

Tendern Heights High School

Section 93 B, Chandigarh

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SUBJECT : GEOGRAPHY

CLASS : VIII

India: Geographical Features (continue)

(4) Political Divisions of India - States and Capitals

- India is divided into 28 states and 8 Union Territories.
- Delhi is given the status of National Capital Region (NCR) or National Capital Territory (NCT).
- The Political division of India is on the basis of Geography, Population, Local Culture and Language.
- States and UTs are further divided into districts and tehsils, that are managed by State Government.
- The new states like Uttarakhand, Jharkhand and Chhattisgarh were created from UP, Bihar and Madhya Pradesh.
- In 2014, Telangana was created out of Andhra Pradesh.
- In 2019, state of Jammu and Kashmir was bifurcated into two UTs, Jammu and Kashmir and Ladakh.
- In 2020, Dadra and Nagar Haveli and Daman and Diu were made one UT.
- As per 2011 Census, UP is the most populated Indian state and Sikkim has lowest population.
- Area wise Rajasthan is largest and Goa is smallest.
- Density wise Arunachal Pradesh has lowest density of Population and Bihar has highest density of Population.

(5) Physiographic divisions of India

- (A) The Himalayas
- (B) Northern Plains
- (C) Peninsular Plateau
- (D) Coastal Regions
- (E) Islands

(A) The Himalayas

- It includes Tien Shan, Karakoram, Kunlun and Hindukush Ranges.
- These ranges joins with Himalayas and form Pamir knot.
- The Karakoram and Himalayas are located along the northern boundary of India.
- The Himalayas can be divided into three divisions:

(I) Northwest range:

- It is a series of mountain radiating from Pamir knot.
- The main mountain ranges of this region are Hindukush in south-west, Kunlun in East Karakoram in South East and Zaskar and Ladakh range runs parallel to Great North Wall.

(II) North Himalayan range:

- This range runs in the form of Arc from Kashmir in north to Assam in East.
- The western limit of this range is Nanga Parbat while the eastern limit is known as Namcha Barwa.
- The Northern Himalayan Range comprises of Himadri, Himachal and Shivalik range.

(III) North-East Himalayas/Purvanchal

- These are the series of Hills running through Arunachal Pradesh, Nagaland, Manipur, Assam and Mizoram.
- These Himalayas consists of many hills such as Patkai Bum and Naga hills in north.
- Mizohills in North west and Garo, Khasi, Jaintia hills in the centre.

(B) Northern Plains:

- They lie between Himalayas in the North to Peninsular Plateau.
- It is formed by Indus, Ganga and Brahmaputra rivers.
- This plain is the largest alluvial tract of the world.
- It extends approximately upto 3200 kms and Indian section accounts for 2400 kms.
- This plain is divided into 4 parts:

(I) Thar Desert

- It is sandy desert in North-west India and Eastern Pakistan.
- This plain is also called Great Indian Desert or Marusthal.
- The western part of this desert is covered by shifting sand dunes known as dhanian.

- The eastern part of this desert upto Aravalli Range is known as Ralsathan Bagar.
- The most important river in this region is Luni that flows towards Rann of Kutch.
- To the north of Luni Basin there are many lakes such as Sambhar Lake and Kuchaman Lake.

(II) Indus-Punjab-Haryana plain

- This plain is formed by sediments that is brought by Jhelum, Ravi, Sutlej, Beas and Chenab.
- This plain is called Punjab plain because of these five rivers.
- The eastern part of this plain is very fertile while the northern part is very eroded due to many streams coming down from the Shivaliks.

(III) Ganga Plain

- Most of this plain lies in Bangladesh.
- In this plain, the deltaic region has old Alluvium and to the north lies the Ganga-Brahmaputra Doab.

(IV) Brahmaputra Plain

- It extends from Sadiya in east to Dhubri in west.
- Its length is upto 640 kms and width is upto 100 kms.
- The plain is made up of alluvium carried by Brahmaputra and its tributaries.
- This plain is home of many Indians (Indus-Ganga and Brahmaputra Plain).