

### **1.3.7 HOT- SPOTS OF BIODIVERSITY**

- A biodiversity hotspot is a biogeographic region with a significant reservoir of biodiversity that is threatened with destruction.
- An area is designated as a hot spot when it contains at least 0.5% of plant species as endemic.
- There are 25 such hot spots of biodiversity on a global level, out of which two are present in India.
- These are: Indo- Burma (earlier The Eastern Himalayas) ,The western Ghats & Sri Lanka..
- These hot spots covering less than 2% of the world's land area are found to have about 50% of the terrestrial biodiversity.

#### **Criteria for determining hot-spots**

- Number of Endemic Species i.e. the species which are found no where else.
- Degree of threat, which is measured in terms of Habitat loss.

#### **E.g. Indo- Burma (Eastern Himalayas) Hotspot**

- The hotspot includes all of Cambodia, Vietnam & Laos, and nearly the entire areas of Thailand, Myanmar & Bhutan as well as part of Nepal, far eastern India and extreme southern China.
- In addition, it covers several offshore Islands including Mainan Islands in the south China Sea and Andaman & Nicobar Islands in Indian Ocean.
- Indo-Burma is one of the most threatened biodiversity hotspots, due to the rate of resource exploitation and habitat loss.

#### **E.g. Western Ghats and Sri Lanka**

- Western Ghats and Sri Lanka, also known as the "Sahyadri Hills" encompasses the montane forests in the southwestern parts of India and on the neighboring Islands of Sri Lanka.
- The entire extent of hotspot was originally about 1,82,500 square kms, but due to tremendous population pressure, now only 12,445 square Km or 6.8% is in pristine condition.
- The important populations include Asian elephant, Indian tigers and the endangered lion tailed macaque.

### **HOT- SPOTS OF BIODIVERSITY**

The hot spots are the geographic areas which possess high endemic species.

An area is designated as a hot spot when it contains at least 0.5% of plant species as endemic.

**Area of hot spot:** There are 25 Hotspots of biodiversity on worldwide. Out of which 2 are present in India.

Eastern Himalayas → Nepal , Bhutan, Indo-Burma region, 30% of endemic species

Western Ghats → Srilanka region, ex – Maharashtra, Karnataka, Tamil Nadu, Kerala. 1500 endemic species .