

NTSE

NCERT Solutions for Class 9 Social Science
GEOGRAPHY – Natural Vegetation and Wildlife



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1. What is meant by natural vegetation or virgin vegetation?

Ans. 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**. Thus, cultivated crops and fruits, orchards form part of vegetation but not natural vegetation.

2. What are endangered species? Give two examples.

Ans. Animals that are at the verge of extinction are called endangered species. Rhinoceros, Indian bustard and tigers are some examples of endangered species of animals.

3. Define Biosphere Reserves. Name any two biosphere reserves of the country.

Ans. Biospheres are multipurpose protected areas, where every plant and animal species are protected in its natural habitats. Eg. Nilgiri and Nanda Devi.

4. How are forests useful to human beings?

Ans. Forests are renewable resources and play a major role in enhancing the quality of the environment. They modify local climate, control soil erosion, regulate stream flow, support a variety of industries, provide livelihood for many communities and offer panoramic or scenic views for recreation. It controls wind force and temperature and causes rainfall. It provides humus to the soil and shelter to the wild life.

5. Define biome and vegetation.

Ans. A very large ecosystem on land having distinct types of vegetation and animal life is called a **biome**. The biomes are identified on the basis of plants.

The assemblage of plant species living in association with each other in given environmental framework is termed as **vegetation**.

6. Name the different types of vegetation in India.

Ans. The following major types of vegetation may be identified in India:

- (i) Tropical Rain Forests
- (ii) Tropical Deciduous Forests
- (iii) Tropical Thorn Forests and Scrubs
- (iv) Montane Forests
- (v) Mangrove Forests

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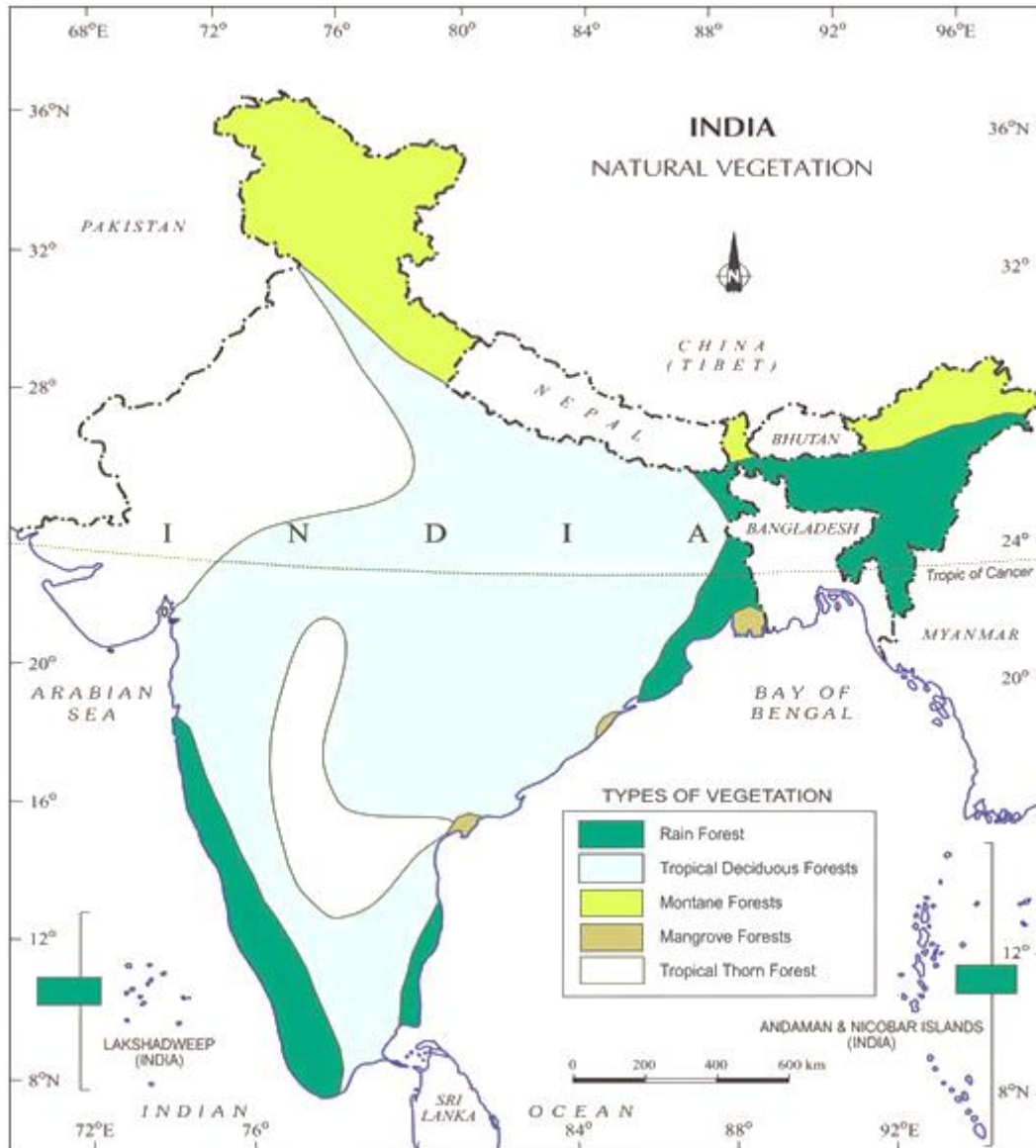
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7. What are the factors that affect (distribution of plants and animals) biodiversity in India?

Ans. **RELIEF**

Land:

Land affects the natural vegetation directly and indirectly. The nature of land influences the type of vegetation. The fertile level land 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.

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M. Pareek

An
NTSE Scholar
IIT-JEE (Adv.) AIR-3
Mukesh Pareek



Soil:

The soils also vary over space. Different types of soils provide 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 hill slopes with some depth of soil have conical trees.

CLIMATE

Temperature:

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

Photoperiod (*Sunlight*):

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

Precipitation:

In India almost the entire rainfall is brought in by the advancing southwest monsoon (June to September) and retreating northeast monsoons. Areas of heavy rainfall have more dense vegetation as compared to other areas of less rainfall.

8. What are the features of tropical deciduous forest?

Ans. (1) These are the most widespread forests in India.

(2) They are also called the monsoon forests and spread over the region receiving rainfall between 200 cm and 70 cm. Trees of this forest-type shed their leaves for about six to eight weeks in dry summer.

(3) On the basis of the availability of water, these forests are further divided into moist and dry deciduous.

(4) The moist deciduous forests are found in areas receiving rainfall between 200 and 100 cm. These forests exist, therefore, mostly in the eastern part of the country – north eastern states, along the foothills of the Himalayas, Jharkhand, West Orissa and Chhattisgarh, and on the eastern slopes of the Western Ghats. Teak is the most dominant species of this forest. *Bamboos, Sal, Shisham, sandalwood, khair, kusum, arjun* and mulberry are other commercially important species.

(5) The dry deciduous forests are found in areas having rainfall between 100 cm and 70 cm.

These forests are found in the rainier parts of the peninsular plateau and the plains of Bihar and Uttar Pradesh. There are open stretches in which Teak, *Sal, Peepal, Neem* grow. A large part of this region has been cleared for cultivation and some parts are used for grazing.

(6) In these forests, the common animals found are lion, tiger, pig, deer and elephant. A huge variety of birds, lizards, snakes, and tortoises are also found here.

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

Ans. (1) The main causes for this major threat to nature are hunting by greedy hunters for commercial purposes.

(2) Pollution due to chemical and industrial waste, acid deposits, introduction of alien species.

(3) Reckless cutting of the forests to bring land under cultivation.

(4) Inhabitation is also responsible for the imbalance.

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10. What is the need for conserving wildlife?

Ans. Continuous and excessive exploitation of the plant and animal resources of the country has damaged the ecosystem badly. Many plant and animal species have become extinct. Some plant and animal species are on the verge of extinction.

Natural ecosystems must be maintained to ensure our own survival.

Conservation of wildlife is important for our own conservation.

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