

High Yield Hints – Biodiversity

BIODIVERSITY AND CONSERVATION

- a. Biodiversity is the totality of genes, species and ecosystems of a region. The levels of biodiversity are genetic diversity, species diversity, community diversity and ecosystem diversity. Alpha diversity refers to the diversity of organisms sharing the same community or habitat. Beta diversity is the replacement of species along a gradient of habitats and communities. Gamma diversity is the diversity of habitats over the total landscape or geographical area.
- b. Endangered species is the species that is facing extinction in the near future. Egs. Asiatic wild ass, Great Indian bustard, Black buck, Asiatic lion, Musk deer, Lion tailed monkey etc. Rare species include small populations that are not endangered at present but at risk of extinction. Egs. Snow Loris, Indian desert cat, Wild Yalk, Himalayan newt.
- c. Insitu conservation is the preservation of genetic resources in the natural habitats. Excitu conservation is the conservation of species outside its habitat.
- d. UNESCO launched Man and Biosphere Programme (MAB) in 1975 to conserve nature. Red data is the catalogue of animals and plants that are at the verge of extinction. Hot spots are the reservoirs of many threatened species of animals and plants. Norman Myers developed the concept of Hot spot in 1988. The Hotspots of India are Western Ghats and Eastern Himalayas.
- e. Sundarban National park of West Bengal is a Tiger reserve. The only Butterfly Park in India is located in Gangtok (Assam). 5th June is celebrated as World Environment day.