



Cryptogamic Garden

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- **India's first Cryptogamic garden was inaugurated in Deoban area of the Dehradun.** Uttarakhand is a rich state in terms of biodiversity regarding Cryptogams with species of lichens, algae, bryophytes, and pteridophytes.
- **This garden is chosen because of its low pollution levels and moist conditions which are conducive for the growth of these species.** The garden will be housing nearly 50 species of lichens, ferns and fungi (collectively known as Cryptogamae). At an altitude of 2,700 meters, spanning over an area of 3 acres, Deoban has majestic pristine forests of Deodar, Oak which create a natural habitat for Cryptogamic species.
- **Cryptogamae means 'hidden reproduction' referring to the fact that no seed, no flowers are produced,** thus cryptogams represent the non-seed bearing plants. A cryptogam is a plant that reproduces with the help of spores. They need a moist environment to survive. **These are present in aquatic and terrestrial places.**
- Cryptogams are one of the oldest groups of plant species, existing since Jurassic era. Its aim is to promote the species as well as awareness of the importance of the Cryptogams. **These species have immense contribution in our environment and ecology and are imperative to sustain life on Earth.**
- Plant kingdom can be divided into two sub-kingdoms viz. Cryptogams and phanerogams. **Cryptogams consist of seedless plants and plant-like organisms whereas phanerogams consist of seed-bearing plants.** Phanerogams are further divided into two classes i.e. gymnosperms and angiosperms.

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