



MALUKA IAS

SYNOPSIS OF NCERT
GEOGRAPHY

XI & XII CLASS



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Class XI (Geography)

India: Physical Environment

Chapter- 1

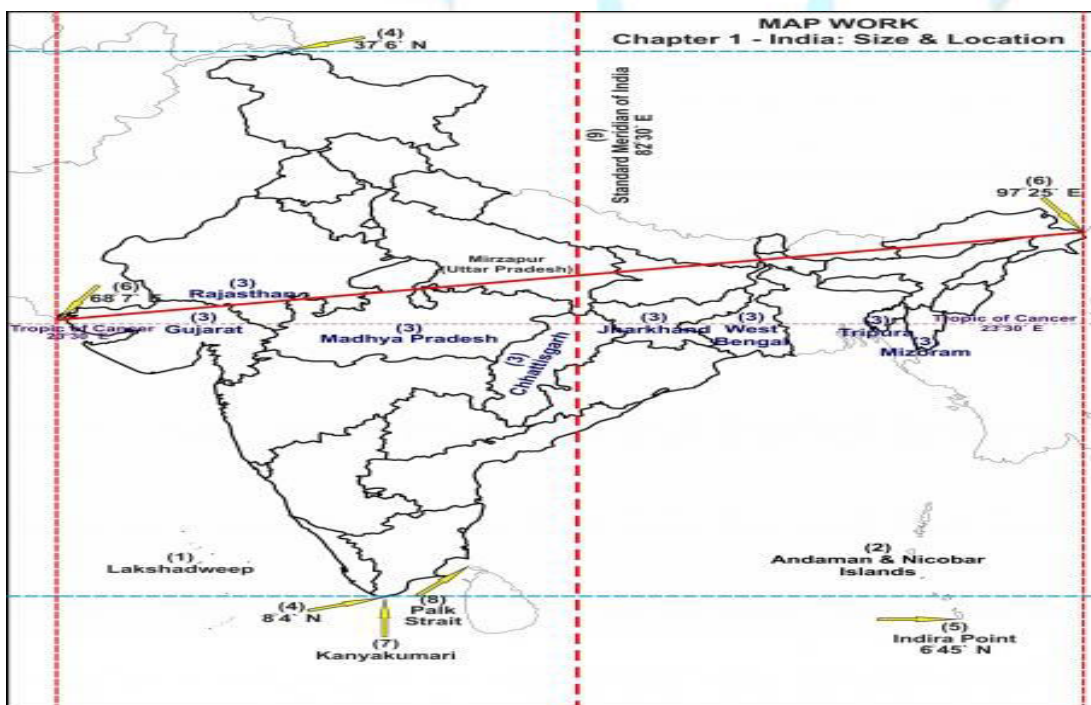
INDIA- LOCATION

- Extends from Kashmir in the north to Kanniyakumari in the south and Arunachal Pradesh in the east to Gujarat in the west.
- Latitudinal and Longitudinal extent of India, they are roughly about 30 degrees, whereas the actual distance measured from north to south extremity is 3,214 km, and that from east to west is only 2,933 km.
- Distance between two longitudes decreases towards the poles whereas the distance

between two latitudes remains the same everywhere.

- Southern part of the country lies within the tropics and the northern part lies in the sub-tropical zone or the warm temperate zone.
- From the values of longitude, it is quite discernible that there is a variation of nearly 30°, which causes a time difference of nearly two hours between the easternmost and the westernmost parts of our country
- India's territorial limit further extends towards the sea upto 12 nautical miles (about 21.9 km) from the coast.

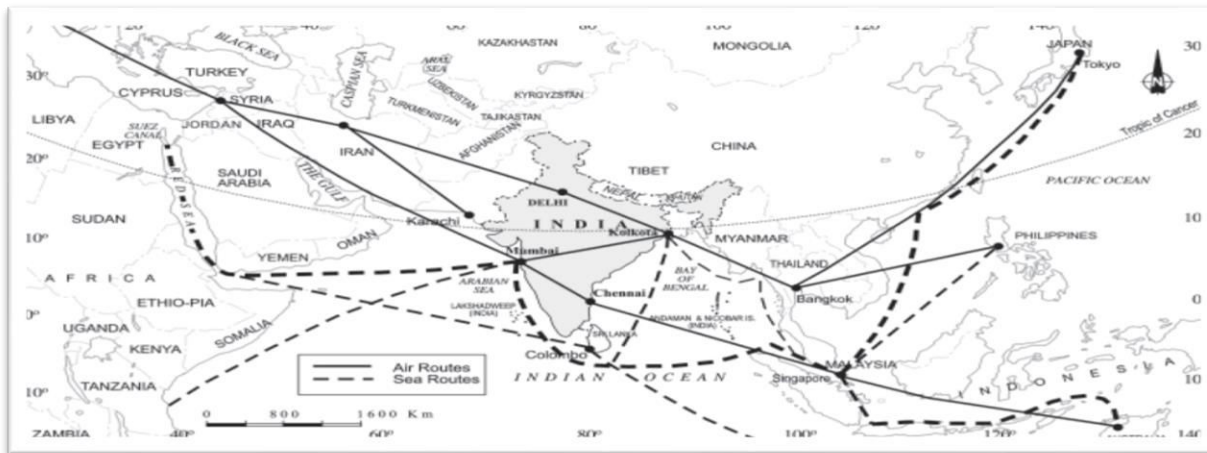
Statute mile	=	63,360 inches
Nautical mile	=	72,960 inches
1 Statute mile	=	about 1.6 km (1.584 km)
1 Nautical mile	=	about 1.8 km (1.852 km)



MALUKA IAS

- A general understanding among the countries of the world to select the standard meridian in multiples of $7^{\circ}30'$ of longitude.
- That is why $82^{\circ}30'$ E has been selected as the standard meridian of India.
- Indian Standard Time is ahead of Greenwich Mean Time by 5 hours and 30 minutes.
- India with its area of 3.28 million sq. km accounts for 2.4% of the world's land surface area and stands as the seventh largest country in the world





SIZE

Indian subcontinent-

- It includes the countries — Pakistan, Nepal, Bhutan, Bangladesh and India.
- The Himalayas, together with other ranges, have acted as a formidable physical barrier in the past.
- Peninsular part of India extends towards the Indian Ocean.
- Provided the country with a coastline of 6,100 km in the mainland and 7,517 km in the entire geographical coast of the mainland plus the island groups

INDIA AND ITS NEIGHBOURS

- India is located in the south-central part of the continent of Asia, bordering the Indian ocean and its two arms extending in the form of Bay of Bengal and the Arabian Sea.
- This maritime location of Peninsular India has provided links to its neighbouring regions through the sea and air routes.
- Sri Lanka and Maldives is the two island countries located in the Indian Ocean, which are our neighbors.
- Sri Lanka is separated from India by the Gulf of Mannar and Palk Strait



Chapter- 2

STRUCTURE AND PHYSIOGRAPHY

- Earth- Approximately 460 million years old.
- Exogenic forces.
- Over millions of years, Indian plate broke into many parts and the Australian plate moved towards the south eastern direction and the Indian plate to the north.
- Over these long years, it has undergone many changes brought about primarily by the endogenic and

Based on the variations in its geological structure and formations, India can be divided into three geological divisions-

- i. The Peninsular Block
- ii. The Himalayas and other Peninsular Mountains
- iii. Indo-Ganga-Brahmaputra Plain

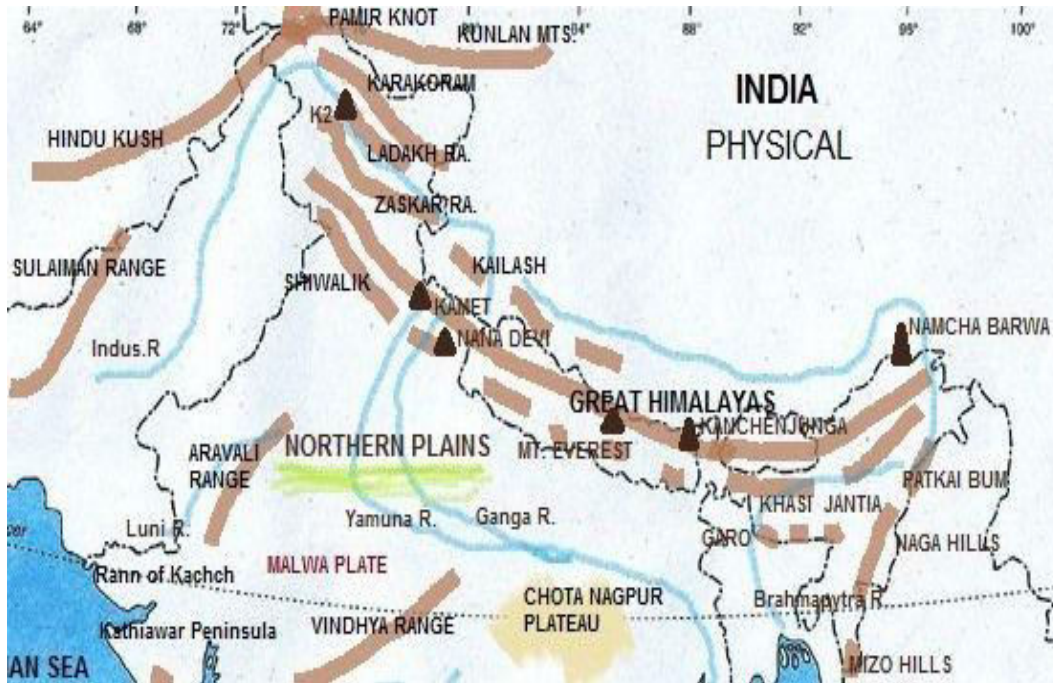
THE PENINSULAR BLOCK

- The N boundary of the Peninsular Block - line running from Kachchh along the western flank of the Aravali Range near Delhi and then roughly parallel to the Yamuna and the Ganga as far as the Rajmahal Hills and the Ganga delta.
- Karbi Anglong +Meghalaya Plateau in the northeast and Rajasthan in the west are also extensions of this block.
- The north- eastern parts are separated by the Malda fault in West Bengal from the Chotanagpur plateau.

- In Rajasthan, the desert and other desert-like features overlay this block.
- The Peninsula is formed by a great complex of very ancient gneisses and granites
- Due to Indo-Australian Plate- vertical movements and block faulting
- Examples- Rift valleys of the Narmada, the Tapi and the Mahanadi and the Satpura block mountains
- The Peninsula mostly consists of relict and residual mountains like the Aravali hills, the Nallamala hills, the Javadi hills, the Velikonda hills, the Palkonda range and the Mahendragiri hills, etc.
- The river valleys here are shallow with low gradients.
- Most of the east flowing rivers form deltas before entering into the Bay of Bengal.
- Examples- Mahanadi, the Krishna, the Kaveri and the Godavari

THE HIMALAYAS AND OTHER PENINSULAR MOUNTAINS

- 1) The Himalayas along with other peninsular mountains are young, weak and flexible in their geological structure unlike the rigid and stable Peninsular Block.
- 2) Consequently, they are still subjected to the interplay of exogenic and endogenic forces, resulting in the development of faults, folds and thrust plains.
- 3) These mountains are tectonic in origin, dissected by fast-flowing rivers which are in their youthful stage.
- 4) gorges, V-shaped valleys, rapids, waterfalls



- The approximate length of the Great Himalayan range, also known as the central axial range, is 2,500 km from east to west, and their width varies between 160-400 km from north to south
- Bhotia's- These are nomadic groups who migrate to Bugyals (the summer grasslands in the higher reaches) during summer months and return to the valleys during winters.

INDO-GANGA-BRAHMAPUTRA PLAIN

- The 3rd geological division of India comprises the plains formed by the river Indus, the Ganga and the Brahmaputra
- Originally, it was a geo-synclinal depression which attained its maximum development during the third phase of the Himalayan mountain formation approximately about 64 million years ago.
- Since then, it has been gradually filled by the sediments brought by the Himalayan and Peninsular rivers.
- Average depth- 1,000-2,000m.

PHYSIOGRAPHY

- The north has a vast expanse of rugged topography consisting of a series of mountain ranges with varied peaks, beautiful valleys and deep gorges.
- The south consists of stable table land with highly dissected plateaus, denuded rocks and developed series of scarps.
- In between these two lies the vast north Indian plain.

Based on these macro variations, India can be divided into the following physiographic divisions-

- 1) The Northern and North- eastern Mountains
- 2) The Northern Plain
- 3) The Peninsular Plateau
- 4) The Indian Desert
- 5) The Coastal Plains
- 6) The Islands

A. THE NORTH AND NORTH- EASTERN MOUNTAINS

- Consist of the Himalayas and the North-eastern hills.

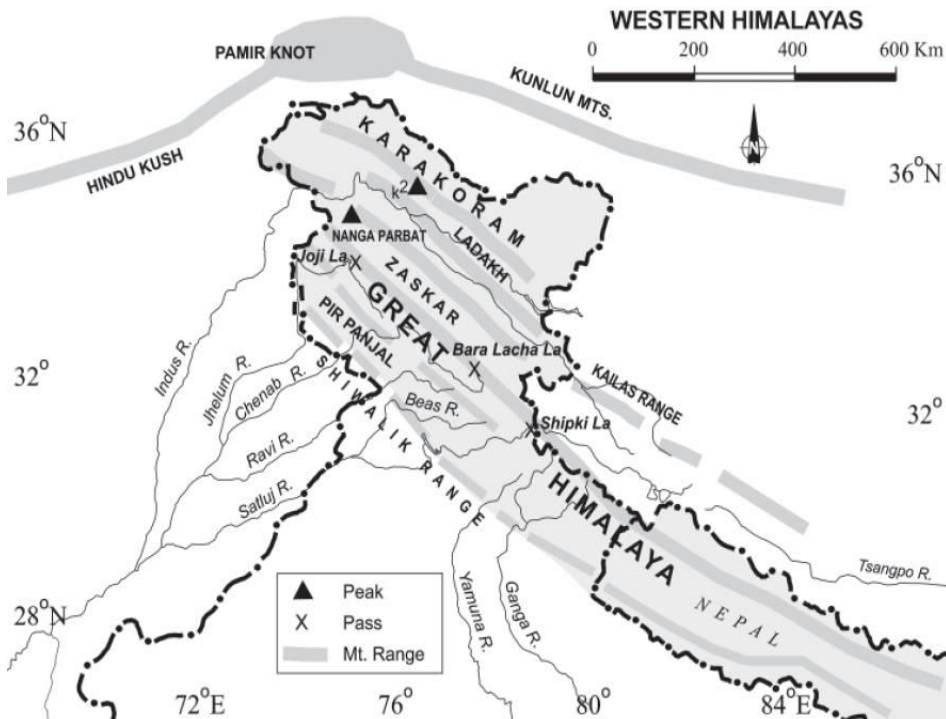
- Himalayas- series of parallel mountain ranges
- Greater Himalayan range- Great Himalayas Trans+ Himalayan range
- Middle Himalayas and
- The Shiwalik.
- The general orientation of these ranges is from northwest to the southeast direction in the north- western part of India.
- Himalayas in the Darjiling and Sikkim regions lie in an east- west direction, while in Arunachal Pradesh they are from southwest to the northwest direction.
- In Nagaland, Manipur and Mizoram, they are in the north south direction.
- Himalayas- wall between the Indian subcontinent and the Central and East Asian countries.

Himalayas can be divided into the following subdivisions:

- i. Kashmir or North- western Himalayas
- ii. Himachal and Uttaranchal Himalayas
- iii. Darjiling and Sikkim Himalayas
- iv. Arunachal Himalayas
- v. Eastern Hills and Mountains

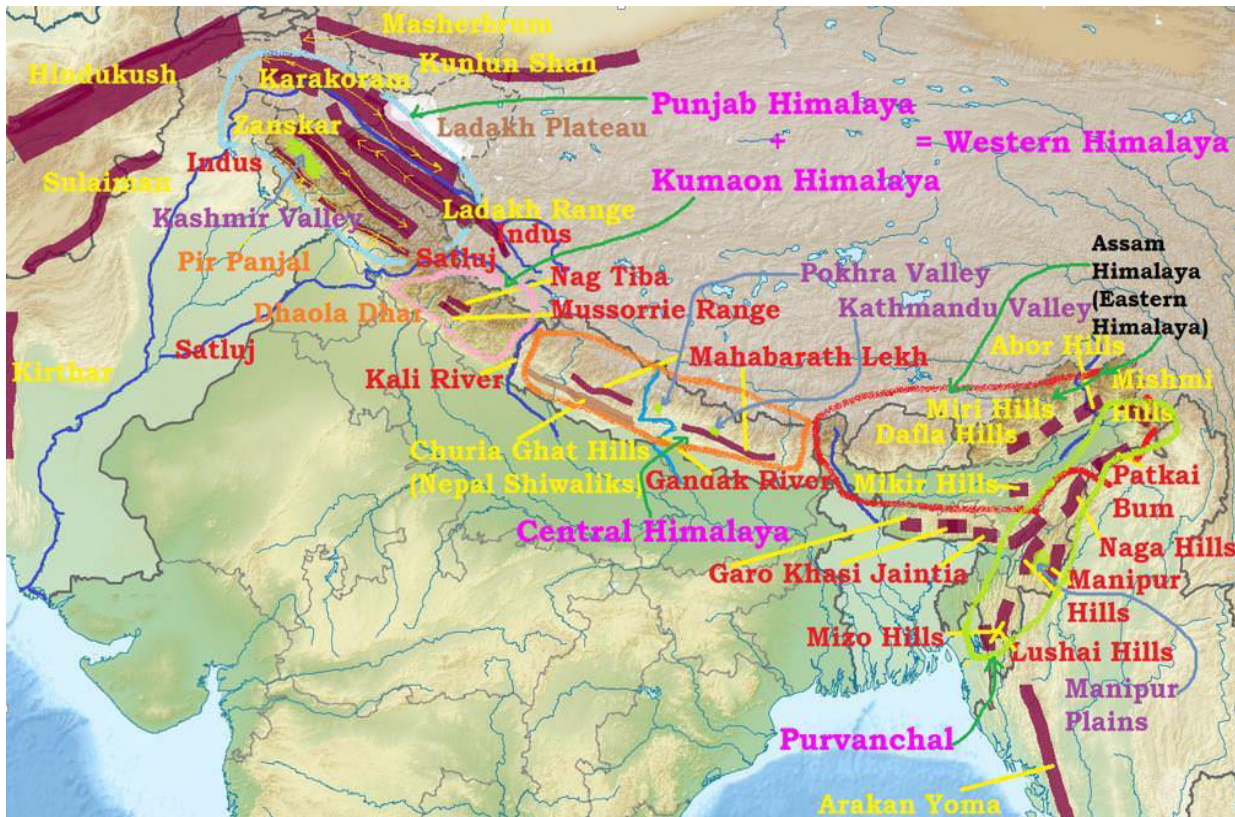
Kashmir or North- western Himalayas

- Karakoram, Ladakh, Zaskar and Pir Panjal
- The north- eastern part of the Kashmir Himalayas is a cold desert, which lies between the Greater Himalayas and the Karakoram ranges.
- Between the Great Himalayas and the Pir Panjal range, lies the world famous valley of Kashmir and the famous Dal Lake.
- Important glaciers of South Asia such as the Baltoro and Siachen are also found in this region.
- The Kashmir Himalayas are also famous for Karewas formations, which are useful for the cultivation of Zafran, a local variety of saffron.
- Passes- Zoji La on the Great Himalayas, Banihal on the Pir Panjal, Photu La on the Zaskar and Khardung La on the Ladakh range.
- Fresh lakes- Dal and Wular
- Salt water lakes- Pangong Tso and Tso Moriri
- Drained by the river Indus, and its tributaries such as the Jhelum and the Chenab.
- Jhelum in the valley of Kashmir is still in its youth stage and yet forms meanders – a typical feature associated with the mature stage in the evolution of fluvial land form



The Himachal and Uttarakhand Himalayas

- Between the Ravi in the west and the Kali (a tributary of Ghaghara) in the east.
- Drained by- Indus and the Ganga.
- Tributaries of the Indus include the river Ravi, the Beas and the Satluj, and the tributaries of Ganga flowing through this region include the Yamuna and the Ghaghara.
- Himalayas is an extension of the Ladakh cold desert, which lies in the Spiti subdivision of district Lahul and Spiti.
- All the three ranges of Himalayas are prominent in this section also.
- These are the Great Himalayan range, the Lesser Himalayas (which is locally known as Dhauladhar in Himachal Pradesh and Nagtibhain Uttarakhand) and the Shivalik range from the North to the South.
- The two distinguishing features- Shivalik and Dun formations



- Some important duns located in this region are the Chandigarh-Kalka dun, Nalagarh dun, Dehra Dun, Harikie dun and the Kota dun, etc.
- Dehra Dun is the largest of all the duns
- In the Great Himalayan range, the valleys are mostly inhabited by the Bhotia's.
- The famous Valley of flowers is also situated in this region.
- The places of pilgrimage such as the Gangotri, Yamunotri, Kedarnath, Badrinath and Hemkund Sahib are also situated in this part.
- The region is also known to have five famous Prayags

The Shiwalik

- The word Shiwalik has its origin in the geological formation found in and around a place called Sivawala near Dehra Dun which was once a headquarter of the *Imperial Survey*
- In Kashmir Valley, the meanders in Jhelum river are caused by the local base level provided

by the erstwhile larger lake of which the present Dal Lake is a small part

The Darjiling and Sikkim Himalayas

- Bordered by Nepal Himalayas in the west and Bhutan Himalayas in the east.
- Known for its fast-flowing rivers such as Tista,
- High Mountain peaks - Kanchenjunga (Kanchengiri), and deep valleys.
- The higher reaches of this region are inhabited by Lepcha tribes while the southern part, particularly the Darjiling
- Himalayas, has a mixed population of Nepalis, Bengalis and tribals from Central India.
- Duar formations- used for the development of tea gardens

The Arunachal Himalayas

- Extend from the east of the Bhutan Himalayas up to the Diphu pass in the east.
- The general direction of the mountain range is from southwest to northeast.