

Class X

Subject: Geography

Chapter: Resources and Development

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Land Use Pattern in India

The use of land is determined by

1. **Human factors:** such as population density, technological capability, culture & traditions etc
2. **Physical factors:** such as topography, climate, soil types

Land Degradation

1. Human activities such as deforestation, overgrazing, mining and quarrying have contributed significantly to land degradation.
2. Mining sites leave deep scars and traces of over-burdening the land.
3. In recent years, industrial effluents as waste have become a major source of land and water pollution in many parts of the country.

Land Conservation Measures:

1. Planting of shelter belts.
2. Stabilisation of sand dunes by growing thorny bushes.
3. Proper management of waste lands.
4. Control on mining activities.
5. Proper discharge and disposal of industrial effluents and wastes after treatment.

Soil as a Resource

1. Soil is the most important renewable natural resource.
2. Various forces of nature such as change in temperature, actions of running water, wind and glaciers, activities of decomposers etc contribute to the formation of soil.
3. Parent rock or bedrock, climate, vegetation and other forms of life and time are important factors in the formation of soil.

Classification of Soils

Alluvial Soils

The entire northern plains, Eastern coastal plains and some parts of Rajasthan and Gujarat are made of alluvial soil.

The alluvial soil consists of various proportions of sand, silt and clay.

As we move inland towards the river valleys, soil particles appear to be bigger in size whereas in the upper side of the river valley, the soils are coarse.

Based on age, Alluvial soils can be classified as: Old Alluvial (Bangar) & New Alluvial (Khadar).

Alluvial soils are very fertile. These soils contain an adequate proportion of potash, phosphoric acid and lime, which are ideal for the growth of sugarcane, paddy, wheat and other cereal and pulse crops.

Black Soil

1. This soil is black in colour and is also known as **regur soil**. It is ideal for growing cotton and is also known as black cotton soil.
2. The soil covers the plateaus of Maharashtra, Saurashtra, Malwa, Madhya Pradesh and Chhattisgarh and extends in the south-east direction along the Godavari and the Krishna valleys.
3. The black soils are made up of extremely fine i.e. clayey material and well-known for their capacity to hold moisture.
4. Black soil is nutrients rich and contains calcium carbonate, magnesium, potash and lime.

Red and Yellow Soils

This type of soil develops on crystalline igneous rocks in areas of low rainfall in the eastern and southern parts of the Deccan plateau.

Important: These soils develop a reddish colour due to diffusion of iron in crystalline and metamorphic rocks. It looks yellow when it occurs in a hydrated form.
