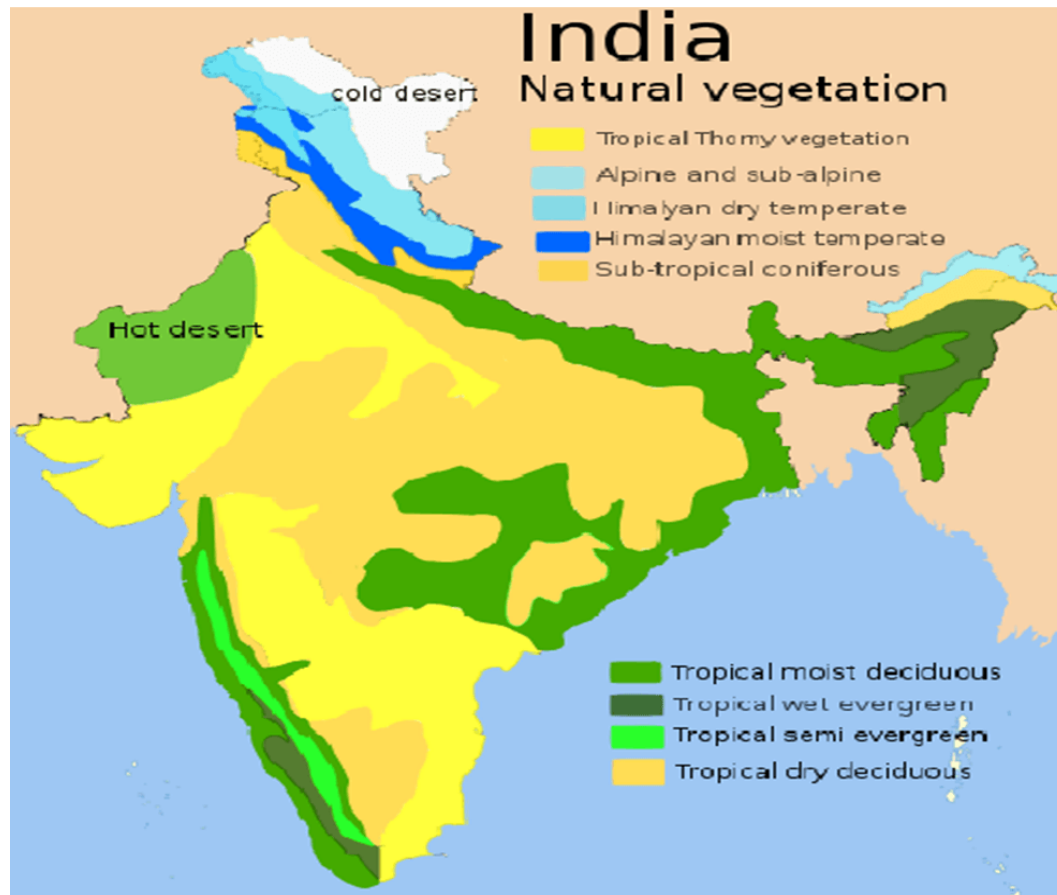


NATURAL VEGETATION OF INDIA

- Natural vegetation refers to a plant community which has grown naturally without human aid or we can say that unaffected by man either directly or indirectly. Natural Vegetation has its existence in certain natural environment. They have been left undisturbed by humans for a long time. We call this virgin vegetation. Thus, cultivated crops and fruits, orchards form part of vegetation but not natural vegetation. Now, we will look at some of the factors that impact the vegetation in our country.
- Factors affecting natural vegetation are soil, temperature, precipitation, humidity etc.
- Temperature and humidity determine the character and extent of vegetation. The precipitation and soil also play a major role in determining the degree of vegetation. Therefore, various places in India have various vegetation patterns. Photoperiod also affects the vegetation of a place. It is the variation in duration of sunlight at different places due to differences in latitude, altitude, season and duration of the day. Hence, depending on the photoperiod, you get different kinds of vegetation at different places.
- Natural vegetation of India divided into as follows:
 1. Tropical Evergreen Forest

2. Tropical Deciduous Forest
3. Tropical Dry Forest
4. Mountain or Montane Forest
5. Mangrove/ Tidal Forest
6. Coastal Forest



Natural Vegetation of India

<p>Tropical Evergreen Forests</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Av. Rainfall → Above 200 cm ▪ Av. Temp. → 24* C ▪ Found at Hot & Humid areas of India ▪ Tall & Dense → 45 – 60 m ▪ Hardwood Forests ▪ Found at WGs, A & N islands & Eastern India ▪ Sunrays unable to reach earth surface ▪ Trees compete & rise high to get sunlight ▪ Ex. Rubber, Coconut, Ebony, Mahogany, Palms
<p>Tropical Deciduous Forests</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Av. Rainfall → 100 -200 cm ▪ Av. Height → 25 – 45 m ▪ Shed their leaves in summers due to shortage of water ▪ Found at Shiwaliks, Ganga valley, WGs, NE India ▪ Economically very important forests ▪ Ex. Sal, Teak, Shisham, Sandalwood, Deodar, Mahua
<p>Tropical Dry Forest</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Av. Rainfall → 50 – 100 cm ▪ Less dense & Small in size → 6 – 9 m ▪ Roots are thick & long to use underground water

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Thick Bark to prevent undue evaporation ▪ Found at Punjab, Haryana, MP, Eastern Rajasthan, Central Deccan Plateau ▪ Most of the areas are used for agriculture ▪ Dwarf Deciduous trees and long- grasses grow in these regions ▪ Ex. Neem, Shisham, Babul, Pipal, Mango.
<p>Mountain or Montane Forest</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Mountain forests vary considerably along the slopes of mountain ▪ On the foothills of Himalayas, upto a height of 1500 meters, evergreen trees, (Sal, teak, bamboo and cane) grow abundantly. ▪ On higher slope between 1,500 meters to 3,500 meters, temperate conifer trees (pine, fir, oak, maple, deodar, laurel spruce, cedar) grow. ▪ At the higher altitude of the Himalayas, rhododendrons and junipers are found. ▪ Beyond these vegetation belts, alpine grasslands appear up to snowfield.

Mangrove / Tidal Forest	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ These forests grow along the coast and on the edges of the deltas ▪ Famous for Mangrove & Sundari Trees ▪ Consists of thick Bushes & Ferns ▪ Known as Halophytes → Tolerant of Salinity ▪ Found at Sundarbans, A & N Islands, Deltas of Mahanadi, Godavari, Krishna & Kavery
Coastal Forest	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Coastal forest are littoral forest. ▪ Casurina, palm and coconut are the dominant trees. ▪ Annual rainfall ranges from 200-408 cm, with higher coastal mountain areas receiving the bulk of this precipitation. ▪ Mean annual temperature is around 13°C. ▪ Both the eastern and western coasts have this type of forests. ▪ The coasts of Kerala and Goa are known for Coastal Forest.

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