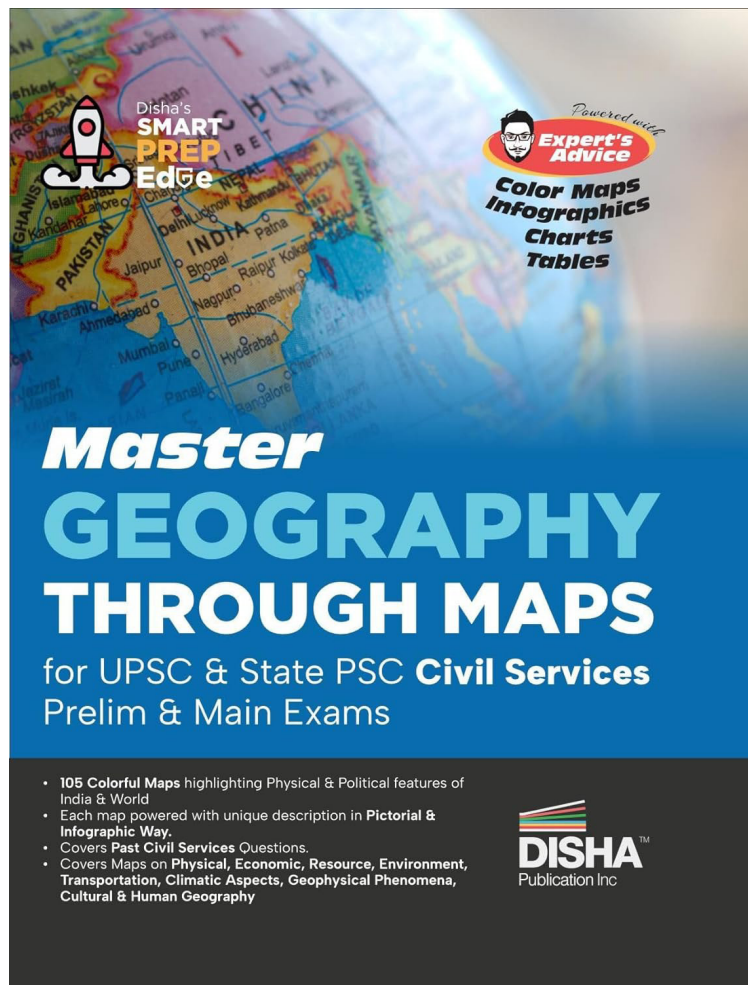


This sample is taken from the “**Master Geography through Maps for UPSC & State PSC Civil Services Prelim & Main Exams | Previous Year Questions PYQs | 105 Maps powered with 4 color, Expert’s Advice, Infographics, Charts & Tables |**”

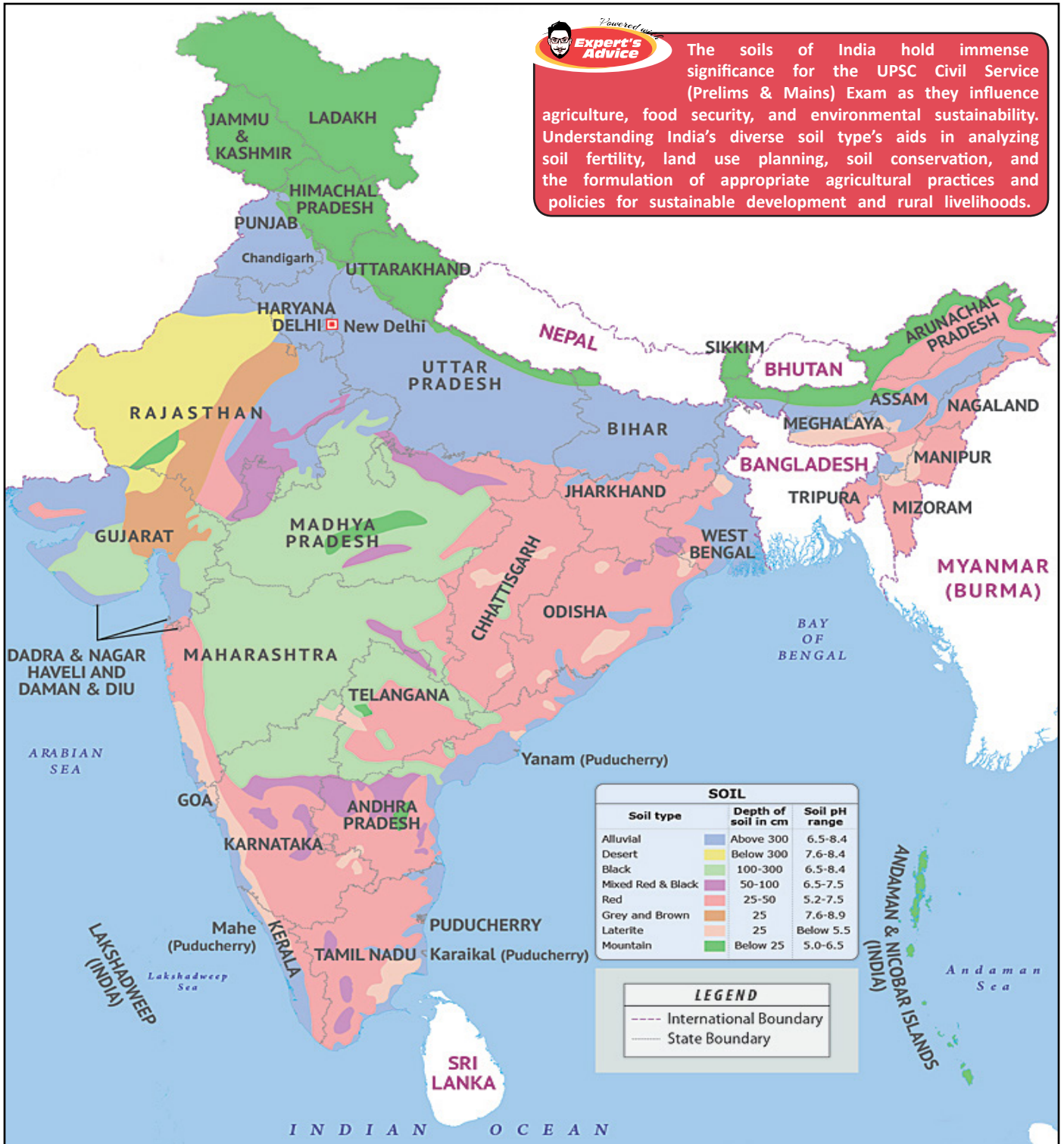


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## Soils of India



The soils of India hold immense significance for the UPSC Civil Service (Prelims & Mains) Exam as they influence agriculture, food security, and environmental sustainability. Understanding India's diverse soil types aids in analyzing soil fertility, land use planning, soil conservation, and the formulation of appropriate agricultural practices and policies for sustainable development and rural livelihoods.



Soils Types	Properties of Soils					
	Color	Texture	Rich in	Poor in	Suitable crops	Area of distribution
<b>Alluvium</b> (46% of TGA)	Grey, Light Brown, or Yellowish	Clayey	Potash, Phosphoric acid, Lime, and Carbon compounds	Nitrogen & Humus.	Sugarcane, Paddy, Wheat, Cereals, Tobacco, Cotton, Maize, Oilseeds, Vegetables, and Pulses.	Punjab, Haryana, UP, Bihar, Gujarat, Rajasthan, West Bengal, Odisha, Andhra Pradesh, Tamil Nadu and Assam
<b>Black/Regur</b> (15% of TGA)	Black (Due to Titaniferous Magnetite or Iron)	Clayey (High water retaining capacity) & <b>Self ploughing Capacity</b>	Iron, Lime, Calcium, Potash, Aluminium & Magnesium	Phosphorus, Nitrogen, and Organic content	Ragi, Groundnuts, Millet, Tobacco, and Potatoes	Gujarat, MH, Madhya Pradesh, Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka, Tamil Nadu, Rajasthan, Chhattisgarh, and Jharkhand.
<b>Red/Yellow</b> (18.5 % of TGA)	Red (Due to ferric oxides)	Thin coating, Sandy to clay and loamy	Little Humus (Moisture retention), & Iron	Phosphorus, Nitrogen, and Organic content	Ragi, Groundnuts, Millet, Tobacco, and Potatoes	TN, Karnataka, MH, MP, Rajasthan, Goa, Odisha, Bihar, W. Bengal, UP, Assam, Manipur, Tripura, Meghalaya, and Nagaland
<b>Laterite</b> (7.5% of TGA)	Brown (Due to mixture of hydrated oxides of aluminium and iron.)	Must be Laterite rock or structure	Iron oxide potash	Nitrogen, Phosphorous, Potash, Lime, & Magnesia	Plantation crops like cashew, rubber, tea, and coffee	W. Ghats, E. Ghats, Vindhya, Satpura, Karnataka, Kerala, MP, MH, Odisha, Assam, and Tamil Nadu
<b>Desert/Arid</b> (4.32% of TGA)	Red to Brown (High salt content)	Sandy with low organic matter	Lime, Bases. Phosphates and nitrates	Nitrogen, and Hummus	Bajra, Jowar, Ragi, Oil seeds pulses, fodder, and guar.	Rajasthan, Northern Gujarat, Saurashtra, Kachchh, western Haryana, and southern Punjab
<b>Alkaline/Saline/ (Reh, Usar, Kallar, Rakar, Thur, and Chopan.)</b> (2.5% of TGA)	Dark black to Brown	Sandy to Loamy, <b>Infertile &amp; Uncultivable,</b>	Sodium, potassium, and magnesium	Nitrogen and calcium, promotes <b>capillary action</b>	Leguminous crops like beans, peas, cowpea, peanuts, mung and gram,	Rajasthan, Haryana, Punjab, Uttar Pradesh, Bihar, and Maharashtra.
<b>Peaty, and Marshy Soil/Bog Soil</b>	Heavy and black in colour	Dominance of clay and mud	Organic matter and soluble salts	Potash and phosphate.	Jute, rice, spices, rubber, Mangrove forests	Odisha, W. Bengal, Bihar, UP, Uttarakhand, Karnataka & TN.
<b>Mountains and Forest</b> (8.67 % of TGA)	Dark brown	Clayey silt to loamy (Slightly acidic)	Rich in humus.	Nitrogen, Phosphorous, Potash, Lime	Tea, coffee, spices, rubber, bamboo and silvi pastoral farming	J&K, Himachal Pradesh, Manipur, Western Ghats, Nilgiri, Annamalai, and Cardamom hills.

## PYQs Archive

1. With reference to India, which one of the following statements is not correct? [2002]

- About one-third of the area of the country records more than 750 millimetres of annual rainfall
- The dominant source of irrigation in the country is wells
- Alluvial soil is the predominant type of soil in northern plains of the country
- The mountain areas account for about thirty percent of the surface area of the country

Ans b.

2. Which of the following statements regarding laterite soils of India are correct? [2013]

- They are generally red in colour.
- They are rich in nitrogen and potash.
- They are well-developed in Rajasthan and UP.
- Tapioca and cashew nuts grow well on these soils.

Select the correct answer using the codes given below.

- 1, 2 and 3
- 2, 3 and 4
- 1 and
- 2 and 3 only

Ans: c.