For XAT , CMAT , SNAP , MAT , IIFT Exam

SOILS

- Soil is a mixture of organic matter, minerals, gases, liquids and organisms that together support life. It is known as the ‘skin of the earth’.
- Soils are produced from rocks (parent material) through the processes of weathering and natural erosion
- World Soil Day is observed on 5th December.
- The basic components of soil are mineral, organic matter, water and air. It consists of about 45% mineral, 5% organic matter, 25% of water and 25% air
- Soils are classified on the basis of their formation, colour, physical and chemical properties. Based on these, soil is classified into six major types. They are: Alluvial soil, Black soil, Red soil, Laterite soil, Mountain soil, Desert soil

ALLUVIAL SOIL

- Alluvial soils are found in the regions of river valleys, flood plains and coastal regions.
- These are formed by the deposition of silt by the running water. It is the most productive of all soils
- It is suitable for the cultivation of sugarcane, jute, rice, wheat and other food crops.

BLACK SOILS

- These soils are formed by whethering of igneous rocks.
- Black soil is clayey in nature. It is retensive of moisture.
- It is ideal for growing cotton.

RED SOILS

- These soils are formed by weathering of metamorphic rocks and crystalline rocks.
- The presence of iron oxide makes this soil brown to red in colour.
- It is suitable for millet cultivation.

LATERITES SOILS

- These are the typical soils of tropical regions. These soils are found in the regions which experienced alternate wet and dry condition
- It is suitable for plantation crops of tea and coffee.

MOUNTAIN SOILS

- Mountain soils are found over the slopes of mountain

DESERT SOILS

- These are sandy soil found in the hot desert regions. These soils are porous and saline. Since it is infertile agriculture in these soils are not so successful.