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## 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.
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