

Hand outs

Module (2/3)

Physical Features of India

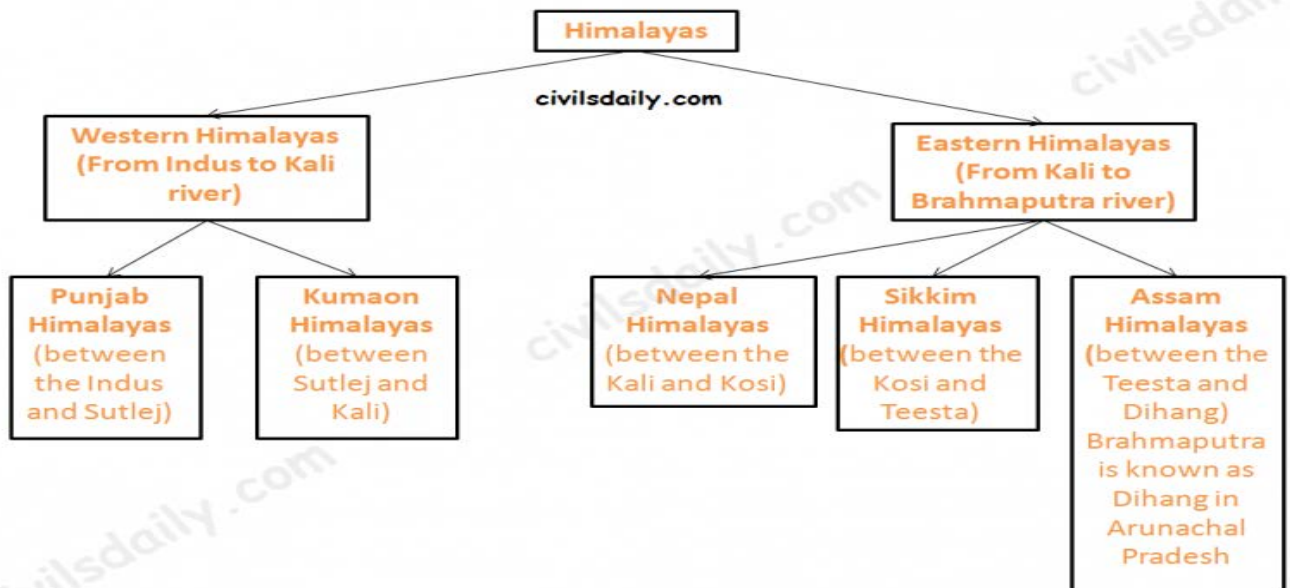
Acknowledgment

- 1) Reference : NCERT SOCIAL SCIENCE TEXT BOOK
- 2) Google Web page for Maps & images

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I Divisions of Himalayas on the basis of river systems



slide (1)

Purvachal Himlayas (slide 3)

- 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*, *Manipur hills* and the *Mizo hills*.

II North Indian Plains (slide 5)

- The northern plain has been formed by the interplay of the three major river systems, namely– the Indus, the Ganga and the Brahmaputra along with their tributaries.
- This plain is formed of alluvial soil.
- The deposition of alluvium in a vast basin lying at the foothills of the Himalaya over millions of years, formed this fertile plain.
- It spreads over an area of 7 lakh sq. km. The plain being about 2400 Km long and 240 to 320 Km broad, is a densely populated physiographic division.
- With a rich soil cover combined with adequate water supply and favourable climate it is agriculturally a very productive part of India.
- The rivers coming from northern mountains are involved in depositional work.

- In the lower course, due to gentle slope, the velocity of the river decreases which results in the formation of riverine islands.
- The rivers in their lower course split into numerous channels due to the deposition of silt. These channels are known as *distributaries*.

III Three Divisions of the North Indian Plains

Western part of the Northern Plain	Punjab Plains	Formed by the Indus and its tributaries. The Indus and its tributaries—the Jhelum, the Chenab, the Ravi, the Beas and the Satluj originate in the Himalaya.	This section of the plain is dominated by the <i>doabs</i> .
The Ganga plain		extends between Ghaggar and Teesta rivers	
Brahmaputra Plain		East of Ganga plain particularly in Assam	

IV Four Divisions of North Indian Plains based on relief features

(slide 6)

1. <i>Bhabar</i> Belt	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ The rivers, after descending from the mountains ○ deposit pebbles in a narrow belt of about 8 to 16 km in width ○ lying parallel to the slopes of the Shiwaliks. ○ All the streams disappear in this <i>bhabar</i> belt
2. <i>Terai</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Lies South of this belt ○ the streams and rivers re-emerge ○ create a wet, swampy and marshy region ○ . This was a thickly forested region full of wildlife ○ The forests have been cleared to create agricultural land and to settle migrants from Pakistan after partition.
3. <i>bhangar</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ The largest part of the northern plain is formed of older alluvium. ○ They lie above the flood plains of the rivers and present a terrace like feature. ○ The soil in this region contains calcareous deposits locally known as <i>kankar</i>
4. <i>khadar</i> .	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ The newer, younger deposits of the flood plains. ○ They are renewed almost every year and so are fertile. ○ ideal for intensive agriculture.

V The Peninsular Plateau Map (slide 7)

- The Peninsular plateau is a tableland composed of the old crystalline, igneous and metamorphic rocks.
- It was formed due to the breaking and drifting of the Gondwana land and thus, making it a part of the oldest landmass.
- The plateau has broad and shallow valleys and rounded hills.
- This plateau consists of two broad divisions, namely, (slide 8)
the Central Highlands and
the Deccan Plateau.

A) Central Highlands

- ❖ 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 Vindhyan range is bounded by the Central Highlands on the south and the Aravalis on the northwest.
- ❖ The further westward extension gradually merges with the sandy and rocky desert of Rajasthan.
- ❖ The flow of the rivers draining this region, namely the Chambal, the Sind, the Betwa and Ken is from southwest to northeast, thus indicating the slope.
- ❖ The Central Highlands are wider in the west but narrower in the east.
- ❖ The eastward extensions of this plateau are
Bundelkhand and Baghelkhand.
- ❖ The Chotanagpur plateau marks the further eastward extension, Drained by the Damodar river.
