

Chapter – 8 Geography

Human Environment Interaction: The Tropical and the Subtropical Region

- Human beings interact with environment and are dependent on it for a number of things.
- **Life in the Amazon Basin:**
 - (i) Amazon river was discovered by a Spanish explorer, Vicente Yanez Pinzon.
 - (ii) The Amazon basin lies in the tropical region close to the equator between $10^{\circ}N$ and $10^{\circ}S$, and the river Amazon flows through this region.
 - (iii) The Amazon river basin drains portions of Brazil, parts of Peru, Bolivia, Ecuador, Columbia and a small part of Venezuela.
- **Climate:**
 - (i) The Amazon basin stretches directly on the equator and its characterized by hot and west climate throughout the year.
 - (ii) There is heavy rainfall and high humidity.
- **Rainforest:**
 - (i) As it rains heavily, thick forests grow in this region.
 - (ii) The forests are in fact so thick that the dense roof created by leaves and branches do not allow the sunlight to reach the ground.
 - (iii) The rainforest is rich in fauna.
 - (iv) The basin is home to thousands of species of insects.
- **People of the Rainforests:**
 - (i) People grow most of the their food in small areas after clearing some trees in the forest.
 - (ii) Slash and burn agriculture is prevalent.
 - (iii) The development activities are leading to gradual destruction of the biologically diverse rainforest.
- **Life in the Ganga-Brahmaputra Basin:**
 - (i) The tributaries of rivers Ganga and Brahmaputra together form the Ganga-Brahmaputra basin in the Indian subcontinent.
 - (ii) The plains of the Ganga and the Brahmaputra, the mountains and foothills of the Himalayas and the Sunderbans delta are the main features of this region.
 - (iii) The basin area has varied topography. The mountain areas with steep slopes have inhospitable terrain.
 - (iv) Agriculture is the main occupation of the people where flat land is available to grow new crops.
 - (v) Wheat, maize sorghum, gram and millets are the important crops of the region.
 - (vi) The vegetation cover of the area varies according to the type of landforms.
 - (vii) There is a variety of wildlife in the basin. In the delta areas, Bengal tiger, crocodiles and alligators are found.
 - (viii) Fish and rice is the staple diet of the people.
 - (ix) The Ganga-Brahmaputra plain has several big towns and cities like Allahabad, Kanpur, Varanasi and Lucknow.
 - (x) All the four means of transport are well-developed in the Ganga-Brahmaputra basin.
 - (xi) Tourism is an important activity of the region.