

TOPIC

Page:..... Date:.....

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Sub :- Environmental
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Project Name:- Biodiversity
& Conservation.

Prayati
(P.T.O. - care)

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BIODIVERSITY :

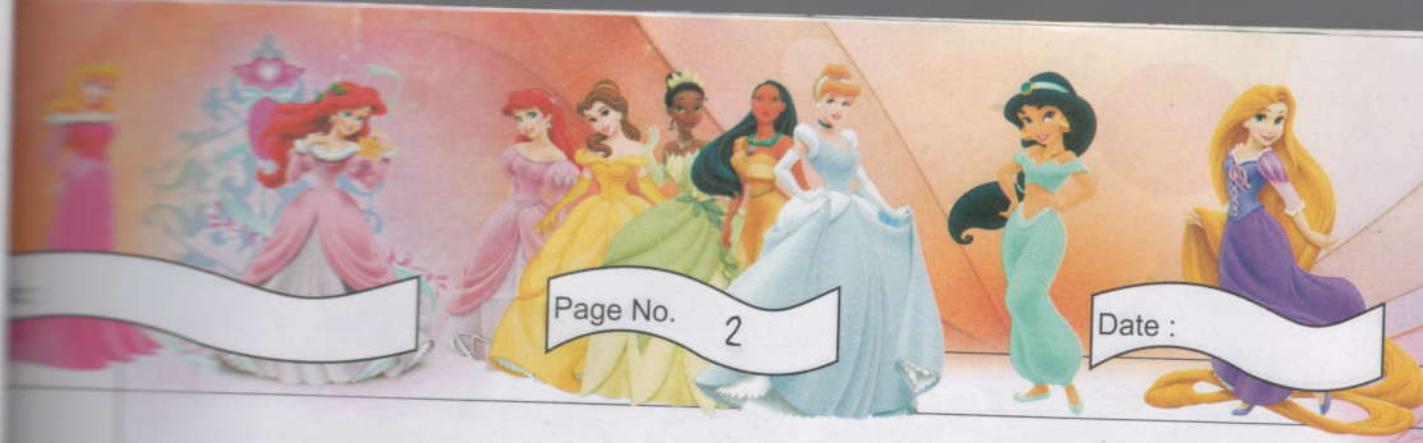
In our Biosphere immense diversity (of heterogeneity) exist not only at the species level but at all levels of biological organisation ranging from macromolecules within cells to biomes. Biodiversity is the term popularised by the sociobiologist Edward Wilson to describe the combined diversity at all the levels of biological organization.

The most important of them are -

i) GENETIC DIVERSITY:

A single species might show high diversity at the genetic level over its distribution range. The genetic variation shown by the medicinal plant *Rauvolfia vomitoria* growing in different Himalayan ranges might be in terms of the potency & concentration of the active chemical (reserpine) that the plant produces. India has more





than 50,000 genetically different strains of rice and 1,000 varieties of mango.

ii) SPECIES DIVERSITY :

The diversity at the species level. For example, the Western Ghats have a greater amphibian species diversity than the Eastern Ghats.

iii) ECOLOGICAL DIVERSITY :

At the ecosystem level, India, for instance with its deserts, rain forest, mangroves, coral reefs, wetlands, estuaries and alpine meadows has a greater ecosystem diversity than a Scandinavian country like Norway.

It has taken millions of years of the evolution, to accumulate this rich diversity in the nature, but we could lose all that wealth in less than two centuries if the present rates of species losses continue. Biodiversity

