

HAND OUTS (3/3)
PHYSICAL FEATURES OF INDIA

Acknowledgment

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

Deccan Plateau

- a triangular landmass that lies to the south of the river Narmada.
- Satpura range flanks its broad base in the north
- The Mahadev, the Kaimur hills and the Maikal range form its eastern extensions .
- It 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 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.

A. Western Ghats

- Lies parallel to the western coast.
- They are continuous and can be crossed through passes only.
- The Western Ghats are higher than the Eastern Ghats.
- Their average elevation is 900– 1600 metres.

B Eastern Ghats

- Its average height is 600 metres.
- The Eastern Ghats stretch from the Mahanadi Valley to the Nilgiris in the south.
- The Eastern Ghats are discontinuous and irregular and dissected by rivers draining into the Bay of Bengal.
- the Doda Betta (2,637metres). Mahendragiri (1,501 metres) is the highest peak in the Eastern Ghats.
- Shevroy Hills and the Javadi Hills are located to the southeast of the Eastern Ghats.
- Famous hill stations are Udagamandalam, popularly known as Ooty and the Kodaikanal.

Important features of Peninsular Plateau

- One of the distinct features of the peninsular plateau is the black soil area known as Deccan Trap.
- This is of volcanic origin hence the rocks are igneous. Actually these rocks have denuded over time and are responsible for the formation of black soil.
- The Aravali Hills lie on the western and northwestern margins of the central highlands

The Indian Desert

- The Indian desert lies towards the western margins of the Aravali Hills.
- It is an undulating sandy plain covered with sand dunes.
- This region receives very low rainfall below 150 mm per year.
- It has arid climate with low vegetation cover.
- Streams appear during the rainy season. Soon after they disappear into the sand as they do not have enough water to reach the sea.
- Luni is the only large river in this region.

Coastal Plains

1. Western Coastal plains	The <i>western coast</i> , sandwiched between the Western Ghats and the Arabian Sea, is a narrow plain	
a. Northern part	Konkan Coast	
b. Middle part	Kannad Coast	
c. Lower part	Malabar Coast	
2. Eastern coastal plains		
a. Northern part	Northern Circar	
b. Southern part	Coromandel Coast	
c. Rivers	the Mahanadi, the Godavari, the Krishna and the Kaveri	
d. Lake	Chilika	largest salt water lake in India. It lies in the state of Orissa, to the south of the Mahanadi delta.

The Islands

<p>Kavaratti island is the administrative headquarters of Lakshadweep.</p> <p>This island group has great diversity of flora and fauna.</p> <p>The Pitti island, which is uninhabited, has a bird sanctuary</p>	<p>The Andaman in the north and the Nicobar in the south.</p> <p>It is believed that these islands are an elevated portion of submarine mountains</p>
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