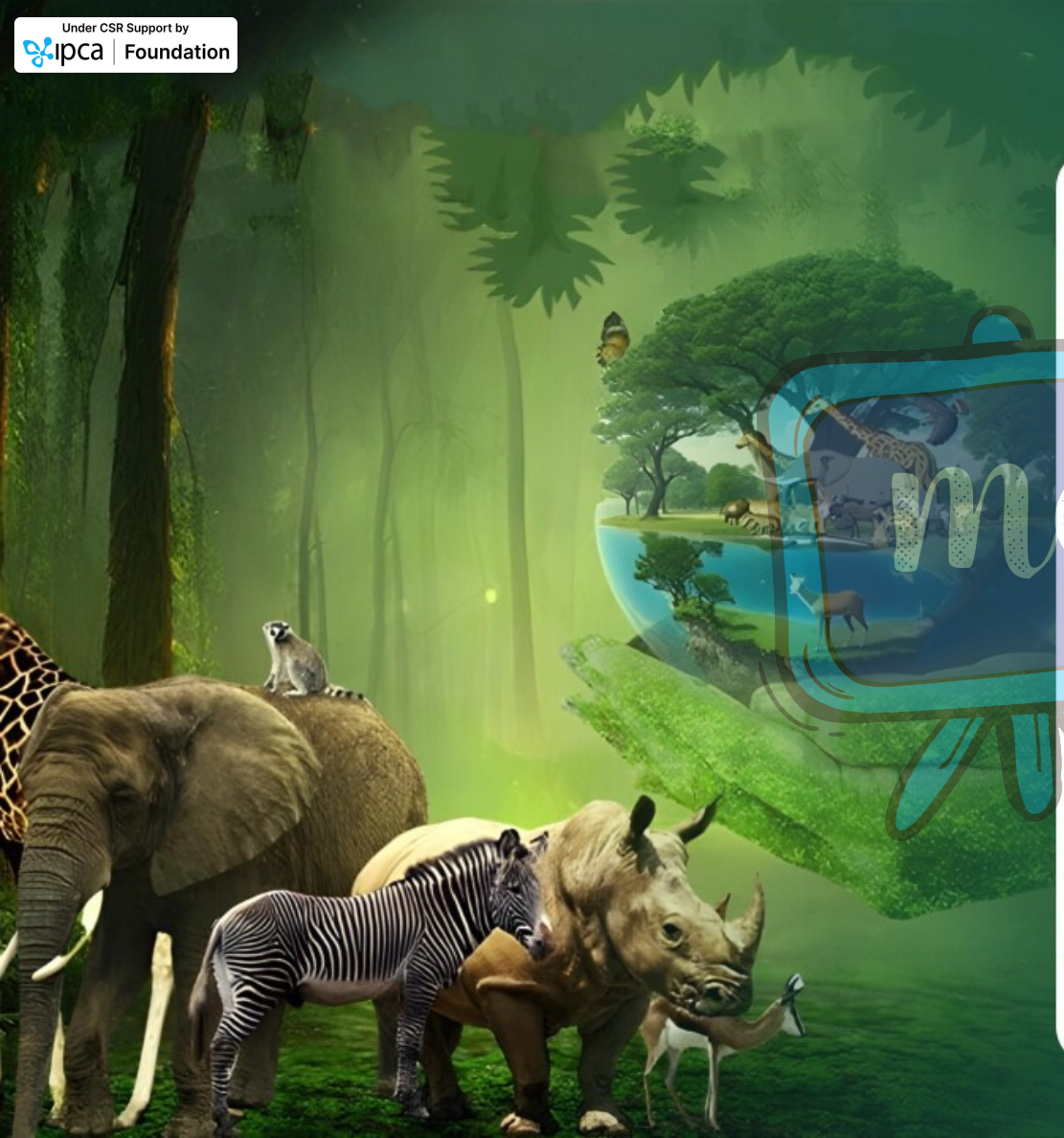
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CLASS – 9

SOCIAL SCIENCE

Contemporary India-I

CH-5 : Natural Vegetation And Wildlife

Part – 3

Types Of Vegetation

Sukhdeep Kaur

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OVERVIEW

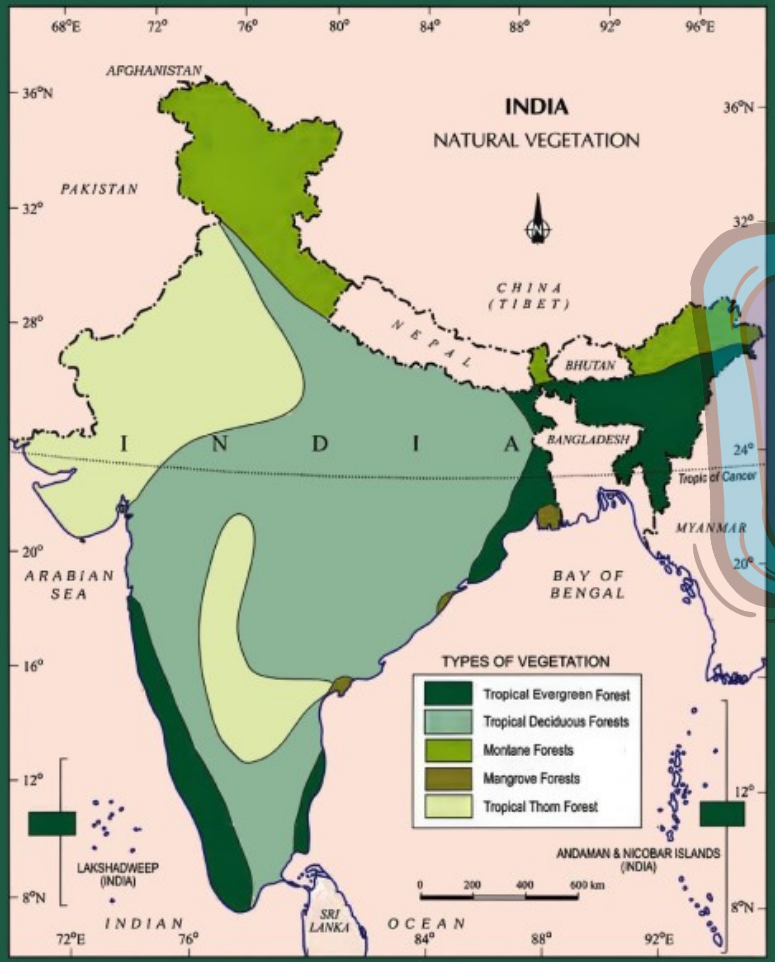
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1. Biodiversity in India
2. Types of Vegetation
3. Medicinal Plants
4. Wildlife
5. Conservation

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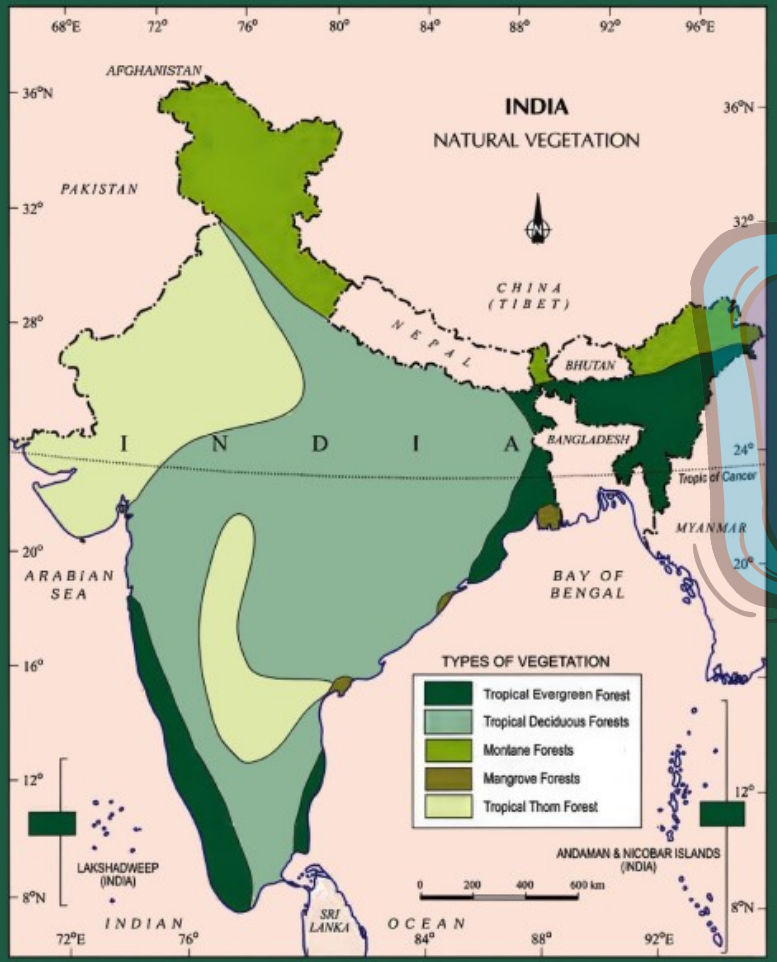


TYPES OF VEGETATION

- Tropical Evergreen Forests
- Tropical Deciduous Forests
- Tropical Thorn Forests & Scrubs
- Montane Forests
- Mangrove Forests

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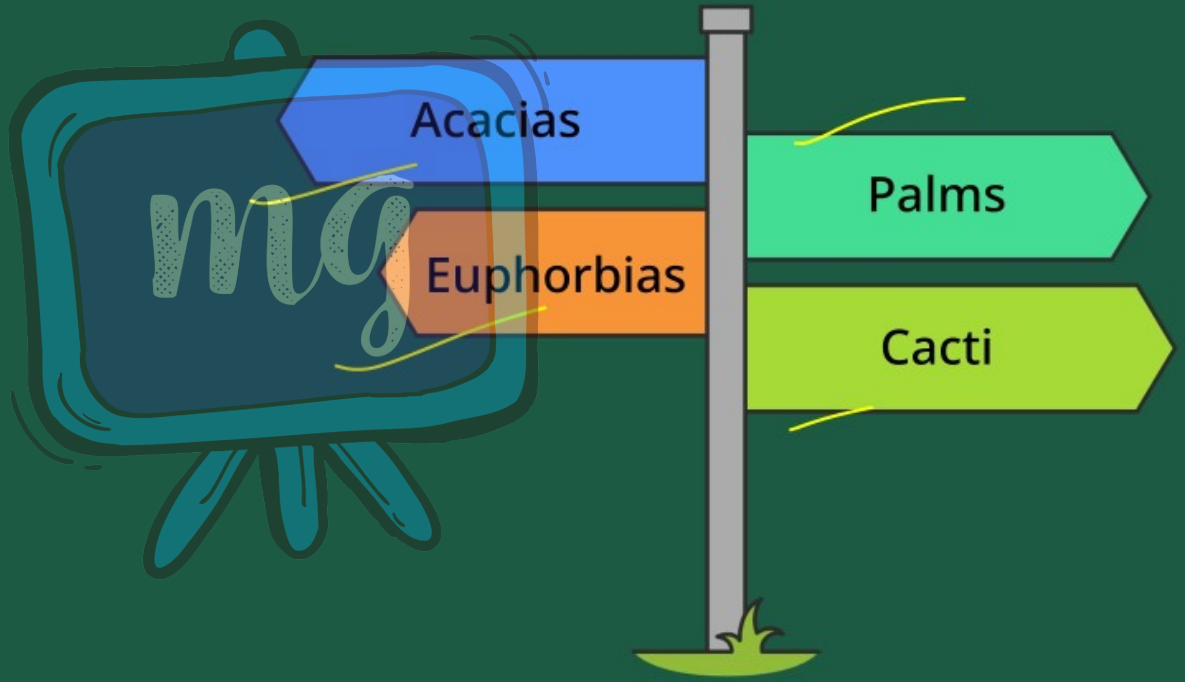
THE THORN FORESTS & SCRUBS

- Rainfall: - Less than 70 cm.
- Found in north-western part of the country.
- Includes semi-arid areas of: -
  - Gujarat
  - Rajasthan
  - Madhya Pradesh
  - Chhattisgarh
  - Uttar Pradesh
  - Haryana

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☛ Main Plant Species



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Thorn Forests & Scrubs

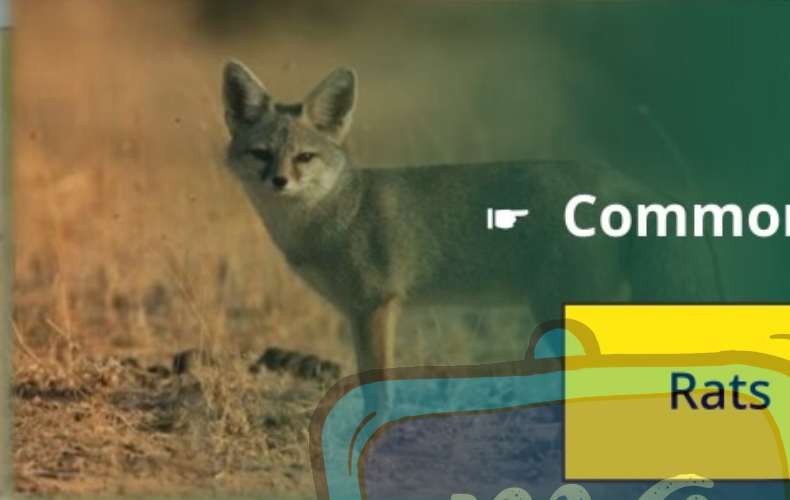
☛ Characteristics

- ✧ Trees are scattered
- ✧ Long roots penetrating deep into the soil
  (To get moisture)
- ✧ Stems are succulent
  (To conserve water)
- ✧ Leaves are mostly thick and small
  (To minimise evaporation)

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☛ Common Animals

Camel

Wild Ass

Desert Fox

Viper



- Rats
- Mice
- Rabbits
- Fox
- Wolf
- Tiger
- Lion
- Wild Ass
- Horse
- Camel

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MONTANE FORESTS

- **In Mountainous Areas**
  - Temperature decreases with increasing altitude.
  - It leads to the corresponding change in natural vegetation.
- Natural vegetation follows a succession from tropical to tundra regions.

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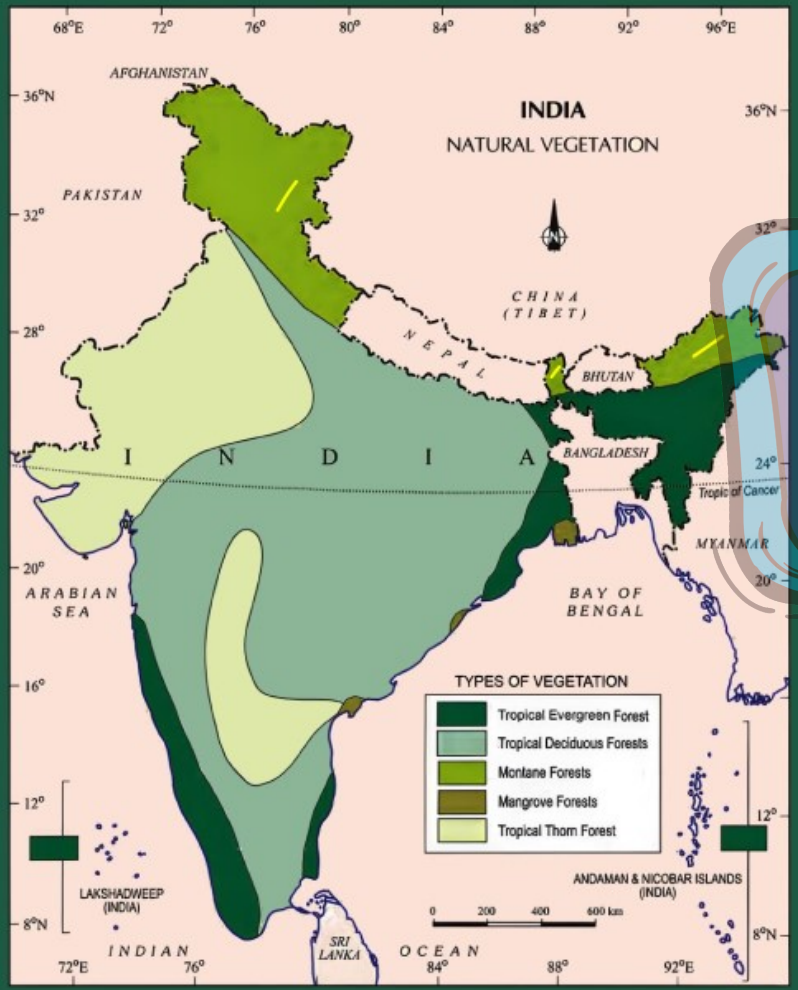
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- **Wet Temperate Type Forests**
  - Found between 1000 and 2000 metres.
  - Evergreen broad-leaf trees predominate. (Oaks, Chestnuts)
- **Temperate Forests**
  - Found between 1500 and 3000 metres.
  - Contains coniferous trees. (Pine, Deodar, Silver Fir, Spruce, Cedar)

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☛ Found in: -

Himalayas	Southern slopes
Southern & North-East India	High altitude places

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- **Temperate Grasslands**
  - Common at higher elevations.
- **Alpine Vegetation**
  - At high altitudes (Generally more than 3,600 metres)
  - Temperate Forests and Grasslands give way to Alpine Vegetation

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- **Common Trees**
  - Silver Fir
  - Junipers
  - Pines
  - Birches
- Get progressively stunted (As they approach the snow-line)
- Ultimately, through shrubs and scrubs, they merge into the Alpine grasslands.

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- **Alpine Grasslands**
  - Used extensively for grazing by nomadic tribes. (Gujjars, Bakarwals)
- **Tundra Vegetation**
  - At higher altitudes, mosses and lichens form part of tundra vegetation.

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Common Animals

- Kashmir Stag
- Spotted Dear
- Wild Sheep
- Jack Rabbit
- Tibetan Antelope
- Yak
- Snow Leopard
- Squirrels



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- Shaggy Horn Wild Ibex
- Bear
- Sheep and Goats (With Thick Hair)
- Rare Red Panda



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MANGROVE FORESTS

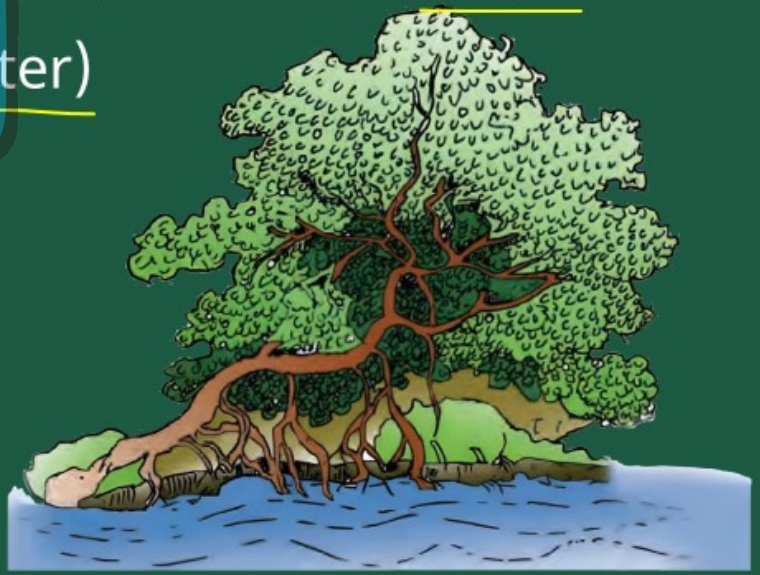
- Tidal Forests.
- Found in the areas of coasts.
  (Influenced by tides)



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- Mud and silt get accumulated on such coasts.
- Common Plants: - Dense mangroves (Roots of the plants submerged under water)



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☛ **Found in: -**

Deltas of Ganga, Mahanadi, Krishna, Godavari and Kaveri.



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☛ SUNDARI TREES

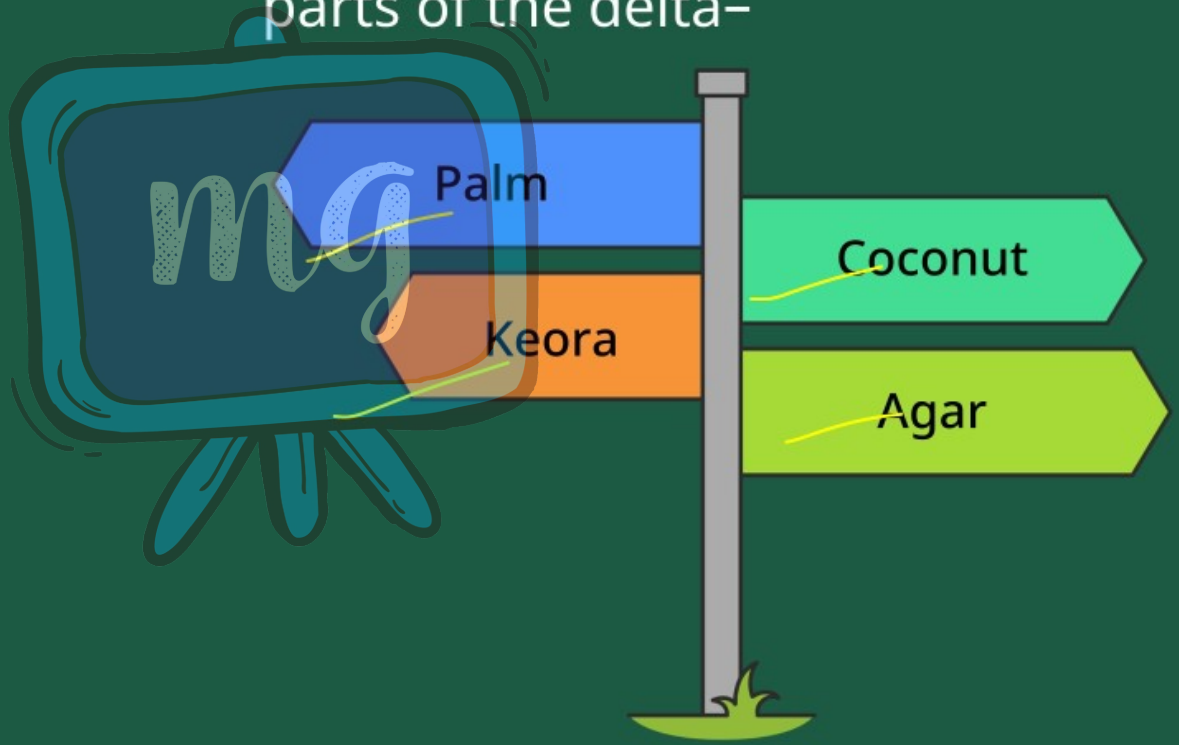
- ✧ Found in the Ganga-Brahmaputra delta.
- ✧ Provide durable hard timber.



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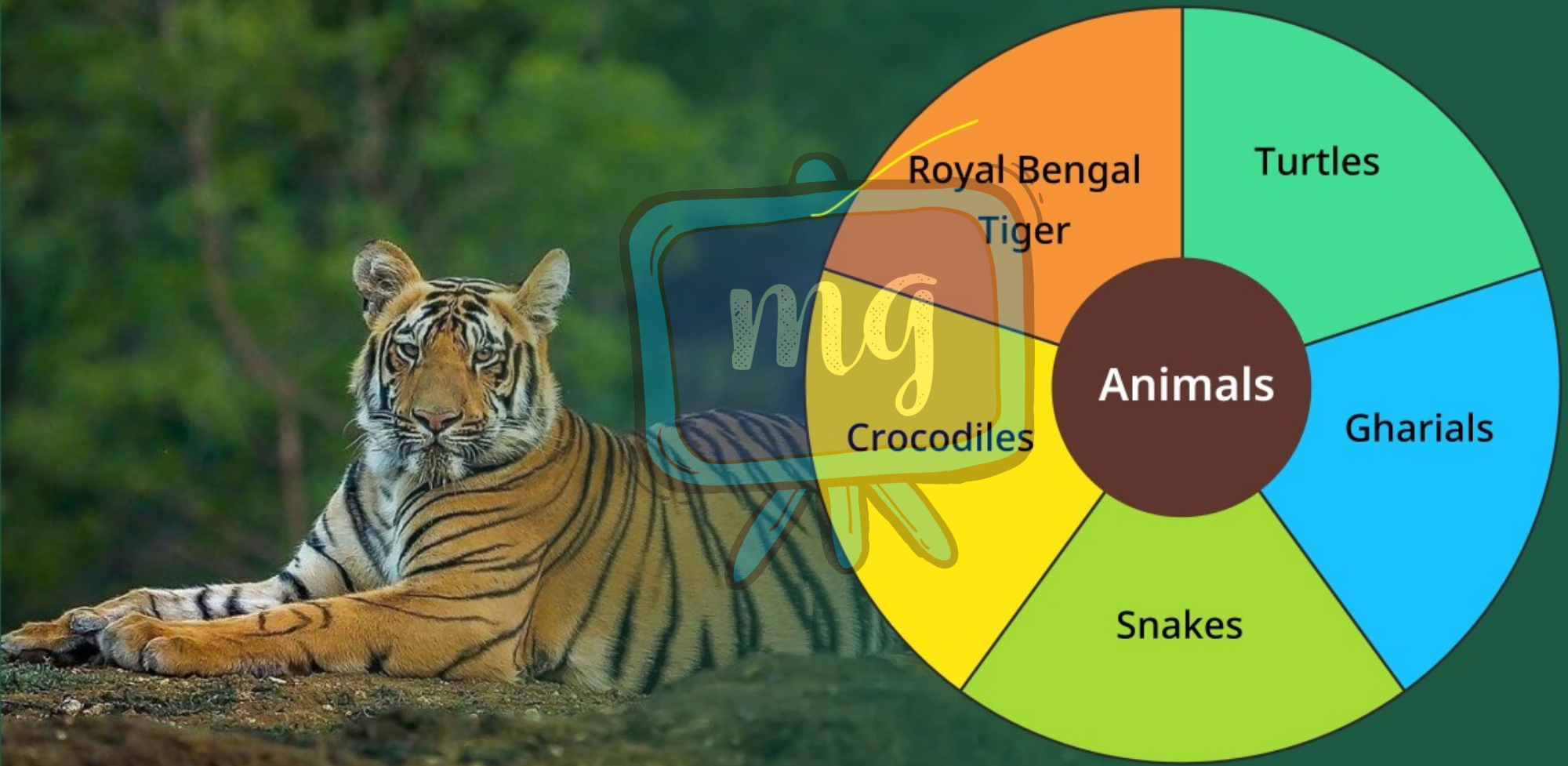
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☛ Other vegetation grows in some parts of the delta–



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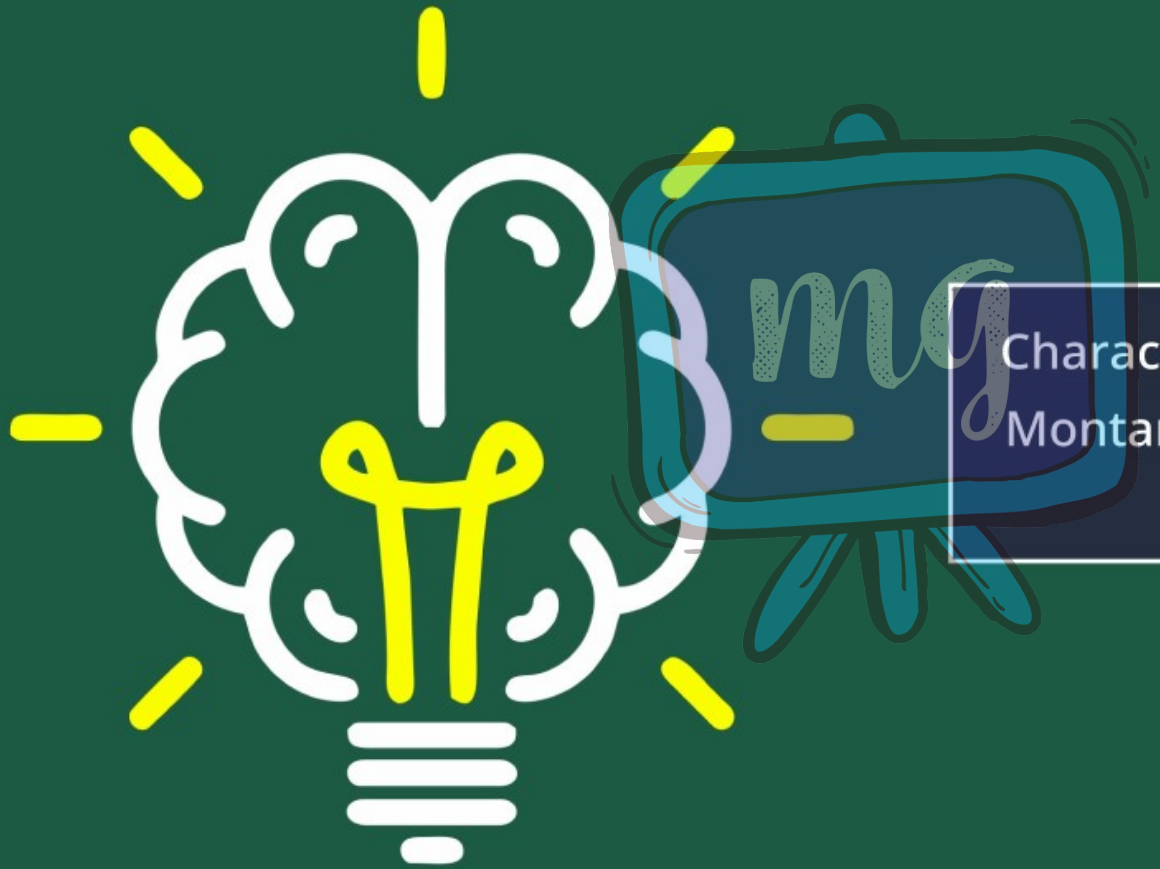
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LEARNING OUTCOME

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Characteristics of Thorn Forests, Montane Forests and Mangrove Forests.

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ASSESSMENT

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1 What is the main adaptation of plants in thorn forests?

A Large, broad leaves to absorb sunlight.

B Deep roots to reach underground water.

C Soft stems for rapid growth.

D Evergreen leaves for constant photosynthesis.

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ASSESSMENT

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2 What type of vegetation is found in coastal tidal areas?

A Thorn Forests

B Mangrove Forests

C Montane Forests

D Alpine Grasslands

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ASSESSMENT



3 What happens to vegetation as altitude increases in montane forests?

A It remains the same.

B It changes gradually from tropical forests to tundra vegetation.

C It only has grasslands.

D It grows thicker and denser.

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