

# Natural Resources

## • Meaning :-

These are the resources that are found in the environment and are developed without the invention of humans. Ex:- Air, sunlight, water, soil, stone, plants, animals and fossil fuels.

Natural resources are naturally occurring materials that are useful to man or could be useful under conceivable technological, economic or social circumstances or supplies drawn from the earth, supplies such as food, building and clothing materials, fertilizers, metals, water and geothermal power.

## Natural Resources



① Renewable Resources

Ex- forest, wind, water etc.

② Non-renewable Resources

Ex:- fossil fuels, minerals etc.

→ Based on the availability there are two types of natural resources:

① Renewable Resources :-

Resources that are available in infinite quantity and can be used repeatedly are called renewable resources. Ex: forest, wind & water etc.



## ② Non-Renewable Resources :-

Resources that are limited in abundance due to their non-renewable nature and whose availability may run out in the future are called non-renewable resources. Ex:- fossil fuels, minerals etc.

### • The five most important Natural Resources are :-

- ① Air  $\Rightarrow$  Clean air is important for all the plants, animals and humans to survive on this planet. So, it is necessary to take measures to reduce air pollution.
- ② Water  $\Rightarrow$  70% of the earth is covered in water and only 2% of that is freshwater. Initiative to educate and regulate the use of water should be taken.
- ③ Soil  $\Rightarrow$  Soil is composed of various particles and nutrients. It helps plants grow.
- ④ Iron  $\Rightarrow$  It is found as mineral silica and is used to build strong weapons, transportation and buildings.
- ⑤ Forests  $\Rightarrow$  Forests provide clean air and preserve the ecology of the world. Trees are being cut for housing and construction projects.



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• Difference between Renewable and Non-Renewable Resources :-

Renewable Resources	Non-Renewable Resources
① It can be renewed as it is available in infinite quantity.	① Once completely consumed, it cannot be renewed due to limited stock.
② Sustainable in nature.	② Exhaustible in nature.
③ Low cost and environment friendly	③ High cost and less environment-friendly.
④ Replenish quickly	④ Replenish slowly or do not replenish naturally at all.