

# UNIT II FOREST AND WILDLIFE RESOURCES

### **NOTES**

- 1. Flora Plants of a particular region or time-period.
- 2. Fauna Species of animals of a particular region or time-period.
- **3. Biodiversity** Biodiversity is immensely rich in wildlife and cultivated species, diverse in form and function but closely integrated in a system through multiple network of interdependence.
- **4. Forests** Forests refer to a community of plant species which grow naturally under the influence of climatic condition and the nature of soil.
- **5. Distribution of forests -** It is divided into four zones.
  - (i) Regions with 60 per cent and above forest area: Manipur, Tripura, Mizoram etc.
  - (ii) Regions where forest cover ranges between 40 to 60 per cent: Nagaland, Meghalaya.
  - (iii) Regions which have forest cover between 20 to 40 per cent: Assam, Kerala, Orissa etc.
  - (iv) Regions with less than 20 per cent forest area: Punjab, Haryana, Rajasthan etc.

# 6. Forest types found in India:

- (i) Tropical evergreen and semi evergreen forests
- (ii) Tropical deciduous forests
- (iii) Thorn forests and scrubs
- (iv) Montane forests
- (v) Mangrove forests
- **7.** Reserved forests These are the permanent forest estates reserved for producing timber and other Forest produces. Grazing of animals and farming are not allowed in these forests.
- **8.** Protected forests They are also permanent forest estates but in these forests, grazing of cattle and even cultivation is allowed in specific regions.
- **9.** Unclassed forests There are other forests and wastelands that belong to government, private individuals and communities.



### 10. Depletion of forests and wildlife:

- **A.** Depletion of forests: The greatest damage occurred during the colonial period due to expansion of agriculture, transport and communication, forestry, and mining.
- **B.** Depletion of wildlife: India is rich in wildlife resources. There has been rapid decline in wildlife population due to habitat destruction, hunting, poaching, over-exploitation, environmental pollution etc.

### 11. Conservation of forests and wildlife:

**A.** Conservation of forests - For conservation of forests, efforts should be made to increase the actual forest cover area of the country through Social, Agro-Community Forestries as well as other afforestation programmes on degraded lands.

**C.** Conservation of wildlife - For conservation of wildlife in India, a comprehensive **Wildlife Act** was enacted by the government in **1972**, which provides the main legal framework for the purpose.

National Parks, Sanctuaries and Zoological Gardens have been established in different parts of the Country and many projects like Project Tiger, Project Elephant, Crocodile Breeding Projects etc.have also been taken up.

