

B. A. Geography (Hons.) Part-II
Paper-III- Geography of India
Topic- Classification of Soil

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OUTLINE OF THE TOPIC

- ❑ **INTRODUCTION**
- ❑ **COMPOSITION OF SOIL**
- ❑ **TYPES OF SOIL**
- ❑ **PROBLEMS OF INDIAN SOILS**

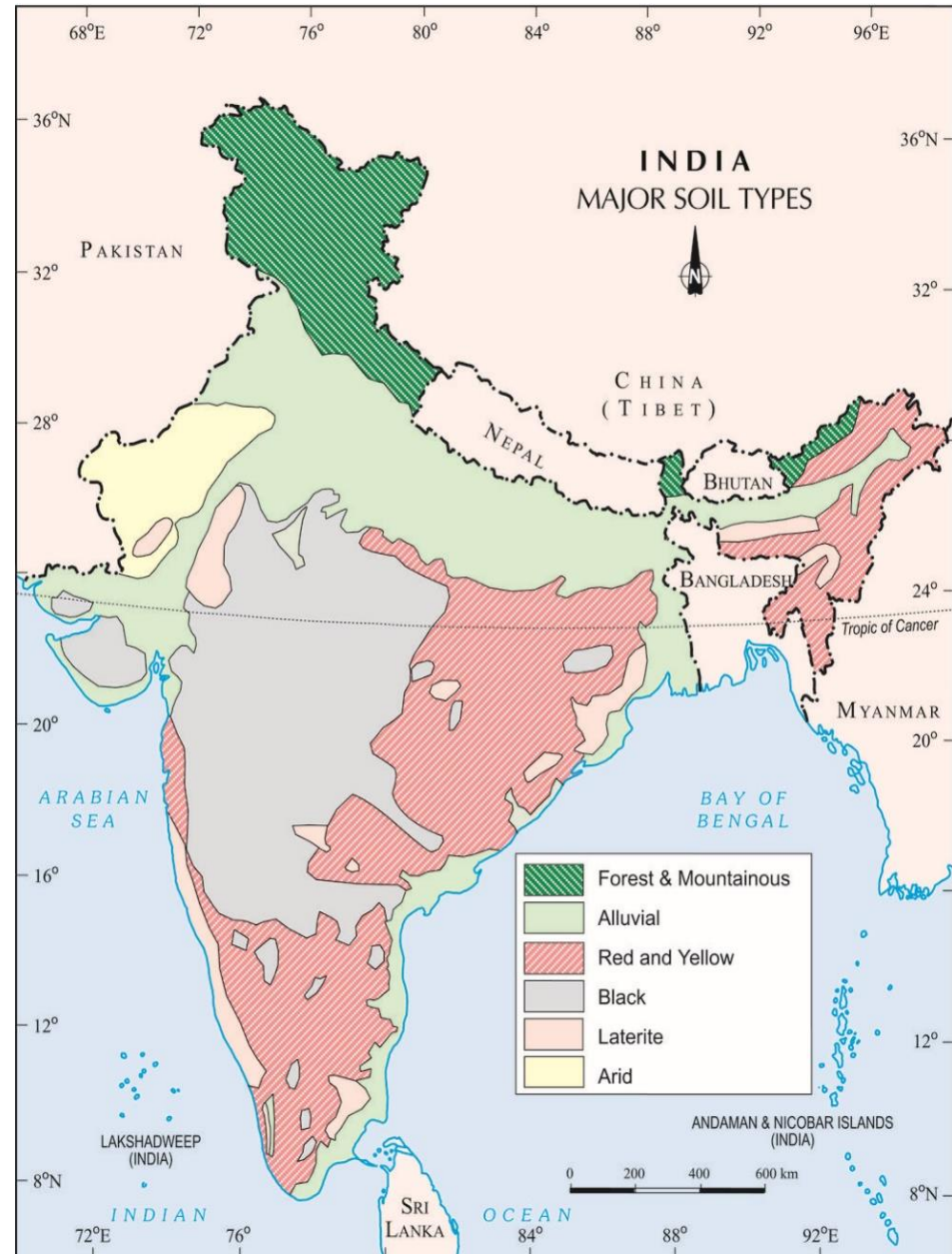
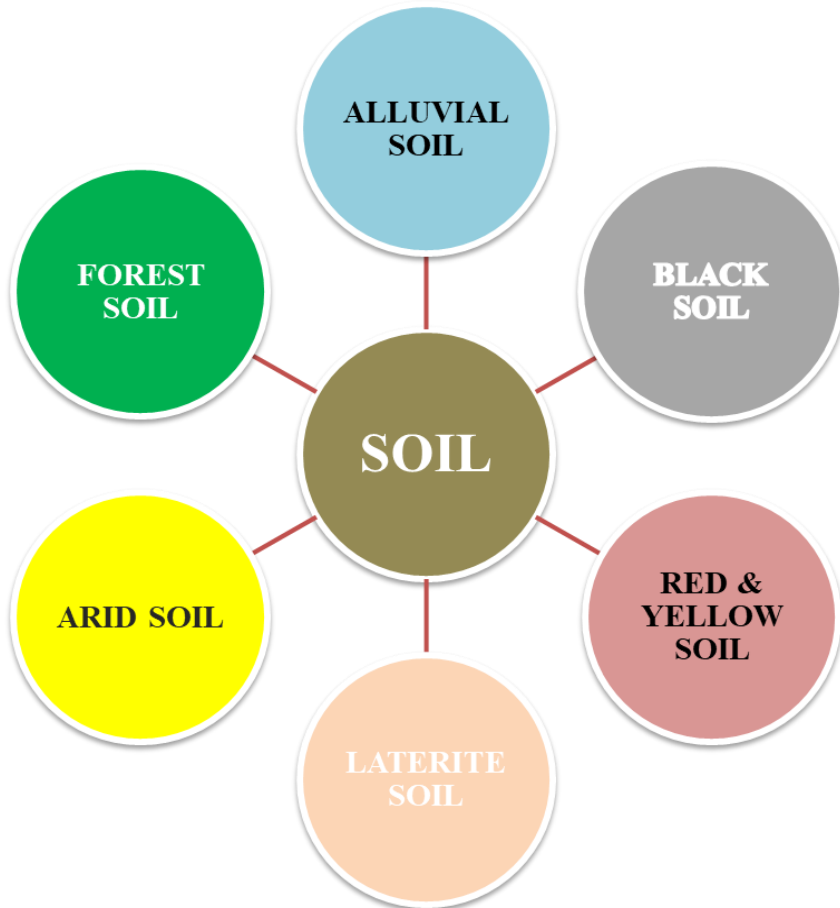


COMPOSITION OF SOIL

- ❑ Soil is a mixture of **inorganic** material , **minerals** and **organic** materials like *humus*.
- ❑ **Inorganic components:-**
 - 1.Silica
 2. Clay
 3. Calcium carbonate
- ❑ **Organic components:-**
 - 1.Plants remains
 - 2.Animal waste
 - 3.Dead animals
- ❑ Soil also contains moisture and air which varies from soil to soil.

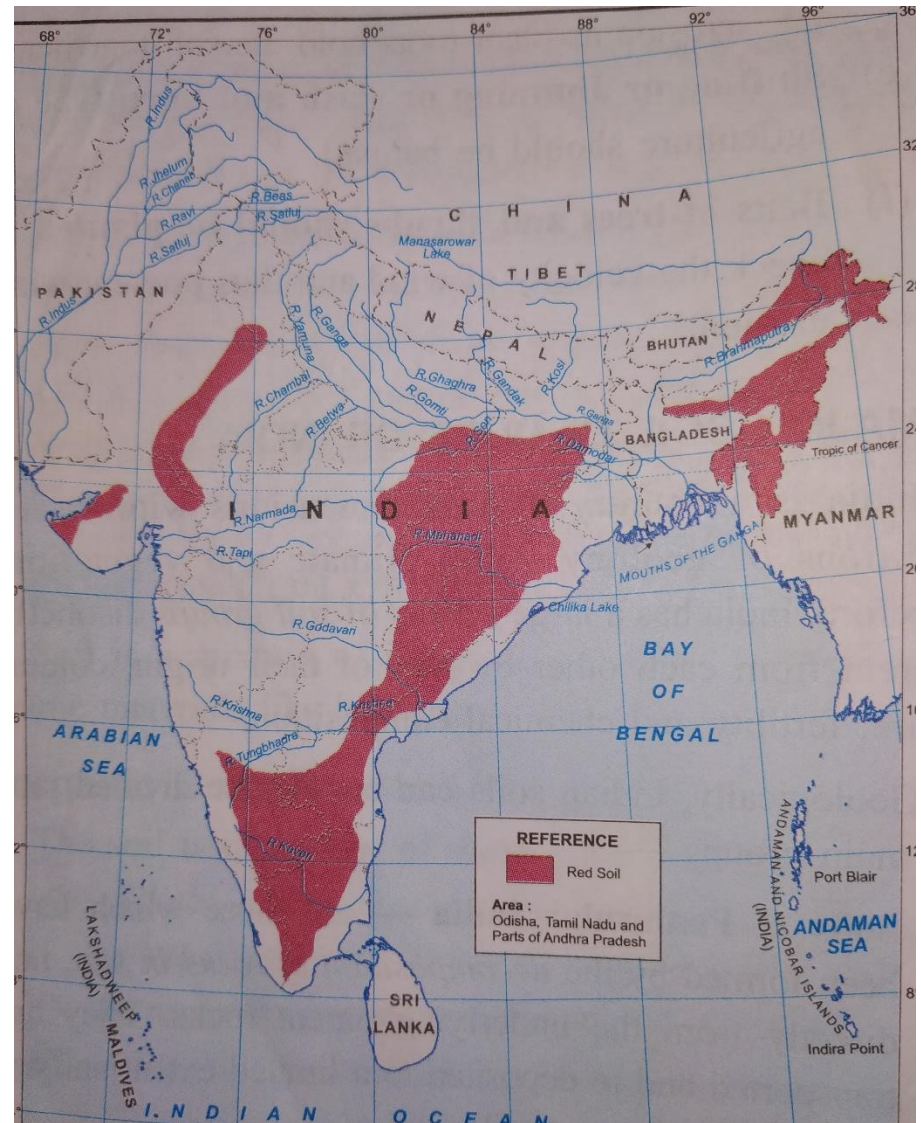
TYPES OF SOIL

India has varied relief features, landforms, climatic realms and vegetation types. These have contributed in the development of various types of soil.



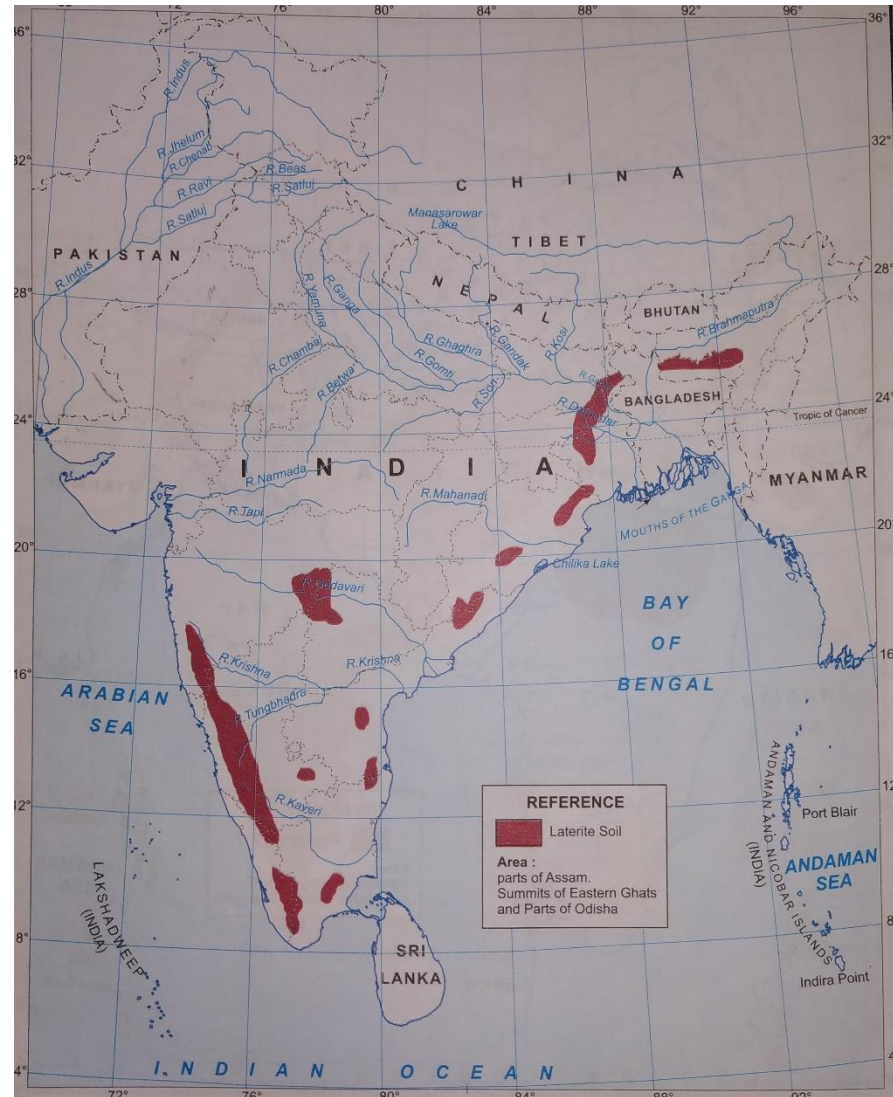
RED & YELLOW SOIL

- ❑ **Origin:-** These soils have been formed by the decomposition of granite, gneiss etc.
- ❑ **Colour & Texture:-** The red colour of these soils are due to their very high Iron contents.
- ❑ **Major Crops:-** Wheat, Rice, Cotton, Sugarcane, Millets etc. are grown.
- ❑ **Areas:-** Parts of Orissa, Chhattisgarh, Southern Parts of the Middle Ganga Planes, North Eastern Parts of India, Karnataka, Andhra Pradesh, Tamil Nadu etc.



LATERITE SOIL

- ❑ **Origin:-** It is formed due to a geological process known as Leaching
- ❑ **Colour & Texture:-** Red in colour due to presence of Iron Oxide. Coarse in texture.
- ❑ **Major Crops:-** Tea, Coffee, Rubber, Coconut are grown suitably in these soil
- ❑ **Major Areas:-** Karnataka, Kerala, Tamil Nadu, Madhya Pradesh, Western Slopes of The Western Ghats etc.



ARID (DESERT) SOIL

- ❑ **Origin:-** These soils develop under Arid and Semi-Arid conditions.
- ❑ **Colour & Texture:-** Ranges from red to brown in colour. It is sandy to gravelly with low organic matter, nitrogen and varying percentage of Calcium Carbonate.
- ❑ **Major Crops:-** Due to low moisture content they can be used to grow few crops like Millets, Cereals and Cotton.
- ❑ **Major Areas:-** South-Western parts of Rajasthan (From Pokhran to Jaisalmer)



Forest Soil

- **Origin:-** Formed due to mechanical weathering caused by snow, rain, temperature variation etc.
- **Colour & Texture:-** Colour and Texture varies according to the mountain environment where they are formed. They are *loamy* and *silty* in valley sides and *coarse* grained in the Upper slopes.
- **Major Crops:-** Plantation crops and Orchards are grown in this soil.
- **Areas:-** Found in lower parts of the valleys especially North & North-Eastern Parts of India.



PROBLEMS OF INDIAN SOIL

Indian Soils are suffering from a number of problems such as soil erosion, desertification, salinity and alkalinity, wastelands, urbanization and transport development and interference of man.



Desertification