

1 FUNGUS

The most common fungus every person has seen is the mushroom. They are part of Kingdom Fungi. The study of fungi is known as Mycology.

Features

- Fungi can be single celled or very complex multicellular organisms.
- Many fungi are free-living in soil or water; others form parasitic or symbiotic relationships with plants or animals.
- Fungi are eukaryotic organisms.
- Fungi lack chlorophyll.

Importance for living world

- Fungi are responsible for breaking down organic matter and releasing nutrients into the soil. So they help in removing waste.
- They help in many processes like making bread, wine, etc.
- Fungi like mushrooms are used as food.
- They are used in the manufacturing of antibiotics like penicillin.



How it can be harmful ?

- Fungus called ergot or Claviceps causes ergotism in animals who consume contaminated grains. (The alkaloid extracted from ergot can be used to induce childbirth).

2 DAL LAKE

A freshwater lake in Jammu known as the 'Jewel of Srinagar'. It is known for its Shikaras (houseboats) and floating gardens.

Features

- Nishat and Shalimar Mughal gardens are seen in the periphery.
- The Telbal stream is the primary water source and drains into a tributary of the Jhelum.



- Natural wetland is known for its floating gardens ("rad"), which is used for cultivating vegetables and flowers.
- The lake freezes during the winter time.



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3 KUNO NATIONAL PARK

A national park in the Vindhya's of Madhya Pradesh. It is in news due to the Cheetah reintroduction programme.

Ecosystem features

- The Kuno River, a tributary of Chambal, passes through this park.
- It has a dry deciduous forest characterised by Kardhai, Khair, and Salai trees.
- This area has been found suitable location for the Lion Reintroduction Program also.



4 BAMBOO

Bamboo are fast growing perennial plants belonging to the grass family.

Distribution

- Bamboos are distributed in tropical and subtropical to mild temperate regions.
- In India, it is found naturally across the country except in Kashmir.
- Bamboos are found as deciduous and semi-evergreen forests of north-eastern India and as tropical moist deciduous forests in north and south India.
- North-eastern states and West Bengal account for more than 50% of the bamboo resources. Also, it is seen abundantly in Andaman & Nicobar islands, Chhattisgarh, Madhya Pradesh and Western Ghats.





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Legal status in India

- Bamboo comes outside the definition of trees under Indian Forest Act 1927 through 2017 ordinance. This will promote the cultivation of Bamboo outside forest areas and help improve the income of farmers. This will also help in improving the green cover of the country.
- It is designated as Minor Forest Produce (MFP), which will help forest-dwelling communities, particularly tribals in earning income.

Minor Forest Produce (MFP)

- This includes non-timber forest produce of plant origin, such as bamboo, canes, fodder, leaves, gums, waxes, dyes, resins, and many forms of food, including nuts, wild fruits, honey, and lac.

National Bamboo Mission

- To fully tap the potential of bamboo through the centrally sponsored scheme.
- It focuses on the complete bamboo value chain, from cultivation to marketing.
- It is implemented through State Bamboo Missions.

Uses of Bamboo

- Furniture
- Paper pulp
- Edible shoots as food.
- Agarbatti sticks
- Construction poles
- Bio gas gasification