

## Biodiversity Richness in Indian States



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Biodiversity richness refers to the variety of life forms within a specific ecosystem or region. It encompasses species diversity, genetic diversity, and ecosystem diversity. Biodiversity is crucial for ecosystem services, cultural significance, economic value, and resilience against environmental changes. India is one of the 17 megadiverse countries, hosting approximately 7-8% of the world's recorded species.

### **Geographic and Ecological Context**

India features a range of diverse ecosystems. These ecosystems span from the towering Himalayas to expansive coastal regions, arid deserts, and lush forests. The major biogeographic zones of India include:

- **Himalayan Region**
- **Indo-Gangetic Plains**
- **Desert Region (Thar Desert)**
- **Western Ghats**
- **Eastern Ghats**
- **Coastal Regions**
- **North East India**
- **Islands** (Andaman and Nicobar, Lakshadweep)

### **Biodiversity Hotspots in India**

Biodiversity hotspots are regions with biodiversity that face threats from human activities. Notable hotspots in India include:

- **Western Ghats and Sri Lanka**
- **Indo-Burma**

### **State-wise Biodiversity Richness**

#### **Maharashtra**

Maharashtra is home to the Western Ghats and coastal regions. Protected areas are Sanjay Gandhi National Park and Tadoba Andhari Tiger Reserve.

#### **Karnataka**

Karnataka boasts rich flora and fauna, particularly in the Western Ghats. Key species include the Lion-tailed Macaque and Indian Elephant. Notable protected areas are Bandipur National Park and Nagarhole National Park.

#### **Kerala**

Kerala is known for its high endemism in flora and fauna. Key species include the Great Indian Hornbill and Nilgiri Tahr. Protected areas include Periyar National Park and Silent Valley National Park.

#### **Tamil Nadu**

Tamil Nadu features diverse ecosystems, including coastal and mountainous regions. Key species include the Indian Elephant and Nilgiri Tahr. Protected areas are Mudumalai National Park and Anamalai Tiger Reserve.



## West Bengal

West Bengal is rich in wetlands and mangroves, notably the Sundarbans. Key species include the Royal Bengal Tiger and Ganges River Dolphin. Protected areas include Sundarbans National Park and Buxa Tiger Reserve.

## Uttar Pradesh

Uttar Pradesh encompasses diverse habitats, including forests and wetlands. Protected areas are Dudhwa National Park and Pilibhit Tiger Reserve.

## Assam

Assam is renowned for its rich biodiversity and tea plantations. Key species include the Indian Rhinoceros and Assam Macaque. Protected areas include Kaziranga National Park and Manas National Park.

## Arunachal Pradesh

Arunachal Pradesh exhibits high levels of endemism and diverse ecosystems. Key species include the Red Panda and Snow Leopard. Protected areas are Namdapha National Park and Pakke Wildlife Sanctuary.

## Madhya Pradesh

Madhya Pradesh features rich forest cover and wildlife. Key species include the Bengal Tiger and Indian Bison. Protected areas include Kanha National Park and Bandhavgarh National Park.

## Rajasthan

Rajasthan is characterised by unique desert ecosystems and wildlife. Key species include the Great Indian Bustard and Desert Fox. Protected areas are Ranthambore National Park and Sariska Tiger Reserve.

## Threats to Biodiversity

Biodiversity faces numerous threats in India. Key threats include:

- **Habitat Loss:** Urbanisation, agriculture, and deforestation lead to habitat destruction.
- **Climate Change:** Altered weather patterns affect ecosystems and species survival.
- **Invasive Species:** Non-native species disrupt local ecosystems and outcompete native species.
- **Pollution:** Industrial and agricultural pollution adversely impacts ecosystems.

## Conservation Efforts

India has implemented various conservation efforts to combat biodiversity loss. Key initiatives include:

- **National Biodiversity Action Plan (NBAP):** A framework to conserve biological diversity.
- **Protected Areas:** Establishment of national parks and wildlife sanctuaries to safeguard habitats.
- **Community-Based Conservation:** Involving local communities in conservation



efforts.

- **NGOs and International Organisations:** Collaboration with various entities to promote biodiversity conservation.