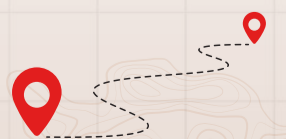
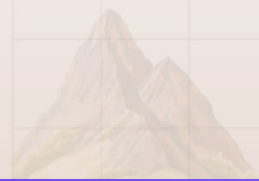




# Indian Soils

- **Soil** - Mixture of rock debris and organic materials on Earth's surface.
- **Soil formation factors** - Parent material, relief, climate, vegetation, life forms and time.
- **Human activities** - Also influence soil formation.
- **Soil elements** - Mineral matter, organic matter, air and water.
- **Pedogenesis** - Process of soil formation.
- **Soil profile** - Arrangement of soil horizons.
- **Horizon A** - Topmost layer with organic matter, nutrients and water.
- **Horizon B** - Transition zone between A and C.
- **Horizon C** - Loose parent material.
- **Ancient soil classification** - Urvara and Usara.
- **Urvara** - Fertile soil.
- **Usara** - Sterile soil.
- **Soil Survey of India** - Established in 1956.
- **ICAR classification** - Based on USDA Soil Taxonomy.
- **Largest ICAR soil order** - Inceptisols, 39.74 per cent.
- **Major Indian soil types** - Alluvial, black, red and yellow, laterite, arid, saline, peaty and forest soils.
- **Alluvial soil** - Covers about 40 per cent of India.
- **Alluvial soil** - Deposited by rivers and streams.





- **Alluvial soil texture** - Sandy to loamy to clayey.
- **Alluvial soil** - Rich in potash, poor in phosphorous.
- **Khadar** - New alluvium deposited annually by floods.
- **Bhangar** - Older alluvium away from flood plains.
- **Kankar** - Calcareous concretions in Khadar and Bhangar.
- **Black soil** - Also called Regur or black cotton soil.
- **Black soil region** - Deccan Plateau.
- **Black soil feature** - Swells when wet, shrinks when dry.
- **Black soil** - Sticky when wet and develops cracks when dry.
- **Black soil** - Known as self-ploughed soil.
- **Black soil** - Rich in lime, iron, magnesia, alumina and potash.
- **Black soil** - Poor in phosphorous, nitrogen and organic matter.
- **Black soil crop** - Cotton.
- **Red soil** - Red due to iron diffusion.
- **Yellow soil** - Yellow due to hydrated iron.
- **Red and yellow soils** - Poor in nitrogen, phosphorous and humus.
- **Laterite** - From Latin word Later, meaning brick.
- **Laterite soil** - Formed in high temperature and high rainfall areas.
- **Laterite formation** - Intense leaching by tropical rains.
- **Laterite soil** - Lime and silica leached away.
- **Laterite soil** - Rich in iron oxide and aluminium compounds.
- **Laterite soil** - Poor in organic matter, nitrogen, phosphate and calcium.
- **Laterite crops** - Tapioca and cashew nut.

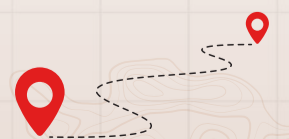
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- **Arid soil** - Red to brown, sandy and saline.
- **Arid soil** - Lacks moisture and humus.
- **Arid soil** - Common in western Rajasthan.
- **Arid soil** - Lower horizons have Kankar layers.
- **Saline soil** - Also called Usara soil.
- **Saline soil** - Has sodium, potassium and magnesium.
- **Saline soil** - Infertile and lacks nitrogen and calcium.
- **Saline soil areas** - Western Gujarat, eastern coast deltas and Sundarbans.
- **Gypsum** - Used to solve salinity problem in Punjab and Haryana.
- **Peaty soil** - Found in heavy rainfall and high humidity areas.
- **Peaty soil** - Rich in humus and organic matter.
- **Organic matter in peaty soil** - May reach 40 to 50 per cent.
- **Peaty soil** - Heavy and black in colour.
- **Forest soil** - Formed in forest areas with sufficient rainfall.
- **Forest soil** - Loamy and silty on valley sides, coarse-grained on upper slopes.
- **Forest soil in snow-bound Himalayas** - Acidic with low humus.
- **Soil degradation** - Decline in soil fertility.
- **Soil erosion** - Removal of topsoil.
- **Water erosion** - Common in heavy rainfall areas.
- **Wind erosion** - Common in arid and semi-arid areas.
- **Sheet erosion** - Removal of topsoil after heavy shower.
- **Gully erosion** - Deep channels formed by running water.


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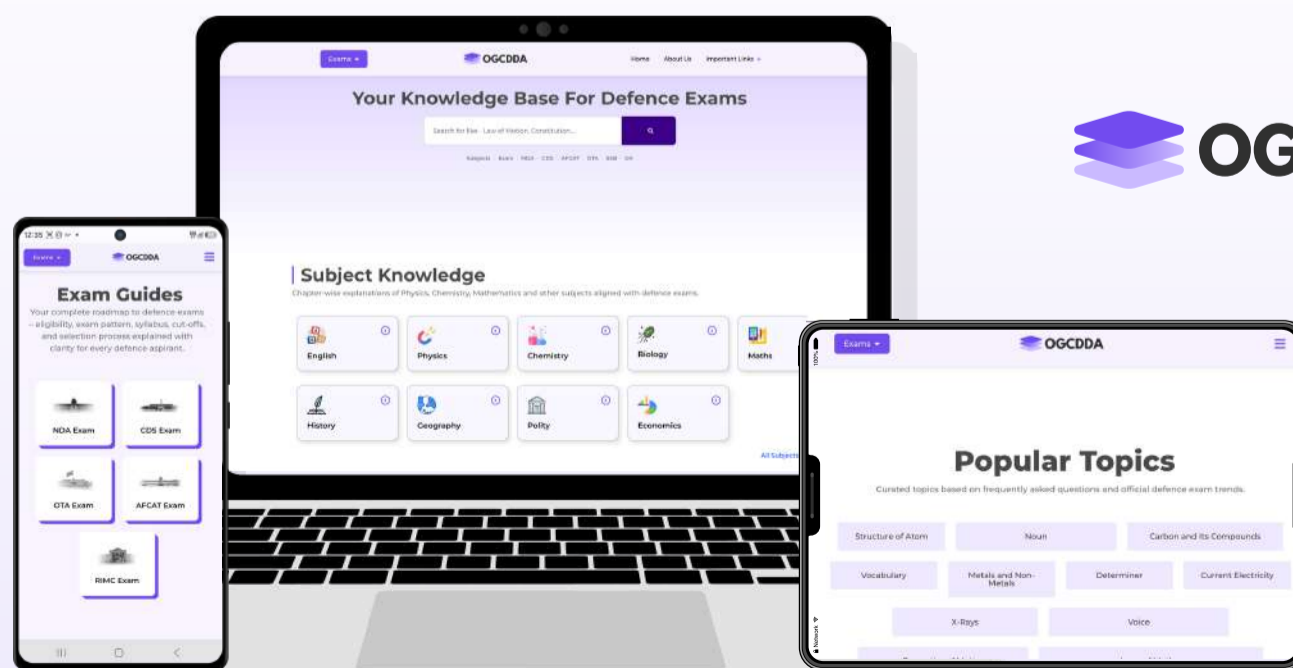
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