

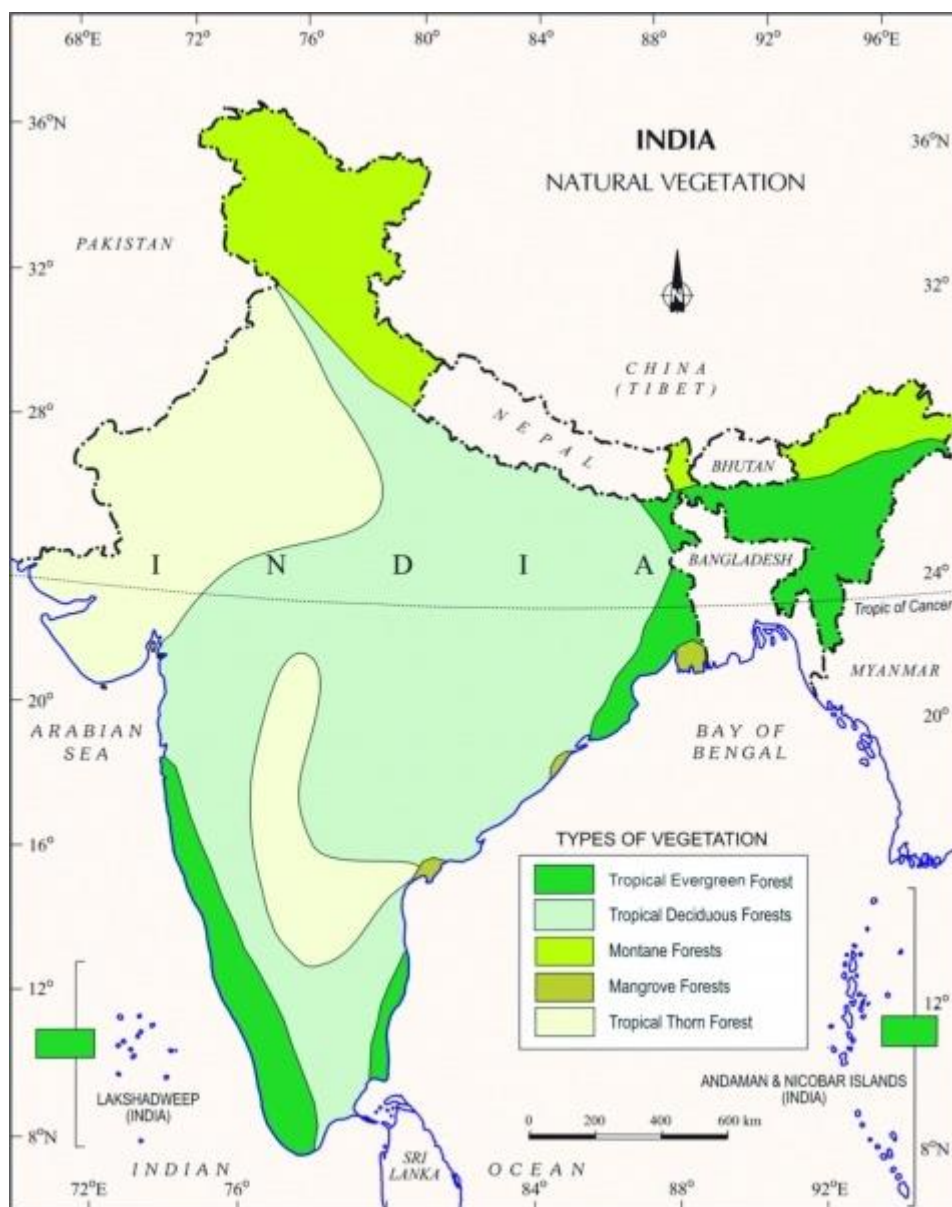


Natural Vegetation of India



“Natural Vegetation refers to a plant community that has been left undisturbed for a long time”

Indian Forests



Tropical Evergreen and Semi Evergreen Forests

Tropical Evergreen

- These forests are found in warm and humid areas of western slopes of Western Ghats, hills of North-Eastern region and Andaman & Nicobar Islands.
- Annual precipitation – Over 200cm
- Mean annual temperature – Above 22°C
- Species found – Rosewood, Mahogany, Aini, Ebony etc.
- These forests are well stratified with short trees followed by tall trees.
- There is no definite time for trees to shed their leaves, hence these forests appear green all the year round.

Semi Evergreen

- These forests are found in less rainy of above-mentioned regions
- They contain mixture of evergreen and moist deciduous trees.
- Main species – White Cedar, Hollock and Kail

Tropical Deciduous Forests

- These are also known as Monsoon forests and are the most widespread forests in India.
- Annual rainfall – 70 to 200 cm
- Mean annual temperature – 27°C to 30°C
- On the basis of availability of water, these are divided into moist deciduous and dry deciduous forests



Moist Deciduous

- Found in North-Eastern states along the foothills of Himalayas, Eastern slopes of Western Ghats and Odisha
- Annual rainfall – 100 to 200cm
- Mean annual temperature – 27°C
- Main species – Teak, Sal, Shisham, Mahua, Amla, Kusum and Sandalwood

Dry Deciduous

- Found in wet areas of peninsula and plains of UP and Bihar
- Annual rainfall – 70 to 100cm
- Mean annual temperature – 30°C
- Main species – Tendu, Palas, Amaltas, Bel, Khair, Axlewood etc.
- In western and southern part of Rajasthan, vegetation cover is minimal due to less rainfall.

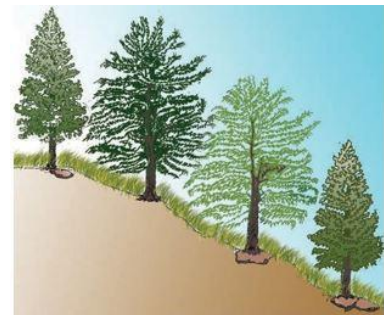
Tropical Thorn Forests

- Found in semi-arid areas of South-West Punjab, Haryana, Rajasthan, Gujarat, MP and UP
- Annual rainfall – Less than 50cm
- Mean annual temperature – 25°C to 30°C
- These forests consist of variety of grasses and shrubs
- Plants remain leafless for most part of year
- Main species – Babool, Ber, Khair, Neem, Khejri etc



Montane Forests

- In mountainous areas, decrease in temperature with increasing altitude leads to corresponding change in natural vegetation
- Mountain forests are classified into Northern Mountain forests and Southern Mountain forests



Wet Temperate Forests

- Found between a height of 1000 and 2000m along higher hills of Kerala and Tamil Nadu and Eastern region
- Annual rainfall – 150 to 300 cm
- Mean annual temperature – 11°C to 14°C
- Main species – Indian chestnut, Oak, Hemlock etc.

Temperate forests

- Found between a height of 1500 and 3000 m along southern slopes of Himalayas.
- Annual rainfall – 150 to 250cm

- Mean annual temperature – 10°C
- Main species – Pine, Silver Fir, Spruce, Cedar etc.

Alpine forests

- Found at high altitudes of more than 3600m above the sea level.
- Annual rainfall below 100cm
- Mean annual temperature – 5°C to 10°C
- Main species – Silver firs, Pines, Junipers, Birches etc.
- These forests are used for grazing by nomadic tribes like Gujjars and Bakarwals

Note – At higher altitudes, Lichens and Mosses are also found.

Littoral and Swamp Forests (Mangroves)

- In India, Mangrove forests are spread over 6740km² of area which is 7% of world's mangrove forests
- Found in Andaman and Nicobar Islands, Sunderbans of West Bengal, Deltas of Mahanadi, Krishna, Kaveri and Godavari
- Annual rainfall – 100 to 150cm
- Mean annual temperature – 22°C
- Main species – Palm, Coconut, Keora, Agar etc.



Forest Cover in India

As per National Forest Policy of India, 33% of the total geographical area should be covered under forests and trees.

As per 16th edition **India State of Forests Report 2019**, released by Forest Survey of India –

- Total forest and tree cover is **24.56%** of the total geographical area of the country
- Total forest cover – **21.67%** of the total geographical area of the country
- Largest forest cover (Area Wise) – **Madhya Pradesh**
- Largest forest cover (Percentage Wise) – **Mizoram**
- Mangrove cover – 0.15% of the total geographical area (West Bengal has the highest percentage)
- Forest cover in hilly districts – 40.30%
- Forest cover in tribal districts – 37.54%
- Maximum trees – Karnataka
- Maximum shrubs – Arunachal Pradesh

- Maximum herbs – Jammu and Kashmir
- Gujarat has the largest area of wetlands

Forest Conservation

It is the practice of planting and maintaining forested areas for the benefit and sustainability of future generations.

Government of India came up with National Forest Policy of India in 1988 which emphasizes on sustainable forest management. The policy aimed –

- To monitor forest cover and changes therein at the National, State and District levels.
- To generate information on forest cover in different density classes and changes therein.
- To produce forest cover and other thematic maps derived from it for the whole country.
- To provide a primary base layer for assessment of different parameters including growing stock, forest carbon etc.
- To provide information for international reporting

Steps to Conserve Forests

- National Mission for Green India – Aims at protecting, restoring and enhancing India's diminishing forest cover.
- CAMPA funds – To compensate the loss of forest area and to maintain the sustainability
- National Afforestation Program – For ecological restoration of degraded forests
- Forest conservation act 1980 – Deals with any matter related to conservation of forests

Social Forestry

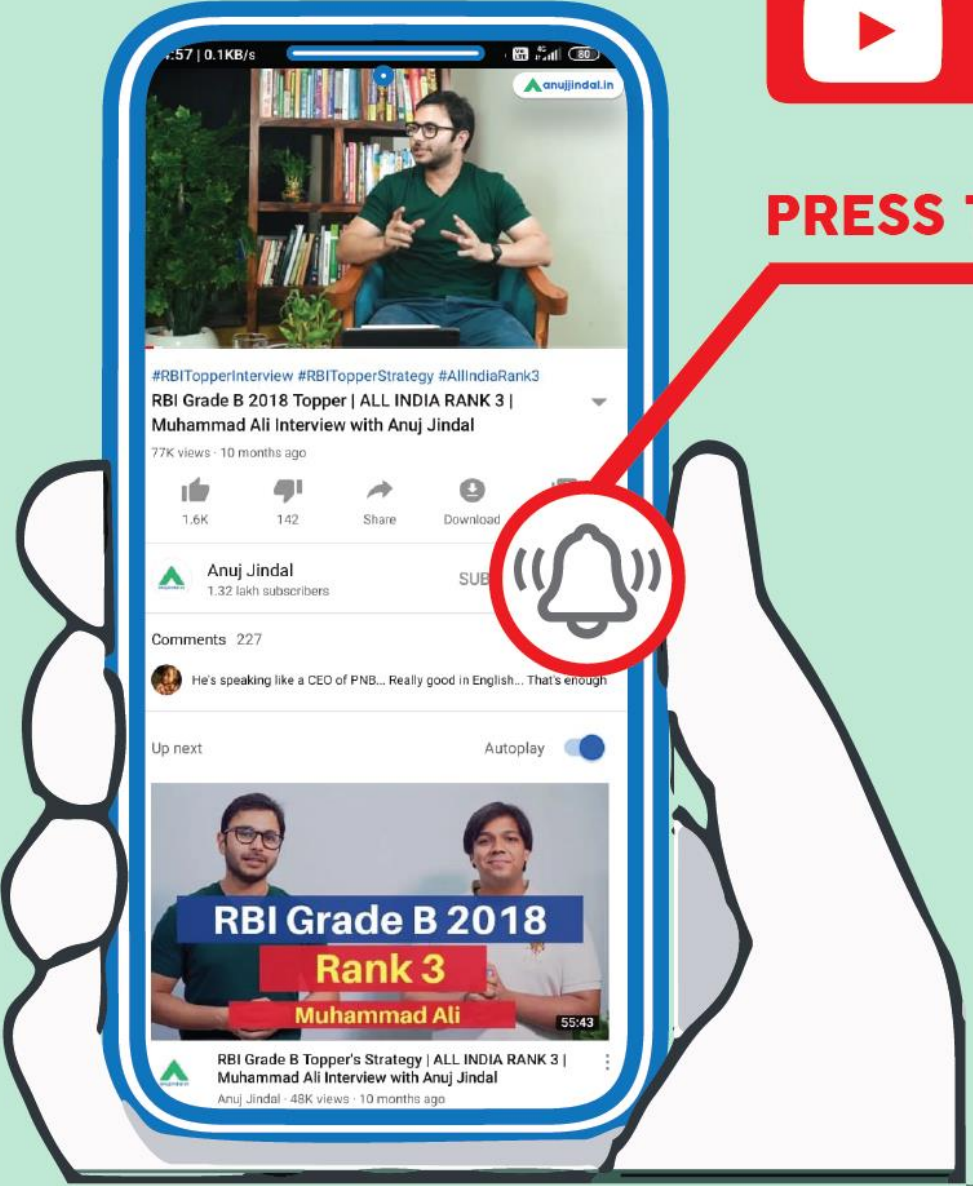
It is defined as the management and protection of forests and afforestation of barren lands with the purpose of environmental, social and rural development. Three types of social forestry are –

- **Urban Forestry** – It pertains to the raising and management of trees on public and privately owned lands in urban centres.
- **Rural Forestry** – It lays emphasis on promotion of agro-forestry and community-forestry
 - Agro-Forestry – Raising of trees and agricultural crops on the same land.

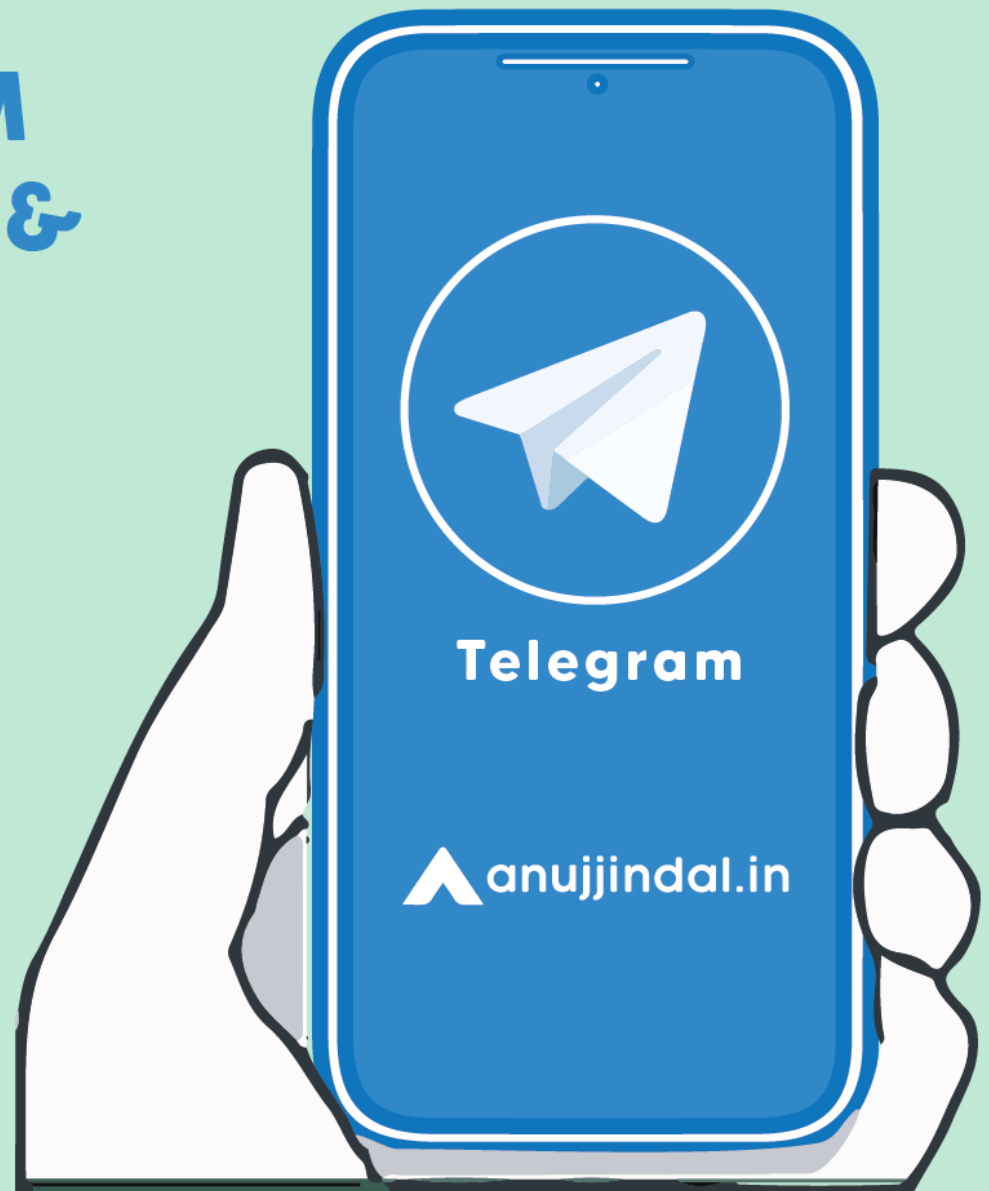
- Community Forestry – Raising of trees on public and community land such as roadside, schools, colleges etc.
- **Farm Forestry** – Process under which farmers grow trees for commercial and non-commercial purposes on their farm lands.

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NET with 89.27 Percentile

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JRF with 72 Percentage

Abhishek Mohanty



NET with 68 Percentage

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JRF with 64.66 Percentage

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