



`Thar Desert

Source: DTE

According to a new study, the **Thar Desert** in India has experienced a **38% annual increase in greening** over the past two decades, driven by significant **monsoon rainfall** and agricultural expansion.

- **Location of Thar Desert (The Great Indian Desert):** It is an **arid region of rolling sand hills** on the Indian subcontinent. It spans an area of 200,000 sq kms across **northwestern India** (Rajasthan, Gujarat, Punjab, and Haryana) and **southeastern Pakistan** (Sindh and Punjab provinces).
- **Geography & Climate:** It is bordered by the **Indus River** plain to the west, the Punjab Plain to the north and northeast, the **Aravalli Range** to the southeast, and the **Rann of Kachchh** to the south.
 - The desert **experiences a subtropical desert climate**, characterized by persistent high pressure and subsidence.
- **Soil Composition:** The desert's soils include Desert, Red Desertic, Sierozems, **Red and Yellow**, Saline, Lithosols, and Regosols.
 - These soils are **coarse-textured, well-drained, and calcareous (calcium-bearing)**, supporting specific vegetation and agriculture.
- **Biodiversity:** Supports a relatively rich biodiversity, including **Blue Bull (Nilgai)**, **Blackbuck**, **Great Indian Bustard (GIB)** and **Indian Gazelle (Chinkara)**.
 - It is home to **one of the largest national parks in India- Desert National Park (Rajasthan)**.
- **Mineral Resources:** The Desert houses **one of the world's largest lignite coal reserves**.
 - It is rich in **gypsum**, and salt (with saltwater lakes- **Sambhar** and **Kuchaman**).



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