Wasteland Atlas-2019

drishtiias.com/printpdf/wasteland-atlas-2019

Why in News?

Recently, the Ministry of Rural Development has released the fifth edition of Wastelands Atlas (2019).

> It has been prepared by the Department of Land Resources (Ministry of Rural Development) in collaboration with the National Remote Sensing Centre (NRSC), Department of Space.

Significance of Wasteland Atlas

- Unprecedented pressure on the land beyond its carrying capacity is resulting in the **degradation of lands** in the country.
- Therefore, robust geospatial information on wastelands will be helpful in rolling back the wastelands for productive use through various land development programmes.

Key Points

- A **reduction in the wasteland area** was observed in the categories of land with dense scrub, marshy land, sandy areas, and degraded pastures.
- The wastelands have undergone a **positive change** in the states of Rajasthan, Bihar, Uttar Pradesh, Andhra Pradesh, Mizoram, Madhya Pradesh, Jammu & Kashmir, and West Bengal.
- The **majority of wastelands** have been changed into categories of **croplands, plantation and industrial areas.**

Wastelands

Wastelands are a **barren and uncultivated land** lying unproductive or which is not being utilized to its potential.

It includes degraded forests, overgrazed pastures, drought-struck pastures, eroded valleys, hilly slopes, waterlogged marshy lands, barren land, etc.

Source: PIB