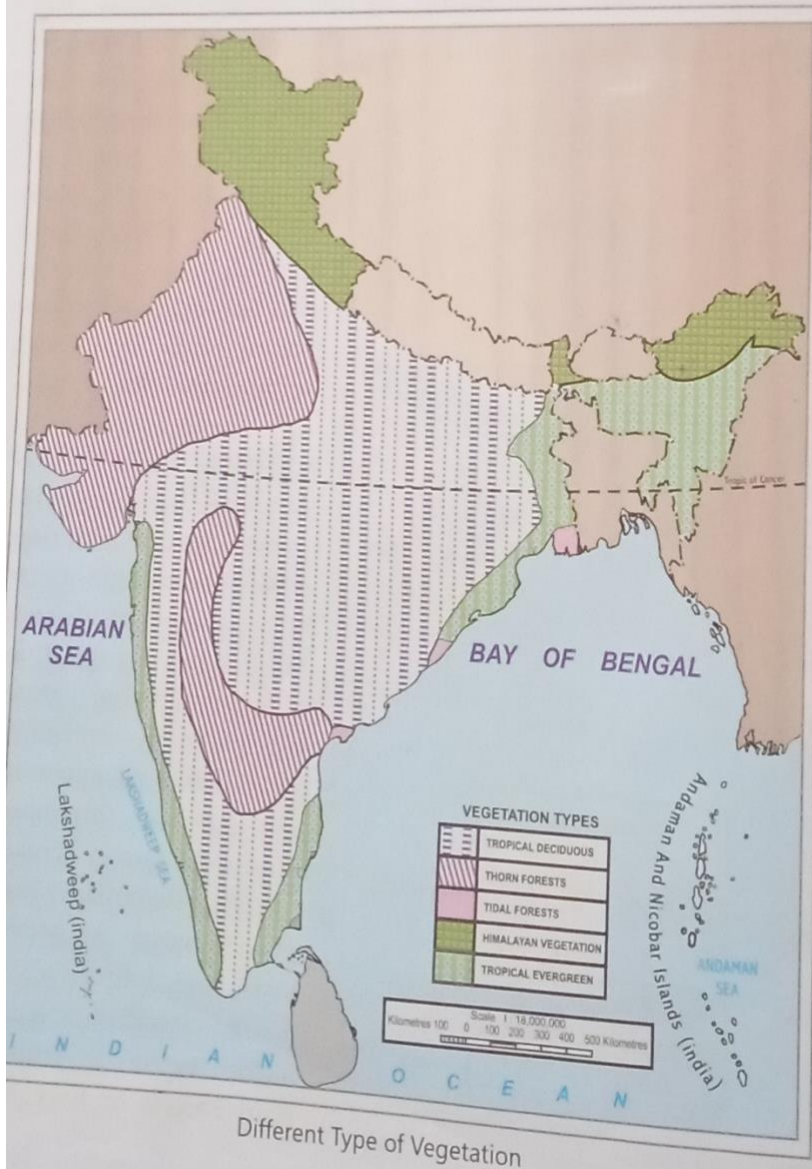
Evergreen Forests

As a result they remain green throughout the year and are called 'evergreen forests'.

Mahogany, ebony, wild rubber and rosewood are important trees which are found mainly in the Andaman and Nicobar islands and in parts of the North-Eastern states, Western Ghats and Western Coastal Plains.

Tropical Deciduous Forests

Found over most parts of India, these Tropical Deciduous Forests are also called 'Monsoon Forests'. These occur in areas where rainfall is between 100 cm and 200 cm. These are less dense and they shed their leaves at a particular time of the year. In India, they shed their leaves in the beginning of the summer season. Important trees are sal, teak, peepal, neem, sandalwood and sheesham. They are of



great commercial importance and are found in Madhya Pradesh, Uttar Pradesh, Bihar, Jharkhand, Chhattisgarh, Orissa and parts of Maharashtra.



Tropical Deciduous Forests

Thorny Forests

These forests are found in arid and dry areas where rainfall is less than 50 cms. The plants



Thorny Forests

here are short and have thorny or waxy leaves which reduce the loss of water. Cactus, Khair, Babool and Kikar are the most commonly found trees. These forests are restricted to Rajasthan, Punjab, Haryana, Eastern slopes of Western Ghats and Gujarat.

Mountain Forests

The vegetation cover in the mountains varies according to height. In the Himalayas, it

ranges from Tropical Deciduous Forests, Coniferous forests to Alpine grasslands. Between 1,500 metres and 2,500 metres, most of the trees are conical in shape. Above the



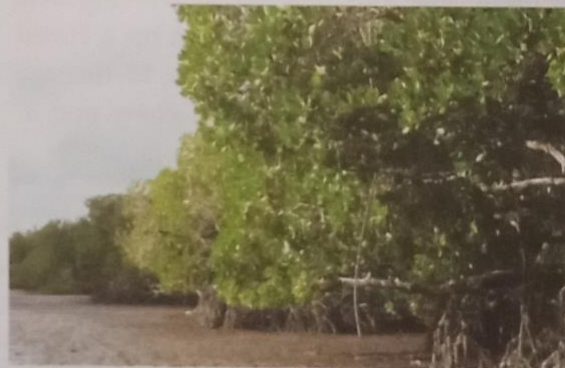
Mountain Forests

height of 3000 metres, the trees give way to Alpine shrubs and grasses.

Mangrove Forests

These are also known as Tidal Forests and are found in the swampy areas of the deltas of major Indian rivers. The most extensive tidal forest is in the Ganga-Brahmaputra delta which is called 'Sunderbans' mainly because of the Sundari trees which are found here.

The wood of these trees is durable and is used for making boats etc. These forests are also found in the Andaman and Nicobar Islands.



Mangrove Forests

IMPORTANCE OF FORESTS

The forests are extremely important for our survival. Plants and trees absorb carbon-dioxide and release oxygen. At least one-third of the land surface should be covered with forests in order to maintain an ecological balance.

Roots of trees bind the soil together and prevent soil erosion. They control floods, provide useful things like wood, fruits, oils, dyes, gum, paper pulp and medicines. Forests act as a natural habitat for wildlife.

Key Question 3

How are the forests useful to us?

Conservation of Forests

It is the effort made by man to protect the forest. They are a country's natural wealth and must be conserved. We should not only check deforestation but also promote afforestation by organising Van Mahotsava involving local people. The government has set up a Forest Research Institute at Dehradun to manage and protect India's vast forest cover and to train people to take care of forests.

Insight

In India, we have trees which have great medicinal value. Important among them are Neem, Peepal, Babool, Jamun and Sarpagandha.



Wildlife in India

WILDLIFE

Forests are the home to a variety of animals which includes birds, reptiles, amphibians, mammals and insects too. In fact, India is called a gigantic zoo because of its rich biodiversity.

The Sunderbans are a home of the **Royal Bengal Tigers**. They are also found in the foothills of the Himalayas. It is our **national animal**. The snow leopard is found in the high altitudes of the Himalayas.

The famous Gir forests of Gujarat are a home for the Asiatic lions. Elephants are found in Assam, Kerala and Karnataka. The one-horned rhinoceros is found in Assam. Besides these, camels, bears, deer, monkeys,

wolves, jackals, leopards etc. are also found here. India also has a variety of birds like parrots, pigeons, mynahs, bulbuls, ducks etc. The peacock is our national bird.

Key Question 4

Why is India known as gigantic zoo?

A variety of reptiles, snakes and crocodiles are also found here. But the number of these animals and birds is decreasing due to deforestation and hunting on a large scale. These animals and birds must be protected.

CONSERVATION AND PROTECTION OF WILDLIFE

The government has set up several National Parks and Wildlife Sanctuaries to protect and preserve these animals. But the efforts are not sufficient. Each Indian has to contribute in this effort. We all must refuse to buy things made from any part of the animal body. We should put a check on hunting and poaching. We must join hands with the government in observing the first week of October as the *Wildlife Week* and create awareness about the importance and need to conserve our forests and wildlife.

IV Long Answer Questions

1. Write about the various types of forests found in India.
2. How can we protect the wildlife of India?
3. Write about the monsoons prevailing in India.
4. Forests of India are a home to a variety of animals. Explain?
5. What steps are being taken to conserve the wildlife in India?
6. What are the uses of forests?
7. What role do the Himalayas play in shaping the climate and vegetation of India? (HOTS)

V. Give reasons:

1. The northern half of India is in the sub-tropical zone and the southern-half is in the tropical zone?
2. Why do some places in India remain cold and pleasant even during the scorching heat of the summer season?
3. Why do the plants and trees growing in the desert areas have thorns?

4. The rainy season begins in India in the month of
 (a) June (b) July (c) August (d) September
5. A tree of the thorny forest
 (a) babool (b) ebony (c) sal (d) peepal

B. Match the following:

Column A	Column B
1. Loo	(a) Hot dry wind
2. Mountain forests	(b) Evergreen forests
3. Thorny forests	(c) Rajasthan
4. Tropical rainforests	(d) Mangrove forests
5. Tidal forests	(e) Alpine shrubs

C. State whether the following statements are True or False:

1. The Forest Research Institute is located in New Delhi.
2. Coniferous forests are a type of mountain forests.
3. The One-horned rhinoceros is found in Karnataka.
4. The Season of Retreating Monsoons lasts from October to November.
5. Tropical rainforests remain green throughout the year.

II Very Short Answer Questions

1. Name the places in India where thorny forests are found.
2. The wood of which tree is used for making boats?
3. Why is India known as 'A Gigantic Zoo'?
4. Write the factors that determine the climate of any place.
5. Which winds bring rain to the major parts of India?
6. Why are the evergreen forests located only in certain parts of India?

(HOT)

III Short Answer Questions

1. Name the major factors which influence the climate of India.
2. What is deforestation?
3. What are the different types of forests found in India?
4. What are the Sunderbans?
5. Name the different seasons experienced in India.
6. Write two major differences between Tropical Rain Forests and Tropical Deciduous Forest.
7. Why is India's climate referred to as the Tropical Monsoon Climate?

(HOT)