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Ch: NATURAL VEGETATION AND WILDLIFE. (Notes)

Types of Vegetation

In India, the following major types of vegetation are found:

1. Tropical Evergreen Forests
2. Tropical Deciduous Forests
3. Tropical Thorn Forests and Scrubs
4. Montane Forests
5. Mangrove Forests

Let's study them in detail.

Tropical Evergreen Forests

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

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

Tropical Deciduous Forests

These forests are also called the **monsoon forests**.

1. They are spread over the region having rainfall between 200 cm and 70 cm.
2. They shed their leaves about 6 to 8 weeks in the dry summer.

3. In these forests, the common animals found are lion, tiger, pig, deer and elephant.

These forests are further divided into:

- **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, arjun and mulberry are other commercially important species.
- **Dry deciduous:** These are found in areas having rainfall between 100 cm and 70 cm. There are open stretches, in which teak, sal, peepal and neem grow.

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