



Thar Desert

Why in News?

According to a new study, India's [Thar Desert](#) has recorded **an annual increase of 38% in greening** per year during the last two decades due to increased [monsoon rainfall](#) and agricultural expansion.

Key Points

▪ About Thar Desert:

- **Location of the Thar Desert (The Great Indian Desert):** It is an arid region of sand hills on the Indian subcontinent. It covers an area of 200,000 square kilometers in **northwestern India** (Rajasthan, Gujarat, Punjab and Haryana) and **southeastern Pakistan (Sindh and Punjab provinces)**.
- **Geography and Climate:** It is bordered by **the [Indus River](#)** plains to the west, the Punjab Plains to the north and northeast, **the [Aravalli Range](#)** to the southeast, and **the [Rann of Kutch](#)** to the south .
 - This desert has **a subtropical desert climate**, with persistent high pressure and subsidence.
- **Soil Structure:** Desert soils include desert, red desert, sierozem, [red and yellow](#), saline, lithosols and regosols.
 - These soils are **coarse textured, well drained and calcareous**, which supports specific vegetation and agriculture.
- **Biodiversity:** It supports relatively rich biodiversity, including **the [Blue Bull \(Nilgai\)](#), [Blackbuck](#), [Great Indian Bustard \(GIB\)](#) and [Indian Gazella \(Chinkara\)](#)**.
 - One of **the largest national parks in India**, the **[Desert National Park \(Rajasthan\)](#)**, is located here.
- **Mineral Resources:** It has one of **the world's largest lignite [coal deposits](#)** in the desert .
 - It is rich in [gypsum](#) and salt (with saline lakes- **Sambhar** and **Kuchaman**).



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