

GLOSSARY

Adolescence	: Adolescence is a period in which a person is no longer a child and not yet an adult. Such persons are grouped in the age group of 10 to 19 years.
Alluvial plain	: A level tract of land made up of alluvium or fine rock material brought down by a river.
Base population	: The total population of an area at the beginning of a given time period.
Biome	: Plant communities occurring in distinct groups in areas having similar climatic conditions.
Birth rate	: The number of live births for every 1000 persons in a year.
Climate	: The average weather conditions of a sizeable area of the Earth's surface over a period of time.
Depression	: In meteorology; it denotes an area of relatively low atmospheric pressure, which is found mainly in temperate regions. In geology, it refers to a hollow sunken area of the earth's surface.
Death rate	: The number of deaths per 1000 persons in year.
Density of population	: The average number of persons per unit area, such as a square kilometre.
Dependency ratio	: The ratio of people of dependent age (below 15 and above 60 years) to people of economically active ages (15-59 years).
Ecosystem	: A system which comprises the physical environment and the organisms living therein.
Environment	: Surroundings or the conditions under which a person or thing exists and develops his or its character. It covers both physical and cultural elements.
Fault	: A linear break in rocks of the earth's crust along which there has been displacement in a horizontal, vertical or oblique direction.
Fauna	: The animal life of a given area.
Flora	: The total vegetation or plant cover of a region.
Fold	: A bend in the rock strata resulting from compression of an area of the earth's crust.
Geosyncline	: A narrow, shallow, elongated basin with a sinking bottom in which a considerable thickness of sediments was deposited by the rivers coming from Angara and Gondwanaland.
Glacier	: A mass of snow and ice that moves slowly under the influence of gravity along a confined course away from its place of accumulation.
Growth rate of population	: The growth rate of population indicates the rate at which the population is growing. In estimating the growth rate the increase in population is compared with the base population. It can be measured annually or over a decade.
Indian Mainland	: It refers to the contiguous stretch of landmass from Jammu and Kashmir to Kanniyakumari and from Gujarat to Arunachal Pradesh.

Indian Standard Time	: The local time along the Standard Meridian of India (82° 30'E).
Inland drainage	: A drainage system in which the waters of the rivers do not reach the oceans but fall into an inland sea or lake.
Igneous rocks	: Rocks formed as a result of solidification of magma either below the earth's surface or above it.
Lagoon	: A salt-water lake separated from the sea by the sandbars and spits.
Lake	: A body of water that lies in a hollow in the earth's surface and is entirely surrounded by land.
Lithospheric Plates	: Large segments of the earth's crust composed of continental and oceanic lithospheric parts, floating above the asthenosphere.
Life expectancy	: The average number of years one is expected to live.
Local Time	: The time of a place determined by the midday sun is called the local time.
Metamorphic rocks	: Deformation and alteration of pre-existing igneous and sedimentary rocks as a result of changes in physical and chemical conditions due to intense heat or pressure.
Migration	: Movement of people from one place to another. Internal migration means movement of people within a country and external migration means movement of people between countries. When people come to a country from another country, it is called immigration and when they leave that country, it is called emigration.
Million Plus cities	: Cities with a population of more than one million or 10 lakh.
Monsoon	: A complete reversal of winds over a large area leading to a change of seasons.
Mountain	: An upward projected features of the earth's surface that rises to high altitude and usually possesses steep slopes.
National park	: A reserved area for preserving its natural vegetation, wild life and the natural environment.
Plain	: An extensive area of flat or gently undulating land.
Plateau	: An extensive elevated area of relatively flat land.
Plate Tectonics	: The scientific concept that explains the movements of the crustal plates.
Relief	: The differences in elevation or the physical outline of the land surface or ocean floor.
Subsidence	: In meteorology, it is the downward movement of the air. In geology, it refers to the sinking of a portion of the earth's surface.
Sedimentary rocks	: Rocks composed of sediments and generally having a layered structure.
Sex-ratio	: Sex-ratio is defined as the number of females per thousands males.
Sub-Continent	: A big landmass, which stands out as a distinct geographical unit from the rest of the continent.
Tectonic	: Forces originating within the earth and responsible for bringing widespread changes in the landform features.
Young mountains	: The fold mountains formed during the most recent major phase of folding in the earth's crust.