

NCERT SOLUTIONS

CLASS - 9TH



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Class : 9th
Subject : Social-Science-Geography
Chapter : 2
Chapter Name : Physical Features of India

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

(iv) The highest peak in the Eastern Ghats is

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

Answer. (i) (c) Peninsula

(ii) (c) Purvachal

(iii) (c) Kannad

(iv) (c) Mahendragiri

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Q2 Answer the following questions briefly.

(i) What is the bhabar?

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

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

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

Answer. (i) Bhabar is a narrow belt of land about 8 to 16 km wide and covered with pebbles deposited by the rivers and lying parallel to the slopes of the Shiwaliks.

(ii) The 3 major divisions of the Himalayas from North to South are as follows

(a) The Great or Inner Himalayas or the Himadri It is a continuous range consisting of the highest peaks.

(b) Himachal or Lesser Himalayas The range lying to the South of the Himadri is known as Himachal or Lesser Himalayas.

(c) Shiwaliks The outermost range of the Himalayas is known as the Shiwaliks. These are the foothill ranges and represent the southernmost division of the Himalayas.

(iii) Malwa plateau lies between the Aravalli and the Vindhyan ranges.

(iv) Lakshadweep Islands are composed of small coral islands.

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Q3 Distinguish between

(i) Bhangar and Khadar

(ii) Western Ghats and Eastern Ghats

Answer. (i) Differences between Bhangar and Khadar

Bhangar	Khadar
(a) Bhangar is old alluvial soil.	(a) Khadar is new alluvial soil.
(b) Bhangar soil is found away from the river.	(b) Khadar is found near the river basin.
(c) Bhangar is less fertile.	(c) Khadar is very fertile.
(d) It contains calcareous deposits locally known as Kankar.	(d) This soil is fine grained.
(e) The soil is dark in colour.	(e) The soil is light in colour.

(ii) Difference between the Eastern Ghats and the Western Ghats.

The Eastern Ghats	The Western Ghats
(a) The Eastern ghats mark the eastern edge of the Deccan plateau	(a) The Western ghats mark the western edge of the Deccan plateau
(b) They are discontinuous and irregular and dissected by rivers draining into the Bay of Bengal.	(b) They are continuous and can be crossed through passes only.
(c) They lie parallel to the eastern coast along the Arabian Sea.	(c) The Western Ghats lie parallel to the west coast along the Arabian Sea
(d) The highest mountain is Mahendragiri with a height of 1,501 metres.	(d) The highest peak is Anai Mudi with a height of 2,695 metres
(e) Their average height is 600 metres.	(e) Their average height is 1,600 metres

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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

- The Himalayan mountains
- The Northern plains
- The Peninsular plateau
- The Indian desert
- The Coastal plains
- The islands

Contrast between the Himalayan region and the Peninsular plateau

The Himalayan Region	The Peninsular Plateau
(a) Formed by folding process due to collision of the Indo Australia plate with the Eurasian plate .	(a) Formed due to the breaking and drifting of Gondwana land.
(b) Himalayas made up of sedimentary rocks.	(b) Plateau contains igneous and metamorphic rocks.
(c) Himalayan mountains form an unstable zone.	(c) Considered to be one of the most stable land blocks.
(d) Himalayas are the most recent landforms.	(d) The Deccan plateau is one of the most ancient landmasses.
(e) The average height of the Himalayas is 6,000 metres.	(e) The average height of the plateau is 900 metres.
(f) The Himalayas lack minerals	(f) The plateau is a storehouse of minerals
(g) Perennial rivers originate in the Himalayas.	(g) Peninsular rivers are seasonal.

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Q5 Give an account of the Northern Plains of India.

Answer. (a) The Himalayan uplift out of the Tethys sea and subsidence of the Northern flank of the peninsular plateau resulted in the formation of a large basin. In course of time, this depression gradually got filled with deposition of sediments from rivers flowing from the mountains In the north and led to formation of the fertile Northern plains.

(b) It spreads over an area of 7 lakh sq km. The plain IS about 2400 km long and 240-230 km broad

(c) It is a densely populated and an Intensively cultivated area.

(d) With Its adequate water supply and favourable climate, It is agriculturally a very productive part of India

(e) The Northern plains are broadly divided into 3 sections.

(f) The Western part of the Northern plans IS called the Punjab plains, formed by the Indus and its tributaries.

(g) The Ganga plain extends between the Ghaggar and the Teesta rivers, spread over the states of Haryana, Delhi, UP Bihar and West Bengal.

(h) The Brahmaputra Plain to the East of the Ganga plains lies the Brahmaputra plain covering the areas of Assam and Arunachal Pradesh

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Q6 Write short notes on the following.

(i) The Indian Desert

(ii) The Central Highlands

(iii) The Island groups of India

Answer. (i) The Indian Desert

- The Indian desert lies towards the Western margin of the Aravalli hills.
- It is an undulating sandy plain covered with sand dunes.

- This region receives very low rainfall, below 150 mm per year.
- It has arid climate with low vegetation cover.
- Streams appear during the rainy season. Soon 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.
- Barchan (Crescent shaped dunes) cover the larger areas but longitudinal dunes become more prominent near the Indo – Pakistan border.
- The Indian desert is popularly known as the Thar desert.

(ii) The Central Highlands

- The Peninsular plateau consists of two broad divisions, namely the 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.
- They are bound by the Vindhya Range from the south and by the Aravalli hills from the north-west.
- 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 south-west to north-east.
- The central highlands are wider in the west but narrower in the east.
- The eastward extensions of their plateau are locally known as ‘Bundelkhand’ and Baghelkhand.
- The Chhotanagpur plateau marks the further eastward extension drained by the Damodar river.

(iii) The Island Groups of India

India has two groups of islands namely the Lakshadweep group and the Andaman and Nicobar group.

(a) The Lakshadweep Islands Group lie close to the Malabar coast of Kerala. These islands are composed of small coral islands.

- Earlier, they were known as Laccadive, Minicoy and Amindive. In 1973, these were renamed as the Lakshadweep.
- They cover 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.

(b) Andaman and Nicobar Islands

- The elongated chain of islands located in the Bay of Bengal extending from north to south are the Andaman and Nicobar Islands.
- They are bigger in size and more numerous and scattered than the Lakshadweep Islands.
- The entire group of islands is divided into two broad categories, the Andaman in the north and Nicobar in the south.
- It is believed that these islands are an elevated portion of the submarine mountains.
- These islands are of great – strategic importance for the country.
- They have great diversity of flora and fauna.
- These islands lie close to the equator experience equatorial climate and have thick forest cover.