



### The Himalayan Ranges

▪ The word Himalaya means ‘the abode of snow’ in Sanskrit. The three parallel range of the Himalayas are the Himadri, the Himachal and the Shiwalik.

#### Himadri.

▪ The northernmost range of the Himalayas is called **Himadri**. It is also known as the Greater Himalayas or the Inner Himalayas. The average altitude of this range is 6000m. It houses some of the highest peaks of the world. Some of them are the Everest (8848 m), Kanchenjunga (8586 m), Makalu (8481 m), Dhaulagiri (8172 m), Nanga Parbat (8126 m), Annapurna (8078 m), Nanda Devi (7817 m).

▪ **Mt Everest** is the peak in the world and is located in Nepal. Kanchenjunga is the highest peak in India.

#### Himachal

▪ The range that lies to the south of Himadri and north of Shiwalik is called **Himachal**. It is also called the **Middle Himalayas** or **Lesser Himalayas**. Many hill station like Shimla, Kullu, Manali, Mussoorie, and Nainital and Darjeeling are in this region.

#### Shiwalik

▪ Shiwalik is the southernmost range of the Himalayas. It is also known as the **outer Himalayas**. It is made of unconsolidated (loose) deposits and is, therefore, prone to earthquakes and landslides. There are flat valleys between the Himachal and Shiwalik ranges called duns, for example, Dehra Dun, Patli Dun, etc.

#### The Northern Plains

▪ The Indus Basin is drained by the river Indus and its tributaries (Jhelum, Chenab, Beas, Ravi and Satluj). The Indus originates near lake Manasarovar and drain Jammu and Kashmir, Himachal Pradesh and Punjab.

▪ The Ganga Basin is drained by the river Ganga and its tributaries and distributaries. The Ganga originates in Gangotri in the Himalayas, and drains most of the Northern Plains. The northern tributaries of the Ganga, are the Ghagra Gandak, Gomti and Kosi. The Yamuna is the main southern tributary of the Ganga. The major distributary of the Ganga is the river Hugli.

▪ The Brahmaputra Basin is drained by the river Brahmaputra and its tributaries. The Brahmaputra also originates near Lake Manasarovar in Tibet and flows through three countries—China, India and Bangladesh. In India it drains the states of Arunachal Pradesh and Assam. This river is known as Tsangpo in China. The Ganga and Brahmaputra together form the world’s largest delta, called the Ganga Delta.

#### The Peninsular Plateau

▪ The Peninsular Plateau is a triangular plateau to the south of the Northern Plains. It is bounded by the Aravali Range in the north- west, the Vindhya and Satpura ranges in the north and the Eastern Ghats and the Western Ghats towards the south. The surface of this region is highly uneven, consisting of mountains, valleys and plateaus.

▪ The Peninsular Plateau is divided into three distinctive parts—the Malwa Plateau, the Chhota Nagpur Plateau and the Deccan Plateau.

#### The Malwa Plateau

▪ The Malwa Plateau is located on the west the Peninsular Plateau. It slopes northward merges with the plains in the north. Some of tributaries of the Ganga, like the Chambal and Son, originate here



## The Chhota Nagpur Plateau

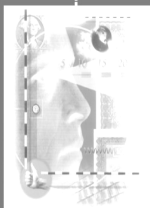
▪ The Chhota Nagpur Plateau is located in the north eastern part of the Peninsular Plateau. It is rich minerals like iron and coal. The Malwa and Chhota Nagpur Plateaus together form the Central Highlands.

## The Deccan Plateau

▪ The Deccan Plateau is a typical triangular plateau, located to the south of Vindhya and Satpuras. It is flanked by the Western Ghats and the Eastern Ghats. These Ghats are connected by the Nilgiri Mountains in the south. The plateau largely slopes towards the east. There are many east-flowing rivers that emerge from the Western Ghats and empty into the Bay of Bengal such as the Mahanadi, Godavari, Krishna and Kaveri.

▪ The difference between Western Ghats and Eastern Ghats

Western Ghats	Eastern Ghats
1. Rise abruptly from the western coastal plain and form the western edge of the Deccan Plateau	1. Do not have any structural unity and form the eastern edge of the Deccan Plateau
2. Continuous	2. Discontinuous and dissected by many east-flowing rivers
3. Known as the Sahyadris in the north and as the Nilgiris, Anaimalai and Cardamom Hills in the south	3. Known by different names like Mahendragiri, Malayagiri, Nallamalai, Kollimalai, Shevoroy Hills and Javadi Hills
4. Average height 1200 m	4. Average height 900 m
5. Gain height from north to south; Anaimudi (2695 m), the highest peak, is found in the southern part of the Anaimalai Hills	5. Gain height from south to north; There are no prominent peaks here



## The Thar Desert

▪ The Thar Desert is also known as the Great Indian Desert. It is situated in the north-western part of the Rajasthan. It is dry sandy stretch which merges with the desert in the Pakistan. This region gets very little rainfall as it lies in the rain-shadow area of the Aravali Mountains.

## The Coastal Plains

▪ India has two strips of coastal plains. The one lying to the west of the Western Ghats is known as the Western Coastal Plains, and the one lying to the east of the Eastern Ghats is the Eastern Coastal Plains. They are fertile, and are used for cultivation. Several important ports like Mumbai, Chennai and Kolkata lie on the coastal plains.

## The Islands of India

▪ The Lakshadweep and the Andaman and Nicobar Islands are the two main island groups of India. The Laccadive, Minicoy and Amindivi island group in the Arabian Sea are part of the Lakshadweep. The Andaman and Nicobar Islands lie in the Bay of Bengal. They are numerous and also larger than the Lakshadweep Islands. Both the Lakshadweep and the Andaman and Nicobar Islands are of vital importance to India, for trade, tourism and defence.

