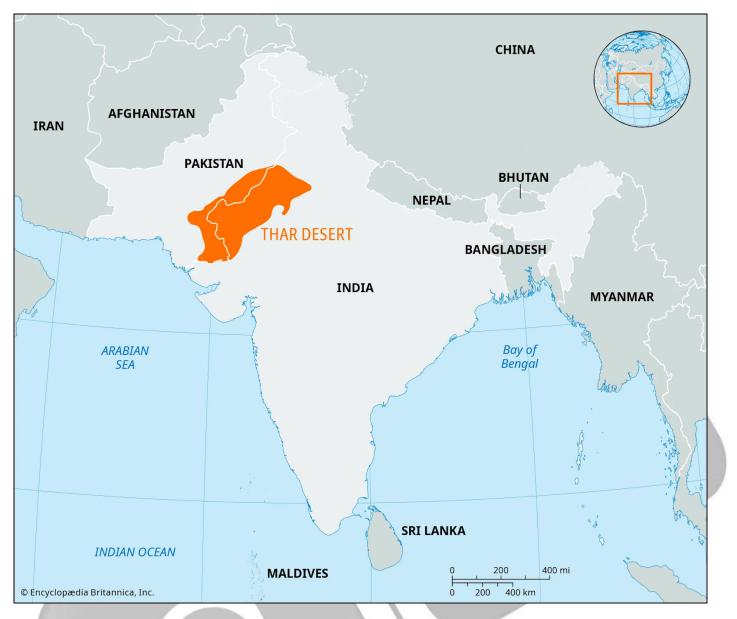


`Thar Desert

Source: DTE

According to a new study, **the <u>Thar Desert</u> in India has experienced a 38% annual increase in greening** over the past two decades, driven by significant <u>monsoon rainfall</u> 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 <u>Indus River</u> plain to the west, the Punjab Plain to
 the north and northeast, the <u>Aravalli Range</u> to the southeast, and the <u>Rann of Kachchh</u> 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 <u>Blue Bull (Nilgai)</u>, <u>Blackbuck</u>,
 <u>Great Indian Bustard (GIB)</u> and <u>Indian Gazelle (Chinkara)</u>.
 - 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**).



Read More: Thar Desert

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