

MODULE 20 - BIOGEOGRAPHICAL CLASSIFICATION OF INDIA

OBJECTIVES

By the end of the session the student will:

1. Know about the six bio-geographical regions in which the World has been classified.
2. India is included in oriental region along with Sri Lanka, Philippines, Java, Sumatra, Bali and some part of the China.
3. Plants being immovable are more important for bio-geographical classification.
4. India is divided in three bio-geographical regions, Madhya Pradesh is classified under peninsular region. Important timber tree of Madhya Pradesh is Teak while important animals are Tiger, Lion and Antelope. Great Indian bustard does also occur in nature in Madhya Pradesh.

SUMMARY

Classification based on Fauna and Flora is called biogeographical Classification. A R Wallace has divided the World in 9 biogeographical regions. India is included in oriental region where most of the countries are covered by monsoon. Classification on the basis of plant wealth is called phytogeography while that on the basis of animals is called Zoogeography. Biogeographical classification presents the blue print of various types of plants, animals and climate found in various regions.

TRANSCRIPTION

INTRODUCTION

On the basis of Biodiversity the world has been classified in different regions. This classification is called biogeographical classification.

Biogeography includes the area, soil, water, climate as well as plants and animals of particular geographical region. Plants being stable or non movable contribute much towards the biogeography as compared to animals.

BIOGEOGRAPHICAL REGIONS OF THE WORLD

Alfred Russel Wallace a well known biologist connected with the theory of evolution by natural selection has classified the whole world in six biogeographical regions:-

1. Neoarctic
2. Palearctic
3. Ethiopian
4. Australian
5. Neotropical
6. Oriental

India is included in oriental region, other countries being Sri Lanka, Philippines, Sumatra, Java, Bali and some parts of china.

Some special features of oriental regions are:-

1. Most of the earth is covered with thick forest.
2. Fishes of advanced types are seen in this region.
3. The amphibian and reptiles of this region are not much different.
4. Most of the areas have monsoon climate.

BIOGEOGRAPHICAL REGIONS OF INDIA

India is divided in 3 biogeographical regions.

1. Himalayan hilly region
2. Indomalayan region
3. peninsular India

Peninsular India is divided into two parts:-

1. Indian Deserts
2. Gangetic plains.

Madhya Pradesh comes under second region that means Gangetic plains.

The important characters of Madhya Pradesh sub region are:-

1. Temperature is very high just before the monsoon rains of 4 months.
2. The forests are of tropical moist and dry deciduous type having Teak and Sal trees.
3. The earth has plateau as well as alluvial plains.

Common animals are Tiger, Lion, white lion, Neelgai, antelope, cheetal, elephant, peacock, great Indian bustard, etc.

PHYTOGEOGRAPHICAL CLASSIFICATION OF INDIA

PHYTOGEOGRAPHY: - On the basis of vegetation India is classified in 9 regions.

1. Western Himalayas
2. Eastern Himalayas
3. West Indian Deserts
4. Gangetic plains
5. Assam
6. Central India
7. Malabar
8. The Deccan
9. Andamans

Madhya Pradesh is included in central India hence it is popularly known as “the heart of India”. The area of M.P. is 44.346 million hectares out of which 17.299 Hectares are occupied by forest. Teak and sal tree being the dominant trees. The timber of both these trees is valuable.

The grass lands of M.P are of savannah type that means the grasslands are mixed with trees. *Eulaliopsis binata* is the most valuable grass used to manufacture writing paper.

ZOOGEOGRAPHICAL CLASSIFICATION OF INDIA

ZOOGEOGRAPHY: - On the basis of zoogeography India is classified in the following 6 regions by pretor in 1934:-

1. HIMALAYAN REGION- This is well known for mountains. It is further divided in 3 sub regions:-

- a. LADAKH (COLD DRY REGION):- It is in North West of India. It is covered with uneven mountains. Snow covers most of the earth . The common animals are yak, deer, wild goat, Hangal and gural.

- b. FOOT HILL REGION OF FOREST COVERED HIMALAYAS:- This includes Jammu kashmir, uttraanchal, sivalic hills and Darjeeling. The common animals found here are Lion, Tiger, Cheetal.

- c. TRE LESS REGION OF HIMALAYAS: - It is Himalayas peak region always covered with snow. Extremely cold region. The common animals are musk deer, snow leopard and beer.

2. NORTHERN PLAINS: - Northern part of India without mountains and covered with forest is included in this region. The common animals which are found here are Elephant, Lion, Tiger, Panther, Neelgai, Wolf and cheetal.

3. DESERT REGION OF RAJASTHAN: - This includes Rajasthan, Haryana, Gujrat and Kachha. The climate is dry. The common animals which are

found here are Donkey, Deer, Cheetal, Neelgai. Different types of snakes and lizards are also very common.

4. **PENINSULAR PLATEAU:-** This includes south western parts of India. It is covered with thick forest. The common animals which are found here are Elephant, Lion Tiger, Deer and Monkey. Sandal wood is common tree which is of great commercial value.
5. **MALABAR COASTAL REGION:-** This includes Malabar hills and Western Ghats. The animals which are commonly found here are Elephant, Lion, Tiger, Monkey and Mongoose.
6. **NILGIRI REGION:-** Mountains of Nilgiri and Pulney hills in south India. The climate is warm but moist. The animals which are commonly found here are Deer, Rabbit and various types of Birds.

CONCLUSION

Due to variations in geographical condition and climate, India has 76000 species of animals which is about 8% of all the animals found in the world. Thus India has rich biodiversity.

GLOSSARY

1. **Biogeography:-** Geographical based upon plants and animals of a region.
2. **Biodiversity:-** Variation of plants and animals.
3. **Amphibian:-** Frog like animals which can live in water as well as on earth.
4. **Monsoon:-** Wind in Indian ocean accompanied with rains.
5. **Desert:-** Dry barren sandy tract.
6. **Teak:-** A hard durable wood
7. **Plateau:-** An area of high level ground.
8. **Timber:-** Wood for furniture.
9. **Phytogeography:-** Geography based on vegetation of an area.
10. **Zoo geography:-** Geography based on fauna of an area.
11. **Yak:-** Long haired Tibetan ox.
12. **Muskdeer:-** Small horn less asian deer which Secretes a perfume
13. **Snow leopard :-** Panther found on snow.

FAQs

Q1. What is the biogeographical classification?

A. Varieties of plants and animals found in different geographical region of the world.

Q2. List different biogeographical region of the world according to AR Wallace?
A. There are 6 biogeographical region of the World according to Wallace. These are

Neoarctic, Palearctic, Ethiopian, Australian, Neotropical, Oriental.

Q3 In what region India is included?

A. Oriental region.

Q4. Which other countries of the world are included in oriental region?

A. Srilanka, Philippines, Sumatra, Java, Bali and some parts of china.

Q5. What type of climate is found in most of the oriental region?

A. Monsoon Climate.

Q6. List 3 biogeographical region of India.

A. Himalayan hilly region, Indomalayan region, peninsular India.

Q7. List 2 parts of peninsular India.

A. Indian Desert and Upper Gangetic Plains.

Q8. To which region Madhya Pradesh belongs.

A. Upper Gangetic Plains of Peninsular India.

Q9. What type of climate covers Madhya Pradesh.

A. Monsoon Climate.

Q10. Why vegetation pattern is given more importance than animals in biogeographical classification?

A. Because plants are stable where as animals keep on moving from one region to another.

Q11. Name 2 important timber tree of Madhya Pradesh.

A. Teak(*Tectona grandis*), Sal (*shorea robusta*).

Q12. Name some common animals found in the forest of Madhya Pradesh.

A. Tiger, Lion, White Lion, Antelope, Elephant, Peacock, great Indian bustard.

Q13. Name the state animal of Madhya Pradesh ?

A. Antelope.

Q14. List nine phytogeographically regions of India.

A. Western Himalayas, Eastern Himalayas, West Indian Desert, Gangetic Plains, Assam, central India, The Malabar, The Deccan, Andamans.

Q15. In which phytogeographically region Madhya Pradesh is included.

A. Central India.

Q16. Why Madhya Pradesh is called the heart of India.

A. Because it is situated in the center of this Country.

Q17. Why grass lands of Madhya Pradesh are called Savannah Type?

A. Because grass lands of Madhya Pradesh are mixed with trees.

Q18. List 6 Zoogeographical regions of India.

A. Himalayan region, Northern Plains, Desert region of Rajasthan, Peninsular Plateau, Malabar Coastal region, Nilgiri region.

Q19. What is native home of Yak in India.

A. Ladakh sub region of Himalayan region.

Q20. Where is Musk Deer found in India?

A. Tree less region of Himalayas.

Q21. In which zoogeographical regions of India snakes and lizards are common.

A. Desert region of Rajasthan.

Q22. In which zoogeographical region of India Tigers are found?

A. Foot hill region of Himalayas, Northern Plains, Peninsular Plateau, Malabar Coastal region.

Q23. What is the cause of the richness of the fauna and flora of India.

A. Variation in geographical conditions and climate.

Q24. What is the popular name of Nilgiri hills?

A. Ooty or Ootakmond or Oothakamndalam.

Q25. What is the popular name of pulney hills?

A. Kodaikanal.