



Biodiversity Park in Sirumalai Hills: Tamil Nadu

Why in News?

The Government of Tamil Nadu is developing a biodiversity park in the **Sirumalai Hill Range** in Dindigul district.

- The main aim is **to create awareness for the sustainable management of the ecologically sensitive area.**

What are the Key Points of this Park?

- This park is **a nature reserve that harbours the natural heritage of the area and has conservation, education and cultural values** and will enhance the quality of the environment.
- Various biodiversity components such as mammals, birds, reptiles, amphibians, etc, have been showcased here.
- Different types of **flowering plants have been planted all around the park and necessary irrigation facilities have been provided.**
- Assemblage of nectar plants to attract butterflies and host plants has also been planned.

What is a Biodiversity Park?

- **About:**
 - The biodiversity park is **a unique landscape of wilderness** where ecological assemblages of native plant and animal species in the form of biological communities are recreated in a region.
 - The underlying principle of the park is **to recreate self-sustaining ecosystems with native flora and fauna** which are characteristics of the area.
- **Objectives:**
 - Creating awareness among the forest stakeholders, the public and the student community **about biological diversity and its significance.**
 - Creating plant diversity that is **endangered, threatened and highly valuable for human existence.**
 - Creating a **gene bank with important plant species** including rare and endemic ones.
 - Creating a **carbon sink** for future generations with indigenous species to **mitigate problems of global warming and climate change.**
 - Promoting the **culture of conservation and appreciation towards natural resources** and its management.
 - Creating **livelihood opportunities for local communities**, especially the tribal community who are part and parcel of the forest ecosystem from time immemorial.

What are the Key Points Related to Sirumalai Hill Range?

- **About:**
 - The Sirumalai Hills are **spread over 60,000 acres in** Dindigul District of Tamil Nadu.
 - They are considered to be the **spur of the Eastern Ghats.** They are located about 25 kilometres from Dindigul town, at an altitude of 400 to 1,650 metres from mean sea level.
 - The hills act as a repository of several rare and endemic plants.

▪ **Flora:**

- The lower hill range consists of highly disturbed **scrub forest** while the major portion of the middle hill ranges are occupied by tropical mixed dry deciduous forest.
- The higher elevations are occupied by semi evergreen forest. The woodland **savannahs** are found along the slopes in the higher altitudes.

▪ **Fauna:**

- Animals like **Gaur, Leopard**, spotted deer, mouse deer, barking deer, **Jackal, Sloth Bear**, wild boar, **Indian pangolin, slender loris** and several species of **reptiles** and avifauna (Birds) are found in the region.



Source: DTE

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