

# Introduction to History

## Assignment 3

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Word Count – 1208\*(as per Ms Word)

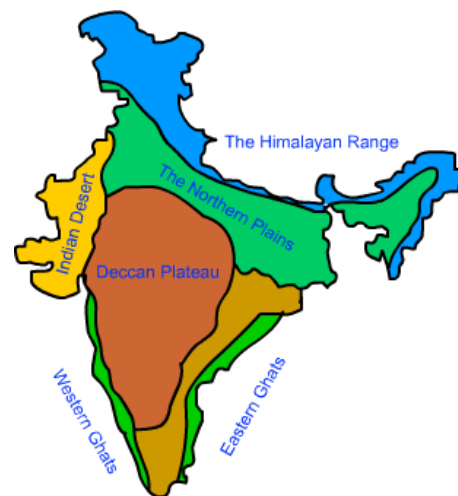
Submission Date – 9th November 2021

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A) Find at least four historical regions of India based on River valleys, Mountains, Forests, Deserts, Seas. Identify them on a map and show the period when each of these regions lasted. Yes, you can use the Internet or any other sources. (600 words)

A) Landforms in India:

- Northern Plains
- Himalayan Range
- Deccan Plateau
- Western and Eastern Ghats
- Thar Desert
- Islands



### 1. The Northern Plain

The Northern Plain or The Indo-Gangetic Plain is a region that stretches over a wide arc across India below the foothills of the Himalayas. It covers an area of over 630 million acres. The Indo-Gangetic stretches along the north and eastern India, eastern Pakistan, Bangladesh, and parts of Nepal. Himalayan mountains feed the rivers that converge in the plain, including the Indus, Ganges Rivers, and the Brahmaputra which are fed by the permanent snows and glaciers of the Himalayas. This is the country's most productive in terms of agriculture and also densely populated region. The rich alluvial soils of the northern plains have nourished large, dense and highly stratified societies for literally thousands of years like Indus Valley Civilization, the ancient culture of the Indian subcontinent. Only the most scant remains survive of the ancient empires whose capitals once rose from the banks of the region's immense rivers like Agra for the Mughal empires, Patna for the Mauryans and other empires such as the Delhi Sultanates and the Mughal, and Maratha empires. They are home to several of the country's most wondrous monuments – including the Taj Mahal and holiest river, the Ganges, the ancient city of Varanasi, spiritually also abounds in this state at Bodhgaya, where the Buddha was said to have achieved Enlightenment.

### 2. Western and Eastern Ghats or Coastline

India as the peninsular country it is surrounded by the Arabian Sea to the west, the Indian Ocean to the south, and the Bay of Bengal to the east. Ghats or more broadly

the coastal line of India a length of 7516.6 km starting from the Gulf of Kutch along the Arabian sea as western corner covering Konka region, Malabar coast, the Coromandal Coast, Kalinga region and finishes at Sunderbans in the East to the Bay of Bengal. Currently, the western ghat is one of the eight biodiversity hotspots declared by UNESCO as eastern ghat is the house of several important minerals. Apart from its climatic importance, it plays an important role in connecting different countries to India with the other countries through sea routes and open paths for sea trades which later leads to colonisation by different powerful kingdoms like Portuguese, Dutch and later British. It also plays an important role in agriculture and access to the Indian Ocean helps India to facilitate one of the largest fishing industries in the world.

### **3. The Himalayan Range**

The great mountain wall of the Himalayas stretches for some 1,500 miles (2,400 kilometres) across northern as Great Himalayas and Karakoram range in northeastern India. No other mountain range anywhere in the world has affected the lives of people and shaped the destiny of a nation as the Himalayas have in respect of India. First of all, it heavily influences the climate of India by helping in precipitation in form of snow or rain and protecting India from a jet stream another reason it acts like a defence barrier and protects India from invaders this can be seen as the most stable empire have there capital or important regions in the foothills of the Himalayas which reduce the attacking threat from the north and cut military expenses. The Himalayas also act as the source of the river which is highly important for life essentials and it also contains valuable minerals. During the Colonial period, Britisher's set up the Himalayan Club in 1928 to help visit British mountaineers with its main role to assist mountaineering tours in India. Over the years, it attracts tourists and the number of climbers, explorers visiting India steadily increased.

### **4. The Deccan Plateau**

Deccan Plateau is a plateau that covers almost 40% of the Indian landmass and most of South India. It is the oldest plateaus formed due to a volcanic eruption that occurred many years ago. It lies in between western ghats, eastern ghats, northern plains and the Indian ocean. The plateau is very big and has different climatic conditions, vegetation and habitats. The plateau is also rich in minerals like mica, iron ore in the Chota Nagpur region and diamonds, gold in the Golconda region.

In terms of historical importance, there is evidence to show the prehistoric human settlement in the Deccan Plateau when Aryans pushed the native inhabitants from the Indus river valley to the south. It also has many important dynasties like the Mauryan's in 300 BC later Satavahana Dynasty, the Chalukyas, Rashtrakutas, Hoysalas and Yadavas from the 6th to 13th century Deccan plateau saw some of the important Dynasties like. Several battles were also fought between Chalukyas and the Chola's in the Deccan Plateau. There were also invasions from the Muslim rulers of the Delhi Sultanate, Maratha Empire established by Shivaji in 1645. Finally, Maratha was threatened by the Mughal dynasty.

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**B) Read the given passage from Jim Corbett's "The Temple Tiger" and analyze it using the tools of post-structuralism. (600 words)**

Post structuralism is a form of theory which disagrees with the idea of structuralism has believes there it is impossible to gernalize anything using fixed structure or symentics since history and culture are subject to biases and misinterpretations which conditions the study of underlying structures and states everythinf can not be in binary and the it basically says that all language is inherently biased and essentially what information reader(receiver) receive is always there own interpretation, not the interpretation of the author(sender), whereas structurilsm relates an information to a larger structure like genere, intertextual connections, narrative models, characterization or plot, and attempted to show how these patterns were universal and could thus be used to develop general conclusions about both individual works and the systems from which they emerged and states that a structure to a text helps experienced reader than non-expireneced hence there is a need to be governed by specific rules which makes language a closed, stable system, later it had given way to poststructuralism identified an inevitable gap between signifier and signified and it believe in studying both the text and the systems of knowledge that helps to produced that text.

Just like in the given story "The Temple Tiger; Jim Corbett" from my point of view the author wants to convey that there are still many people who take Superstition very seriously which may lead to mental disorders and can impact soo badly that a physically healthy can catch to depression and lead to the accidental death like to Bala Singh later author clarifies that he doesn't believe in superstition. This story doesn't have any genre and the main text is describing an incident and in last he mention the location and used its name as the title of passage and also it doesn't follow any fixed structure and describe an incident and gave the reader a choice to make there own interpretation like real death was not due to any illness apart from depression because of demon since the doctor himself refuse to diagnosis Bala and went from there saying 'I am sorry you sent for me, for I can do nothing for this man.', or later when Bala went with the other two men next day may and after three weeks form that Bala died maybe he caught some disease which has unidentifiable symptoms and due to lack treatment he died and time of death can be just a coincidence when he mentioned "Bala announced to the assembly that the demon wanted to be released to return to Trisul."

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**Reference**

1. [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Geography\\_of\\_India](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Geography_of_India)
2. [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/History\\_of\\_India](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/History_of_India)

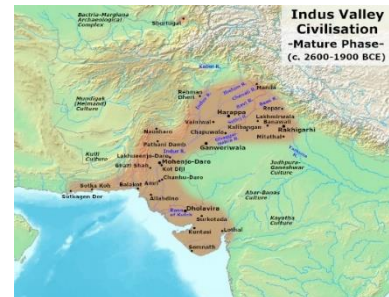
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Due to unclarity of question by mistake I had described four empire part as A and then later corrected to the with describing landform (Ignore this is you want or read it)

## Historical Regions

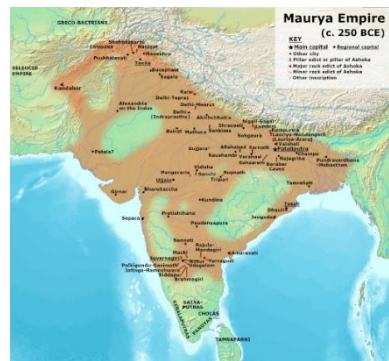
### A) Indus valley civilization

Indus valley civilization in one of the most important site for humans since it is the earliest known urban culture of the Indian subcontinent. In term of location it streaches over the Punjab Plains, its major portion is in Balochistan (Pakistan) formed by Indus river basin and its tributaries- Beas, Chenab, Jhelum, Ravi, and Sutlej. The Indus civilization is known to have consisted of two large cities, Harappa and Mohenjo-daro, and more than 100 towns and villages, often of relatively small size. And the significant features of this civilization are town planning, construction of burnt-brick houses, ceramics, casting, forging of metals, manufacturing of cotton and woolen textiles, bath facilities, drainage system, standardized weights and measures and more. After the collapse of Indus Valley civilization, the inhabitants of the Indus Valley civilization migrated from the river valleys of Indus and Ghaggar-Hakra, towards the Himalayan foothills of Ganga-Yamuna basin.



### B) Maurya Empire (322–185 BCE)

The Maurya Empire unified most of the Indian subcontinent into one state, and was the largest empire ever to exist on the Indian subcontinent. At its greatest extent, the Mauryan Empire stretched to the north up to the natural boundaries of the Himalayas and to the east into what is now Assam. To the west, it reached beyond modern Pakistan, to the Hindu Kush mountains in what is now Afghanistan. The empire was established by Chandragupta Maurya assisted by Chanakya (Kautilya) in Magadha (in modern Bihar) when he overthrew the Nanda dynasty. In this era, internal and external trade, agriculture, and economic activities all thrived and expanded across India, a single efficient system of finance was created, administration, and security. One of the Asia's oldest and longest major roads connecting the Indian subcontinent with Central Asia named Grand Trunk Road was built by Maurayans. The empire began to decline after his death and the last Mauryan ruler, Brihadratha, was assassinated by Pushyamitra Shunga to establish the Shunga Empire



### C) Rashtrakuta Empire (753-982 CE)

According to Arab traveller Suleiman the Rashtrakuta Empire as one of the four great Empires of the world. At its peak, the Rashtrakutas ruled from the Ganges River and Yamuna River doab in the north to Cape Comorin in the south, a fruitful time of political expansion, architectural achievements and famous literary contribution. The early rulers of this dynasty were Hindu, but the later rulers were strongly influenced by Jainism. This era has the earliest known Kannada work on poetics, its architecture reached a milestone in the Dravidian style, the finest example are the Kailasanath Temple at Ellora. Other important contributions are the Kashivishvanatha temple and the Jain Narayana temple at Pattadakal in Karnataka. The Rashtrakuta period marked the beginning of the golden age of southern Indian mathematics. The great south Indian mathematician Mahāvīra lived in the Rashtrakuta Empire and his text had a huge impact on the medieval south Indian mathematicians who lived after him.



### D) Vijayanagara Empire (1336-1565 CE)

The Vijayanagara Empire, also called Karnata Kingdom, was based in the Deccan Plateau region in South India. It reached its peak during the rule of Krishna Deva Raya when Vijayanagara armies were consistently victorious and empire expands to southern parts of India along the Ghats too. This empire is grealty known for its cultural in terms of caste Hindus was the prevalent but it was tolerant of all religions and sects



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