

A photograph of a dense forest. In the foreground, there's a mix of green ferns and moss-covered ground. A dark, narrow path or stream bed cuts through the center of the frame. On the left, a large, dark tree trunk stands prominently. In the background, several tall, thin trees rise through a misty atmosphere, creating a sense of depth.

FOREST RESOURCES

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Meaning of the forest:

- The term "forest" is derived from the latin word "foris" meaning outside. Originally ,it is uncultivated and uninhabitated village boundary consisting of natural plants, i.e., trees and grasses .
- It means an association of plants , natural or cultivated, predominantly trees.
- In the words of Allen and Sharpe, "**Forest is a community of trees and associated organism covering a considerable area, utilizing air, water and minerals to attain maturity and to reproduce and capable of furnishing mankind with indispensable products and services**"



Uses of forest

- They provide timber for house-building, ship-building, bridges, railway carriages, furniture's etc.
- They supply fire wood and charcoal for fuel in homes and in industries.
- They provide wood pulp for the paper and rayon industries.
- They provide honey for food and medicines.
- They provide bee wax for candles, medicines, shoe-making etc.
- They provide canes for baskets, mats, chairs, ropes, walking sticks and umbrella handles.
- They provide sandal wood for carved boxes and small domestic articles .
- They provide tanning materials in the form of wood, barks, leaves, roots, and fruits for tanning hides and skin.

- They provide camphor for medicines.
- They provide rubber for rubber industries.
- They provide balata for the preparation of sea cables and machine belts.
- They provide edible fruits.
- They provide fibers.
- They provide grasses for the grazing of animals, thatching



Indirect uses of forest.

- They stop the rain-bearing winds and cause the rainfall.
- They increase the moisture content in the atmosphere and thereby provide additional precipitation(i.e., rainfall) in the locality
- They minimize the extreme variation in climatic condition and make the climate more equable.
- They control floods during heavy rain by absorbing excess rain water.
- They prevent soil erosion by checking the force of flowing of water.
- The thick roots of the trees absorb large quantity of water thus, forest help in the flow of rivers and streams.

- They offer hunting grounds.
- They provide shelter to wild animals and birds.
- They improve the sanitary condition of a place .
- They are a source of revenue to the government .
- They facilitate human existence by providing O₂ to human beings and absorbing CO₂ by human beings.
- They provide employment large number of people in different capacities as wood cutters, carriers etc.



Depletion of forest resource.

The history of the exploitation of forest is as old as man himself but during older times, the exploitation was balanced through natural growth of forest because at that time , exploitation was only for personal and community uses. But in recent year , depletion of forest has been on a large scale.



The main reasons for large scale depletion of forest.

- Expansion of agriculture, more forest have been cleared for agriculture.
- Large area of forest lands have been cleared for urbanization and human settlement.
- Commercial exploitation of forest .
- Forest fires .
- Mining activities in forest areas.
- Forest diseases are also partly responsible for depletion forest.



Adverse effects of depletion of trees

- ☞ It has contributed to rise in temperature.
- ☞ It has contributed to lesser precipitation.
- ☞ It is responsible for increased rate of soil erosion
- ☞ It is responsible for increase in the frequency and volume of floods .
- ☞ it has lead to loss of soil productivity.
- ☞ It is responsible for loss of biodiversity.
- ☞ It has lead to extinction of several species of plants and animals.
- ☞ It has caused imbalance in ecosystem.

