

Biyani's Think Tank
Concept based notes
GEOGRAPHY OF INDIA
(Bachelor of Arts)

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Preface

I am glad to present this book, especially designed to serve the needs of the students. The book has been written keeping in mind the general weakness in understanding the fundamental concepts of the topics. The book is self-explanatory and adopts the “Teach Yourself” style. It is based on question-answer pattern. The language of book is quite easy and understandable based on scientific approach.

Any further improvement in the contents of the book by making corrections, omission and inclusion is keen to be achieved based on suggestions from the readers for which the author shall be obliged.

I acknowledge special thanks to Mr. Rajeev Biyani, *Chairman* & Dr. Sanjay Biyani, *Director (Acad.)* Biyani Group of Colleges, who are the backbones and main concept provider and also have been constant source of motivation throughout this endeavour. They played an active role in coordinating the various stages of this endeavour and spearheaded the publishing work.

I look forward to receiving valuable suggestions from professors of various educational institutions, other faculty members and students for improvement of the quality of the book. The reader may feel free to send in their comments and suggestions to the under mentioned address.

Author

Syllabus

PAPER-II : Geography of India

Unit-I

India in the context of Southeast and South Asia. India : a land of diversities, unity within diversities.

Major terrain elements of India and their role in shaping physical Land-landscape of India. Drainage systems of India and their functional significance. The morphological regions of India.

Unit-II

Regional and Seasonal variations of climate—the monsoon, western disturbance, norwesters. Climatic regions of India. Soil types of India—the distribution and characteristics. Vegetation types and their distribution.

Forests, minerals and power resources—The status of their use and need for conservation.

Unit-III

Spatial distribution of population and density; socio-economic implications of population explosion, urbanization, changing nature of Indian economy. Agricultural growth during the plan period. Green Revolution vis-a-vis traditional farming. Regionalisation of Indian agriculture and topology of agricultural regions and their relevance in agricultural development planning.

Industrial development and Indian economy- Industrial regions of India and their industrial structure, composition of domestic and international trade.

Unit-IV

Basis of regional divisions of India-macro, meso and micro-regions of India-their comparative analysis. Resource regions of India. Regional planning of rural and urban regions.

Unit-V

Contemporary issues regional disparity, poverty, population explosion, globalization. Impact of development on Environment—social and ethnic tension, gender discrimination and empowerment of women.

Chapter 1

Physiography of India

Q. 1: Explain the Himalayan division of India.

Ans

The Himalayan mountain system developed in a series of stages 30 to 50 million years ago. Himalayas are the young fold mountains. The extreme cold, snow and rugged topography discourage the neighbors to enter India through Himalayas. Himalayas mountain system forming a broad continuous arc for nearly 2600 km (1600 mi) along the northern fringes from the bend of the Indus River in the northwest to the Brahmaputra River in the east. The Himalayas range, averaging 320 to 400 km (200 to 250 mi) in width. For most of its length, the Himalayas comprise two nearly parallel ranges separated by a wide valley in which the Indus and Sutlej rivers flow westward and the Brahmaputra flows eastward. The Himalayas form the earth's highest mountain region, containing 9 of the 10 highest peaks in the world. The Himalayan range was developed from powerful earth movements that occurred as the Indian plate pressed against the Eurasian continental plate. Even today the mountains continue to develop and change, and earthquakes and tremors are frequent in the area. The highest mountain system in the world, located in the territories of India, China, Nepal, and Pakistan, between the Tibetan Plateau on the north and the Indo-Gangetic Plain on the south. The Himalayas are the world's greatest mountain system, with the tallest peaks, the greatest differences in elevation over short distances, and the deepest gorges (as much as 4-5 km).

The Hmalayas may be divided into three parallel ranges: (1)the Great Himalayas, (2) the Inner Himalayas also known as Middle or lesser Himalayas and (3) the Sub-Himalayan foothills which includes the Siwalik Range and the Tarai and Duars *piedmont*.

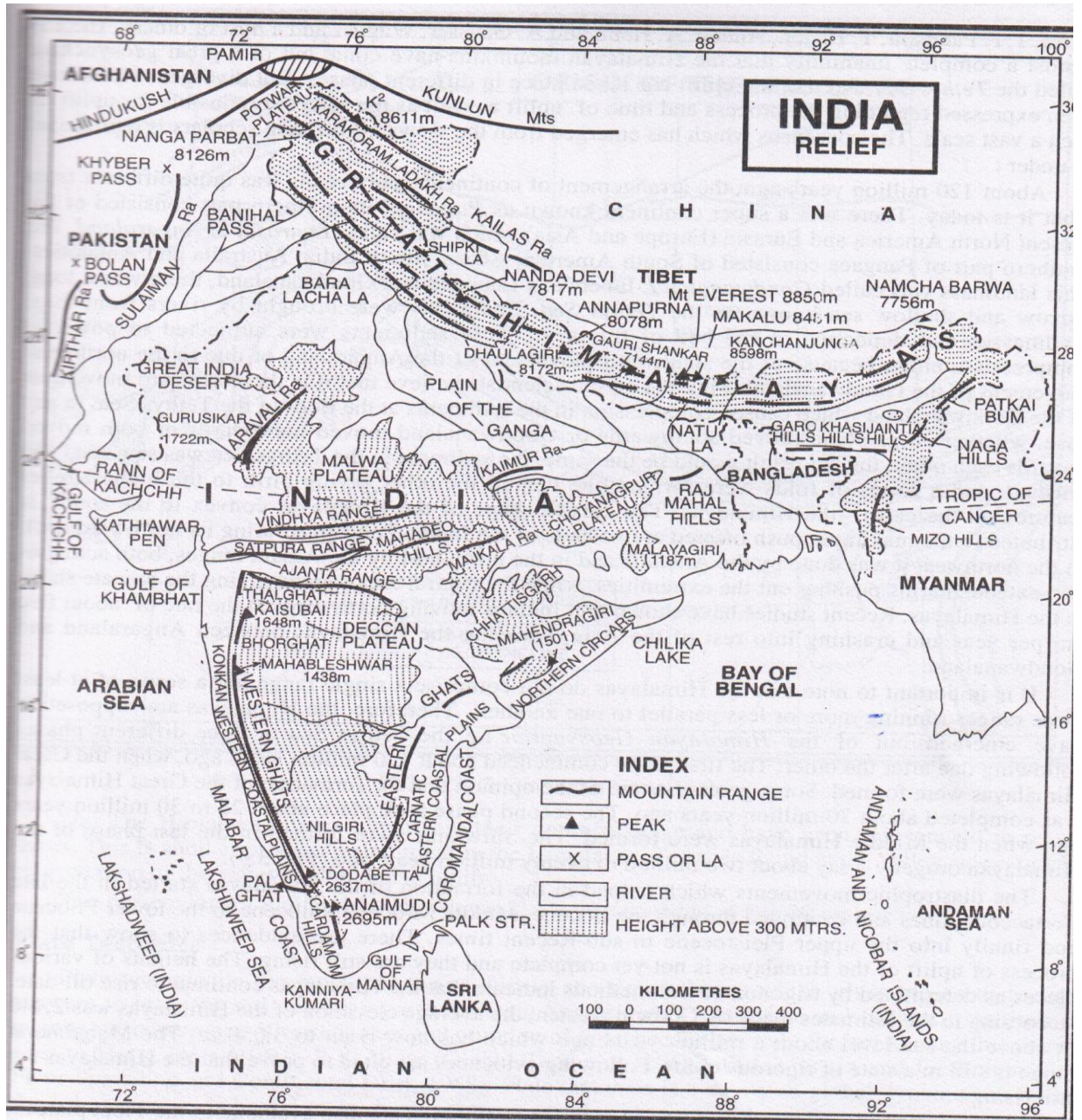
1. The Great Himalayas:

The Great Himalayas, the highest zone, contains vast snowy peaks with an average height exceeding 20,000 ft. The width of this zone, composed largely of gneiss and granite, is about 15 miles. .It is the most continuous range. It is snow bound and many glaciers come down from this range. The Nepal and Sikkim portion of the Great Himalayas contains the greatest number of high peaks. Great

Himalaya is least highest in Assam. The snow line on the southern slopes of the Great Himalayas varies from 4480 m (14,700 ft) in the eastern and central Himalayas of Nepal and Sikkim to 5180 m (17,000 ft) in the western Himalayas. To the north of the Great Himalayas are several ranges such as the Zaskar, Ladakh, and the Kailas. The Karakoram Range lies on the Tibetan side of the Great Himalayas. High Mountain passes also exist in this range, namely, Bara Lacha-La, Shipki-La, Nathu-La, Zoji-La, Bomidi-La etc. The Ganga and Yamuna rivers originates from this Himalayas. The Great Himalayan region is one of the few remaining isolated and inaccessible areas in the world today. Some high valleys in the Great Himalayas are occupied by small clustered settlements.

2. The Middle Himalayas:

The Middle Himalayas has a width of about 80 km (about 50 mi), borders the Great Himalayan range on the south. Some of the ranges of the Middle Himalayas are the Mahabharat, the Nag Tibba, the Pir Panjal and the Dhaola Dha. It consists principally of high ranges issuing diagonally from the Great Himalalaya range at point where the latter changes its path and several outer disconnected ranges.



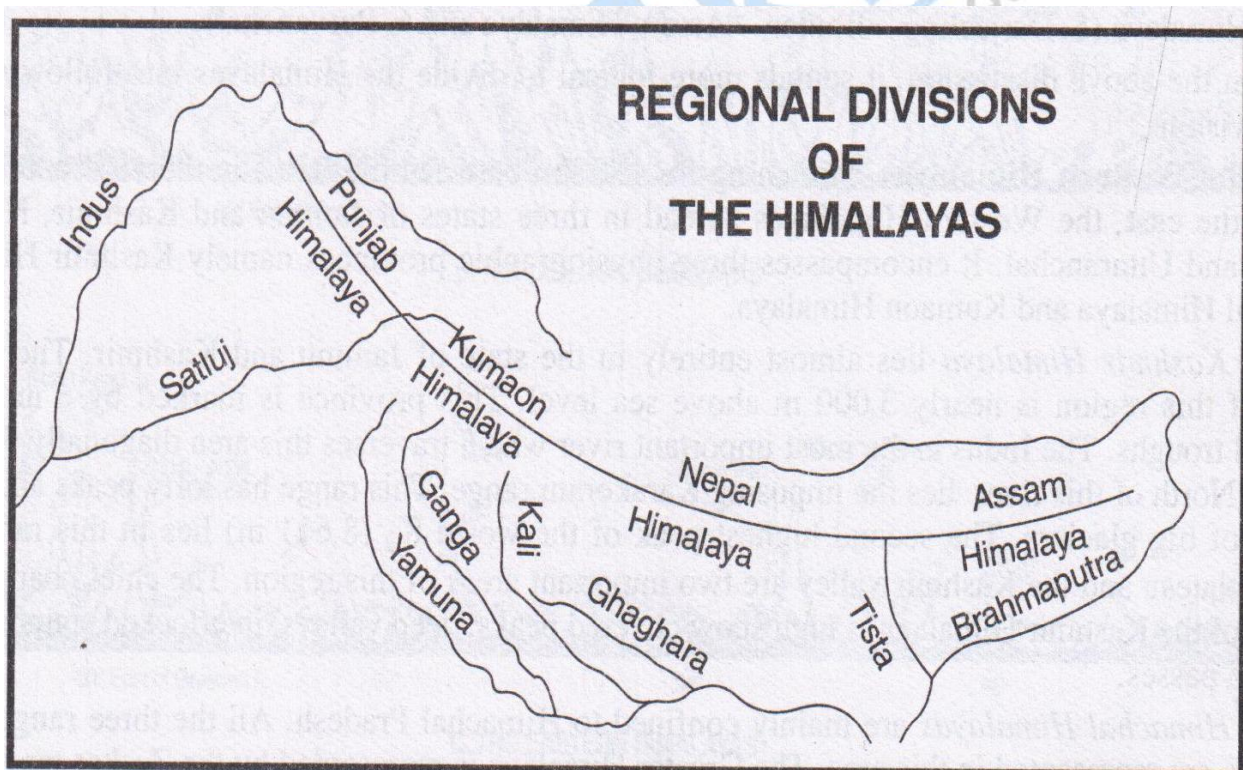
Source: D.R. Khullar

These comprises Nag Tibba given off from Dhaulagiri , the Dhauladhar range from the neighborhood of Badrinath, the Pir Panjal range and the north Kashmir range from the Zoji La, separating the Jhelum and Kishanganga rivers. The Middle Himalayas possess a remarkable uniformity of height; most are between 1830 and 3050m. The Middle Himalayas region is a complex variety of forest-covered ranges and fertile valleys. Except for the major valley centers such as Srinagar, Kangra, and Kathmandu, and hill towns such as Simla, Mussoorie, and Darjiling (Darjeeling), the region is moderately populated. Within the Middle

Himalayas the intervening mountain ranges tend to separate the densely populated valleys. The several gorges and rugged mountains make surface travel not easy in any direction. Only major population centers are linked by air and roads with principal cities in India and Pakistan.

3. The Sub-Himalayas:

It is the outer most range of the Himalayas which is, borders the plains of North India and Pakistan. It comprises the Siwalik Range and foothills as well as the narrow piedmont plain at the base of the mountains. The width of the Sub-Himalayas gradually narrows from about 48 km. A characteristic feature of the Sub-Himalayas is the large number of long, flat-bottomed valleys known as *duns*, like DehraDun, Kotli Dun and Patli Dun. which are usually spindle-shaped and filled with gravelly alluvium. South of the foothills lies the Tarai and Duars plains. The southern part of the Tarai and Duars plains is heavily farmed. Most of the forests of this region have been damaged, and much of the land has been cultivated for agriculture.



Source: D.R. Khullar

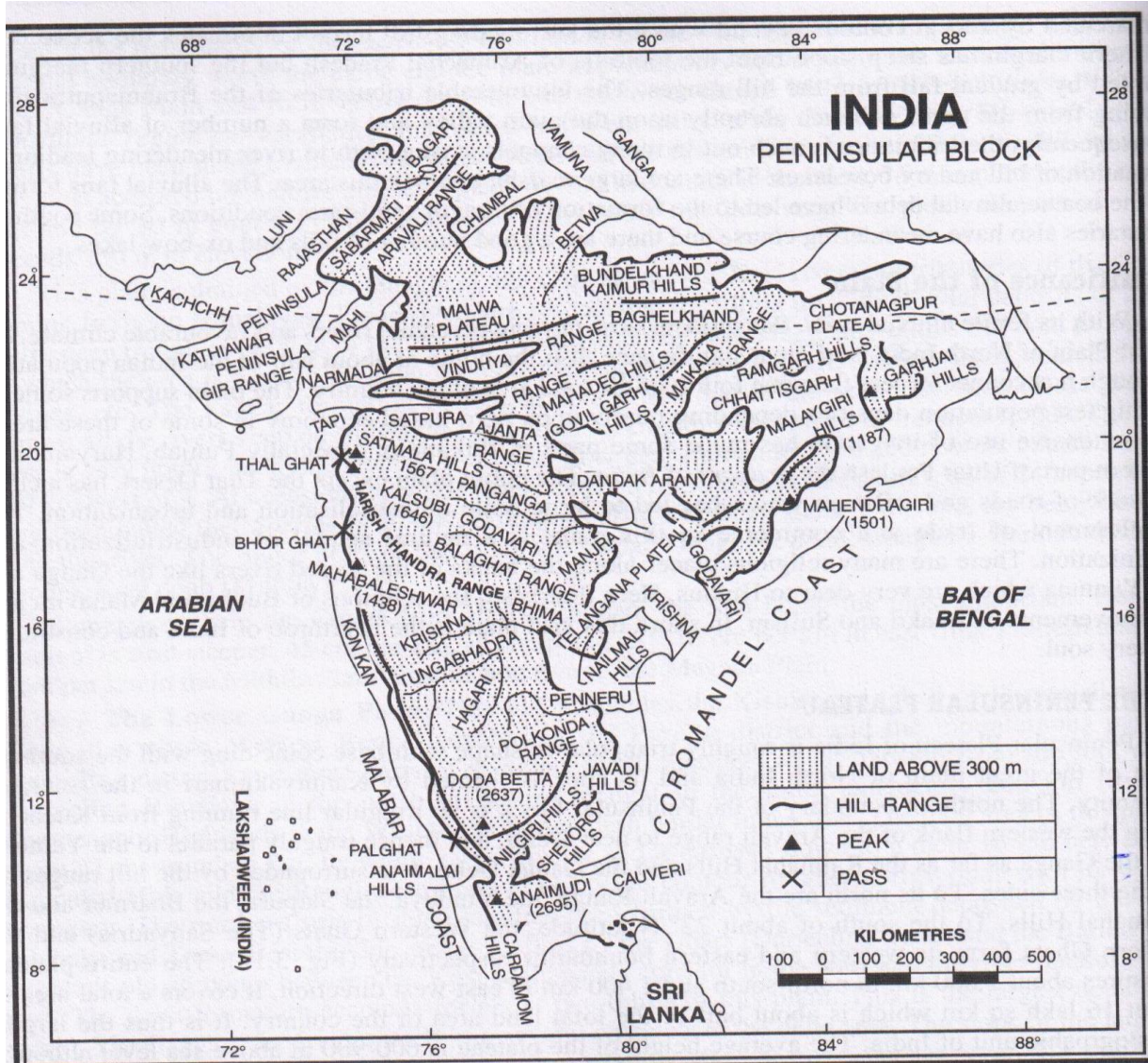
Regional Section of the Himalaya

Region wise, the Himalaya consist of (a) the Kashmir Himalaya, (b) the Punjab Himalaya, (c) the Kumaon Himalaya, (d) the Central Himalaya, (e) the Eastern Himalaya

- (a) The Kashmir Himalaya covering an area of 350000 km². They are about 700km. long and 500km. wide with an average elevation of 3000 m.in the Pirpanjal range exist two passes, Pirpanjal and Banihal.vale of Kashmir lies in this region.
- (b) The Punjab Himalaya stretches from Sutlej for about 570 km. and covers an area of 45000km². the southern slopes of this range are bare and rugged and northern slopes are covered with forests. In this section Lahul and Spiti valleys are situated.
- (c) The Kumaon Himalaya extends from the river Sutlej to the Kali and covers about 38000 km² areas. The highest peak is Nanda Devi. This section of Himalayas has great significance for the Hindus due to the Bhagirathi, the Ganga and the Jamuna, which have their source in this zone.
- (d) The Central Himalaya stretches from river Kali to river Tista for about 800 km. covering an area of about 116800 km². It has the distinction of carrying the highest peaks in the world, Dhaulagiri, Annapurna, Mansalu, Gosainthan, Mt. Everest, etc, this range is known as the Sikkim Himalaya in Sikkim ; Darjeeling Himalaya in West Bengal ; and Bhutan Himalayas in Bhutan.
- (e) The Eastern Himalaya known as the Assam Himalaya stretches from Tista to the Bramputra to a distance of about 720 km. it covers about 67500km² area. It rises over 800 m. above the Bramputra Valley.

Q. 2 Write the note on the Peninsular Plateau of India.

Ans This is an elevated plateau seprated from the Indo-Gangetic plain by the Vindhyan, the Satpura, Mahadeo, Maikal and Sarguja ranges, the elevation varying from 300 to 900 m. The Peninsular plateau is a triangular shaped stand land. It is division of ancient land mass called Gondwana level. The plateau covers 4, 22,000 km²., 43 [percent](#) of India's landmass It is spread over the states of Gujarat, Maharashtra, Bihar, Karnataka and Andhra PradeshThe [uplands](#), areas of higher land, make up a triangle nested within the familiar downward-pointing triangle of the Indian sub-continent's coastline. In the south of India the plateau is mostly over 1,000 m above [sea level](#). In the north it is mostly about 500 m above sea level. . River Narmada divides the peninsular plateau into two parts: The central highlands and Deccan Plateau.



Source: D.R. Khullar

(i) The Central Highlands:

It spread out from Narmada River and the northern plains. Aravallis is the important mountain which extends from Gujrat through Rajasthan to Delhi. The highest peak of the Aravallis hills is Gurushikhar (1722m) near Mt. Abu. The Malwa Plateau and Chhota Nagpur plateau are division of the central highlands. The Malwa plateau in Madhya Pradesh occurs to the north of the Vindhya and is composed of extensive lava flows. The broken areas are known as the ravines, which are more numerous in the valleys of the Chambal, the Banas and the Jamuna. To the west and north-west of the Malwa plateau are the worn – down Aravalli ranges. At the south west extremely they are over 1000 m above the sea level.

The area between Jamuna and Vindhyan plateau is known as the Bundelkhand Uplands.