

PHYSICAL FEATURES OF INDIA

2

Ans.

. Which is the highest peak in India ?

Ans. Kanchenjunga

What is the name of the part of the Himalayas lying between the Kali and the Teesta rivers ?

Ans. *The part of the Himalayas lying between the Kali and the Teesta rivers is called Nepal Himalayas.*

Q. Name the Indian state where Kanchenjunga is located.

Ans. Kanchenjunga is located in Sikkim.

Q. What do you understand by 'duns' ?

Ans. The longitudinal valley lying between lesser Himalayas and the Shiwaliks are known as duns.

Which range of the Himalayas has hill stations ?

Ans. The lower ranges or the Lesser Himalayas have beautiful hill stations such as Srinagar, Shimla, Mussoorie, Nainital and Darjeeling. Many people visit these hill stations in summer, because these places are cooler than the plains.

SHORT ANSWER TYPE QUESTIONS :

How the Himalayas have been divided on the basis of regions from west to east ?

- Ans.** (i) **Punjab Himalayas** : These divisions have been demarcated by river valleys. The part of Himalayas lying between Indus and Satluj has been traditionally known as Punjab Himalaya, but it is also known regionally as Kashmir and Himachal Himalaya from west to east respectively.
- (ii) **Kumaon Himalayas** : The part of the Himalayas lying between Satluj and Kali rivers is known as Kumaon Himalayas.
- (iii) **Nepal Himalayas** : The Kali and Teesta rivers demarcate the Nepal Himalayas.
- (iv) **Assam Himalayas** : the part lying between Teesta and Dihang rivers is known as Assam Himalayas.

Which are the three main ranges of the Himalayas ?

- Ans.** The Himalayas have three ranges which run almost parallel to each other. The distance between these ranges is wider in the west and becomes narrow in the east.

These ranges are—

- (i) the Outer Himalayas or the Shiwalik Range
- (ii) the Middle Himalayas or the Himachal Range and
- (iii) the Inner or Great Himalayas or the Himadri.

What do you mean Great Himalayas ? Write its two characteristics.

Ans. The northern most range of the Himalayas is known as the Great or Inner Himalayas or the Himadri.

(a) It is the most continuous range consisting of the loftiest peaks with an average height of 6000 metres. It contains all prominent Himalayan peaks.

(b) Its folds are asymmetrical in nature and its core is composed of granite rock. It is perennially snow bound, and several glaciers descend from this range.

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

Q. Why are the Himalayas called as young mountains ?

Ans. The Himalayas were formed recently in the earth's history as a result of compression. The sediments beneath the ocean were folded due to the compression and got uplifted. Therefore, they are known as young fold mountains. These mountains are still rising. The whole mountain represents a very youthful topography with high peaks, deep valleys and fast flowing rivers.

Q. Write any three features of the Shiwalik range.

Ans. The three features of the Shiwalik range are :

(a) This is the outermost range of the Himalayas.

(b) The average altitude varies from 900 to 1100 metres.

(c) These ranges are composed of unconsolidated sediments brought down by rivers from the main Himalayan ranges.

What is the significance of Himalayas ?

Ans. The significance of Himalayas is as follows :

- (a) The Himalayas stand like a mighty mountain wall in the north of India. They separate the Indian subcontinent from the rest of Asia.
- (b) They have vast snowfields and glaciers which are the source of numerous perennial rivers. These rivers provide water for irrigation, navigation and generation of hydel power.
- (c) The Himalayas act as a climatic barrier. They protect the Northern Plains from freezing cold winds. They also stop and deflect the rain-bearing winds.
- (d) The forests in the Himalayas provide a suitable habitat for wildlife. They also have many wildlife sanctuaries.
- (e) The Himalayas also have many beautiful hill stations like Shimla, Mussoorie, Nainital and Darjeeling, which attract tourists.

Which part of the Himalayas is known as Purvachal ? Write a short note on the Purvachal Himalayas.

Ans. The eastern hills and mountains of the Himalayas running along the eastern boundary of India are known as Purvachal. They are in the northeastern states of India.

The Brahmaputra marks the eastern-most boundary of the Himalayas. Beyond the Dihang gorge, the Himalayas bend sharply to the south and spread along the eastern boundary of India. They are known as the Purvachal or the Eastern hills and mountains. These hills running through the north-eastern states are mostly composed of strong sandstones, which are sedimentary rocks. Covered with dense forests, they mostly run as parallel ranges and valleys. The Purvachal comprises the Patkai hills, the Naga hills, the Manipur hills and the Mizo hills.