🌳 Forest & Vegetation in India – SSC Notes

1. Definition of Vegetation

- Vegetation: Plant life naturally grown in an area → Forests, grasslands, mangroves, deserts
- Types of Forests in India: Based on climate, altitude, rainfall

2. Classification of Forests in India

A. Tropical Evergreen Forests

- Location: Western Ghats, Andaman & Nicobar Islands, North-East (Assam, Arunachal Pradesh)
- Rainfall: >200 cm/year
- Temperature: 27–30°C, high humidity
- Features:
  - Dense, multi-layered trees
  - Tall, hardwood trees → Teak, Rosewood, Ebony
  - Dense canopy → Less sunlight on forest floor
- SSC Tip: "Evergreen → Always Green"

B. Tropical Deciduous Forests (Monsoon Forests)

- Location: Most of India → Madhya Pradesh, Chhattisgarh, Odisha, Maharashtra
- Rainfall: 100–200 cm/year
- Types:
  1. Moist Deciduous → Teak, Sal → Central & Eastern India
  2. Dry Deciduous → Khair, Neem, Acacia → Maharashtra, Madhya Pradesh
- Features: Shed leaves in dry season → Adaptation to monsoon

C. Thorn & Scrub Forests

- Location: Rajasthan, Gujarat, parts of Haryana & Punjab
- Rainfall: <50 cm/year
- Features:
  - Drought-resistant, thorny trees → Babool, Acacia
  - Grasslands interspersed
  - Adapted to arid & semi-arid conditions

D. Montane & Alpine Forests

- Location: Himalayan Region
- Altitude: 1000–4000 m
- Features:
  - Himalayan Sub-tropical (Sal, Chir Pine → 1000–2000 m)
  - Himalayan Temperate (Oak, Fir, Deodar → 2000–3000 m)

- Alpine / Tundra (>3000 m) → Mosses, Grasses, Rhododendrons
- Coniferous forests → Snow-resistant

E. Mangrove Forests

- Location: Sundarbans (West Bengal), Andaman & Nicobar, Mahanadi Delta
- Features:
  - Salt-tolerant trees → Sundari, Avicennia
  - Protect coastlines → Prevent erosion & storm surges
  - Rich in biodiversity → Fish, Crabs, Crocodiles

F. Littoral & Sand Forests

- Location: Coastal regions, desert fringes
- Features: Coconut, Casuarina, Date Palm → Sand stabilization & coastal protection

3. Grasslands of India

- Location:
  - Tall grasslands → Assam, West Bengal, Odisha
  - Short grasslands / Prairies → Punjab, Rajasthan
  - Alpine meadows → Himalayas
- Importance: Supports livestock → Grazing, biodiversity hotspot

4. Important SSC Points – Forest & Vegetation

- Forest Cover → ~24% of India
- Tropical Evergreen → Rainfall >200 cm → Western Ghats, NE → Teak, Ebony
- Tropical Deciduous → Rainfall 100–200 cm → Most widespread → Sal, Teak
- Thorn / Scrub → Arid regions → Babool, Acacia
- Montane / Alpine → Himalayas → Conifers, Rhododendrons
- Mangroves → Sundarbans → Protect coast, rich biodiversity
- Grasslands → Plains & Himalayas → Grazing & wildlife
- Wetlands / Swamps → Chilika Lake, Pulicat Lake → Fish & biodiversity