

# 2

## GEOGRAPHY

# Physical Features of India

Contemporary India - I

(NCERT Book)



*India possesses a wide range of physical characteristics that have contributed to its social diversity and biodiversity. These characteristics offer the nation significant ecological and cultural value in addition to being important cash streams. They are popular tourist destinations. Despite their diversity, these physical characteristics work really well together. When together, they make India a powerful, resourceful, and fearsome nation.*

### **Topic Notes**

- The Himalayan Mountains
- The Northern Plain
- The Peninsular Plateau
- The Indian Desert
- The Coastal Plains
- The Islands

India is a vast country endowed with different kinds of landforms and physical features which complement each other very well. These features were formed over different geological time periods, with the peninsular plateau being one of the oldest landmasses on the surface of earth.

The Himalayas and the northern plains are the youngest landforms but even they were formed at least 50 million years ago. This chapter will throw light on how these features were formed. It will also focus upon the characteristics and significance of these features to India.

Broadly speaking, India can be divided into the following physical divisions:

- (1) The Himalayan Mountains
- (2) The Northern Plains
- (3) The Peninsular Plateau
- (4) The Indian Desert
- (5) The Coastal Plains
- (6) The Islands

## TOPIC 1

### THE HIMALAYAN MOUNTAINS

#### Learning Objectives

- Students will be introduced to the Himalayan mountains— their features, extent and significance.
- Students will learn about the division of the mountains into three ranges— their extent from West to East.
- Students will learn about the formation of various geographical features in India.
- Students will understand about the location of Himalayan mountains through a close analysis of the Indian map.

#### Learning Outcomes

- Students will be able to understand the significance of the Himalayan mountains.
- Students will be able to mark on the map of North India— the three ranges from north to south, North-west to North-east.
- Students will be able to recall the geographical features of these mountains— the type of soil, the rivers and glaciers which originate in the region, etc.
- Students will be able to locate and label the Himalayan mountains on the map of India.

● India was a large island situated off the Australian coast in a vast ocean on a tectonic plate. The Tethys Sea separated it from the Asian continent. According to Alfred Wegner's Plate Tectonics and continental drift theory, the Indo-australian plate is supposed to have started her northward journey about 200 million years ago after the supercontinent Pangea broke. India collided with Asia about 40-50 million years ago causing rapid uplift of the Himalayas.

#### The Extent of the Himalayas

The Himalayas are fold mountains based on their structure and are geologically very young. The Himalayas run across the northern border of India, stretching from Jammu and Kashmir

to Arunachal Pradesh. From river Indus to river Brahmaputra, they run in a west-east direction.

The Himalayas act as a snow-bound, rugged barrier to cold winds that blow from Central Asia, and thus prevent the Northern plains from freezing cold weather. The Himalayas also act as a barrier to moisture-laden southwest monsoon winds. When these winds strike the mountains, they cause rainfall in the Northern plains.

#### Important

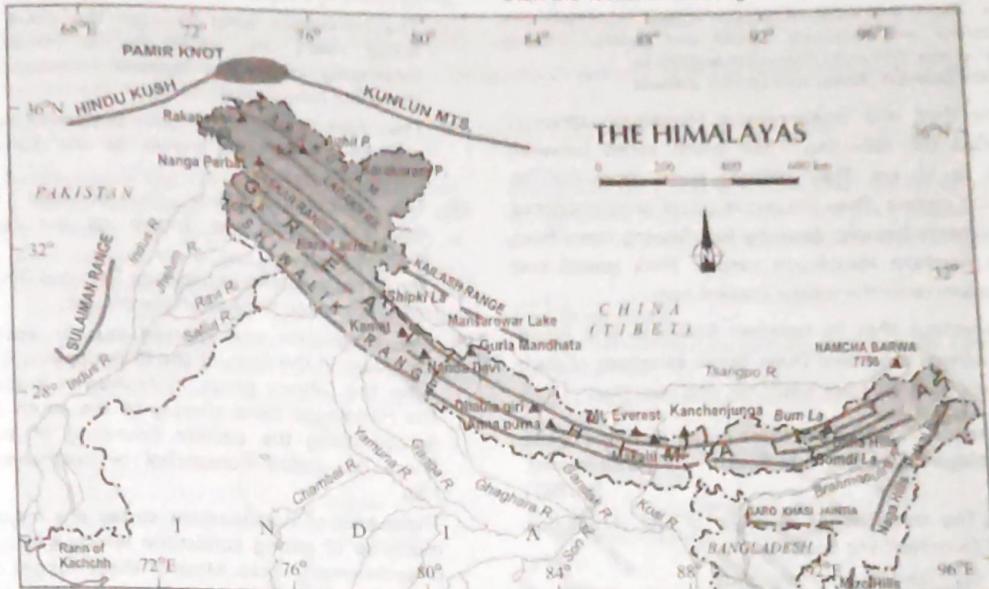
- The whole mountain system of Himalaya represent very youthful topography with high peaks, deep valleys and fast flowing rivers.

● Extra content given according to the latest syllabus uploaded by CBSE.

→ Himalayas are fold mountains. They were created when two or more tectonic plates were pushed together- boundaries were compressed, rocks and debris were warped and folded. They are created by the process of orogeny.

The Himalayas stretch for about 2,500 km. The width of the Himalayas also varies from 150 km from Arunachal Pradesh to 400 km in Kashmir.

Eastern Himalayas are more varied (altitudinally) than the Western Himalayas.



**Example 1.** From the viewpoint of geology, Himalayan mountains form an .....



**Ans. (c) Unstable Zone**

**Explanation:** The Himalayas and the Northern Plains are the most recent landforms. Himalayan mountains form an unstable zone because they've been recently formed and are still in the process of folding.

## Division of Himalayas North to South

The Himalayas are divided into three parallel ranges longitudinally. These ranges are dotted by a number of valleys. The northernmost range is called the Great Himalayas or Inner Himalayas or the Himadri. Out of the three, it is the most continuous range. It has the largest number of towering peaks with an average height of 6000 metres. All the prominent peaks of the Himalayas are located in this range.

<b>Peak</b>	<b>Country</b>	<b>Height in metres</b>
Mt. Everest	Nepal	8848
Kanchenjunga	India	8598
Makalu	Nepal	8481

Dhaulagiri	Nepal	8172
Nanga Parbat	India	8126
Annapurna	Nepal	8078
Nanda Devi	India	7817
Kamet	India	7756
Namcha Barwa	India	7756
Curla Mandhata	Nepal	7728

The Great Himalayas are snow bound round the year. The folds of the Great Himalayan mountains are asymmetrical. Various glaciers originate from this range. The core of this range is made up of granite.

The Lesser Himalayas or the Himachal which lie to the South of the Greater Himalayas is the most rugged mountain system. Their altitude variation is between 3700 and 4500 metres and the average width is around 50 km. Lesser Himalayan ranges are made up of highly altered and compressed rocks.



## Frequently Asked

- The Pir Panjal range is the most important range in the Himadri Himalayas. It is also the longest range.
  - The Dhaulā Dhar and the Mahabharat ranges are other important ranges. The famous valley of Kashmir, the Kangra and Kullu Valley in Himachal Pradesh are present in this range.

→ This region is also well-known for its hill stations. Some examples are Mussoorie, Nainital and Ranikhet located in Uttarakhand.



### Mnemonics

→ The 3 prominent Himalayan ranges in Jammu and Kashmir are Karakoram, Ladakh and Zanskar. Trick to remember their order from north to south is:  
**KaLa Zaamun : Karakoram, Ladakh, Zanskar**

The third and southernmost Himalayan range is called the Shiwaliks. Their width varies between 10 to 50 km. Their altitude varies from 900 to 1100 metres. They are made up of unconsolidated sediments brought down by fast-flowing rivers from the northern Himalayan ranges. Thick gravel and alluvium cover the valleys present here.

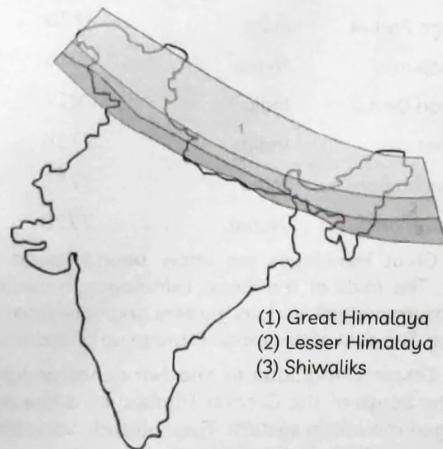
The valleys that lie between Shiwaliks and lesser Himalayas are called Duns. Some examples of such valleys are Dehradun, Kotli Dun, and Patli Dun.

**Example 2.** Name the three major divisions of the Himalayas from North to South.      (*Understand*)

[NCERT]

**Ans.** The three major divisions of the Himalayas from North to South are:

- (1) The Greater Himalayas
- (2) The Lesser Himalayas
- (3) The Shiwaliks



### Division of Himalayas Based on River Valleys

The Himalayas are also divided from west to east besides their longitudinal division. These divisions are demarcated by various river valleys.

- (1) The Himalayas lying between the Indus and Satluj rivers are called Punjab Himalayas (regionally known as Kashmir Himalayas or Himachal Himalayas).
- (2) The Himalayas that lie between Satluj and Kali rivers are known as the Kumaon Himalayas.
- (3) The Himalayas that lie between Kali and Tista rivers are known as the Nepal Himalayas.
- (4) The Himalayas that lie between Tista and Dihang rivers are called the Assam Himalayas.
- (5) The Himalayas are marked by an eastern boundary in the form of the Brahmaputra River. After the Dihang gorge, in Arunachal Pradesh, the Himalayas bend sharply to the south and spread along the eastern boundary of India. These are called Purvanchal or northeastern hills.

These hills of northeastern states are majorly made up of strong sandstone which is a type of sedimentary rocks. Most of these ranges are covered with dense forests. The Purvanchal hills comprise the Patkai hills, Naga hills, Manipur hills, and Mizo hills.



## TOPIC 2

### THE NORTHERN PLAIN

#### Learning Objectives

- Students will be introduced to another significant feature—the Northern plains.
- Students will learn about the formation and features of the Northern plains.

- Students will learn about their extent and demarcation from West to East.
- Students will understand about the location of Northern plains.

### Learning Outcomes

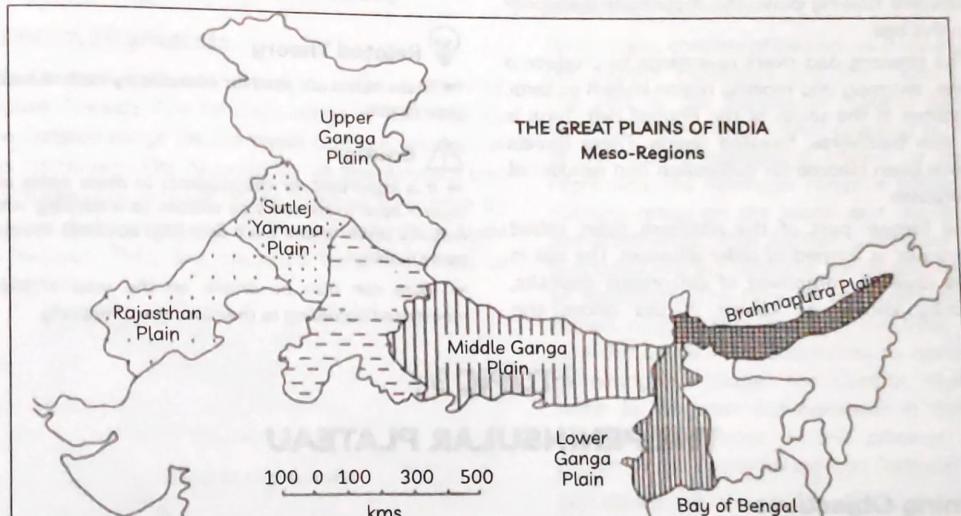
- Students will be able to understand the significance of these northern plains—as producers of food for the country.
- Students will be able to mark on the map of North India.
- Students will be able to recall and enlist the geographical features of these plains—the type of soil, functions of these plains.
- Students will be able to locate the northern plains and their divisions on the map of India.

The Brahmaputra, the Ganga and the Indus river basins along with their tributaries make up the Northern Plains. The northern plain is formed of alluvial soil deposits. For millions of years, these rivers have carried alluvium deposits and other sediments down from the north to this vast basin. This has made the plains extremely fertile. It covers an area of around 7 lakh sq. km. It is around 2400 km long and

240 to 320 km broad. Since this plain has fertile soil, an adequate supply of water and also favourable climate, it is densely populated and agriculturally productive.

#### Important

- The rivers coming from northern mountains are involved in depositional work.



In the lower course, the velocity of the river decreases as the slope decreases gently and riverine islands are formed as a result of this deposition.



#### Frequently Asked

- Majuli Island, located in the Brahmaputra river, is the largest inhabited riverine island in the world.



An Agricultural Field in Northern Plains

Due to the deposition of excessive alluvium and silt, the rivers in their lower course split into numerous channels. These channels are known as tributaries.

### Division of Northern Plains from West to East

The Northern Plain can be subdivided into three subdivisions from west to east.

- (1) The Indus Plain
- (2) The Ganga Plain
- (3) The Brahmaputra Plain

The Indus plain is also known as the Punjab Plain and is formed by the Indus River and its various tributaries namely Satluj, Chenab, Beas, Ravi, and Jhelum. A huge part of this plain or basin is located in Pakistan.

There are a lot of Doabs in this section of the Northern Plains.



### Important

→ Doab is made up of two words — 'do' meaning two and 'ab' meaning water. 'Punjab' is also made up of two words — 'Pun' meaning five and 'ab' meaning water. Punjab is made of five rivers.

Between the Ghaggar and Teesta rivers, lies the Ganga Plain. This plain covers the states of Haryana, Delhi, Uttar Pradesh, Bihar, Jharkhand, and West Bengal.

The Brahmaputra Plain is the third division of plains and lies particularly in Assam.

Northern Plains may appear homogenous but marked with variations and diverse relief features. They can be divided into four layers namely Bhabar, Terai, Bhangar and Khadar.

(1) The rivers deposit pebbles in a narrow belt of about 8 to 16 km, lying parallel to the slopes of the Shiwaliks. This belt is Bhabar.

Streams flowing down the mountains disappear in this belt.

(2) The streams and rivers re-emerge to produce a wet, swampy and marshy region known as terai, located in the south of the Bhabar belt. Terai is a rich biodiverse, forested region. These forests have been cleared for cultivation and residential purposes.

(3) The largest part of the northern plain, called Bhangar, is formed of older alluvium. The soil in this layer is composed of calcareous deposits, locally known as kankar. It lies above the

floodplains of the rivers. A terrace-like feature is observed in this layer.

(4) The next layer, also called Khadar, is made of younger and newer deposits of floodplains. They are renewed every year and are very fertile.

### Important

→ The Dudhwa National Park is located in the Terai belt of grasslands in northern Uttar Pradesh.

**Example 3. Which of the following layers of the Northern plains is the most fertile?**

(a) Bhabar

(b) Khadar

(c) Terai

(d) Bhangar

(Remember)

**Ans. (b) Khadar**

**Explanation:** The Khadar represents the younger and new alluvium deposits of the flood plains. It is renewed and deposited every year. It is the most fertile layer.

### Related Theory

→ These plains are used for intensive agriculture because of their fertility.

### Caution

→ It is important for the students to make notes of these layers- each layer could be written as a heading with their features under them. Such lists help students to revise the same quickly.

→ They can also be drawn on the map of India and memorised according to their location effectively.

## TOPIC 3

### THE PENINSULAR PLATEAU

#### Learning Objectives

- Students will be introduced to the peninsular plateau.
- Students will learn about the formation, divisions and features of the peninsular plateau.
- Students will learn about the location and features of Western Ghats and Eastern Ghats.
- Students will learn about the ranges and hills surrounding the western end of the plateau to the eastern boundary of the plateau.
- Students will learn about the rivers flowing in the region— their names and direction of their slope.

#### Learning Outcomes

- Students will be able to understand more about the physiography and significance of the peninsular plateau and its extent.
- Students will be able to identify on the map of central India— various plateaus, hills and their location.
- Students will be able to recall and enlist the geographical features of the plateau.
- Students will be able to write about the plateau as a source of minerals and energy.
- Students will be able to mark the extent of these plains on the map of India.

● During the movement of the Indian plate towards the Eurasian plate, due to the outpouring of lava, the Deccan Traps were formed.

The Peninsular plateau is part of the Gondwana land—the oldest existing landmass. The plateau is a tableland composed of old crystalline, igneous and metamorphic rocks. The characteristics of this plateau include rounded hills and broad and shallow valleys.

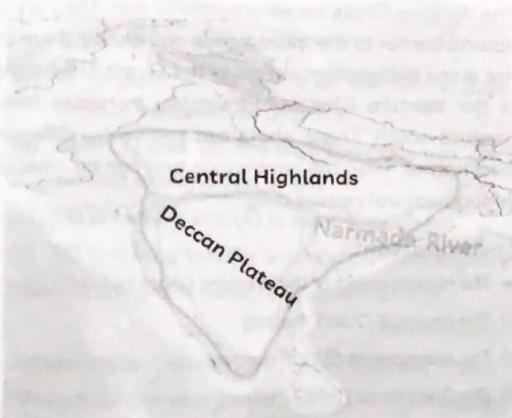
The Central Highlands and the Deccan Plateau are the two broad divisions of this peninsular plateau. The Narmada River marks the boundary between the two. The part of the Peninsular plateau, in north of the Narmada river, is called Central Highlands while to the south of Narmada river, lies the Deccan Plateau.

### Important

→ There are only two major rivers in peninsular India that run from east to west. They are the Narmada River and the Tapti/Tapi River.

### Central Highlands

The Central Highlands covers a major portion of Malwa Plateau. The Vindhya range is bounded by the Satpura range on the south and the Aravallis in the northwest. The Aravallis lie on the western and north-western margins of the plateau. They have an eroded and broken texture. They extend from Delhi to Gujarat. They are arranged from southwest to northeast.



Central Highlands and Deccan Plateau

The westward extension of Aravallis merges into the rocky and sandy desert of Rajasthan. The rivers Chambal, Sind, Betwa and Ken flow from Southwest to Northeast along the slope in this region.

Bundelkhand and Baghelkhand are the eastward extensions of this plateau. The central highlands are narrower in the east and wider in the west. Damodar river drains the Chotanagpur Plateau which is the eastward extension of the Highlands.

● Extra content given according to the latest syllabus uploaded by CBSE.

### Deccan Plateau

South of the Narmada River lies the triangular landmass called the Deccan Plateau. To the north of it lies the Satpura Ranges and its eastward extensions are the Maikal Range, the Kaimur Hills and the Mahadev Hills. The Deccan Plateau slopes gently from west to east. The north-east extension of this plateau is Meghalaya, the Karbi-Anglong Plateau and the North Cachar Hills. This plateau is separated from the Chotanagpur plateau by a fault. The Garo, the Khasi and Jaintia Hills are the three prominent hills of this extension located in Meghalaya.

#### Caution

→ Students should remember that the Garo, the Khasi and the Jaintia are hills in the Indian State of Meghalaya. However, they are also the names of prominent tribes in the state.

#### Example 4. Case Based:

Read the following passage and answer the questions that follow.

This plateau consists of two broad divisions, namely, the Central Highlands and the Deccan Plateau. The part of the Peninsular plateau lying to the north of the Narmada river, covering a major area of the Malwa plateau, is known as the Central Highlands. The Vindhyan range is bounded by the Satpura range on the south and the Aravallis on the northwest. The further westward extension gradually merges with the sandy and rocky desert of Rajasthan. The flow of the rivers draining this region, namely the Chambal, the Sind, the Betwa and the Ken is from southwest to northeast, thus indicating the slope. The Central Highlands are wider in the west but narrower in the east. The eastward extensions of this plateau are locally known as the Bundelkhand and Baghelkhand.

(A) Which of the following is the southward extension of the peninsular plateau?

- (a) Baghelkhand
- (b) Malwa plateau
- (c) Deccan plateau
- (d) Aravallis

(Remember)

(B) Mention two characteristics of the peninsular plateau. (Understand)

(C) Which of the following statements is true about the plateau?

- (I) The Peninsular plateau is divided into Central Highlands and the Deccan plateau.
- (II) The plateau is a storehouse of minerals.
- (III) The Chambal, the Sind, the Betwa and the Ken drain the northern plains located at the north of this plateau.



(IV) The western and eastern ghats mark the southern extent of the Central Highlands.

Options:

(a) (I), (II) and (III)

(b) (I) and (II)

(c) (I), (III) and (IV)

(d) (I) and (IV)

(Evaluate)

(D) Assertion (A): The Vindhyan range is bounded by the Satpura range on the north.

Reason (R): The Satpura range is located parallel to Narmada.

(a) Both (A) and (R) are true and (R) is the correct explanation of (A).

(b) Both (A) and (R) are true but (R) is not the correct explanation of (A).

(c) (A) is correct but (R) is wrong.

(d) (A) is wrong but (R) is correct. (Analyse)

(E) Which feature forms the boundary between the Central Highlands and the Deccan Plateau?

(Understand)

Ans. (A) (c) Deccan plateau

**Explanation:** The Deccan Plateau is a triangular landmass that lies to the south of the river Narmada. The Satpura range flanks its broad base in the north, while the Mahadev, the Kaimur hills and the Maikal range form the eastern extensions of this plateau.

(B) Two characteristics of this plateau are:

(1) The plateau is composed of the old crystalline, igneous and metamorphic rocks.

(2) It is made of black soil and has rounded hills.

(C) (b) (I) and (II)

**Explanation:** The Chambal, the Sind, the Betwa and the Ken drain the plateau from southwest to the northeast along the slope. The Western and Eastern Ghats flank either side of the peninsular plateau.

(D) (d) (A) is wrong but (R) is correct.

**Explanation:** Satpura Range is located parallel to river Narmada. It flanks the Vindhyan range and is bounded by the Satpura Range in the South. In the north, it is flanked by the Aravallis.

### Related Theory

→ The part of the Peninsular plateau lying to the north of the Narmada river, covering a major area of the Malwa plateau, is known as the Central Highlands.

(E) The river Narmada forms a natural boundary that divides the peninsular plateau into two divisions- the Central Highlands and the Deccan Plateau.

### Caution

→ It is important for the students to make a list of the rivers mentioned in the chapter along with their locations.

## Western and Eastern Ghats

The western and eastern edges of the Deccan Plateau are marked by the Western Ghats and the Eastern Ghats, respectively. The Western and Eastern Ghats lie parallel to the western and eastern coasts of India respectively.

The Eastern Ghats are lower in elevation than the Western Ghats. The average elevation of Eastern Ghats is 600 metres against the average elevation of 900 to 1600 metres of the Western Ghats.

The Eastern Ghats stretch from the Mahanadi Valley to the Nigiris in the south. They are discontinuous, irregular and dissected by rivers draining into the Bay of Bengal.

The Western Ghats cause orographic rain. They are a natural barrier to the moist winds and enable them to rise along the western slopes of the Ghats. The height of the Western Ghats progressively increases from north to south. These ghats are known by different local names. They are continuous and can be crossed through natural passes only.

### Important

→ The highest peaks of the Western Ghats include:

(1) The Anamudi (2,695 metres)

(2) The Mannamala (2,659 metres)

(3) The Doda Betta (2,637 metres).

Mahendragiri (1,501 metres) is the highest peak in the Eastern Ghats. The Shevaroy Hills and the Javadi Hills are located to the southeast of the Eastern Ghats.

## Example 5. Case Based:

Read the following passage and answer the questions that follow.

The Western Ghats and the Eastern Ghats mark the western and the eastern edges of the Deccan Plateau respectively. Western Ghats lie parallel to the western

coast. They are continuous and can be crossed through passes only. The Western Ghats are higher than the Eastern Ghats. Their average elevation is 900-1600 metres as against 600 metres of the Eastern Ghats. The Eastern Ghats stretch from the Mahanadi Valley to the Nigiris in the south. The Eastern Ghats are discontinuous and irregular and dissected by rivers draining into the Bay of Bengal. The Western Ghats cause orographic rain by facing the rain bearing moist winds to rise along the western slopes of the Ghats.

(A) The Western Ghats do not extend to which of the following states?

- (a) Tamil Nadu      (b) Madhya Pradesh
- (c) Maharashtra    (d) Gujarat

(Remember)

(B) The Eastern Ghats are ..... while the Western Ghats are continuous.

- (a) broken               (b) irregular
- (c) discontinuous      (d) perpendicular

(Remember)

(C) Assertion (A): The west side of the Western Ghats receives heavy rainfall annually.

Reason (R): The Western Ghats trap the moisture-laden winds that blow from the southwest direction.

- (a) Both (A) and (R) are true and (R) is the correct explanation of (A).
- (b) Both (A) and (R) are true but (R) is not the correct explanation of (A).
- (c) (A) is correct but (R) is wrong.
- (d) (A) is wrong but (R) is correct. (Analyse)

(D) Name the highest peak of Western Ghats.

(Remember)

(E) Differentiate between the Eastern and Western Ghats using two points. (Analyse)

Ans. (A) (b) Madhya Pradesh

**Explanation:** The Western Ghats are spread in 6 States. In the north, they begin from Gujarat and then southward cover the States of Maharashtra, Goa, Karnataka, Kerala, and Tamil Nadu. Madhya Pradesh lies in central India, and the Western Ghats are not located in it.

(B) (c) discontinuous

**Explanation:** The Eastern Ghats are the discontinuous range of mountains along the eastern coast of India.

### Related Theory

→ The Eastern Ghats are spread across 5 States namely Odisha, Andhra Pradesh, Telangana, Tamil Nadu and Karnataka.

- (C) (a) Both (A) and (R) are true and (R) is the correct explanation of (A).

**Explanation:** Western Ghats are the mountain ranges of great elevation. India receives most of its rain from the Southwest monsoon. During the southwest monsoon the moisture-laden winds enter India from the southeast and these winds are forced to rise along the western slopes of the Ghats. The west side of the mountains receives heavy orographic rainfall.

- (D) Anamudi is the highest peak of the Western Ghats. Its elevation is 2695 meters.

### Related Theory

→ The mountain lies in Eravikulam National Park in Kerala. Its elevation is 2,695 m. The 2nd highest peak of Western Ghats is Mannamala (2,659 m) also located in Kerala. Both peaks support the rich biodiversity of the area around them. They also attract tourists from around the world.

- (E) The differences are:

Eastern Ghats	Western Ghats
(1) Eastern Ghats are lower in elevation and discontinuous.	They are higher in elevation and continuous.
(2) They are dissected by various rivers.	They are not as broken or dissected.

Another important characteristic of the Peninsular Plateau is the Black soil area called the Deccan Trap. The traps are of volcanic origin and so the soil is made up of igneous rocks. These rocks degraded and denuded over time to form this soil.



## TOPIC 4

### THE INDIAN DESERT

#### Learning Objectives

- Students will be introduced to the Thar desert or the Indian desert.
- Students will learn about the physiography of the desert—the climate, the amount of precipitation received and the soil.
- Students will read about terms like Barchans, sandstorms, arid regions, etc.

#### Learning Outcomes

- Students will be able to understand the significance of this desert.
- Students will be able to identify on the map of West India.
- Students will be able to recall the geographical features of the desert—the type of soil, the climate and the sand dunes found in it.
- Students will be able to locate the desert on the map of India.

Towards the western margin of Aravallis, lies the Indian Desert. The Great Indian Desert is also known as the Thar Desert. The climate of the Indian Desert is arid. It is marked by low vegetation cover. The desert, as an undulating sandy plain, is covered with sand dunes. The average annual rainfall received in this region is very low, (below 150 mm annually). Few streams are seen in the rainy season; however, soon after rain stops, the streams disappear. They don't have enough water to reach the Arabian Sea.



Rajasthani women fetching water

#### Important

- The Luni River is the only large river in Rajasthan. Throughout the Indian Desert, barchans and longitudinal dunes are observed. They become more prominent near the Indo-Pakistan border.

## TOPIC 5

### THE COASTAL PLAINS

#### Learning Objectives

- Students will learn about coastal plains located in India.
- Students will learn about the features of the coastal plains—the soil, their makeup, their benefits.
- Students will read about their local names.

#### Learning Outcomes

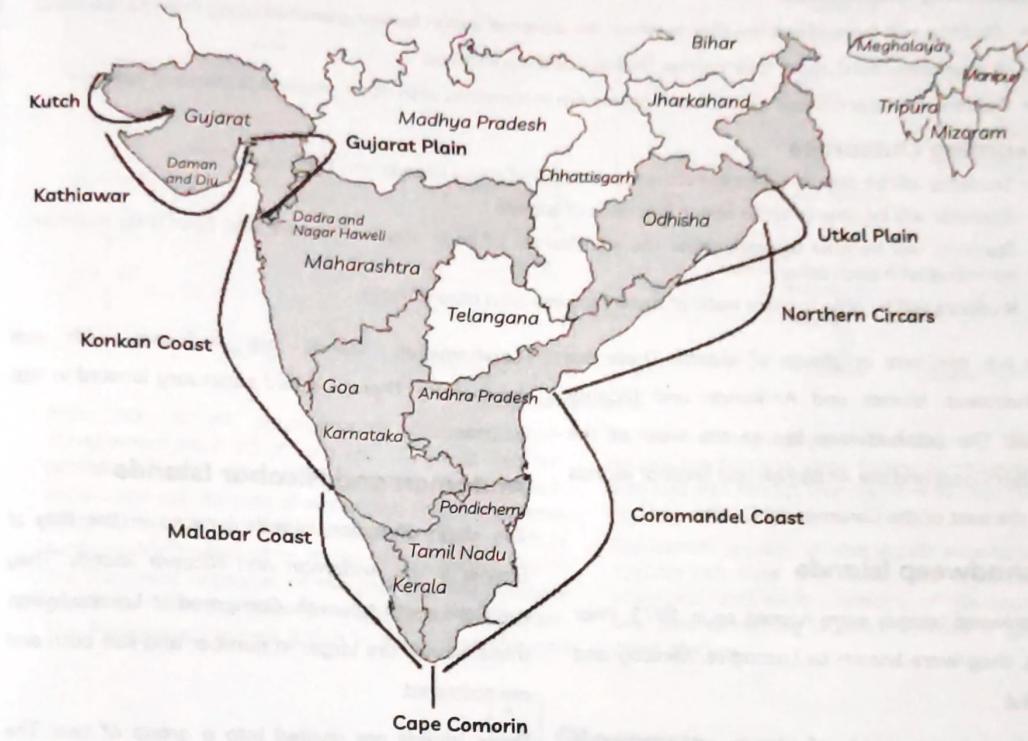
- Students will be able to understand the significance of the coastal plains.
- Students will be able to recall the different local names given to them. They will be able to identify them based on their location on the map.
- Students will be able to locate these Coastal Plains and their divisions on the map of India.

India has a large coastlines. The plains located next to the coastlines are called coastal plains.

The Indian coastal plains can be divided into Western Coastal Plains and Eastern Coastal Plains.

### Western Coastal Plains

The Western Coastal Plains lie between the Arabian Sea and Western Ghats. It is a narrow plain. It can be divided into 3 sections from north to south and is known by different names regionally.



#### Important

→ The Northernmost section of the Western Coastal Plain is known as Konkan plain. This stretch is located between Mumbai and Goa. The central stretch is called Kannad Plain and the southern stretch of plains is known as Malabar Coast.

### The Eastern Coastal Plains

The Eastern Plains are wide and level. They are sandwiched between the Bay of Bengal and the Eastern Ghats. These plains can also be divided into parts from north to south. The northern part is called the Northern Circars and the southern part is called the Coromandel Coast. Large rivers like Mahanadi, Godavari, Krishna and Kaveri have formed very extensive deltas on this coast. Lake

Chilika is located on this coast as an important feature.

**Example 6. Where is the Chilika Lake located? Mention its features and significance. (Understand)**

**Ans.** Chilika Lake is located in the eastern state of Odisha on the eastern coast. Daya River flows into the Bay of Bengal and the lake lies at its mouth.

- (1) This brackish water lake holds significance in the maintenance of regional ecological balance.
- (2) The lake lies in the route of migratory birds in winter.
- (3) It also serves as a habitat for threatened species of flora and fauna.

## TOPIC 6

# THE ISLANDS

### Learning Objectives

- Students will learn about the islands which are a part of Indian territory, located away from its mainland.
- Students will read about their names, features and significance.
- Students will learn about how these features are in harmony with other physical features of India.

### Learning Outcomes

- Students will be able to understand the significance of these islands and their role.
- Students will be able to write about functions of islands.
- Students will be able to understand the significance of each physical feature and how they maintain harmony with each other.
- Students will be able to trace each of these features on a map of India.

India has two sets or groups of islands. These are Lakshadweep Islands and Andaman and Nicobar Islands. The Lakshadweep lies to the west of the Malabar Coast and the Andaman and Nicobar Islands lie to the east of the Coromandel Coast.

### Lakshadweep Islands

Lakshadweep Islands were named so in 1973. Prior to this, they were known as Laccadive, Minicoy and Amindivi.

The Lakshadweep group of islands are composed of small coral islands and cover a small area of 32 sq. km. The capital of Lakshadweep is Kavaratti. It also serves as the administrative headquarters. Lakshadweep has a rich diversity of flora and fauna.

#### Important

- Coral polyps are short-lived microscopic organisms, which live in colonies. They require shallow, mud-free and warm waters to thrive. They secrete calcium carbonate.

The coral secretion and their skeletons form coral deposits in the form of reefs. Reefs are of three kinds:

- (1) Barrier reef
- (2) Fringing reef
- (3) Atolls

The Great Barrier Reef of Australia is a good example of the first kind of coral reefs.

Lakshadweep islands are endowed with rich biodiversity. There is a bird sanctuary located in Pitti Islands.

### Andaman and Nicobar Islands

The chain of Indian Islands located in the Bay of Bengal is the Andaman and Nicobar Islands. They run from north to south. Compared to Lakshadweep, these Islands are larger in number and size both and are scattered.

These Islands are divided into a group of two: The Andaman in the north and Nicobar in the south. These islands are the peaks of submarine mountains submerged under the Bay of Bengal. They assume great geophysical and strategic significance. They lie close to one of the busiest oceanic routes of all times - the Malacca strait. Thus, they have great economic significance. Like Lakshadweep, these islands are also rich in flora and fauna.

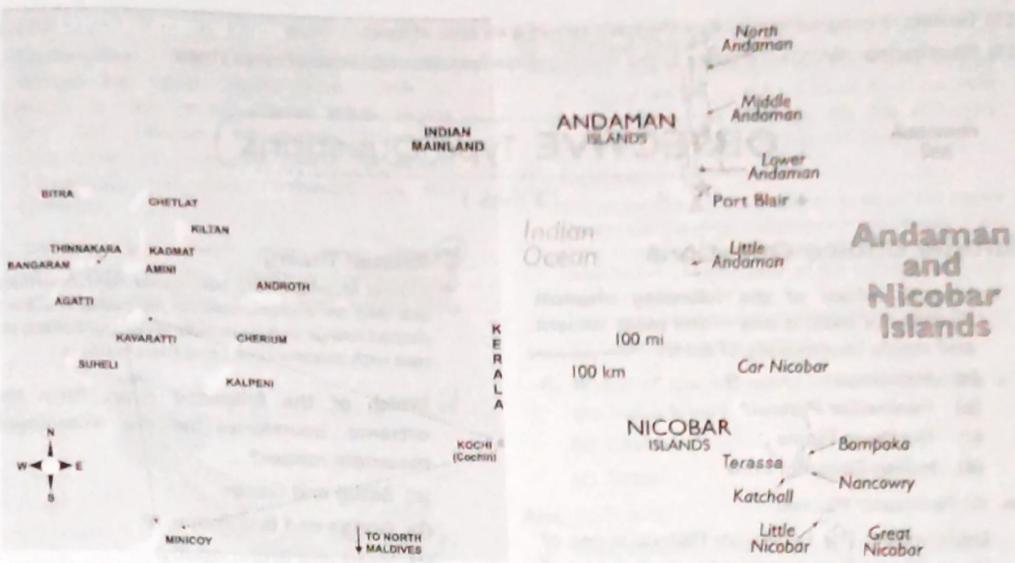
#### Important

- The Andaman and Nicobar islands lie close to the equator and experience equatorial climate and have thick forest cover.



### Frequently Asked

- India's only active volcano is found on Barren Island in Andaman and Nicobar group of Islands.



### India's Islands

India has varied physiographic features which complement each other very well. All these divisions provide different gifts to the country. The Northern mountains are sources of water and forest resources. They attract tourists from across the globe which in turn provide livelihood to locals. The Northern Plains are the great granaries of the country. They provide grains to feed the ever growing Indian population. The Peninsular Plateau is rich in mineral wealth and

boosts industrialisation in the country. The coastal regions are home to large fishing communities. India's beaches also attract tourists from all over the country and beyond.

The Islands are also of vital significance to India. They contain rich flora and fauna and contribute to the ecological and social diversity of the country. They are also extremely significant from a geostrategic point of view.



### Glossary

- (1) **Atolls:** They are circular or horseshoe-shaped coral reefs.
- (2) **Barchans:** Crescent-shaped sand dunes produced by the action of wind from one direction.
- (3) **Deccan Traps:** The place where huge amounts of volcanic magma erupted millions of years ago.
- (4) **Deposition:** Laying/Transporting down of sediments carried by the wind, flowing waters and ice.
- (5) **Doab:** The tract of land lying between two confluent rivers or Interfluvia.
- (6) **Duns:** Valleys that lie between Shiwaliks and Lesser Himalayas.
- (7) **Ephemeral Rivers:** Ephemeral literally means lasting for a short time. Ephemeral rivers are those that last for a short time, that is, do not flow for the entire year.
- (8) **Faulting:** A fault is a landform discontinuity or planar fracture across which significant displacement has occurred due to rock-mass motions.
- (9) **Flora and Fauna:** It refers to the plant and animal diversity of a particular area.
- (10) **Fold Mountains:** Mountains created when two or more of Earth's tectonic plates collide.
- (11) **Landform:** A landform refers to the earth's surface configuration. Examples include plains, mountains, plateaus, hills, etc.
- (12) **Longitudinal Dunes:** The elongated and huge dunes that are formed parallel to the direction in which wind blows in the desert.
- (13) **River Delta:** Landform formed by the deposition of silt and sediments carried by the river as it enters flowing water or stationary water.
- (14) **Rock:** The earth's crust is made up of rocks, which are natural masses of mineral stuff.

- (15) **Terrain:** In geography, terrain is the basic term for an area of land.
- (16) **Weathering:** Weathering refers to the disintegration and decomposition of rocks *in situ*.

## OBJECTIVE Type Questions

[ 1 mark ]

### Multiple Choice Questions

1. Identify which of the following physical divisions of India is one of the most ancient and stable landmasses of earth.

- (a) Himalayas
- (b) Peninsular Plateau
- (c) Northern Plains
- (d) Indian Coastal Plains

**Ans.** (b) Peninsular Plateau

**Explanation:** The Peninsular Plateau is one of the most stable and ancient blocks. It is part of the Gondwana Land that split from Pangea.



Related Theory

→ Himalayas and Northern Plains are comparatively younger landforms. Himalayas are unstable and still in the process of being formed every year.

2. Identify the correct statements about the Himalayan Mountain range based on the given hints.

- (I) The ranges have very high peaks and deep V-shaped valleys.
- (II) Fast flowing rivers emerge from them. They deposit sediments south of these ranges.
- (III) They are stretch over the northern borders of India.
- (IV) These mountain ranges run in a west-east direction from the Brahmaputra to the Indus.

**Options:**

- (a) (I), (II) and (III)
- (b) (I), (II) and (IV)
- (c) (II), (III) and (IV)
- (d) (I), (III) and (IV)

**Ans.** (a) (I), (II) and (III)

**Explanation:** Himalayas have high peaks. They have deep V-shaped valleys and fast flowing rivers. They originate from these snow-bound peaks. These mountain ranges run in a west-east direction from the Indus to the Brahmaputra. Apart from longitudinal divisions giving three parallel ranges, they are also divided on the basis of regions from north to east. These divisions have been demarcated by river valleys.



### Related Theory

→ Aravalli Mountains are also called relict mountains and they are characterised by low peaks, shallow U shaped valleys and rivers lacking energy. Same is the case with Western Ghats and Eastern Ghats.

3. Which of the following rivers form the extreme boundaries of the Himalayan mountain ranges?

- (a) Satluj and Ganga
- (b) Ganga and Brahmaputra
- (c) Indus and Brahmaputra
- (d) Indus and Kaveri

**Ans.** (c) Indus and Brahmaputra

**Explanation:** Indus River rises from Mansarovar Lake in Tibet and flows westwards from there and marks the western boundary of Indian Himalayas. Similarly, the Brahmaputra River rises north of Kailash range of the Himalayas and flows eastwards before taking a turn and entering India in Arunachal Pradesh marking their eastern boundary.



### Related Theory

→ Kaveri River lies in South India.

4. What is the approximate length of the Himalayan arc in North India from east to west?

- (a) 2000 km
- (b) 2400 km
- (c) 1600 km
- (d) 2700 km

**Ans.** (b) 2400 km

**Explanation:** The Himalayan mountain range is situated at the northern border of India. They protect India from the cold Siberian winds in the winters. They extend from the Indus to Brahmaputra river and the approximate length of the Himalayan arc is 2400 km.

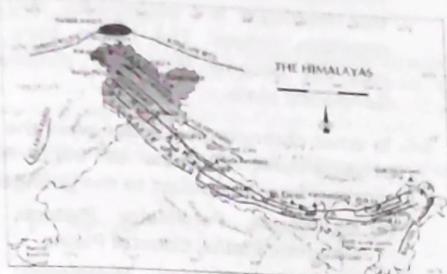
5. Choose the correct order of Himalayan layers from North to South.

- (a) Himadri, Himachal, Shiwaliks
- (b) Himachal, Himadri, Shiwaliks
- (c) Shiwaliks, Himachal, Himadri
- (d) Himachal, Shiwaliks, Himadri

**Ans.** (a) Himadri, Himachal, Shiwaliks

**Explanation:** The Himalayas can be divided into three layers from north to south or vice versa. These three layers are the Greater Himalayas (Himadri), then south of them are Lesser Himalayas (Himachal), and then southward are the Shiwaliks.

6. Observe the given map and identify in which of the following northeastern states do the Garo, Khasi and Jaintia Hills predominantly lie?



- (a) Manipur      (b) Arunachal Pradesh  
(c) Assam      (d) Meghalaya

**Ans.** (d) Meghalaya

**Explanation:** Garo, Khasi and Jaintia hills are located in the Indian state of Meghalaya. These hills are named after the predominant tribes that inhabit them.

### Related Theory

→ Manipur hills are located in Manipur. Arunachal Pradesh has the Himalayas.

7. Aman, a farmer in Punjab, relies on river water for irrigating his wheat fields. His grandfather often tells him stories about the land of five rivers that have nurtured Punjab for centuries. One day, while studying geography, Aman came across a map showing the major river systems flowing through the Northern Plains. He wondered which river system primarily flows through Punjab and supports agriculture in the region. Help Aman to identify the river.

- (a) Ganga      (b) Brahmaputra  
(c) Indus      (d) Yamuna

**Ans.** (c) Indus

**Explanation:** Indus, Ganga, and Brahmaputra are the three major river systems of North India. These three rivers make up the major portion of the Northern Plains. River Indus covers the western portion, Ganga the central portion and river Brahmaputra river cover the eastern portion of Northern Plains.

### Related Theory

→ Krishna and Godavari are the two rivers located in Central and South India. Both of them rise from Western Ghats and drain into the Bay of Bengal. Godavari is also known as 'Dakshin Ganga'.

### Caution

→ It is important for the students to know the vague locations of the rivers mentioned in the chapter. Even if the names of the states are not mentioned in the questions—a vague idea of the location can help rule out alternatives. They must always establish a relationship among the options in such questions.

8. Which of the following is not a tributary of the Indus River?

- (a) Chenab      (b) Satluj  
(c) Betwa      (d) Ravi

**Ans.** (c) Betwa

**Explanation:** Indus has 5 major tributaries, and they are Satluj, Chenab, Ravi, Beas, and Jhelum. It rises from western Tibet and flows westwards through Ladakh and Gilgit-Baltistan region before entering Pakistan and then finally draining into the Arabian Sea.

### Related Theory

→ Betwa is a river which flows in central India. It is one of the right bank tributaries of the larger river Yamuna.

9. Which is the largest salt water lake in India?

- (a) Pulicat Lake      (b) Chilika Lake  
(c) Kolleru Lake      (d) Dal Lake

[DIKSHA]

**Ans.** (b) Chilika Lake

**Explanation:** Chilika Lake is situated in the Indian state of Odisha. It lies south of the Mahanadi River delta and at the mouth of Daya River. It is India's largest salt water lake. It is also the biggest lake of India. The lake represents a very rich marine ecosystem and has varied fishery resources.

10. Identify which of the following rivers is a west flowing river.

- (a) Mahanadi      (b) Narmada  
(c) Kaveri      (d) Kosi

**Ans.** (b) Narmada

**Explanation:** River Narmada flows in the India states Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra and Gujarat. By flowing the westward direction drains into the Arabian Sea.

### Related Theory

→ Mahanadi, Kosi and Kaveri are all east flowing rivers and drain into the Bay of Bengal.

11. Consider the statements given below and choose the correct answer.

Statement (I): Shevroy Hills and the Javadi Hills are located to the southeast of the Eastern Ghats.

Statement (II): The Eastern Ghats stretch from the Mahanadi Valley to the Nigris in the south.

- (a) Statement (I) is correct and (II) is incorrect.
- (b) Statement (I) is incorrect and (II) is correct.
- (c) Both (I) and (II) are incorrect.
- (d) Both (I) and (II) are correct.

Ans. (d) Both (I) and (II) are correct.

### Related Theory

→ There are significant differences between the Western Ghats and the Eastern Ghats. Western Ghats are continuous and can be crossed through passes only. On the other hand, the Eastern Ghats are discontinuous.

12. "I am a group of Islands strategically very important to India. I live in the Bay of Bengal and my northern part is separated from my southern part by the Ten Degree Channel. I, as a whole, am separated from Indonesia by the Great Channel. One of my Islands contains India's only active volcano. My capital is Port Blair".

Which of the following groups of Islands are being talked about here?

- (a) Lakshadweep Islands
- (b) Maldives
- (c) Andaman and Nicobar Islands
- (d) Majuli Island

Ans. (c) Andaman and Nicobar Islands

**Explanation:** Andaman and Nicobar Islands are located at a strategically important location for India. They are very close to the Strait of Malacca. Andaman is separated from Nicobar by the Ten Degree Channel and the entire group of islands is separated from Indonesia by the Great Channel.

### Related Theory

→ Maldives lies south west of Kerala in the Indian Ocean. Lakshadweep also lies in the Arabian Sea. Majuli is a riverine island in the Brahmaputra River.

13. Read the data given below and answer the question.

Physiographic Division	Age
Peninsular Plateau	Oldest
Himalayas	Youngest

How the youngest mountain mentioned in the table is formed?

- (a) By volcanic activity
- (b) By folding of tectonic plates due to collision
- (c) By deposition of sediments over time
- (d) By erosion of older mountains

Ans. (b) By folding of tectonic plates due to collision

**Explanation:** Around 50 million years ago, the Indian Plate collided with the bigger Eurasian Plate and it led to the formation of the Himalayas and the Tibetan Plateau. Therefore, the Himalayas are geologically very young mountain ranges. The Indian plate which was left became Peninsular plateau from Gondwana plate.

14. In what chronological order were the major physiographic divisions of India formed, starting from the oldest to the youngest?

- (a) Himalayas, Peninsular Plateau, Indo-Gangetic Plains, Coastal Plains
- (b) Peninsular Plateau, Himalayas, Indo-Gangetic Plains, Coastal Plains
- (c) Himalayas, Indo-Gangetic Plains, Peninsular Plateau, Coastal Plains
- (d) Peninsular Plateau, Coastal Plains, Himalayas, Indo-Gangetic Plains

Ans. (b) Peninsular Plateau, Himalayas, Indo-Gangetic Plains, Coastal Plains.

**Explanation:** The Himadri range is also known as the Greater or the Inner Himalayas because they are the northernmost range of Himalayas. It has the loftiest peaks. It is snowbound around the year.

### Related Theory

→ The Himachal range is also known as Lesser Himalayas. Shiwaliks are also called the Outer Himalayas. They form the southernmost range of Himalayas.

15. Which of the following statements is/are correct about the Coastal plains of India?

- (I) The Western coastal plain is a narrow plain.
- (II) The northern part of the Western coast is called the Konkan.
- (III) The southern stretch of the Eastern coastline is referred to as the Malabar Coast.
- (IV) The plains along the Bay of Bengal are wide and level.

Options:

- (a) (I), (II) and (III)
- (b) (I) and (II)
- (c) (I), (II) and (IV)
- (d) (I) and (IV)

**Ans.** (c) (I), (II) and (IV)

**Explanation:** The Western coast, sandwiched between the Western Ghats and the Arabian Sea, is a narrow plain. It consists of three sections.

- (1) The northern part of the coast is called the Konkan (Mumbai – Goa).
  - (2) The central stretch is called the Kannad Plain.
  - (3) The southern stretch of western coastal plain is referred to as the Malabar Coast.
- The Eastern coastline is wide and level.



### Related Theory

→ The eastern coastal plains is flanked between Eastern Coast and Eastern Ghats. In the northern part, it is referred to as the Northern Circars, while the southern part is known as the Coromandel Coast.

**16.** Read the data given below and answer the question.

Range	Region
Gir	.....
Garo	Meghalaya
Mahadeo	Madhya Pradesh

Select the option for the blank.

- (a) Gujarat      (b) Meghalaya  
(c) Myanmar      (d) Manipur

**Ans.** (a) Gujarat



### Caution

→ Students must observe the given map in chapters very carefully.

**17.** Which of the following is the correct definition of Barchans?

- (a) Longitudinal dunes that frequent the peninsular plateau.
- (b) Crescent shaped sand dunes which can be observed in the Thar Desert.
- (c) Cigar shaped sand dunes which are caused due to human activities.
- (d) Horizontal shaped sand dunes blowing in Northern plains.

**Ans.** (b) Crescent shaped sand dunes which can be observed in the Thar Desert.

**Explanation:** Barchans (crescent-shaped dunes) cover large areas in the Thar Desert. Longitudinal sand dunes are frequently observed in the Indo-Pak border.

**18.** Identify the incorrect statement.

- (a) The rivers coming from northern mountains are involved in depositional work.

(b) The Northern plain is sparsely populated.

(c) The Northern plain is formed of alluvial soil.

(d) The Northern Plain is broadly divided into Punjab plains, Ganga plain and the Brahmaputra plain.

**Ans.** (b) The Northern plain is sparsely populated.

**Explanation:** The Northern plain is densely populated because it is agriculturally productive and geographically stable and holistically developed. It is a rich source of various resources.



### Related Theory

→ The western part of the Northern Plain is referred to as the Punjab Plains. The larger part of this plain lies in Pakistan. This section of the plain is dominated by the doabs.

**19.** Arrange in the correct order from East to West.

(I) Purvanchal Hills

(II) Punjab Himalayas

(III) Assam Himalayas

(IV) Nepal Himalayas

Options:

(a) (I), (II), (IV), (III)      (b) (II), (III), (I), (IV)

(c) (III), (II), (I), (IV)      (d) (I), (III), (IV), (II)

**Ans.** (d) (I), (III), (IV), (II)

**Explanation:** The Himalayas have been demarcated by river valleys from West to East.

(1) The part of Himalayas lying between Indus and Satluj is called Punjab Himalaya.

(2) The Kali and Teesta rivers demarcate the Nepal Himalayas.

(3) The part lying between Teesta and Dihang rivers is known as Assam Himalayas.

(4) Beyond the Dihang gorge, the Himalayas bend sharply and spread along the eastern boundary of India. They are known as the Purvanchal or the Eastern hills.



### Related Theory

→ The part of the Himalayas lying between Satluj and Kali rivers is known as Kumaon Himalayas.

→ Punjab Hills are called Kashmir and Himachal Himalaya from west to east respectively.

**20.** Which of the following is not a name of the Lakshadweep Islands?

(a) Laccadive      (b) Minicoy

(c) Amindivi      (d) Barren



**Ans.** (d) Barren

**Explanation:** Lakshadweep Islands were known as Laccadive, Minicoy and Amindivi. In 1973, these were named as Lakshadweep.

Barren Island is located in the Andaman and Nicobar Islands. It is not a name given to the Lakshadweep Islands at any point in time.

**21. ○ India is formed by the division of large land mass pangea. Which of the following statement is true regarding its formation?**

- (I) India was always a peninsula.
- (II) The Indian plate collided with the Eurasian plate to form Himalayas.
- (III) Wegner's Plate Tectonics explains the formation of the Western Ghats.
- (IV) The Deccan traps were formed by rivers originating from the southern hills and mountains.

Options:

- (a) (I) Only
- (b) (I) and (II) Only
- (c) (II) and (IV) Only
- (d) (II) Only

**Ans.** (d) Only

**Explanation:** The Himalayan mountain range and Tibetan plateau have formed as a result of the collision between the Indian Plate and Eurasian Plate which began about 50 million years ago. The Himalayas are still rising by more than 1 cm per year as India continues to move northwards into Asia according to the Wegner's Plate Tectonics theory.

**22. Identify the features of western and eastern ghats through the given hints:**

- (I) They mark the western and the eastern edges of the Deccan Plateau respectively.
- (II) One part of them stretches from the Mahanadi Valley to the Nigiris in the south.
- (III) Their highest peaks include the Anai Mudi (2,695 metres), the Doda Betta (2,637 metres) and the Mahendragiri (1,501 metres).
- (IV) These Ghats cause rainfall by facing the rain bearing moist winds to rise along the western slopes of the Ghats.

Options:

- (a) (I), (II) and (III)
- (b) (I), (II) and (IV)
- (c) (II), (III) and (IV)
- (d) (I), (II), (III) and (IV)

**Ans.** (d) (I), (II), (III) and (IV)

**Explanation:** The Western Ghats and the Eastern Ghats mark the western and the eastern edges of the Deccan Plateau respectively. Western Ghats lie parallel to the

Extra content given according to the latest syllabus uploaded by CBSE.

western coast. The Eastern Ghats stretch from the Mahanadi Valley to the Nigiris in the south.

### Caution

→ Students should try to apply each hint to a list of features in their mind and rule out the improbable options based on each hint. For example, Himalayas can be eliminated because they are not located in central or south India.

**23. The Bundelkhand Plateau and ..... are the eastward extensions of the Peninsular Plateau.**

- (a) Ghats
- (b) Baghelkhand Plateau
- (c) Gondwana Plates
- (d) Chotanagpur Plateau

**Ans.** (b) Baghelkhand Plateau

**Explanation:** The Bundelkhand and Baghelkhand Plateaus can be considered as the eastwards extensions of the Peninsular Plateau.

### Related Theory

→ The Peninsular Plateau could be divided into Central Highlands and the Deccan Plateau. The Highlands lie in the north and the Deccan Plateau in the south.

**24. The Damodar River drains ..... Plateau.**

- (a) Chotanagpur
- (b) Bundelkhand
- (c) Baghelkhand
- (d) Peninsular

**Ans.** (a) Chotanagpur

**Explanation:** Chotanagpur Plateau lies at the centre of the Indian state of Jharkhand. Damodar River rises from the Palamau Hills of the Chotanagpur Plateau.

### Related Theory

→ It also covers certain areas of neighbouring Chhattisgarh and West Bengal.

**25. The highest peak of Western Ghats is .....**

- (a) Anai Malai
- (b) Anamudi
- (c) Cardamom
- (d) Nilgiri

[Mod. DIKSHA]

**Ans.** (b) Anamudi

**Explanation:** Anamudi mountain is located in Kerala, precisely in Idukki district. It is the highest peak of not only Western Ghats but also of entire south India.

### Related Theory

→ Highest peak of eastern ghats are Jindhagada Peak

**26. ..... is the world's largest riverine island and is also very beautiful and picturesque.**

- (a) Andaman & Nicobar Island  
 (b) Lakshadweep Island  
 (c) Majuli Island  
 (d) Minicoy Island

**Ans.** (c) Majuli Island

[Mod. NCERT]

### Related Theory

→ Majuli Island lies in the Brahmaputra River. It is located in Assam. The island attracts tourists from around the world.

27. The river that flows between Satpura Ranges and Vindhya Ranges is:  
 (a) Narmada River      (b) Tapi River  
 (c) Mahi River      (d) Chambal River

**Ans.** (a) Narmada River

**Explanation:** The river flows westwards between the Satpura and Vindhya Ranges and drains into the Arabian Sea.

### Related Theory

→ Narmada River is a west flowing river of central India. It rises from the Amarkantak Plateau in Central India.

28. The Northern Plains is divided into 4 layers from north to south namely Bhabar, Terai, Bhaggar and Khadar. Which layer contains calcareous deposits?  
 (a) Bhaggar      (b) Khadar  
 (c) Bhabar      (d) Terai

**Ans.** (a) Bhaggar

**Explanation:** Bhaggar contains calcareous deposits and these are known as "kankars" in the local language.

### Related Theory

→ Bhaggar is formed of the older alluvium and is the largest part of the Northern Plains.

29. The given image is a very important immemorial since its erupting materials form most fertile soils on Earth, and fostered civilisations. Where in India it is found?



- (a) Minicoy Island      (b) Barren Island  
 (c) Majuli Island      (d) Laccadive Island

**Ans.** (b) Barren Island

**Explanation:** India's only active volcano lies in the Andaman and Nicobar Islands.

### Related Theory

→ Volcanoes are of three types namely active, dormant and extinct. An active volcano is called so because it has a recent history of eruption and is likely to erupt again.

30. In your summer vacations, you are going to visit a group of islands near India. On the basis of the following dues, identify your vacation place:

- (I) They are located in Arabian Sea.  
 (II) They are a group of small coral islands.  
 (III) Its capital is Kavaratti.

Options:

- (a) Andaman & Nicobar Islands  
 (b) Lakshadweep  
 (c) Sri Lanka  
 (d) Maldives

[Delhi Gov. QB 2024]

**Ans.** (b) Lakshadweep

**Explanation:** Lakshadweep Islands lie to the west of Kerala and the Strait of Malacca lies to the east of Tamil Nadu.

31. Different physiographic regions gives different features. Identify the correct statements regarding it:

- (I) The northern plains is generally a flat land with no variations in its relief.  
 (II) Aravalli hills mark the southeastern boundary of the Indian Desert.  
 (III) The rivers coming from Himalayas are majorly involved in erosional work in the Northern Plains.  
 (IV) Central Highlands is predominantly marked by the presence of black soil.

Options:

- (a) (I), (II), (III), (IV)      (b) (III) and (IV)  
 (c) (II) only      (d) (IV) only

**Ans.** (c) (II) only

**Explanation:** The northern plains are vast plains with diverse relief features mainly divided into Bhabar, Khadar, Terai and Bangar.

The rivers coming from Himalayas are majorly involved in deposition work in the Northern Plains.

Deccan Plateau is predominantly marked by the presence of black soil.

32. Match the items in Column A to those in Column B.

Column A	Column B
(A) Barchans	(I) Wet, swampy and marshy region
(B) Doab	(II) Black soil area



(C) Terai	(III) Crescent shaped dunes
(D) Deccan Trap	(IV) Two rivers

Options:

- (a) (A) - (III), (B) - (I), (C) - (I), (D) - (IV)
- (b) (A) - (III), (B) - (IV), (C) - (I), (D) - (II)
- (c) (A) - (II), (B) - (I), (C) - (III), (D) - (IV)
- (d) (A) - (IV), (B) - (II), (C) - (I), (D) - (III)

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Ans. (b) (A) - (III), (B) - (IV), (C) - (I), (D) - (II)

33. Match the items in Column A to those in Column B.

Column A	Column B
(A) Konkan Plain	(I) Odisha
(B) Malabar Plain	(II) Mumbai
(C) Northern Circars	(III) Karnataka
(D) Kannad Plain	(IV) Kerala

Options:

- (a) (A)-(III), (B)-(I), (C)-(IV), (D)-(II)
- (b) (A)-(II), (B)-(IV), (C)-(I), (D)-(III)
- (c) (A)-(II), (B)-(I), (C)-(IV), (D)-(III)
- (d) (A)-(III), (B)-(IV), (C)-(II), (D)-(I)

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Ans. (b) (A)-(II), (B)-(IV), (C)-(I), (D)-(III)

Explanation: The northern part of the Western coast is called the Konkan Plain (Mumbai – Goa), the central stretch is called the Kannad Plain (Karnataka), while the southern stretch is referred to as the Malabar Coast (Kerala). Northern Circars are located in Odisha.

### Assertion-Reason (A-R)

In the following questions, two statements in the form of an Assertion (A) and a Reason (R) have been put forward. Read both statements carefully and choose the most appropriate option:

- (a) Both (A) and (R) are true and (R) is the correct explanation of (A).
- (b) Both (A) and (R) are true but (R) is not the correct explanation of (A).
- (c) (A) is correct but (R) is wrong.
- (d) (A) is wrong but (R) is correct.

34. Assertion (A): The west side of Western Ghats receives heavy rainfall.

Reason (R): The Western Ghats have high elevation and hence they trap the moisture-laden winds from the south-west.

Ans. (a) Both (A) and (R) are true and (R) is the correct explanation of (A).

35. Assertion (A): Bhabar and Terai are the divisions of the Northern Plains from west to east.

Reason (R): The Ganga Plain extends between Ghaggar and Teesta Rivers.

Ans. (d) (A) is wrong but (R) is correct.

Explanation: Bhabar and Terai are the divisions of the Northern Plains from north to south. Just south of Shiwaliks lies the Bhabar. The parallel region south of it is called Terai.

36. Assertion (A): When the rivers of Himalayas enter plains, they form riverine islands.

Reason (R): The rivers experience gentle slopes in plains and as a result their velocity reduces to a great extent.

Ans. (a) Both (A) and (R) are true and (R) is the correct explanation of (A).

Explanation: Himalayan rivers deposit sediments which they carry down from the mountains. Their speed reduces greatly as they come down loaded with these sediments and hit the previously deposited sediments (or riverine Islands). Thus, riverine Islands are formed.

37. Assertion (A): The Indian desert has very low vegetation cover. It is quite barren.

Reason (R): The Indian Desert receives very low rainfall and has an arid type of climate.

Ans. (a) Both (A) and (R) are true and (R) is the correct explanation of (A).

Explanation: The western part of India receives very low rainfall annually. It covers mostly the states of Rajasthan and Gujarat. The vegetation cover of an area is in accordance with the type of climate it has and the rainfall it receives.

38. Assertion (A): Andaman and Nicobar Islands have tropical climates.

Reason (R): Andaman and Nicobar Islands lie closer to the equator.

Ans. (a) Both (A) and (R) are true and (R) is the correct explanation of (A).

Explanation: It is true that Andaman and Nicobar Islands have a tropical type of climate. It has rich forest and wildlife. It receives above

average rainfall of more than 300 cm and temperature averages at around 27° celsius. It

is majorly due to the fact that these islands lie close to the equator.

### **CASE BASED Questions (CBQs)**

[ 4 marks ]

Read the following passages and answer the questions that follow.

**39.** Besides the longitudinal divisions, the Himalayas have been divided on the basis of regions from west to east. These divisions have been demarcated by river valleys. For example, the part of Himalayas lying between Indus and Satluj has been traditionally known as Punjab Himalaya but it is also known regionally as Kashmir and Himachal Himalaya from west to east respectively. The part of the Himalayas lying between Satluj and Kali rivers is known as Kumaon Himalayas. The Kali and Teesta rivers demarcate the Nepal Himalayas and the part lying between Teesta and Dihang rivers is known as Assam Himalayas. There are regional names also in these broad categories.

(A) Which one of the following is the easternmost branch of the Himalayas?

- (a) Punjab Himalayas
  - (b) Himachal
  - (c) Kumaon Himalayas
  - (d) Assam Himalaya

(B) Where are the Purvanchal Himalayas located?

- (a) Sikkim
  - (b) Assam
  - (c) Arunachal Pradesh
  - (d) Mizoram

(C) Choose the correctly matched pair.

- (a) Indus - Kumaon Himalayas  
 (b) Kali - Punjab Himalayas  
 (c) Teesta - Nepal Himalayas  
 (d) Dibang - Purvanchal

(D) The longitudinal valley lying between lesser Himalaya and the Shiwaliks are known as .....



**Ans.** (A) (d) Assam Himalayas

**Explanation:** From West to East, Himalayas are arranged into:

- (1) Punjab Himalayas
  - (2) Kumaon Himalayas
  - (3) Nepal Himalayas
  - (4) Assam Himalayas

- (B) (d) Mizoram

**Explanation:** The Brahmaputra marks the eastern-most boundary of the Himalayas. Beyond the Dihang gorge, the Himalayas bend sharply to the south and spread along the eastern boundary of India. They are known as the Purvachal or the Eastern hills and mountains.

## Related Theory

- The Purvachal comprises the Patkai hills, the Naga hills, the Manipur hills and the Mizo hills.

- (C) (c) Teesta - Nepal Himalayas

**Explanation:** The Kali and Teesta rivers demarcate the either ends of the Nepal Himalaus.

- (D) (b) Duns

**Explanation:** The longitudinal valley lying between lesser Himalaya and the Shiwaliks are known as Duns. Dehra Dun, Kotli Dun and Patli Dun are some of the well-known Duns.

40. "I am a range of mountains just northwest of which lies the Great Indian Desert. Also southeast of me lies the Malwa Plateau which forms a part of Central Highlands. My direction is from southwest to northeast. When the moisture laden winds come from the southwest I am unable to trap them as I am parallel to them."

- (A) Identify the mountain ranges being talked about in the source.
  - (B) Why can the Aravali Ranges not trap moisture to cause rainfall?
  - (C) How do the Aravalli ranges influence the climate of the regions lying to their east and west?

**Ans.** (A) Argyali Ranges

**Explanation:** Aravali Range lies in north-western India. They start near Delhi and end in Gujarat. They also cover parts of Haryana and Rajasthan. To the northwest of these ranges lies the Great Indian Desert and to the southeast of these ranges lies the Malwa Plateau.

- (B) As its direction is southwest to northeast, the Aravalli range lies parallel to the

moisture laden winds from the southwest and are not able to trap them causing no rainfall at all.

- (C) (1) The Aravalli ranges act as a climatic divide between the arid Thar Desert in the northwest and the comparatively wetter regions in the southeast. Since the Aravallis are old, eroded, and run parallel to the southwest monsoon winds, they do not obstruct them to cause rainfall.  
(2) The northwest region (including the Thar Desert) remains dry as it does not receive significant rainfall.  
(3) The southeastern region, including the Malwa Plateau, receives relatively more rainfall due to the monsoon winds reaching there without obstruction. (Any two points)

41. "These hills are also known as Outer Himalayas and they form a layer of Himalayas from Kashmir to Arunachal Pradesh. They stretch from the Brahmaputra River to the Indus River. They are majorly made up of sandstone and conglomerate rock formations. They are not very strongly solidified. South of these lie the Bhabar zone of the Northern Plains and to the north lie the Himachal Himalayas".

- (A) Which hills are talked about in the passage?  
(B) Which Himalayas lie to the north of the Himachal Himalayas?  
(C) What do you mean or understand by the Bhabar zone?

Ans. (A) Shiwaliks

**Explanation:** Shiwaliks are the southernmost Himalayas and they run as an arc from Kashmir to Arunachal Pradesh. They are poorly consolidated. South of them lie the Bhabar zone. Manipur Hills lie in north eastern India in the Indian state of Manipur.

- (B) Himachal Himalayas are an east-west division of Himalayas. They lie between the Great Himalayas or Himadri in the north and Shiwaliks in the south.

## SHORT ANSWER Type-I Questions (SA-I)

[ 2 marks ]

43. Why does the Indian desert have an arid climate with low vegetation? [DIKSHA]

Ans. This is primarily because this area receives scanty rainfall and has a hot and dry climate. As the Aravalli ranges lies parallel to the south-west monsoon winds so not able to trap any winds.

(C) Bhabar is a layer or zone that lies just south of Shiwalik Ranges of Himalayas. It is made up of coarse alluvial soil/sediments brought down by the Himalayan Rivers. From Bhabar start the Northern Plains.

42. One of the distinct features of the Peninsular plateau is the black soil area known as Deccan Trap. This is of volcanic origin, hence, the rocks are igneous. Actually, these rocks have denuded over time and are responsible for the formation of black soil. The Aravali Hills lie on the western and northwestern margins of the Peninsular plateau. These are highly eroded hills and are found as broken hills. They extend from Gujarat to Delhi in a southwest-northeast direction.  
(A) Black Soil is known as ..... also.  
(B) Why are the rocks of the peninsular plateau igneous?  
(C) The Aravali Hills lie on the ..... and ..... margins of the Peninsular plateau.  
(D) Write the process of formation of black soil. [Delhi Gov. QB 2022]

Ans. (A) Deccan trap

- (B) The rocks are igneous because they are of volcanic origin.

**Explanation:** The igneous rocks were formed due to the volcanic activity that occurred in the Deccan plateau region during which the lava had spread on the land and cooled down. The Deccan Plateau is a piece of Gondwanaland which existed around 200 million years ago.

### Related Theory

- Gondwanaland supercontinent consisted of today's Africa, Arabian Peninsula, South America, Antarctica, Australia, New Zealand, the island of Papua, Madagascar and the Indian Subcontinent.

The last two areas were joined together. Plate tectonics caused a huge volcanic activity around western border of India and eastern Madagascar and separated them.

- (C) Western; north-western.  
(D) Black soil is formed by the denudation of igneous rocks over time.

44. What are the divisions of Eastern Coastal Plains?

Ans. The Eastern Coastal Plains can be broadly divided into two parts based on their extent. The northern half of the eastern coastal plains is known as the Northern Circars while the southern half of the eastern coastal plains is known as the Coromandel Coast.

**45. Which states are a part of Brahmaputra Plains?**

**Ans.** Indian states that are covered by the Brahmaputra Plains are Arunachal Pradesh, Assam, Meghalaya, Nagaland, West Bengal and Sikkim.

### Related Theory

→ The Brahmaputra River is known as Dihang in Arunachal Pradesh and as Yarlung Tsango in Tibet.

**46. In how many parts is the Peninsular Plateau broadly divided? [Delhi Gov. QB 2022]**

**Ans.** The peninsular plateau is broadly divided into:

(1) Central Highlands

(2) Deccan Plateau

**47. What was Gondwanaland? [DIKSHA]**

**Ans.** Gondwanaland was the southern part of an ancient supercontinent called the Pangea. The Pangea was divided into two parts— Angara and Gondwanaland.

### Related Theory

→ Pangea was surrounded by the Superocean, Panthalassa or the Panthalassic Ocean.

**48. What are the three parallel ranges among the Himalayas?**

**Ans.** The Himalayas are divided into three layers along the arc.

(1) The northernmost layer is known as the Great Himalayas or the Himadri.

(2) Then southward of it lies the Lesser Himalayas or the Himachal.

(3) The third layer which is also the southernmost called as Shiwaliks. There are differences in elevation of the three layers. The elevation generally increases from Shiwaliks northwards.

(Any two points)

**49. Ravi, a geography student, was on a desert expedition in Rajasthan when he noticed crescent-shaped sand dunes scattered across the landscape. Curious to learn more, Ravi wondered what these dunes were called and what their key features were. Can you describe the characteristics of these unique sand formations that Ravi observed?**

**Ans.** Yes, this phenomenon is called barchans and its features are:

(1) Barchans are a crescent shaped desert feature and they are formed there quite often. They are shifting in nature.

(2) They are formed when winds are steady in desert and they transport sand in a definite pattern in a definite direction.

**50. The Deccan Plateau is a triangular landmass that lies to the south of the river Narmada. Write its three features.**

**Ans.** (1) The Deccan Plateau lies between Eastern and Western Ghats.

(2) It is spread over 6 southern states namely Maharashtra, Andhra Pradesh, Telangana, Tamil Nadu, Karnataka and Kerala.

(3) It has black soil, which is very good for growing cotton.

**51. You have learned that the Lakshadweep Islands are made up of corals. What are corals? [NCERT]**

**Ans.** Coral Polyps could be defined as microscopic organisms that are short-lived.

(1) They live in colonies.

(2) They survive and flourish in clear, warm, and shallow waters. Calcium carbonate is secreted by them.

### Related Theory

→ The Great Barrier Reef of Australia is the largest coral reef system in the world.

**52. What are the broad differences between the Andaman and Nicobar Islands and the Lakshadweep Islands? Highlight two points.**

**Ans.** The differences are:

(1) Andaman and Nicobar Islands are larger in size and are also spread over a larger area. They are also more numerous than Lakshadweep.

(2) These islands are believed to be elevated portions of submarine mountains, that is, underwater mountains that rise above. On the other hand, the Lakshadweep Islands are made up of 36 atolls and coral reefs.

**53. Define Purvanchal Himalayas and write its features.**

**Ans.** Purvanchal Himalayas are the mountains beyond the Dihang gorge, where they bend sharply to the south and spread along the eastern boundary of India. Their features are:

(1) These hills are mostly composed of strong sandstones (sedimentary rocks).

(2) They are covered with dense forests.

The Purvanchal comprises the Patkai hills, the Naga hills, the Manipur hills and the Mizo hills.

**54. Lakshadweep group of islands is composed of small coral islands. Underline two other facts about this group of islands.**

**Ans.** Following two facts about the Lakshadweep group of Islands:



- (1) They cover a small area of 32 sq. km.
- (2) Kavaratti Island is the administrative headquarters of Lakshadweep.
- (3) This island group has a great diversity of flora and fauna. (Any two points)

**55.** How do the Himalayas help in causing rains in India?

**Ans.** The Himalayas act as a barrier to moisture laden southwest monsoon winds.

- (1) These winds blow towards India but meet the wall of the Himalayan peaks.
- (2) The winds strike the mountain walls causing the heavy moisture laden clouds to pour down their rain.

## SHORT ANSWER Type-II Questions (SA-II)

[ 3 marks ]

**56.** Northern Plains are important for India. Provide evidence to support the statement.

**Ans.** (1) The rivers Ganga, Brahmaputra and Indus deposit the alluvium that forms the land in the Northern Plain.

- (2) This alluvium enriches the soil making it fertile for agriculture. Most crops grow here in abundance so people settled here as there is a rich source of food.
- (3) Here, adequate water supplied from the rivers alongwith favourable climate have made the Northern Plains conducive for settlement.

**57.** There is always scarcity of water availability in the Indian desert. Substantiate the statement using illustrations.

**Ans.** Water is available in different forms in the Indian desert. However, it is not abundantly available.

- (1) The average annual rainfall with Indian Desert is very low, below 150 mm. The land is arid and sandy.
- (2) Few streams are seen in the rainy season but as soon as the season is over the streams dry up as they do not have enough water to reach the Arabian Sea.
- (3) The Luni is the largest river in the Indian Desert. It is the only large river and serves as a vital source of irrigation water.

**58.** During the school trip students were taken to the plateau where soil is of volcanic origin. Here igneous, metamorphic rocks are degraded and denuded over time to form this soil. Help students to write the features of this plateau.

**Ans.** The students were went to the deccan plateau and it has the following features:

- (1) It is a triangular landmass that lies to the south of the river Narmada.

(2) The Deccan Plateau is higher in the west and slopes gently eastwards. It is made of Black Soil which supports the growth of the cotton crop.

- (3) The Deccan Plateau is separated by a fault from the Chotanagpur Plateau.

**59.** The Himalayas are a boon for India. Explain. [Delhi Gov. QB 2022]

**Ans.** The Himalayas are a boon for India because:

- (1) They are a formidable barrier against India's neighbouring countries, China and Pakistan. They make a land attack from these directions almost impossible.
- (2) They also prevent the cold winds from Siberia and northern Asia from chilling the Northern plains which are the granaries of the country.
- (3) Himalayas are the source of perennial glaciers and rivers which irrigate the northern plains and fulfil their demand for consumption.

**60.** Classify the Himalayas on the basis of river valleys. [Delhi Gov. QB 2022]

**Ans.** The Himalayas have been divided/ demarcated by river valleys from west to east. These divisions are:

- (1) The part of Himalayas lying between Indus and Satluj are known as Punjab Himalayas or Kashmir and Himachal Himalaya from west to east.
- (2) The part of the Himalayas lying between Satluj and Kali rivers is known as Kumaon Himalayas.
- (3) The Kali and Teesta rivers demarcate the Nepal Himalayas.
- (4) The mountains lying between Teesta and Dihang rivers are known as Assam Himalayas. (Any three points)

## LONG ANSWER Type Questions (LA)

[ 5 marks ]

**61.** "The land of India displays great physical variations". Justify by giving examples.

[DIKSHA]

**Ans.** India is a continent-sized country.

- (1) In the north, it is bound by mighty Himalayas that run a 2400 km arc from Kashmir to Arunachal Pradesh. They are divided into divisions east-west as well as north-south.
- (2) South of these mountain ranges are the Northern Plains and these are quite extensive. These are drained by various rivers rising from the Himalayas, as well as mountains in Central India.
- (3) The third physical feature is the Peninsular Plateau, which is among the oldest landmasses on earth.
- (4) The fourth physical feature is the Indian desert, which lies northwest of the Aravalli Ranges.
- (5) The Coastal Plains that run along the eastern and western boundary of the Peninsular Plateau make the fifth physical feature.
- (6) Andaman and Nicobar Islands and Lakshadweep Islands are the sixth physical feature located away from the Indian mainland.

They are major tourist attractions.

(Any five points)

**62.** 'India has been blessed with various physical features which have been extremely beneficial for the nation.' Explain.

**Ans.** The physical features of India help India a lot in both the survival and developmental functions.

- (1) The Northern Mountains combined with their rivers are the rich source of water for a major portion of the land. They also endow India with enormous forest wealth.
- (2) The Northern Plains are very fertile and hence produce grains in large quantities to feed the countrymen.
- (3) The Peninsular Plateau is the major source of the country's mineral wealth. These minerals have aided the nation in industrialization development and continue to do so.

(4) The Coastal Plains provide a livelihood to the major fishing communities of these areas.

(5) The islands prove to be major tourist attractions and hence contribute to the economy. Therefore, the physical features of India complement each other and together aid in the nation's development.

**63.** Riya, a geography student, was on a trekking expedition in the northern part of India. As she moved upward, she noticed different types of terrain and climate variations. Her guide explained that the Himalayas are divided into three parallel ranges, each with unique characteristics. Curious to learn more, Riya asked him to describe these ranges. Explain these ranges and their distinct features.

**Ans.** The features of the three parallel ranges of Himalayas are:

- (1) The northernmost range is known as the Great or Inner Himalayas, or the Himadri. It is the most continuous range consisting of the loftiest snow-bound peaks with an average height of 6000 metres. The core of this part of the Himalayas is composed of granite.
- (2) The range lying to the south of Himadri forms the most rugged mountain system. These ranges are mainly composed of highly compressed and altered rocks. The altitude varies between 3700 and 4500 m and the average width is 50 km. This range consists of the famous Valley of Kashmir, the Kangra and Kullu Valley in Himachal Pradesh.
- (3) The outermost range of the Himalayas is called the Shiwaliks. They extend over a width of 10 to 50 km and have an altitude varying between 900 and 1100 m.
- (4) These ranges are composed of unconsolidated sediments brought down by rivers from the main Himalayan ranges located farther north.
- (5) The longitudinal Valley lying between the lesser Himalayas and the Shiwaliks is known as Duns. For example, Dehra dun, Kotli Dun, and Patli Dun.

64. Different physiographic features of India complement each other. Analyse the statement using relevant points.

**Ans.** The physical features of India are complementary to each other. This can be evidenced in the following ways:

- (1) The mountains are the major sources of water and forest wealth.
- (2) The northern plains are the granaries of

- (1) The mountains are the source of water and forest wealth.  
(2) The northern plains are the granaries of

the country. They provide the base for early civilisations.

- (3) The plateau is a storehouse of minerals, which has played a crucial role in the industrialisation of the country.
  - (4) The coastal region provides sites for fishing and port activities.
  - (5) The island groups are tourist attractions and assume important geostrategic importance.

## SELF ASSESSMENT

### Multiple Choice Questions

1. Arrange the landforms according to their time of formation chronologically.

- (I) Deccan Plateau
- (II) Himalayas
- (III) Eastern Ghats
- (IV) Northern plains

Options:

- (a) (I), (II), (IV), (III)
- (b) (II), (III), (I), (IV)
- (c) (I), (III), (II), (IV)
- (d) (I), (III), (IV), (II)

(Analyse) 1

2. The outer-most range of the Himalayas is called the Shiwaliks. Identify the correct statements related to Shiwaliks:

- (I) The valleys found between the peaks of this range are called duns.
- (II) These ranges are composed of unconsolidated sediments brought down by rivers.
- (III) These ranges are located farther south.
- (IV) These valleys are covered with thick gravel and alluvium.

Options:

- (a) (I) and (II)
- (b) (I) and (III)
- (c) (II), (III) and (IV)
- (d) (I), (II) and (IV)

(Evaluate) 1

3. Identify the physical feature given in the picture.



- (a) Indian desert
- (b) Eastern Ghats
- (c) Islands
- (d) Northern plains

(Understand) 1

4. Which of the following statements about the Western Ghats is incorrect?

- (a) The Western Ghats are higher than the Eastern Ghats.

Extra content given according to the latest syllabus uploaded by CBSE.

- (b) The Western Ghats cause orographic rain.

- (c) Javadi Hills are located to the southwest of the Western Ghats.

- (d) Western Ghats are continuous and can be crossed through passes only.

(Understand) 1

### Assertion-Reason (A-R)

In the following questions, two statements in the form of an Assertion (A) and a Reason (R) have been put forward. Read both statements carefully and choose the most appropriate option:

- (a) Both (A) and (R) are true and (R) is the correct explanation of (A).
- (b) Both (A) and (R) are true but (R) is not the correct explanation of (A).
- (c) (A) is correct but (R) is wrong.
- (d) (A) is wrong but (R) is correct.

5. Assertion (A): Each physiographic region in India complements the other and makes the country richer in its natural resources.

Reason (R): The diverse physical features of the land have immense future possibilities of development. (Analyse) 1

6. ◎ Assertion (A): India collided with Asia about 40-50 million years ago causing rapid uplift of the Himalayas.

Reason (R): The Indo-Australian plate was moving northward after Pangea broke.

(Analyse) 1

### Case Based Question

7. Read the following passage and answer the questions that follow.

A low-relief continent surrounded on one side by the sea or an ocean and on the other by hills is known as a coastal plain. As a result, they are hemmed in by the shoreline on the seaward side and the highlands on the landward side. As one travels from the sea to the highlands,

the elevation of the land area gradually rises in a sequence of flat-land terraces divided by scraps or hills with altitudes ranging from 100 to 300 metres. India has two sets of coastal plains along its either shores.

India's regular and mostly straight coastline is the result of the Cretaceous period breakup of Gondwanaland. This not only gave rise to the coastline in the south but also to the coastal plains of India. Rivers form deltas on the eastern coast. They are exceedingly fertile and productive. The Krishna River delta has gained the moniker "South India's Granary" as a result of this.

(A) Mention one point of difference between the eastern and western coastal plains.  
*(Understand)* 1

(B) Along with the deltas on the eastern shore, name one unique geographical feature located there. *(Remember)* 1

(C) What are the divisions of the Western Coastal Plains? *(Understand)* 2

## Short Answer Type-I Questions

8. The younger deposits of the floodplains are fertile. Do you agree? Explain your stand using two points. *(Evaluate)* 2

9. Harsh, a geography student, was traveling through northern India when he saw a 'Doab'. Harsh wondered what it was and where they are commonly found in India. Help Harsh to identify these landforms and their locations in India. *(Analyse)* 2

## Short Answer Type-II Questions

10. How is the northern plain helpful in feeding the Indian mainland? Mention three points. *(Understand)* 3

11. 'The Purvanchal Himalayas are an extension of the Himalayas in the northeastern region of India.' Justify the statement. *(Evaluate)* 3

## Long Answer Type Question

12. 'Himalayas are extremely significant for India.' Elucidate. *(Understand)* 5



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