

Soil classification and Soil Types:
(Soil as a component of environment, soil formation process and factors, soil composition and horizon, soil types and their distribution in India.)

Ans:

Classification of soils

1. Zonal soils

(a) Pedalfers

- (i) Tundra soils
- (ii) Podzols
- (iii) Grey-brown forest soils
- (iv) Prairie soils
- (v) Red and yellow sub-tropical soils
- (vi) Red tropical soils

(b) Pedocals

- (i) Chernozem (black earth)
- (ii) Chestnut-brown soils
- (iii) Grey desert soils
- (iv) Red desert soils

(2) Intra zonal soils

(a) Hydromorphic

(due to excessive moisture)

- (i) Meadow soils
- (ii) Fen-peat soils
- (iii) Bog-peat soils

(b) Halomorphie

(due to saline content)

- (i) Saline soils
- (ii) Alkali soils
- (iii) Solonch soils

(c) Calcimorphie

(due to limestone parent material)

- (i) Rendzinas
- (ii) Terra rossa

(3) A zonal soil

(immature and skeletal soils)

- (i) Lithosols
- (ii) Regosols
- (iii) Annual soils.

B.A. 2nd Sem. (M)
Soil Geography

classmate

Date 2/6/21

Page

02

Zonal soil: Any soil which is mature, have a recognisable profile, and where the profile reflects the influences of climate and vegetation the soil is known as zonal soil. As the name indicates, zonal soils occur in zones or belts which may be extensive in both length and breadth. Zonal soils fall into two broad soil groups - the pedalfers, or non-lime accumulating soils and pedocals or lime accumulating soil.

2) Intrazonal soils: This type of soil found within the belts of zonal soil. Intrazonal soils are found under special circumstances and conditions such as inadequate drainage producing waterlogging, salt accumulation producing alkalinity.

3) Azonal soils: There are some soils, such as those formed by the deposition of alluvium or wind-blown sand, the breakdown of recent volcanic material etc. All azonal soils are of recent origin and accordingly, they have not time to mature into true soils and do not exhibit well developed characteristics.

Major Soil Types distributed in India -

- 1) Red and yellow soils including laterite
- 2) Black soils including chernozem
- 3) Mountain soils
- 4) Brown and chestnut soils

(N.B. See Soil map of India in Atlas)