

Notes

- * 'Natural resources' are materials and substances that occur in Nature and are valuable to humans.
- * There are different ways of categorising resources; Renewable and non-renewable are useful categories.
- * The 'resource curse' can be overcome through investments in the development of technology and skills.
- * We need to become vigilant about the rate at which we use renewables so as not to overexploit them; judicious and wise use of non-renewable will enable stretching their use for a longer period of time.

* Vrikshayurveda is an ancient botanical science that focuses on the study and care of plants and trees.

* Nature can be defined as all living and non-living elements of the environment that are not made by humans.

* Nature becomes a resource when humans use natural things for their use or to make useful products. For instance, trees exist on their use own. But when we cut them and make furniture, we treat them as a resource.

* Some resources are not easily accessible because we may not have technology to reach them, such as petroleum deep under the ocean.

- * Some resources cannot be used because they are too expensive to extract or because it is culturally unacceptable, like cutting trees in sacred groves.
- * A resource must be technologically accessible, economically feasible to use and culturally acceptable. Extraction and use of natural resources could be referred to as exploitation.
- * Natural resources are valuable substances found in nature, many of which have formed over millions of years. They include basic elements like air, water, and soil, as well as resources such as timber, oil, coal, and metal ores.

Categories of Natural Resources:

Categorisation simplifies discussions by creating shared meanings. Likewise, natural resources can

be classified based on their uses: for survival, as materials, or as source of energy.

Types of Natural resources

Sun, Forest, Rock, Minerals, Soil, Air, Oil, Water

- * **Resources Essential for Life:** Life on Earth relies on air, water, and food, all sources from the atmosphere, rivers, and soil. These essentials are beyond our ability to create.
- * **Resources for Materials:** Humans transform Nature's gifts into objects for practical use or to enhance their lifestyle. India's varied geography offers a wealth of resources, from wood and marble to coal and gold.

* **Renewable Resources and Non-renewable Resources:** Nature naturally heals, restores, and creates new

life over time. Based on this, resources are often classified as renewable or non-renewable.

Renewable Resources: These resources, sunlight, wind, water, and forests, naturally replenish over time. In India, abundant sunlight and rivers replenished by rainfall ensure sustainability, but this depends on preserving nature's balance and preventing disruption by human actions like overharvesting or pollution. When industries release non-degradable waste into rivers, it disturbs nature's cycle, making waterbodies toxic and unable to support life.

Non-renewable Resources: These resources are formed over long periods and cannot be replenished as quickly as we use them. Fossil fuels such as coal and petroleum, along with minerals and metals like iron, copper, and gold, are non-renewable, which

means they will not exist
on earth once all existing
quantities on earth is finished.

For instance, India's coal
reserves may last only another
50 years, and with a growing
population, demand is rising, so
it is crucial to use them
wisely until sustainable alterna-
tives are developed.