

Chapter – 08 Geography

India: Climate, Vegetation and Wildlife

- **Climate:**

- (i) In daily life, we hear about changes in weather and climate through changes in temperature, rainfall, sunshine, etc.
- (ii) These are four major seasons in India:
 - (a) Cold weather season (winter) from December to February.
 - (b) Hot weather season (summer) from March to May.
 - (c) South-west Monsoon season (Rainy) from June to September.
 - (d) Season of Retreating Monsoon (Autumn) from October and November.
- (iii) The climate of a place is affected by its location, altitude, distance from the sea and relief.

- **Natural Vegetation:**

- (i) It includes all sorts of trees, shrubs and grasses. Natural vegetation is dependent upon climate conditions and the amount of rainfall a place receives.
- (ii) It is of various types:
 - (a) Tropical Rainforests occur in areas of heavy rainfall. They are also called evergreen forests.
 - (b) Tropical Deciduous Forests occur in areas with monsoon and are found in the areas receiving between 100 cm and 200 cm of annual rainfall. They are also called monsoon forest.
 - (c) Thorny bushes vegetation is found in dry areas.
 - (d) Mountain vegetation is found in areas with height, like the mountainous areas.
 - (e) Mangrove forests survive in saline water.

- **Why are Forests Necessary:**

- (i) Forests release oxygen which we breathe and absorb carbon dioxide.
- (ii) They prevent soil erosion.
- (iii) They provide timber for furniture, fuel wood, medicinal plants, honey, gum, etc.
- (iv) They are the natural habitat of wildlife.
- (v) Reckless cutting of trees should be stopped to prevent natural vegetation.

- **Wildlife:**

- (i) Forests are home to a variety of wildlife.
- (ii) Thousands of species of animals, and a large variety of reptiles, amphibians, mammal, birds, insects and worms dwell in the forest.
- (iii) Tiger is found in various parts of the country and is our national animal. Gir forests in Gujarat are found lion, elephants, camels, etc.
- (iv) India is rich in bird life too. Peacock is our national bird. Other common birds are parrots, pigeons, bulbul, etc.
- (v) Projects like Project Tiger and Project Elephant have been launched to protect wildlife.