

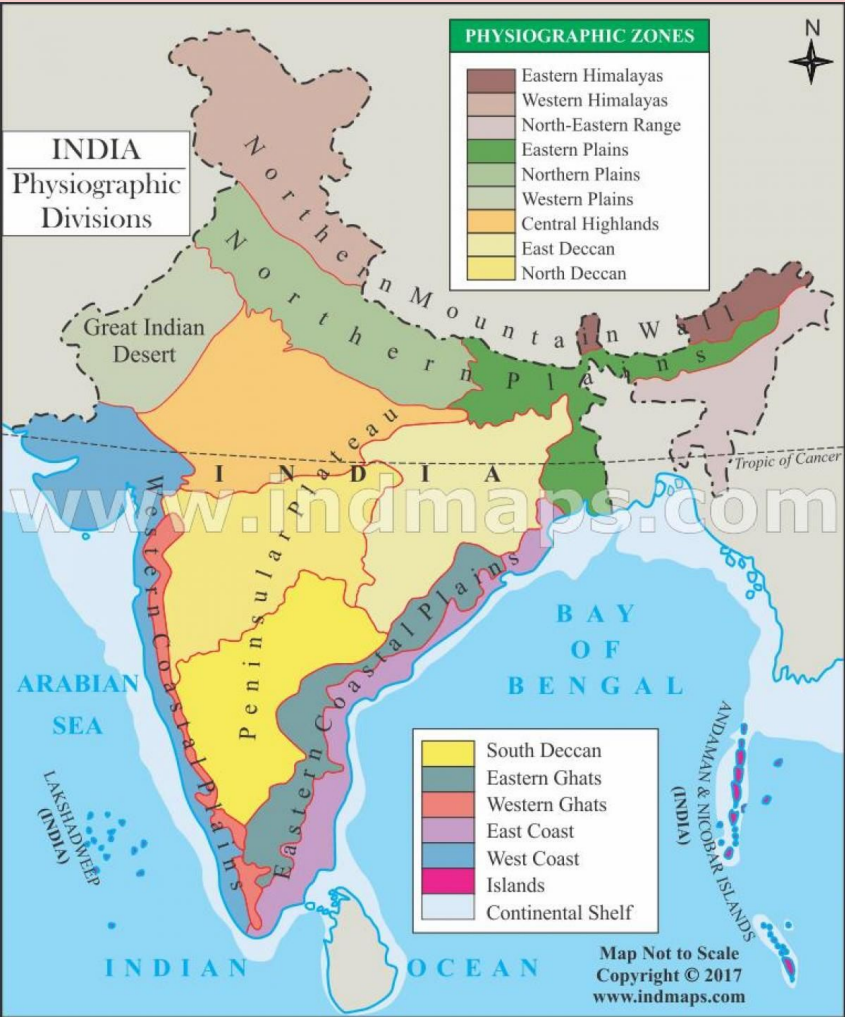
India

Physical Features



Northern Plains

The Northern Indian plains lie to the south of the Himalayas.



Some plains are extremely levelled. Others may be of the rolling or “smoothly rising and falling” kind.

This plain land is formed by the alluvial deposits laid down by the rivers - the Indus, the Ganga, the Brahmaputra and their tributaries.



Alluvial deposits : This is very fine soil, brought in by rivers and deposited in the river basins.

Tributary : A river or stream which joins a larger river by discharging all its water into it.

Rivers flow down the slopes of mountains and erode them. They then carry forward the eroded material. Finally, the river deposits its load consisting of stones, sand and silt along the course of the river and in valleys along the way. It is from these deposits that plains are formed.



These river plains provide fertile land for cultivation. Construction of transport networks along these plains is easy. Thus, in India too, the Indo-Gangetic plains are the most thickly-populated regions of the country.

The Northern Plains



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Rice, wheat, sugar cane, millets,
Jute, and maize are some crops
grown in here.

The Great Indian Desert

In the western part of India lies the Great Indian Desert. It is a dry, hot and sandy stretch of land.

It is an undulated sandy plains covered with sand dunes. This region receives very low rainfall and has very little vegetation.



Life in the Desert

Plants, animals and other organisms that live in deserts have evolved to survive harsh weather conditions. In the desert water is scarce and landscape is mostly barren.



Animals have adapted to get water from the food they eat and to conserve what little they eat. They often come out only at night to avoid the worst of the heat.

The Thar Desert

The Thar Desert is located partly in Rajasthan state, northwestern India, and partly in Punjab and Sindh provinces, eastern Pakistan.



The Thar desert receives very little rainfall.

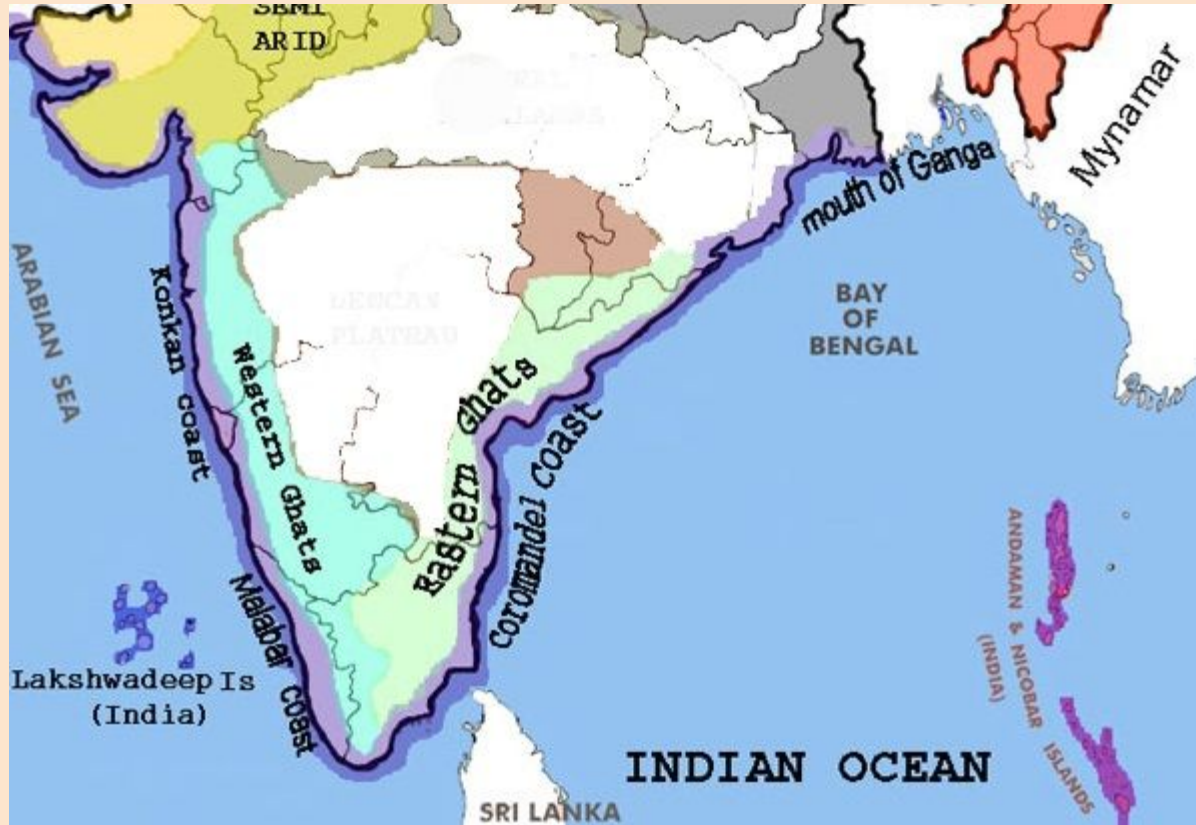
The Peninsular Plateau

The plateau is an elevated flat land. It is a flat-topped tableland standing above the surrounding area. A plateau may have one or more sides with steep slopes.

The Deccan plateau in India is one of the oldest plateaus.

A **peninsula** is a piece of land that is almost entirely surrounded by water but is connected to the mainland on one side.






Indian Peninsular Plateau lies in the south of northern plains. The area is highly uneven. This is a region with numerous hills ranges and valleys. The Western ghat/Sahyadris border the plateau in the west, and the Eastern Ghats provide the eastern boundary.

Plateau are very useful because they are rich in mineral deposits. As a result, many of the mining areas in the world are located in the plateau regions.



A large, flat-topped mountain, characteristic of the Deccan Plateau, dominates the center of the image. The mountain has a reddish-brown hue and a distinct flat top. In the background, a town with several buildings is visible under a clear blue sky. The foreground shows some sparse, dry vegetation.

Some places of the Deccan Plateau experience semi-arid climate while other places have warm climate

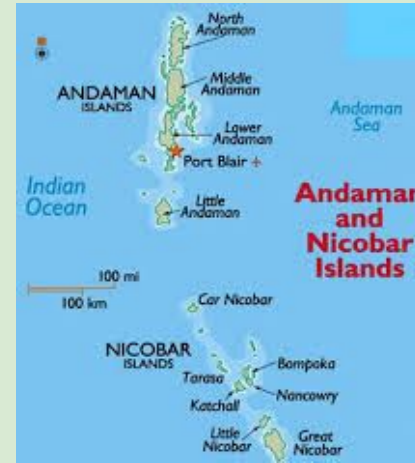
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The Islands of India

Besides the vast mainland, India has two groups of islands.

Lakshadweep Islands are in the Arabian Sea.

These are coral islands located off the coast of Kerala.



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

Islands of India



The Coastal plains and the Islands of India



