



Dr. Jayachandran's

INSTITUTE FOR CIVIL SERVICE EXAMS

SOUTH INDIA'S PREMIER INSTITUTION FOR
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GEOGRAPHY

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NATURAL VEGETATION / TYPES OF FOREST IN INDIA – PART 1

IN PART 1 DOCUMENT

MOIST TROPICAL FORESTS

Tropical Wet Evergreen Forest

Tropical Semi Evergreen Forest

Tropical Moist Deciduous Forest

Littoral and Swamp Forest

IN PART 2 DOCUMENT

DRY TROPICAL FOREST

Tropical Dry Evergreen Forest

Tropical Dry Deciduous Forest

Tropical Thorn Forest

SUB TROPICAL BROAD LEAVED FOREST

Sub Tropical Broad Leaved Hill Forest

Sub Tropical Moist Pine Forest

Sub Tropical Dry Evergreen Forest

IN PART 3 DOCUMENT

MONTANE OR HIMALAYAN TEMPERATE FOREST

Montane Wet Temperate Forest

Montane Moist Temperate Forest

Montane Dry Temperate Forest

Alpine Forest

Shola Forest

NATURAL VEGETATION / TYPES OF FOREST IN INDIA

MOIST TROPICAL FORESTS are those that are found in wetter regions of the tropical land, they are

Tropical Wet Evergreen Forest

Tropical Semi Evergreen Forest

Tropical Moist Deciduous Forest

Littoral and Swamp Forest

1. Tropical Wet Evergreen Forest



Rainfall > 250 cm **Temperature** 25°-27°C

Regions: North Eastern states, Western slopes of Western Ghats, Andaman and Nicobar.

Species: Ebony, Mahogany, Mesua, Hopea, Doon, Poon, Dhup etc

Characteristics of Forest:

- * Different trees shed leaves in different season (not according to season as is deciduous) so namesake Evergreen
- * Tallest trees
- * Thick canopy (reaching 45 m)
- * Buttress wood (hole inside the trunk of tree overage)
- * Hardwood trees
- * Layer of structures (3 layers)



- * They are not commercially exploitable as they are crowded and not in single stand
- * No undergrowth in soil due to sunlight being blocked from reaching ground

2. Tropical Semi Evergreen Forest



Rainfall 200 - 250 cm, Temperature 24 - 27 °C

Regions: North Eastern states, Western slopes of Western Ghats, Andaman and Nicobar.

Species: Semul, Irul, Gutel, Laurel Aini, Mundani, Benteak, Kadam etc

Characteristics of Forest: Same as that of Wet Tropical forest.

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3. Tropical Moist Deciduous Forest



Also called Monsoon Forest

Rainfall 100 – 200 cm **Temperature** about 27°C

Regions: North Eastern states, Orissa – Chhattisgarh plains, terrain regions of Uttar Pradesh and Bihar, On either sides of the foot of Western Ghats, Andaman and Nicobar.

Species: Teak, Sandalwood (in South India), Sal(in North India), Padauk, White chuglam, Badam, Chikrosi, Kokko, Haldu, Bamboo, Canes, etc

Characteristics of Forest:

- * Trees shed their leaves in accordance with the season, when sufficient moisture for the leaves is not available.
- * General appearance is burnt up and bare in April-May
- * Woods are moderately Hardwood highly useful for commercial forests.
- * Plant species are found in pure stands and are Highly commercially exploitable.
- * Undergrowth vegetation in forest as sunlight reaches ground,
- * Large area of this forest is cleared for Farming.



4. Littoral and Swamp Forest



Commonly called Mangroves

Region: Along the coastal margins of tropical countries. In India around 6,740 sq. Km contributing 7% of world's Mangroves.

Sunderbans in WB; Bhitarkanika, Chilka lake in Orissa; Krishna – Godavari delta, Koringa, Pulicat lake in Andhra Pradesh; Pichavaram, Point Calimer, Muthupet, Vedaranyam in Tamilnadu; Vembanad lake in Kerala; Coondapur in Karnataka; Entire Goa coast; Achra, Ratnagiri in Maharashtra; Rann of Kutch, Gulf of Khambhat in Gujarat; Entire coast of Andaman and Nicobar Island.

Ecosystem is highly specialised with Backwaters, Lagoons, Kayals, Mudflats, Deltas and Estuaries.

Species: Agar, Bhandi, Sonneratia, Burguira, Kanikensis, Herita, Annamalaiyana etc

Characteristics of Forest:

- * Salt tolerant species
- * Adopted to live in anaerobic condition having Stilt roots (Pneumatophores)
- * Long roots to stabilise themselves over mud flats.
- * Rich in Biodiversity , gene pool.
- * Acts as a carbon sink, protects from coastal erosion and acts as Bioshield in tsunami.

Continued in Next Part

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