

ATOMIC ENERGY EDUCATION SOCIETY

STUDY MATERIAL

CLASS -6 GEOGRAPHY CHAPTER-7

OUR COUNTRY INDIA

MODULE-3

PHYSICAL DIVISIONS

The land of India displays great physical variation. India is marked by a diversity of physical features such as mountains, plateaus, plains, coasts and islands.

The physical features of India can be grouped under the following physical divisions:-

- (1) The Himalayan Mountains
- (2) The Northern Plains
- (3) The Indian Desert
- (4) The Peninsular Plateau
- (5) The Coastal Plains
- (6) The Islands

(1) The Himalayan Mountains: - Him+alaya mean 'the abode (house) of snow'. The Himalayan mountains are divided into **three main parallel** ranges.

a) The northernmost is the **Great Himalaya or Himadri**. The world's highest peaks are located in this range.

b) **Middle Himalaya or Himachal** lies to the south of Himadri. Many popular hill stations are situated here.

c) The **Shiwalik** is the southernmost range.

(2) The Northern Plains: - The Northern Indian plains lie to the south of the Himalayas. They are generally level and flat. These are formed by the alluvial deposits laid down by the rivers– the Indus, the Ganga, the Brahmaputra and their tributaries. These river plains provide fertile land for cultivation. That is the reason for high concentration of population in these plains.

(3) The Indian Desert: - In the western part of India in Rajasthan lies the Great Indian desert, the Thar desert. It is a dry, hot and sandy stretch of land. It has very little vegetation.

(4) The Peninsular Plateau: - To the south of northern plains lies the Peninsular plateau. It is triangular in shape. This is a region with numerous hill ranges and valleys.

a) **Aravali hills**, one of the oldest ranges of the world, border it on the north-west side. **The Vindhyas and the Satpuras** are the important ranges.

b) The rivers **Narmada and Tapi** flow through these ranges. These are westflowing rivers that drain into **the Arabian Sea**.

c) The **Western Ghats or Sahyadris** border the plateau in the west and the Eastern Ghats provide the eastern boundary.

(5) The Coastal Plains:-To the West of the Western Ghats and the East of Eastern Ghats lie the Coastal plains.

a) The western coastal plains are very narrow. The eastern Coastal plains are much broader.

b) There are a number of east flowing rivers. The rivers **Mahanadi, Godavari, Krishna and Kaveri** drain into the **Bay of Bengal**.

c) The Sunderban delta (world's largest delta) is formed where the Ganga and Brahmaputra flow into the Bay of Bengal.

(6) The Islands:-Two groups of islands also form part of India:

a) Lakshadweep Islands are located in the Arabian Sea. These are coral islands located off the coast of Kerala.

b) The Andaman and the Nicobar Islands lie to the southeast of the Indian mainland in the Bay of Bengal.

Tsunami: - Tsunami is a huge sea wave generated due to an earthquake on the sea floor.

Source:- Class-6, NCERT textbook Geography(The Earth our Habitat)

Chapter-7, Our Country India (page number 51, 52 & 54)

