

Riyasat IAS Mentorship

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Mentorship

Secure Prelims Program 2026

English - हिंदी माध्यम

AN INITIATIVE UNDER **RIYASAT IAS MENTORSHIP**

*Shaping Potential
Into Performance*



Riyasat Ali Sir

IAS Mentor Since 2011

INTENSIVE & INTERATED

Prelims GS & CSAT PROGRAM

to Crack CSE 2026

Secure Prelims GEOGRAPHY Sample Notes

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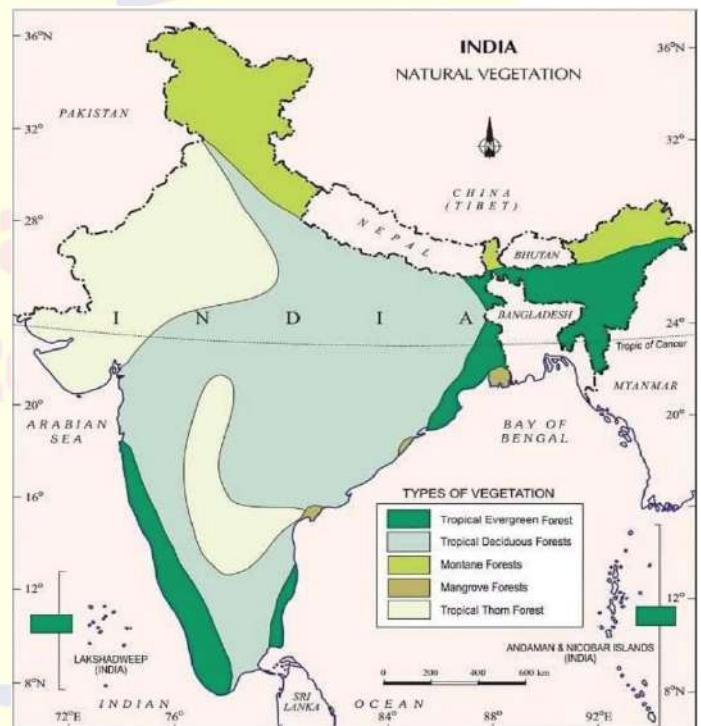
NATURAL VEGETATION

Natural vegetation:

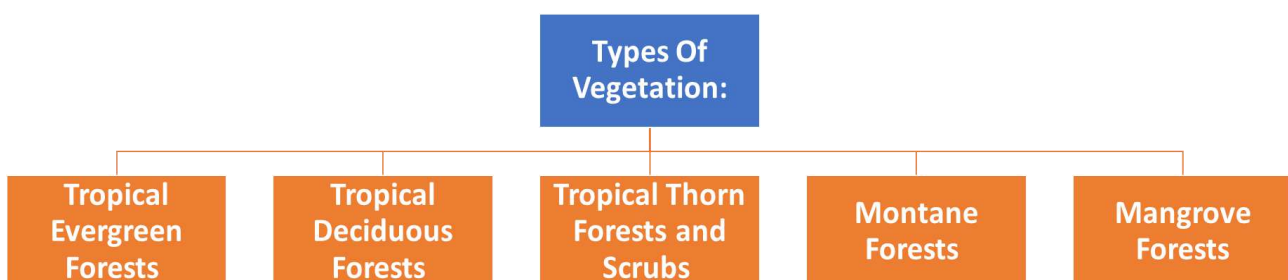
- Natural vegetation refers to a **plant community**, which has grown naturally without human aid and has been left undisturbed by humans for a long time. This is termed as **virgin vegetation**. Thus, cultivated crops and fruits, and orchards form part of vegetation but not natural vegetation.
- Our country India is one of the **12 mega bio-diversity countries** of the world. With **about 47,000 plant species** India occupies tenth place in the world and fourth in Asia in plant diversity.
- **Virgin vegetation**, which are purely Indian, are known as **endemic or indigenous species** but those which have come from outside India are termed as **exotic plants**.

Factors Deciding Natural Vegetation:

- **Temperature and Humidity:** An area with high temperature and high humidity supports **evergreen forests**, while an area with high temperature and low humidity supports **thorny bushes (desert)**.
- **Precipitation:** Areas of **heavy rainfall** have more **dense vegetation** as compared to other areas of less rainfall.
- **Sunlight:** Due to longer duration of sunlight, trees grow faster in summer
- **Altitude/Latitude:** As we increase in elevation or altitude, we see that there is different vegetation and eventually less and less vegetation
- **Land:** Vegetation in mountainous regions is different than that in plateau and plain areas.
- **Soil:** Sandy soils of desert support cactus and thorny bushes whereas wet, marshy, deltaic soils support mangroves and deltaic vegetation.



Types of Natural Vegetation:



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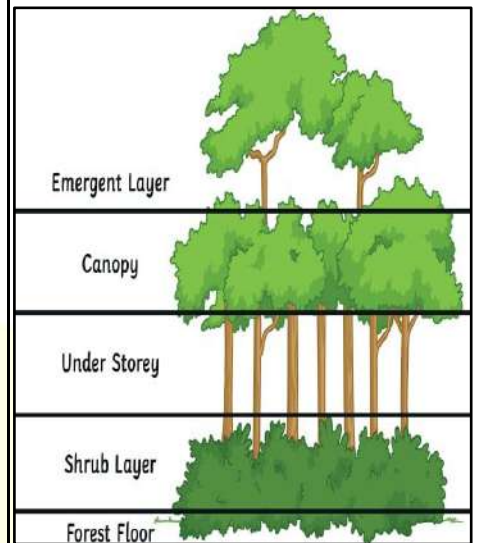
Tropical Evergreen Forests:



- **Geographical Distribution:** Heavy rainfall areas of **Western Ghats** and island groups of **Lakshadweep, Andaman and Nicobar**, upper parts of **Assam and Tamil Nadu coast**.
- **Climatic Condition: High Rainfall:** 200 cm of rainfall + Short dry season + **Temp:** 22°C.

Characteristics:

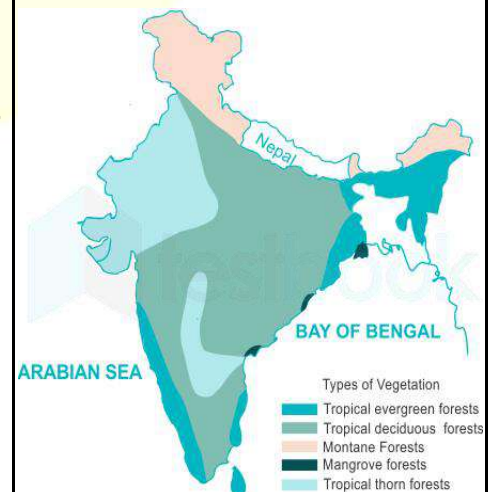
- **No Sunlight:** They are so dense that sunlight doesn't reach the ground
- **Tree Height:** up to 60 metres or above.
- **Stratified Forests:** Tropical evergreen forests are well stratified.
- **Vegetation Diversity:** Luxuriant vegetation of all kinds — **trees, shrubs and creepers** giving it a multilayered structure.
- **Evergreen:** There is **no definite time** for trees to shed their leaves. As such, these forests **appear green all year round**.
- **Important Trees:** Ebony, mahogany, rosewood, rubber and cinchona.
- **Animals:** Elephant, monkey, lemur and deer. One-horned rhinoceroses.



Tropical Deciduous Forests:



- **Most widespread forests** of India, These forests are also called **monsoon forests**. They are **less dense**. They **shed their leaves** at a particular time of year.
- **Trees:** Sal, teak, peepal, neem and shisham.
- **Geographical Distribution:** Madhya Pradesh, Uttar Pradesh, Bihar, Jharkhand, Chhattisgarh, Odisha, and in parts of Maharashtra.



- **Climatic Condition:** Rainfall between 200 cm and 70 cm.
- **Animals:** Lion, tiger, pig, deer and elephant.



Tropical Thorn Forests and Scrubs:



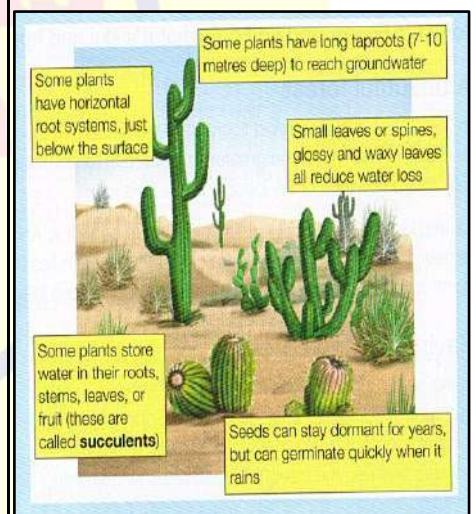
- **Rainfall < 70 cm**, natural vegetation consists of **thorny trees and bushes**.
- **Geographical Distribution:** Gujarat, Rajasthan, Madhya Pradesh, Chhattisgarh, Uttar Pradesh and Haryana.

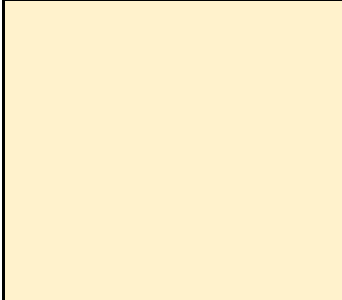
Characteristics:

- **Trees** are **scattered** and have **long roots** penetrating deep into soil in order to get moisture.
- **Stems** are **succulent to conserve water**.
- **Leaves** are mostly **thick and small** to **minimise evaporation**.
- **Plants remain leafless** for most part of the year and give an expression of scrub vegetation.

Flora and Fauna:

- **Animal Species:** Rats, mice, rabbits, fox, wolf, tiger, lion, wild ass, horses and





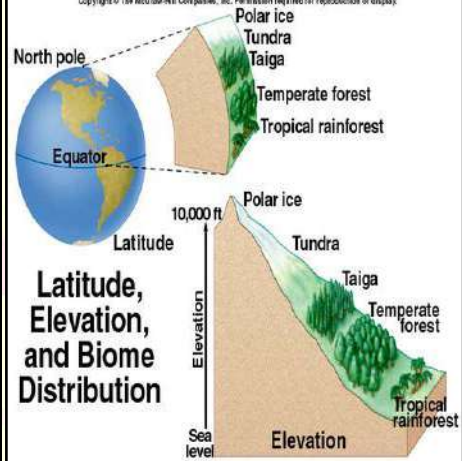
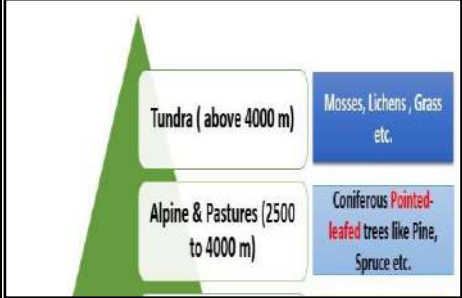
Montane Forests:

- camels.
- Tree Species:** Acacias, palms, euphorbias, cacti, babool, ber, and wild date palm, khair, neem, khejri, palas
- Tussocky grass** grows up to a height of 2 m as the under growth.

- Decrease in temperature with increasing altitude leads to corresponding change in natural vegetation.
- Animals:** Kashmir stag, spotted deer, wild sheep, jackrabbit, **Tibetan antelope, yak, snow leopard**, squirrels, Shaggy horn wild ibex, bear and rare red panda, sheep and goats with thick hair.

Alpine vegetation:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Silver fir, junipers, pines and birches and rhododendrons, are common trees of these forests. However, they get progressively stunted as they approach the snow line.
Alpine grasslands:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ultimately, through shrubs and scrubs, they merge into the Alpine grasslands. These are used extensively for grazing & transhumance by nomadic tribes, like Gujars, Bakarwals, Bhotiyas and Gaddis.
Tundra vegetation:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> At higher altitudes, mosses and lichens form part of tundra vegetation.

- Southern mountain forests** include forests found in three distinct areas of **Peninsular India** viz; Western Ghats, Vindhyas and Nilgiris.
- These forests are **subtropical** in lower regions of Western Ghats, especially in Kerala, Tamil Nadu and Karnataka.
- Sholas Forests:** Temperate forests are called Sholas in **Nilgiris, Anaimalai and Palani hills** + also found in **Satpura and Maikal ranges**
- Trees:** **Magnolia, laurel, cinchona and wattle.**

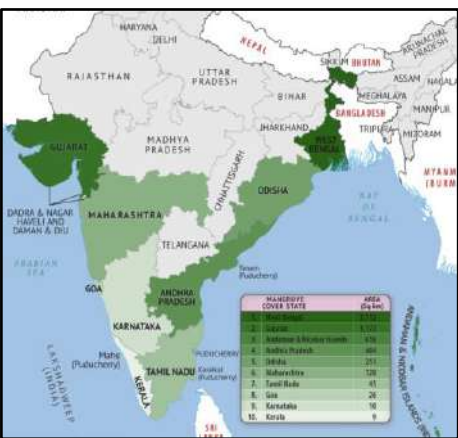


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Mangrove Forests:



- Found in areas of **coasts** influenced by **tides**. **Mud and silt** accumulate on such coasts + **Roots of plants** submerged underwater
- **Region:** Deltas of Ganga, Mahanadi, Krishna, Godavari and Kaveri
- **Trees:** Sundari Tree, Palm, coconut, keora, agar
- **Animals:** Royal Bengal Tiger, Turtles, crocodiles, gharials and snakes
- Mangrove forests spread over **6,740 sq. km** which is **7 percent** of world's mangrove forests.
- They are highly developed in Andaman and Nicobar Islands and Sunderbans of West Bengal.



Forest Cover in India: India State of Forest Report (ISFR)-2023:

- **Total forest and tree cover: 25.17%**, Forest cover: 21.76% and Tree cover: 3.41%.
- **Largest Forest Cover (Area wise):** Madhya Pradesh > Arunachal Pradesh > Chhattisgarh.
- **Highest % of Forest Cover:** Lakshadweep (91.33%), Mizoram (85.34%), Andaman & Nicobar (81.62%).
- **National Forest Policy of India, 1988:** Goal of 33% of the geographical area of the country under forest and tree cover.
- **Largest forest cover in India:** Madhya Pradesh > Arunachal Pradesh > Chhattisgarh >

- FOREST (CONSERVATION) ACT, 1980:** REQUIRES CENTRAL APPROVAL FOR USING FOREST LAND FOR NON-FOREST PURPOSES
- INDIAN FOREST ACT, 1927:** CLASSIFIES FORESTS INTO RESERVED, PROTECTED, AND VILLAGE FORESTS FOR LEGAL PROTECTION
- WILDLIFE PROTECTION ACT, 1972:** PROTECTS FOREST AREAS BY ESTABLISHING NATIONAL PARKS AND SANCTUARIES
- NATIONAL FOREST POLICY, 1988:** AIMS TO BRING 33% OF INDIA'S LAND UNDER FOREST COVER
- FOREST RIGHTS ACT, 2006:** GRANTS RIGHTS TO FOREST DWELLERS WHILE PROMOTING SUSTAINABLE FOREST MANAGEMENT

Forest Cover Classifications	
Very Dense Forests Tree canopy density: 70% and above	
Moderately Dense Forests Tree canopy density: 40% to less than 70%	
Open Forests Tree canopy density: 10% to less than 40%	
Scrub Forest lands with canopy density less than 10%	

Top States with Largest Forest & Tree Cover	
Area-wise	Percentage-wise
MADHYA PRADESH 85,724 sq km	LAKSHADWEEP 92%
ARUNACHAL PRADESH 67,083 sq km	MIZORAM 88.03%
MAHARASHTRA 65,383 sq km	ANDAMAN & NICOBAR ISLAND 81.95%