



KAMARAJ IAS ACADEMY
Only IAS Academy by Grandson of "Per.uthalaivar Kamarajar"

MAP OF THE DAY 21-04-26

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Kamaraj IAS Academy

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MAP OF THE DAY BHARAT

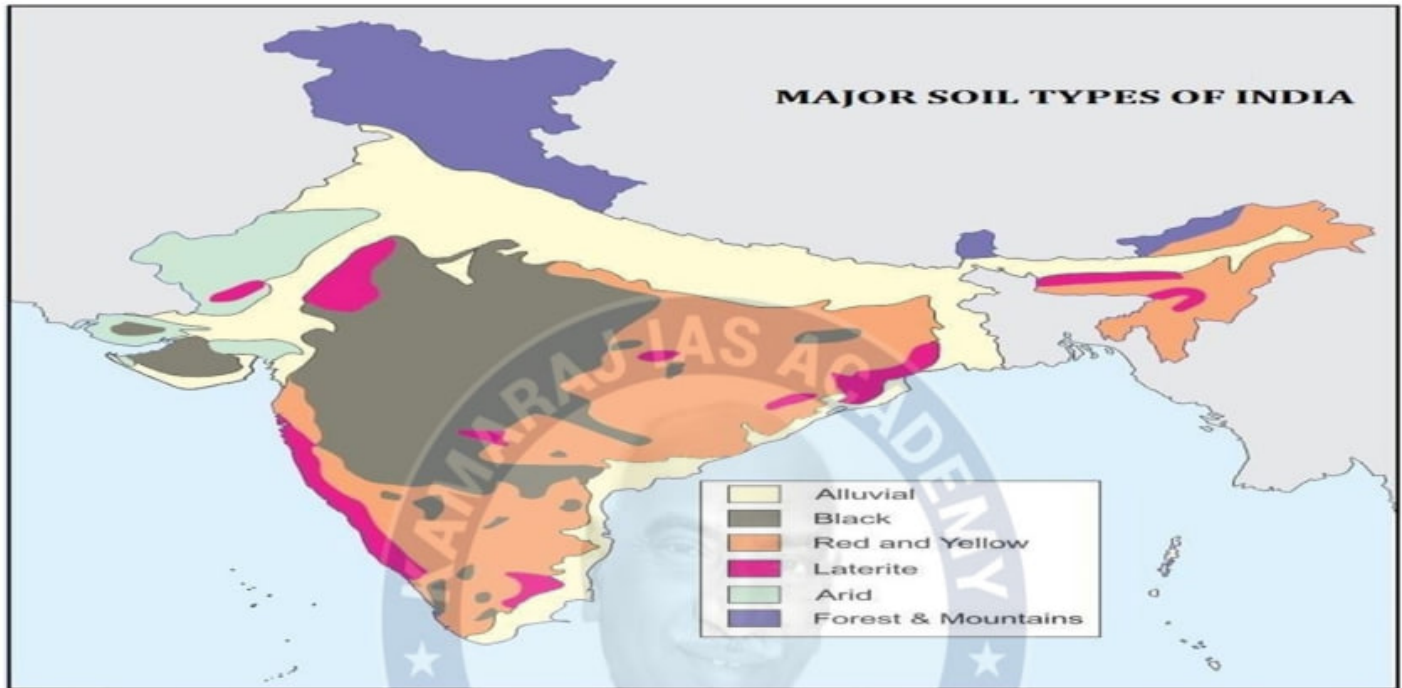
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KAMARAJ K
HONORARY DIRECTOR



Tuesday, 21 April 2026



Laterite Soil in India

- **Meaning & Formation**
- Laterite soil is formed under conditions of **high temperature and heavy rainfall**, typical of tropical regions.
- The term “laterite” comes from the Latin word *later*, meaning **brick**, because this soil becomes hard like brick when dried.
- It is formed due to a process called **Leaching**, where heavy rainfall washes away nutrients.
- Intense weathering of rocks leads to the removal of silica and concentration of iron and aluminium.
- It develops mainly on **basalt and other igneous rocks**.
- **Distribution in India**
- Found mainly in high rainfall areas of India.
- Major regions include the **Western Ghats**, Eastern Ghats, and parts of plateau regions.
- Common in states like Kerala, Karnataka, Tamil Nadu, and parts of Maharashtra and West Bengal.
- Also found in parts of Maharashtra and West Bengal.
- Typically seen in **hilly and plateau areas** with good drainage.
- **Characteristics**
- Rich in **iron oxide and aluminium**, giving it a reddish color.
- Poor in nitrogen, potassium, lime, and organic matter.
- Soil texture is generally **coarse and porous**.
- It has **low fertility** compared to alluvial soil.
- Becomes **hard and compact when dry**, but soft when wet.
- **Climate Relation**
- Strongly associated with **tropical monsoon climate**.
- Requires alternating **wet and dry seasons** for proper formation.

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MAP OF THE DAY WORLD

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Canterbury Plains

➤ Location and Extent

- This plain is located on the **east coast of New Zealand's South Island** and is one of the country's major physical divisions.
- It is bordered by the **Southern Alps to the west and the Pacific Ocean to the east**, enhancing its geographical importance. This plain stretches approximately **320 km in length from the Waipara River in the north to the Waitaki River in the south**.
- It is New Zealand's largest and flattest plain, highly suitable for agriculture.

➤ Formation and Geology

- It is formed primarily by the deposition of alluvial soil and gravel brought by rivers.
- Rivers originating from the **Southern Alps carry large amounts** of sediments, forming the plain.
- Major rivers such as the Rakaia River and the Waimakariri River play an important role in this process.
- The plain's surface slopes gently towards the sea, facilitating water drainage.
- The soil here is mainly composed of gravel, sand, and silt,

➤ Rivers and Drainage

- The rivers in this region are braided (multi-stream) and flow by dividing into several streams.
- The rivers frequently change their course, causing flooding and sediment dispersion.
- Flash floods can occur during rainfall or snowmelt, altering the plain's appearance.
- These rivers are extremely important for irrigation, drinking water, and hydroelectric power generation.

➤ Climate

- The climate here is temperate, with moderate temperatures throughout the year.
- Moist winds from the west collide with the Southern Alps and cause rainfall, reducing rainfall towards the east (rain shadow effect).
- Because of this, the eastern part of the plain remains relatively dry.
- Summers are hot and dry, while winters are cold and sometimes frosty.
- A hot and dry wind called the "Norwester" is the main

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