

Chapter-3

1. What is the significance of the Tropic of Cancer to India?

Ans.1 The Tropic of Cancer is the circle marking the latitude 23.5 degrees north, where the sun is directly overhead at noon on June 21, the beginning of summer in the northern hemisphere. The Tropic of Cancer divides India into two halves. The northern half lies in the temperate zone and experiences cool winters.

2. What is the latitudinal and the longitudinal location of India?

Ans.2 The latitudinal extent of mainland India is from $8^{\circ} 4'$ to $37^{\circ} 6'$ and if you measure the latitudinal extent of India from Andaman and Nicobar islands, it starts from $6^{\circ} 7'$. The longitudinal extent of India is from $68^{\circ} 7'$ to $97^{\circ} 25'$. So the difference between east to west is of 29° of longitudes.

3. Name the five physical divisions of India?

Ans.3 India may be divided broadly into five physical units -The Great Mountains of the north; The north Indian plain; The Peninsular Plateau; The coastal plains; The Islands.

4. On the basis of altitude, what are the three subdivisions of the northern mountains?

Ans.4 The longitudinal, narrow, flat topped valleys lying between mountain ranges like himachal range and shivalik range are known as duns. Examples of duns are dehradun, patli dun, kotli dun. Duns are longitudinal valleys that developed as a consequence of overlapping when the Indian plate and Eurasian plate collided.

5. What are known as 'Duns' in the Shiwaliks? Give an example of a Dun.

Ans.5 Longitudinal valleys between the lesser himalayas and shiwaliks are known as 'duns' in the west and 'duars' in the east. Dehra Dun, Kothari Dun and Patli Dun are the important examples.

6. What is the approximate height of the Himachal range?

Ans.6 The height of the Himachal range varies from 1500 m to 4500m. Many hill stations such as Darjeeling, Shimla and Nainital are situated here.

7. What is known as 'Aspect effect'? How does it affect the growth of vegetation in the Himalayan region?

Ans.7 Aspect refers to the position of a mountain slope in relation to the direction of the Sun's rays.

The aspect of a hillside defines significant factors like sun light, wind, Rain and temperature variation. All these factor limit the growing conditions for many plant species and their associated animal species that feed or shelter there.

8. What are the four major advantages of Himalayas of India?

Ans.8 Four advantages of Himalayas:-

- i. They obstruct the dry cold winds from Tibet. In the absence of the Himalayas, Northern India would have been a cold desert.
- ii. The Himalayan mountain ranges obstruct the moist monsoon winds. As a result, India gets maximum rainfall.
- iii. Various types of forests are found on the slopes of the Himalayas.
- iv. The Himalayan ranges are ideal regions for the development of tourism.

9. Which is the highest peak in India?

Ans.9 The K-2 (Godwin Austin) peak in this range is the highest peak in India, Ht. 8611 m.

10. What are the four subdivisions of the northern plains?

Ans.10 The four subdivisions of the northern plains are:-

- i. The Plains of Rajasthan
- ii. The Punjab-Haryana Plains
- iii. The Ganga Plains
- iv. The Brahmaputra Plains.

11. What are the four advantages of the northern plains to India?

Ans.11 Advantages of the Northern Plains of India are:-

- i. The plains are termed as the 'Granary of India' due to the fertile soil leading to higher agriculture production in this region.
- ii. Agriculture is developed more due to the presence of many perennial rivers and canals that provide the necessary irrigation facilities.
- iii. Due to high ground water table, the region is also famous for well irrigation.
- iv. It is one of the densest populated regions of India.

12. What is the approximate height of the plateau of India?

Ans12 It covers a total area of about 16 lakh sq. km (India as a whole is 32 lakh sq. km). The average height of the plateau is 600-900 m above sea level, varies from region to region.

13. Name the countries that share their land boundary with India?

Ans.13 India shares its land boundaries with Pakistan and Afghanistan in the northwest, China (Tibet), Nepal and Bhutan in the north and Myanmar and Bangladesh in the east.

14. Which is the highest peak in South India?

Ans.14 Kalsubai is a mountain in the Western Ghats, located in the Indian state of Maharashtra. Its summit situated at an elevation of 1646 metres is the highest point in Maharashtra. The mountain range lies within the Kalsubai Harishchandragad Wildlife Sanctuary.

15. List any four important aspects of the northern plateau region to India.

Ans.15 Four important aspects of the northern plateau region to India are:-

- i. It provides various types of building material such as basalt, marble, cuddapah, etc.
- ii. The forests of this region provide valuable wood such as teak, sal, mahogany and many other forest products.
- iii. Many rivers with steep slopes in their courses provide good opportunities for the development of hydel power generation.
- iv. This region is also rich in varied medicinal plants.

16. List any three differences between The eastern coastal plains and the western coastal plains.

(NOTE:- Write any 3 points of your choice.)

Ans.16 Differences between The eastern coastal plains and the western coastal plains are:-

- i. The Eastern Coastal plain lies along the east coast of India and is washed by the Bay of Bengal.
But the Western Coastal Plain lies along the west coast of India and is washed by The Arabian Sea.
- ii. The East Coast plain runs smoothly from the north to the south with a broad plain and level surface.
But the West Coast plain also runs from the north to the south and it is in some places intersected by the mountain ridges.
- iii. Eastern Coastal Plain is broader than the West Coast plain. The width varies from 80 to 100 km. But the Eastern Coastal Plain is narrow with a width of 50 to 65 km. In some places it is so narrow that the Western Ghats touch the Sea water.

iv. The large rivers make wide deltas on the Eastern Coastal Plains. But the short swift rivers do not make any deltas on the West Coast.

v. The Eastern Coast is sandy with alluvium and slopes gently towards the sea. Sand dunes and marshy lands are also found. In some Coastal strips lagoons (Chilka, Pulicat) are formed.

But the Western Coast is relatively rocky with sand and sand dunes. It slopes abruptly down to the sea. There is no lagoon on the northern part. It has many estuaries on the Konkon Coast. But the southern part especially the Malabar Coast has the beautiful scene of back-water country with a series of lagoons.

vi. The Eastern Coast is smooth and unfit for making ports. So, very few ports are developed there.

But the Western Coast is broken and indented and suitable for ports. For this, a large number of ports are there.

vii. This Coastal plain receives comparatively low rainfall.

But the Western Coastal plain receives heavy rainfall.

viii. The East Coast Plain is formed by fine alluvial soil and is fertile especially on the deltas. Consequently agriculture is developed. The West Coast Plain lies along the west coast of India and is washed by the Arabian Sea.

But the West Coast Plain is formed by coarse grained soil. It is infertile and agriculturally not prosperous except in the Malabar Coast.

17. Name the three famous lakes along the eastern coastal plains.

Ans.17 In Eastern Coastal plain, there is the Kolleru lake which situated in the delta region of Godavari and the Krishna Rivers. Chilka lake and Pulicat lake are best example of lagoon which is also found in this region.

18. Name the three important ports along the western coast of India.

Ans.18 There are major ports located at west coast of India i.e. Kandla Port (Gujarat), Mumbai (Maharashtra), Navasheva (Jawaharlal Nehru Port), Murmagoa, New Mangalore (Karnataka), and Kochi (Kerala).

19. Which narrow water body separates the Andaman and Nicobar group of islands?

ANS.19 The Ten Degree Channel is a channel that separates the Andaman Islands and Nicobar Islands from each other in the Bay of Bengal.

20. Which island group of India is believed to be the islands of coral origin?

Ans.20 Lakshadweep is the island group of India having coral origin. They are a type of coral reefs which are known as Atolls that is circular or horse-shoe shaped reefs.