

Geography of India

Some important questions
(Part – 7)

Soil of India

Soil of India

➤ Under the report of 'All India Soil Survey Committee' by The Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR), Indian Soil is divided into eight major groups. They are –

- 1) Alluvial Soil
- 2) Red Soil
- 3) Black Soil
- 4) Arid and Desert Soil
- 5) Laterite Soil
- 6) Mountain and Forest Soil
- 7) Saline & Alkaline Soil
- 8) Peaty Soil & Marshy Soil

Alluvial Soil

- ✓ This is the most **fertile soil**. It is immature in nature. It is rich in **Humus**, Lime and **organic substances** and **potash** but poor in **Phosphorous**.
- ✓ This soil has been formed by the **depositional activity** of the **river**.
- ✓ It covers **15 lakh Sq.km (45.6% of area)**.
- ✓ It is found in the **Great indo- gangetic plain** starting from **Punjab in the west to West Bengal & Assam in the East**. It is also found in **deltas of the Mahanadi, the Godavari, the Krishna and the Cauvery**, and in the **Narmada & Tapy valleys, Northern part of Gujarat**.
- ✓ This type of soil is suitable for various crops such as **Wheat, rice, Sugarcane, Maize, pulses, fruits & vegetables**.

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- ✓ This soil can be divided into **Khadar** and **Bhangar**.
- 1) **New Alluvial Soil** is called **Khadar**
- 2) **Old Alluvial Soil** is called **Bhangar**.

Red Soil

- ✓ The **parent rock** of this soil is **granite** and **gneiss**. The colour of this rock is **Yellowish red** because of its presence **Ferric Oxide**. The soil is very rich in **Silica** but deficient in **Phosphate, manganese, calcium nitrogen, humus and Potash**. **Water retention capacity** is very low.
- ✓ This type of soil covers **3.5 lakh sq km (10.60% area of India)**.
- ✓ It is mainly found in **Penninsula area from Tamil Nadu in the south to Bundelkhand in the north & Rajmahal, Chotonagpur Plateau in the east to Kathiawad and Kuchch in the West** . This type of soil is found in **Southern Maharashtra, Andhra pradesh, Chattisgarh, Jharkhand, Odisha, West part of West Bengal, Uttarpradesh and Rajasthan**.
- ✓ This soil is suitable for crops such as **Wheat, Cotton, Pulses, Tobacco and Potato**.

Black Soil

- ✓ The parent rock of this soil is **basalt rock**. The another of this soil is **Regur**. The soil is also called **lava soil** because of the **parent material Basalt rock** is the solid state of the lava. **Water retention capacity** of this soil is **high**. The soil is very rich in **Potash, Lime** and **Humus**.
- ✓ It covers **5.46 lakh sq.km** which is **16.6% area** of the country.
- ✓ The soil is suitable for **cotton cultivation**. For this reason it is known as "**Black Cotton Soil**".
- ✓ This type of soil is found in **Gujarat, Maharastra, Western Madhya Pradesh, North – Western Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka, Chattisgarh** and **Jharkand**.
- ✓ The soil is suitable for various crops such as **cotton, pulses Sugarcane** and **vegetables**.

Desert Soil

- ✓ Desert soil is **very rich in mineral** but totally lack of **organic substances**.
- ✓ This type of soil covers **1.42 lakh sq.km** which is **4.32% area** of the country.
- ✓ The soil is found in **Thar of Rajasthan, West of the Aravallis, Northern Gujarat. Saurashtra, Western parts of Haryana & South Western Part of Punjab.**
- ✓ This type of soil is suitable for **Milletts** and **Xerophytes plants**.

Laterite Soil

- ✓ **Laterite** is a **Latin word** means **brick**. The colour of this soil is **reddish** because of presence **large amount of Iron**. **Pat land of Chotonagpur** plateau is covered by **laterite soil**.
- ✓ This soil covers **12.2 lakh sq.km area** which is **3.7 % area** of the country.
- ✓ This type of soil is mainly found in **Western ghat, Eastern ghat, Rajmahal hills, Satpura vindhya, Odisha, Chattisgarh, Jharkhand, Chotonagpur Plateau and West Bengal**.
- ✓ The soil is suitable for **Tea, Coffee & Rubber**.

Mountain & Forest Soil

- ✓ Mountain & Forest soil covers 2.85 lakh sq.km of area which is 8.67% area of country. The soil is partly acidic in nature, rich by decomposed organic substances.
- ✓ This type of soil is mainly found in hill slopes covered by forests such as Himalayan region, Western & Eastern ghats and also in the Peninsular plateau.
- ✓ The soil is suitable for Tea cultivation and Coniferous vegetation.

Saline Soil

- ✓ Saline soil is rich in **salt**. The soil has different name such as **reh, kallar, usar, rakar, thur karl Chopan**.
- ✓ This type of soil covers **68000 sq.km** of area
- ✓ This soil is mainly found in **Coastal part of India**.
- ✓ This soil is suitable for **coconut, Kashewnut and mangrove vegetation**.

Peaty/Marshy Soil

- ✓ peaty/ Marshy soil is formed in the high rainfall region where adequate drainage is not available. The soil is very acidic in nature. It is very rich in organic substances, highly saline but deficient in Phosphate & potash.
- ✓ This type of soil is mainly found in Kottayam, Alappuzha (Kerala), Sunderban delta, and Almora district of Uttarakhand.
- ✓ The soil is suitable for Jute & Paddy cultivation.

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