

Physical Features of India

Q. . Which plateau lies between the Aravali and the Vindhya range ? Write a brief note on this plateau.

Ans. The Malwa Plateau lies between the Aravali hills and the Vindhya range. The Aravali hills lie to the west of the plateau and the Vindhya range lies to its south. 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 Malwa plateau lies in Madhya Pradesh. It is composed of extensive lava flows. There are rolling plains separated by flat-topped hills. The plateau is largely broken in form of ravines near the Chambal Valley in its east.

Q. . How was the Great Northern Plains of India formed ?

Ans. The formation of the Himalayas due to upliftment of sediments out of the Tethys Sea and subsidence of the northern flank of the Peninsular Plateau resulted in the formation of a large basin. In due course of time this depression, gradually got filled

with deposition of sediments by the rivers flowing from the mountains in the north and the peninsular plateau in the south. A flat land of extensive alluvial deposits led to the formation of the northern plains of India.

Q . . Write a short note on ‘coral polyps’.

Ans. Coral polyps are short-lived microscopic organisms, which live in colonies. They flourish in shallow, mud-free and warm waters. They secrete hard rock like substance. The coral secretion and their skeletons form coral deposits in the form of reefs.

They are mainly of three kinds—barrier reef, fringing reef and atolls. The Great Barrier Reef of Australia is a good example of the first kind of coral reefs. Atolls are circular or horse shoe-shaped coral reefs.

. Write a short note on the Western Coastal Plains.

Ans. The Peninsular plateau is flanked by stretch of narrow coastal strips, running along the *Arabian Sea* on the *west* and the *Bay of Bengal* on the *east*. The western coast, sandwiched between the Western Ghats and the Arabian Sea, is a narrow plain. It consists of three sections. The *northern* part of the coast is called the *Konkan* (Mumbai–Goa), the central stretch is called the *Kannad Plain* while the *southern* stretch is referred to as the *Malabar coast*.

. Describe the river systems of the Northern Plains.

Ans. The three river systems in the Northern plains from east to west are the Brahmaputra, Ganga and Indus. A large part of the Indus system lies in Pakistan. The Indus and its tributaries – the Jhelum, the Chenab, the Ravi, the Beas and the Satluj originate in the Himalayas. This section of the plain is dominated by the *doabs*. The Ganga plain extends between the Ghaggar and Teesta rivers. It spreads over the states of Haryana, Delhi, Uttar Pradesh, Bihar, parts of Jharkhand and West Bengal. It has tributaries like the Yamuna, Gomati, Ghaghara, Son, Gandak and Kosi. The Brahmaputra Plain lies in Arunachal Pradesh and Assam.

1. **Write a short note on Deccan Plateau.**

Ans. The Deccan Plateau is a triangular landmass that lies to the south of the river Narmada. The Satpura range flanks its broad base in the north, while the Mahadev, the Kaimur hills and the Maikal range form its eastern extensions. The Deccan Plateau is higher in the west and slopes gently eastwards. An extension of the Plateau is also visible in the northeast, locally known as the Meghalaya, Karbi-Anglong Plateau and North Cachar Hills. It is separated by a fault from the Chotanagpur Plateau. Three prominent hill ranges from the west to the east are the Garo, the Khasi and the Jaintia Hills. The Western Ghats and the Eastern Ghats mark the western and the eastern edges of the Deccan Plateau respectively.

How do different physiographic regions of India complement each other ?

Ans. A detailed account of the different physiographic units highlights the unique features of each region :

- (a) Each region complements the other and makes the country richer in its natural resources.
- (b) The mountains are the major source of water and forest wealth.
- (c) The Northern Plains are the granaries of the country. They provided the base for early civilizations.

(d) The plateau is a storehouse of minerals, which has played a crucial role in the industrialization of the country.

(e) The coastal region and island groups provide sites for fishing and port activities.

Thus, the diverse physical features of the land have immense future possibilities of development.