

CONTEMPARY INDIA-1

WELCOME TO STD IX

SUBJECT : (GEOGRAPHY)

CHAPTER NUMBER: 2

**CHAPTER NAME : THE PHYSICAL FEATURE OF
INDIA**

CHANGING YOUR TOMORROW

LONG QUESTION DISCUSSION

Q7:- Western Ghats and Eastern Ghats

Western Ghats	Eastern Ghats
The Western Ghats lie on the western margin of the Deccan Plateau.	The Eastern Ghats lie on the eastern margin of the Deccan Plateau.
The Western Ghats are higher in elevation. Their average elevation is from 900 to 1600 meters.	The Eastern Ghats are lower in elevation. Their average elevation is 600 meters.
They have continuous chain of mountains and can be crossed through passes only.	The mountain chains are not continuous and are denuded by the rivers which flow into Bay of Bengal.
No major river has cut across them.	They have been cut across by major rivers like Godavari, Mahanadi, Krishna and Kaveri.

Q8. Describe how the Himalayas were formed.

Ans- The Earth's Lithosphere is broken into number of plates called tectonic plates. These plates were formed due to the convectional currents occurring under the surface of the Earth. The Indo Australian plate got separated from the Gondwana land and drifted towards the north.

- As it drifted towards the north, it collided with the Eurasian Plate. As a result of this collision, the sedimentary rocks which were settled in the large scale depression in the Earth's crust called Tethys were folded and formed the mountain system of western Asia and the Himalayas.

Q9. Which are the major physiographical divisions of India? Contrast the relief of the Himalayan region with that of the Peninsular Plateau.

Answer:

- The major physiographic divisions of India are
- The Himalayan Mountains
- The Northern Plains
- The Peninsular Plateau
- The Indian Desert
- The Coastal Plains
- The Islands
- Contrast the relief of Himalayan region and Peninsular Plateau

The Himalayan Region	The Peninsular Plateau
The Himalayan region is made up of young fold mountains. Thus, it is of recent origin.	The Peninsular Plateau of India was a part of the Gondwana land. Thus, it is the oldest landmass of the Indian subcontinent.
It was formed due to the collision of the Indo Australian and Eurasian plates.	It was formed due to the breaking and drifting of the Gondwana land.
It mostly consists of lofty mountains and deep valleys.	It has hills with gentle slope and wide valleys.
It is composed of sedimentary rocks.	It is composed of igneous and metamorphic rocks.
Geologically, it is an unstable zone.	It is a stable zone.

Q10. Give an account of the Northern Plains of India.

Answer:

- The northern plains have been formed by three major river systems, the Indus, the Ganga and the Brahmaputra. This plain has been formed of alluvial soil. The Northern Plains are divided into three regions. The western part of the Northern Plains is known as the **Punjab Plains**. The larger part of this plain lies in Pakistan. It is drained by the river Indus and its tributaries- the Ravi, Beas, Satluj, Jhelum and Chenab. **The Ganga Plain** is spread over the states of Haryana, Delhi, U.P., Bihar and some parts of Jharkhand and West Bengal. Assam is the part of **Brahmaputra plains**. The Northern Plains presents various relief features. They can be divided into four regions based on the variations in the relief features:
 - When rivers come down from the mountains, they deposit pebbles in a narrow belt lying parallel to the Shiwaliks. This is called the **bhahar belt**. All rivers disappear into this belt.
 - To the south of the belt, the rivers and streams appear again and create the **terai** region which is wet, swampy and marshy.
 - The large part of the Northern Plains is formed of the older alluvial soil and presents a terrace like features. This is known as **bhangar**. Its soil consists of granules known as 'kankar'.
 - The newer deposits are known as 'khadar'. These are so fertile that intensive cultivation is practiced here.

Q11. Write short notes on the following:

- (a) The Indian Desert
- (b) The Central Highlands
- (c) The Island groups of India

(i) The Indian Desert

Answer:

- The Indian desert lies towards the western margins of the Aravali Hills. It is an undulating sandy plain covered with sand dunes. This region receives very low rainfall. The average rainfall is below 150 mm per year. It has an arid climate with low vegetation cover. Streams appear during the rainy season. Soon after they disappear into the sand as they do not have enough water to reach the sea. Luni is the only large river in this region.

(ii) The Central Highlands

Answer:

- 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 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.

The Island groups of India

Answer:

- **Lakshadweep Islands**
- Lakshadweep group of islands is composed of small coral islands. Earlier they were known as Laccadive, Minicoy and Amindive. In 1973, these were re-named as Lakshadweep. It covers a small area of 32 sq km. Kavaratti Island is the administrative headquarters of Lakshadweep. This island group has a great diversity of flora and fauna. The Pitti island, which is uninhabited, has a bird sanctuary.
- **Andaman and Nicobar Islands**
- The elongated chain of islands located in the Bay of Bengal extending from north to south. These are the Andaman and Nicobar islands. They are bigger in size and are more numerous and scattered. 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 a great diversity of flora and fauna in this group of islands too. These islands lie close to the equator and experience equatorial climate and have thick forest cover.

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