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Soil concerns

Vaastu gyaan from **Alkesh Gupta** on different ways of testing the soil of your plot

Selection of site for building is very important as per vaastu. Beside congenial environment, greenery and availability of water, we should also see if the land is suitable for the construction of a building or not. Ancient works on vaastu emphasise upon the quality of soil as one of the fundamental factors while selecting land for construction. As per vaastu soil is divided into various categories on the basis of colour, taste and smell of soil.

Vaastu advocates construction on a land with high soil-density. Vaastu advocates examination of soil to check its strength as it has to bear the full weight of structure. Site should be highest at South-West corner and lowest at North-East corner. South-East should be lower than South-

West and higher than North-West. This ensures that the life caring rays of the rising sun reach the plot in abundance.

One of the methods of testing the ground is to make a 2ft deep and wide pit in ground and fill it by the scooped out mud. If the mud remains in excess after filling the pit then it is indicative of prosperity. If it's just enough to fill the pit to the level of ground it indicates no-profit-no-loss. However, if the mud falls short in filling the pit, such that a portion of it (the pit) remains unfilled it suggests loss.

Water may also be used to fill the pit before stuffing it with soil. After filling the pit with water, walk 400 steps and come back if on your return the volume of water re-

mains unaltered the land is best, if it's slight less the land is good but if the water-level falls considerably the land is unsuitable as per vaastu.

Land's condition can also be tested by other simple techniques like ploughing the soil whereby animal remains like bone and hair point to the unsuitability of land. Presence of vermins and termite makes the soil hollow thus rendering it unsuitable. Soil testing too should be carried out at an auspicious time after worshipping the deity of architecture. During the digging of land if any gem-stone, gold or snake is found it's considered auspicious according to the tenets of vaastu.

