

Environmental Information System (ENVIS)-Resource Partner (RP) CSIR-National Botanical Research Institute, Lucknow

Why we celebrate International Day of Biological Diversity

Biodiversity is the living fabric of our planet. It underpins human well-being in the present and in the future, and its rapid decline threatens nature and survival of living organisms. On 22 May, we celebrate the International Day for Biological Diversity, every year to raise awareness of the vital importance of preserving biodiversity.

Biodiversity: Definition and Significance

- Biodiversity refers to the presence of different species of plants, animals, reptiles, birds, etc over a particular piece of land.
- Biodiversity is very important for maintaining the ecological balance of a place.
- Biodiversity as the name itself suggests is the diversity in biology over a place.
- Biodiversity is the heart of the planet and must be preserved as it is.
- It provides so many useful resources necessary for the survival.
- Without biodiversity, there would be no life and almost all the species will extinct.
- The biodiversity today is threatened by several human activities.
- Therefore, all the biodiversity reserves must be protected at all costs by taking necessary steps.

Types of Biodiversity

Biodiversity can be divided into three levels:

1. Genetic Diversity
2. Species Diversity
3. Ecosystem Diversity

Loss of Biodiversity

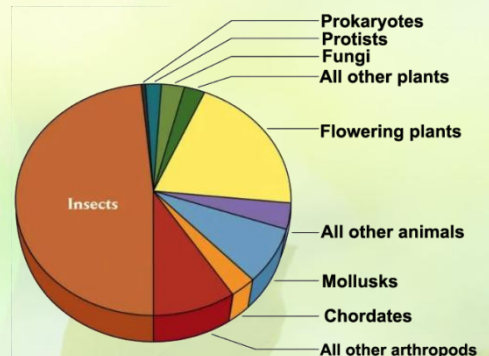
- ❖ The main cause of the loss of biodiversity can be attributed to the influence of human beings on the world's ecosystem
- ❖ Escalating human population is a major cause of biodiversity loss
- ❖ Most of the biodiversity loss has happened post Industrial Revolution through human activities

Threats to Biodiversity

The biodiversity is threatened by several human activities. Some of the threats to biodiversity are listed below-

- ❖ Encroachment
- ❖ Monoculture Agricultural Activities
- ❖ Expansion of Roadways and Railways
- ❖ Exploitation of Natural Resources
- ❖ Environmental Pollution

Diversity of organisms



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