

Physical Features of India

Q1. Choose the right answer from the four alternatives given below.

(i) A landmass bounded by the sea on three sides is referred to as

- (a) Coast**
- (b) Island**
- (c) Peninsula**
- (d) None of the above**

Answer: (c)

(ii) Mountain ranges in the eastern part of India forming its boundary with Myanmar are collectively called

- (a) Himachal**
- (b) Uttarakhand**
- (c) Purvachal**
- (d) None of the above**

Answer: (c)

(iii) The western coastal strip, south of Goa is referred to as

- (a) Coromandel**
- (b) Konkan**
- (c) Kannad**
- (d) Northern Circar**

Answer: (c)

(iv) The highest peak in the Eastern Ghats is

- (a) Anai Mudi**
- (b) Kanchenjunga**
- (c) Mahendragiri**
- (d) Khasi**

Answer: C

Q2. Answer the following questions briefly.

(i) What is the bhabar?

Answer:

Bhabar is the narrow belt that covers the ground with pebbles and is situated in the foothills of the Shivalikas from the Indus to the Teesta.

(ii) Name the three major divisions of the Himalayas from north to south.

Answer:

1. The northern boundary is known as The Great or Inner Himalaya or Himadri.
2. Himachal or Lesser Himalaya.
3. Outer Himalayas or Shiwaliks.

(iii) Which plateau lies between the Aravali and the Vindhya ranges?

Answer:

The Malwa plateau lies between the Aravalli and Vindhya ranges.

(iv) Name the island group of India having a coral origin.

Answer:

Lakshadweep Islands is an island group of India with coral origin.

Q3. Distinguish between

(i) Bhangar and Khadar

Answer:

Bhangar

Lies above flood plains of the river.

Older alluvial or older soil forms the largest part of the northern plains.

Khadar

It is a new, small deposit of floodplains. It is renewed every year.

(ii) The Western Ghats and the Eastern Ghats

Answer:

The Western Ghats

1. Lies parallel to the west coast.
2. They are continuous and can only be crossed through passes.
3. The average elevation of the Western Ghats is 900 - 1600 meters.
4. The Western Ghats cause rain to withstand the moist winds that rise along the western slope of the Ghat.
5. The height of the Western Ghats rises progressively from north to south.

The Eastern Ghats

1. Lies parallel to the Eastern Coast.
2. They are closed and irregular.
3. The Eastern Ghats are dissected by rivers flowing into the Bay of Bengal.
4. The average height of the Eastern Ghats is 600 meters.

Q4. Which are the major physiographic divisions of India? Contrast the relief of the Himalayan region with that of the Peninsular plateau

Answer: The major physiographic divisions of India are as follow,

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

Unlike the relief of the Himalayan region and the peninsular plateau

Geologically, the peninsular plateau is one of the ancient geomafias on the Earth's surface. It was considered one of the most stable land blocks. The Himalayas are the most recent terrain. From the point of view of geology, the Himalayan Mountains form an unstable region. The entire mountain system of the Himalayas represents a very young topography with high peaks, deep valleys and fast flowing rivers. The northern plains are made of alluvial deposits. The peninsular plateau is made up of igneous and metamorphic rocks with gently rising hills and wide valleys.

Q5. Give an account of the Northern Plains of India.

Answer: The northern plains have been formed from alluvium that Mountain Rivers have accumulated here. It transformed the land into fertile land to grow a rich crop of different types of crops. This led to the development of the Indus River Valley Civilization. The rich soil was further enhanced by favorable climate and continuous water supply from rivers. The North Indian Plain covers a distance of 3200 km, between the mouth of the Indus and the Ganges-Brahmaputra. It is 300 to 150 km wide in some places. The North Indian plains have the Indus river system in the west and the Ganges-Brahmaputra river system in the east. The first includes Jhelum, Chenab, Ravi, Beas, Sutlej. The Indus flows into the Arabian Sea. The second includes the Ganges, its tributaries and the Brahmaputra that combine as Meghna as they flow into the Bay of Bengal. They form the world's largest and fastest growing delta.

Due to the difference of relief, the North Indian plains are divided into four regions:

(i) Bhabhar, (ii) Terai, (iii) Bangar and, (iv) Khadar.

Q6. Write short notes on the following.

(i) The Indian Desert

Answer: The Indian desert lies on the western fringe of the Aravalli hills. It is a sandy plain covered with sand dunes. This region receives very little rainfall. Average rainfall is below 150 mm per year. It has a dry climate with a low dry cover. Currents appear in the rainy season. Soon they disappear into the sand because they do not have enough water to reach the sea. Luni is the only major river in the region.

(ii) The Central Highlands

Answer: Central Highlands and Deccan Plateau. The portion of the peninsular plateau north of the Narmada River covering a major area of the Malwa Plateau is known as the Middle Highlands. The Central Highlands is wide in the west but narrower in the east. The eastward extension of this plateau is locally known as Bundelkhand and Baghelkhand. The Chotanagpur plateau represents the east-eastern extension of the river Damodar.

(iii) The Island groups of India

Answer: *Lakshadweep Islands*

The Lakshadweep group of islands is made up of small coral islands. They were earlier known as Lacadive, Minicoy and Emindive. In 1973, he was named Lakshadweep. It covers a small area of 32 sq km. Kavaratti island is the administrative headquarters of Lakshadweep. The islands have a large variety of flora and fauna. Pitti Island, which is uninhabited, has a bird sanctuary.

Andaman and Nicobar Islands

The long chain of islands located in the Bay of Bengal extends from north to south. These are Andaman and Nicobar Islands. They are larger in size and more numerous and scattered. The entire group of islands is divided into two broad categories - Andaman in the north and Nicobar in the south. It is believed that the island is a high part of the submarine mountains. These islands are of great strategic importance to the country. There is also a lot of diversity of flora and fauna in this group of islands. These islands are located close to the equator and experience equatorial climate and have dense forests.