

CLASS – 9TH

SUB – SST(Geography)

CH -5(NATURAL VEGETATION AND WILDLIFE)

India is one of the twelve mega bio-diversity countries of the world.

- India occupies 47,000 plant species
- 15,000 flowering plants in India
- India also has approximately 90,000 species of animals

Natural vegetation refers to a plant community, which has grown naturally without human aid and has been left undistributed by humans for long time. This is termed as a virgin vegetation.

Flora is used to denote plants of a particular region or period

Fauna is species of animals of a particular region or period.

Flora and fauna kingdom constitute biodiversity of a particular region or period.

Eco-System

All the plants and animal in an area are independent and interrelated to each other in their physical environment, thus, forming an ecosystem.

Types Of Vegetation

Tropical Evergreen Forests:

Receives heavy rainfall; trees reach up to a height of 60m or above and has luxuriant vegetation of all kind.

Area: Western Ghats, Lakshadweep, Andaman and Nicobar, Upper part of Assam and Tamilnadu coast.

Flora : ebony, mahogany, rosewood, rubber and cinchona.

Fauna : elephant, monkey, lemur and deer, one horned rhinoceroses

Tropical Deciduous Forests:

This region receiving rainfall between 200 cm and 70 cm.

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

Moist : rainfall between 100cm-200cm

Area : Northeastern states, Foothills of Himalayas, Jharkhand , West Odisha and Chhattisgarh

Flora : Bamboos, Sal, Shisham, sandalwood, khair, kusum, arjun and mulberry

Dry : rainfall between 100cm- 70cm

Area : Peninsular plateau and the plains of Bihar and Uttar Pradesh .

Flora : teak, sal, peepal and neem grow

Fauna : lion, tiger, pig, deer, lizards, snakes and tortoises.

Tropical Thorn Forests and Scrubs:

Rainfall: less than 70 cm of rainfall

Area: north-western part of the country, including semi-arid areas of Gujarat, Rajasthan, Madhya Pradesh, Chhattisgarh, Uttar Pradesh and Haryana.

Flora: the natural vegetation consists of thorny trees and bushes .Acacias, palms, euphorbias and cacti.

Fauna : rats, mice, rabbits, fox, wolf, tiger, lion, wild ass, horses and camels.

Montane Forests:

In mountainous areas, the decrease in temperature with increasing altitude leads to the corresponding change in natural vegetation

Area: tropical to tundra region

Height between 1000- 2000 m: evergreen broad leaves

Example: Oak, chestnuts

Height Between 1500 to 3000 m: coniferous trees

Example: pine, deodar, silver fir, spruce, cedar

Height morethan 3600m: Alpine vegetation

Example: silver fir, junipers, pines, birches

Fauna:

Mangrove Forests: The mangrove tidal forests are found in the areas of coasts influenced by tides. Mud and silt get accumulated on such coasts. Dense mangroves are the common varieties with roots of the plants submerged under water.

Wildlife

India has approximately 90,000 animal species.

The country has around 2,000 species of birds. They constitute 12% of the world's total species of birds.

There are around 2,546 species of fish, which account for nearly 12% of the world's stock. It also shares between 5 and 8 per cent of the world's amphibians, reptiles and mammals.

