

## CHAPTER 2// PHYSICAL FEATURES OF INDIA

CONTINUATION OF THE Q/A.....

Q31. What are the features of the Eastern coastal plains?

Ans. Features

- i. The plains along the Bay of Bengal are wide and level.
- ii. In the northern part, it is referred to as the Northern Circar, while the southern part is known as the Coromandel Coast.
- iii. Large rivers such as the Mahanadi, the Godavari, the Krishna and the Kaveri have formed extensive delta on this coast.
- iv. Lake Chilika is an important feature along the eastern coast.

Q32. Classify the Northern Plains on the basis of its location.

Ans. Plains on the basis of location:

Punjab Plains: The Western part of the Northern Plain is referred to as the Punjab Plains. Formed by the Indus and its tributaries, the larger part of this plain lies in Pakistan.

The Ganga plain: The Ganga plain extends between Ghaggar and Teesta rivers. It is spread over the states of North India, Haryana, Delhi, U.P., Bihar, partly Jharkhand and West Bengal to its East.

Brahmaputra plain: Most of Brahmaputra plain is located in Assam.

Q33. How is Peninsular plateau formed? Name two broad divisions of this plateau? Write one characteristic of each division?

Or

What are the two main divisions of the Peninsular plateau?

Or

What are the features of Peninsular plateau?

Ans. Peninsular plateau

- i. The Peninsular plateau is a tableland composed of the old crystalline, igneous and metamorphic rocks.

- ii. It was formed due to the breaking and drifting of the Gondwana land.
- iii. The plateau has broad and shallow valleys and rounded hills.
- iv. This plateau consists of two broad divisions, namely, the Central Highlands and the Deccan Plateau.
- v. The Central Highlands are wider in the west but narrower in the east.
- vi. The Deccan Plateau is higher in the west and slopes gently eastwards.

**Q34. Name the two coastal strips that flank the Peninsular plateau. Distinguish the two by giving two characteristics of each.**

**Ans. The Peninsular plateau is flanked by stretch of narrow coastal strips, running along the Arabian Sea on the west and the Bay of Bengal on the east. Two coastal strips are:**

**The Western coastal strip**

**Characteristics of the Western Coastal strip:**

- (i) It is sandwiched between the Western Ghats and the Arabian Sea.**
- (ii) It is a narrow plain.**

**The Eastern coastal strip**

**Characteristics of the Eastern Coastal strip:**

- (i) This part is along the Bay of Bengal.**
- (ii) It is wider plain.**

**Q35. What are the features of the Western coastal plains?**

**Or**

**Which coastal plain lies along the Arabian Sea? State four features of it.**

**Ans. Features**

- i. The western coast is sandwiched between the Western Ghats and the Arabian Sea.**
- ii. It is a narrow plain.**

iii. It consists of three sections.

iv. The northern part of the coast is called the Konkan (Mumbai – Goa), the central stretch is called the Kannad Plain while the southern stretch is referred to as the Malabar coast.

**Q36. What are the four divisions of Northern Plains on the basis of relief? Explain.**

**Ans.** According to the variations in relief features, the Northern plains can be divided into four regions.

**Bhabar** - The rivers, after descending from the mountains deposit pebbles in a narrow belt of about 8 to 16 km in width lying parallel to the slopes of the Shiwaliks. It is known as bhabar.

**Terai** - South of Bhabar belt, the streams and rivers re-emerge and create a wet, swampy and marshy region known as terai.

**Bhangar** - The largest part of the northern plain is formed of older alluvium. They lie above the flood plains of the rivers and present a terrace like feature. This part is known as bhangar.

**Khadar** - The newer, younger deposits of the flood plains are called khadar.

**Q37. Give an account of the four divisions of Himalayas from west to east.**

**Ans.** Besides the longitudinal divisions, the Himalayas have been divided on the basis of regions from west to east.

i. 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.

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

iii. The Kali and Tista rivers demarcate the Nepal Himalayas.

iv. The part lying between Tista and Dihang rivers is known as Assam Himalayas.

**Q38. What are the features of lesser Himalayas?**

**Or**

**Describe the features of Himachal or lesser Himalayas.**

**Ans. The range lying to the south of the Himadri forms the most rugged mountain system and is known as Himachal or lesser Himalaya.**

**Features**

- i. The ranges are mainly composed of highly compressed and altered rocks.**
- ii. The altitude varies between 3,700 and 4,500 metres and the average width is of 50 Km.**
- iii. The Pir Panjal range is the longest and the most important range.**
- iv. This range consists of the famous valley of Kashmir, the Kangra and Kullu Valley in Himachal Pradesh. This region is well known for its hill stations.**

**Q39. Discuss the main features of the Purvachal ranges of the Himalayas.**

**Or**

**Give main characteristics of Purvanchal.**

**Or**

**Which part of India is called Purvachal?**

**Ans. 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.**

**Characteristics**

- i. These hills running through the north-eastern states are mostly composed of strong sandstones which are sedimentary rocks.**
- ii. Covered with dense forests, they mostly run as parallel ranges and valleys.**

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

**Q40. Describe how the Himalayas were formed.**

**Ans. Formation of Himalayas**

i. The Gondwana land included India, Australia, South Africa, South America and Antarctica as one single land mass.

ii. The convectional currents split the crust into a number of pieces, thus leading to the drifting of the Indo-Australian plate after being separated from the Gondwana land, towards north.

iii. The northward drift resulted in the collision of the plate with the much larger Eurasian Plate.

iv. Due to this collision, the sedimentary rocks which were accumulated in the geosyncline known as the Tethys were folded to form the mountain system of western Asia and Himalaya.

**Q41. What are Shiwaliks? Mention any two characteristics of it.**

Or

**What are Characteristics of Shiwaliks?**

Or

**Explain the three major features of the Shiwaliks.**

**Ans. The outer most range of the Himalayas is called the Shiwaliks.**

**Features**

i. They extend over a width of 10-50 Km and have an altitude varying between 900 and 1100 metres.

ii. These ranges are composed of unconsolidated sediments brought down by rivers from the main Himalayan ranges located farther north.

iii. These valleys are covered with thick gravel and alluvium.

iv. 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.

**Q42. Differentiate between western and eastern coastal plains.**

**Ans. Difference between western and eastern coastal plains**

<b>Western Coastal Plains</b>	<b>Eastern Coastal Plains</b>
1. The western coastal plain lies between the Western Ghats and the Arabian Sea.	1. The eastern coastal plain lies between the Eastern Ghats and the Bay of Bengal.
2. It consists of three sections. The northern part of the coast is called the Konkan (Mumbai – Goa), the central stretch is called the Kannad Plain while the southern stretch is referred to as the Malabar coast.	2. It consists of two sections. In the northern part, it is referred to as the Northern Circar, while the southern part is known as the Coromandel Coast.
3. This coastal plain is narrow.	3. This coastal plain is wide.

**Q43. Write a short note on Coastal Plains.**

**Or**

**Describe any three features of coastal plains of India.**

**Ans. Coastal Plains**

i. The Peninsular plateau is flanked by stretch of narrow coastal strips, running along the Arabian Sea on the west and the Bay of Bengal on the east.

ii. The western coast, sandwiched between the Western Ghats and the Arabian Sea, is a narrow plain. It consists of three sections. The northern part of the coast is called the Konkan (Mumbai – Goa), the central stretch is called the Kannad Plain while the southern stretch is referred to as the Malabar coast.

iii. The plains along the Bay of Bengal are wide and level. In the northern part, it is referred to as the Northern Circar, while the southern part is known as the Coromandel Coast. Large rivers such

as the Mahanadi, the Godavari, the Krishna and the Kaveri have formed extensive delta on this coast. Lake Chilika is an important feature along the eastern coast.

**Q44. Give an account of the Deccan Plateau.**

**Ans. Deccan Plateau**

i. 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 its eastern extensions.

ii. The Deccan Plateau is higher in the west and slopes gently eastwards.

iii. An extension of the Plateau is also visible in the northeast—locally known as the Meghalaya, Karbi-Anglong Plateau and North Cachar Hills.

iv. It is separated by a fault from the Chotanagpur Plateau. Three prominent hill ranges from the west to east are the Garo, the Khasi and the Jaintia Hills.

v. The Western Ghats and the Eastern Ghats mark the western and the eastern edges of the Deccan Plateau respectively.

vi. Western Ghats lie parallel to the western coast and Eastern Ghats lie parallel to the eastern coast.

**Q45. Distinguish between Bhabar and Terai.**

**Ans. Difference between Bhabar and Terai**

<b>Bhabar</b>	<b>Terai</b>
1. It lies to the south of Shiwalik range.	1. The belt exist to the south of Bhabar area.
2. Vegetation found here is very less.	2. Very dense vegetation is found in Terai region.
3. The width ranges between 8 to 16 km.	3. It is almost parallel to the Bhabar.
4. Main feature is that river disappears in the Bhabar region because big pores present in it.	4. Since the river re-emerges back in this region, the area becomes highly swampy and marshy.
5. The area is highly coarse in nature due to many pebbles and 'kankars' found over here.	5. The area has got highly fine sediments due to the deposition made by several streams.

**Q46. Differentiate between Himadri and Shiwalik range.**

**Ans. Difference between Himadri and Shiwalik range**

<b>Himadri range</b>	<b>Shiwalik range</b>
1. The northern most range is known as the Greater Inner Himalayas or the 'Himadri'.	1. The outer most range of the Himalayas is called the Shiwaliks.
2. It is the most continuous range consisting of the loftiest peaks with an average height of 6,000 metres.	2. They extend over a width of 10-50 Km and have an altitude varying between 900 and 1100 metres.
3. The core of this part of Himalayas is composed of granite.	3. These ranges are composed of unconsolidated sediments brought down by

	rivers.
4. It is perennially snow bound, and a number of glaciers descend from this range.	4. 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.

**Q47. Give an account of the Northern Plains of India.**

**Ans. Northern Plains**

i. The northern plain has been formed by the interplay of the three major river systems, namely– the Indus, the Ganga and the Brahmaputra along with their tributaries. This plain is formed of alluvial soil.

ii. The plain being about 2400 Km long and 240 to 320 Km broad, is a densely populated physiographic division.

iii. With a rich soil cover combined with adequate water supply and favourable climate it is agriculturally a very productive part of India.

iv. The Northern Plain is broadly divided into three sections:

- a. Punjab Plains
- b. Ganga plain
- c. Brahmaputra plain

v. According to the variations in relief features, the Northern plains can be divided into four regions:

- a. Bhabar
- b. Terai
- c. Bhangar
- d. Khadar

**Q48. Describe the three parallel ranges of the Himalayas.**

**Or**

**What are the parallel ranges of Himalayas? Explain.**

Or

Explain the three longitudinal divisions of the Himalayas.

Ans. The Himalaya consists of three parallel ranges in its longitudinal extent.

#### Great or Inner Himalayas or the 'Himadri'

The northern most range is known as the Great or Inner Himalayas or the 'Himadri'. It is the most continuous range consisting of the loftiest peaks with an average height of 6,000 metres. It contains all the prominent Himalayan peaks.

#### Lesser Himalayas or Himachal

The range lying to the south of the Himadri forms the most rugged mountain system and is known as Himachal or lesser Himalaya. The ranges are mainly composed of highly compressed and altered rocks. The altitude varies between 3,700 and 4,500 metres and the average width is of 50 Km.

#### Shivaliks or outer Himalayas

The outer most range of the Himalayas is called the Shivaliks. They extend over a width of 10-50 Km and have an altitude varying between 900 and 1100 metres. These ranges are composed of unconsolidated sediments brought down by rivers from the main Himalayan ranges located farther north.

**Q49. Which are the major physiographic divisions of India? Contrast the relief of the Himalayan region with that of the Peninsular plateau.**

Ans. The physical features of India can be grouped under the following physiographic divisions

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

<b>Himalayan region</b>	<b>Peninsular plateau</b>
1. The Himalayas, geologically young and structurally fold mountains stretch over the northern borders of India.	1. Peninsular Plateau constitutes one of the ancient landmasses on the earth's surface.
2. It was formed due to collision of the Indo-Australian plate and Eurasian Plate.	2. It was formed due to the breaking and drifting of the Gondwana land.
3. The Himalayas represent the loftiest and one of the most rugged mountain barriers of the world.	3. The plateau has broad and shallow valleys and rounded hills.
4. It is composed of sedimentary rocks.	4. It is composed of igneous and metamorphic rocks with gently rising hills and wide valleys.
5. From the view point of geology, Himalayan mountains form an unstable zone.	5. It is a stable zone.

**Q50. Distinguish between**

**(i) Converging and diverging tectonic plates**

**(ii) Bhangar and Khadar**

**(iii) Western Ghats and Eastern Ghats**

**Ans. (i) Converging and diverging tectonic plates**

<b>Converging tectonic plates</b>	<b>diverging tectonic plates</b>
1. The tectonic plates move closer to each other and form convergent boundary.	1. The tectonic plates move away from each other and form divergent boundary.
2. The two plates coming together may either collide and crumble, or one may slide under the other. At times, they may also move horizontally past each other and form transform boundary.	2. The two plates drift away from each other, creating gap between the two.
3. Convergence of plates may result into activities like earthquake.	3. Divergence of plates may result into volcanic eruption.
4. Formation of Himalayas is a result of convergence of tectonic plates.	4. Formation of Great Atlantic Drift is a result of divergence of plates.

**(ii) Bhangar and Khadar**

<b>Bhangar</b>	<b>Khadar</b>
1. The largest part of the northern plain is formed of older alluvium. They lie above the flood plains of the rivers and present a terrace like feature. This part is known as bhangar.	1. The newer, younger deposits of the flood plains are called khadar.
2. The soil in this region contains calcareous deposits locally known as kankar. This soil is less fertile.	2. They are renewed almost every year and so are fertile, thus, ideal for intensive agriculture.

**(iii) Western Ghats and Eastern Ghats**

<b>Western Ghats</b>	<b>Eastern Ghats</b>
1. The Western Ghats mark the western edges of the Deccan Plateau.	1. The Eastern Ghats mark the eastern edges of the Deccan Plateau.
2. Western Ghats lie parallel to the western coast. They are continuous and can be crossed through passes only.	2. The Eastern Ghats are discontinuous and irregular and dissected by rivers draining into the Bay of Bengal.
3. The Western Ghats are higher than the Eastern Ghats.	3. The Eastern Ghats are lower than the Western Ghats.
4. Their average elevation is 900–1600 metres.	4. Their average elevation is 600 metres.
5. The highest peaks in the Western Ghats are Anai Mudi and the Doda Betta.	The highest peak in the Eastern Ghats is Mahendragiri.

**Q51. Write short notes on the following.**

- (i) The Indian Desert**
- (ii) The Central Highlands**
- (iii) The Island groups of India**

**Ans. (i) The Indian Desert**

**Characteristics of Indian desert:**

- i. The Indian desert lies towards the western margins of the Aravali Hills.**
- ii. It is an undulating sandy plain covered with sand dunes.**
- iii. This region receives very low rainfall below 150 mm per year.**
- iv. It has arid climate with low vegetation cover.**
- v. Streams appear during the rainy season.**

- vi. Luni is the only large river in this region.
- vii. Barchans (crescent shaped dunes) cover larger areas but longitudinal dunes become more prominent near the Indo-Pakistan boundary.

## (ii) The Central Highlands

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 Central Highlands on the south and the Aravalis 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 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. The Chotanagpur plateau marks the further eastward extension, drained by the Damodar river.

## (iii) The Island groups of India

### Lakshadweep Islands

Lakshadweep Islands group lying close to the Malabar coast of Kerala. This group of islands is composed of small coral islands. It covers small area of 32 sq km. Kavaratti island is the administrative headquarters of Lakshadweep. This island group has great diversity of flora and fauna. The Pitti island, which is uninhabited, has a bird sanctuary.

### Andaman and Nicobar islands

The elongated chains of islands located in the Bay of Bengal extending from north to south are called Andaman and Nicobar islands. The entire group of islands is divided into two broad categories – The Andaman in the north and the Nicobar in the south.

It is believed that these islands are an elevated portion of submarine mountains. These island groups are of great strategic importance for the country. There is great diversity of flora and fauna in this group of islands too. These islands lie close to equator and experience equatorial climate and has thick forest cover.