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— R K JAIN —

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ICSE GEOGRAPHY

Class 10

Chapter 5: India – Location, Extent and
Physical Features

The region bounded by the young fold mountains in the northwest, north and northeast and surrounded by water bodies in the south, is called the Indian Subcontinent.

With an area of about 3.28 million sq km, India is the seventh largest country in the world after Russia, Canada, USA, China, Brazil and Australia. The area of India is about 2.4 per cent of the total area of the world.

LOCATION AND EXTENT

- ❖ India is situated in the northern and eastern hemispheres and is located almost midway between the southeast and southwest Asia.
- ❖ The mainland of India extends from about $8^{\circ}4'N$ to $37^{\circ}6'N$ latitudes and from about $68^{\circ}7'E$ to $97^{\circ}25'E$ longitudes. Thus, the latitudinal and the longitudinal extent of India is about 30° each.
- ❖ The Tropic of Cancer ($23^{\circ}30'N$) passes through the middle of 8 Indian States (Gujarat, Rajasthan, Madhya Pradesh, Chhattisgarh, Jharkhand, West Bengal, Tripura and Mijoram) and divides the country into almost two equal halves.
- ❖ The north–south extent of the mainland of India from Ladakh in the north to Kanniyakumari in the south is about 3,214 km, while the east–west extent from the Rann of Kachchh in the west to Arunachal Pradesh in the east is about 2,933 km.
- ❖ The land boundary of India is about 15,200 km long and it is common with Pakistan and Afghanistan in the northwest; China, Nepal and Bhutan in the north; Bangladesh and Myanmar in the east.

- ❖ The coastline of the mainland of India is about 6,100 km, while the total coastline is about 7,517 km, including all the islands.
- ❖ The southernmost tip of the mainland of India is Kanniyakumari, but for the whole country it is Indira Point in the Great Nicobar Islands. Indira Point was submerged in sea water during tsunami of 2004.



Location of India in the World

- ❖ The nearest neighbour of India in the south across the sea is Sri Lanka, which is separated from India by a narrow channel called the Palk Strait. The eight degree channel forms the boundary between Lakshadweep Islands (India) and Maldives.



Extent of India and her neighbouring countries

POLITICAL DIVISIONS

At the time of Independence in 1947, India was divided into 562 princely states. In independent India, the states have been reorganised a number of times. Today, India is divided into 28 States and 8 Union Territories, including the National Capital Territory of Delhi.

1. Rajasthan is the largest state and Goa is the smallest state with respect to area.
2. Uttar Pradesh is the largest state and Sikkim is the smallest state with respect to population (according to the Census 2011)
3. Seventeen states have common land boundary with the neighbouring countries. Find out their names.
4. Nine states have coastline. Find out their names.
5. Seven states in the northeastern part of India are called Seven Sisters. Find out their names.



India; Political divisions

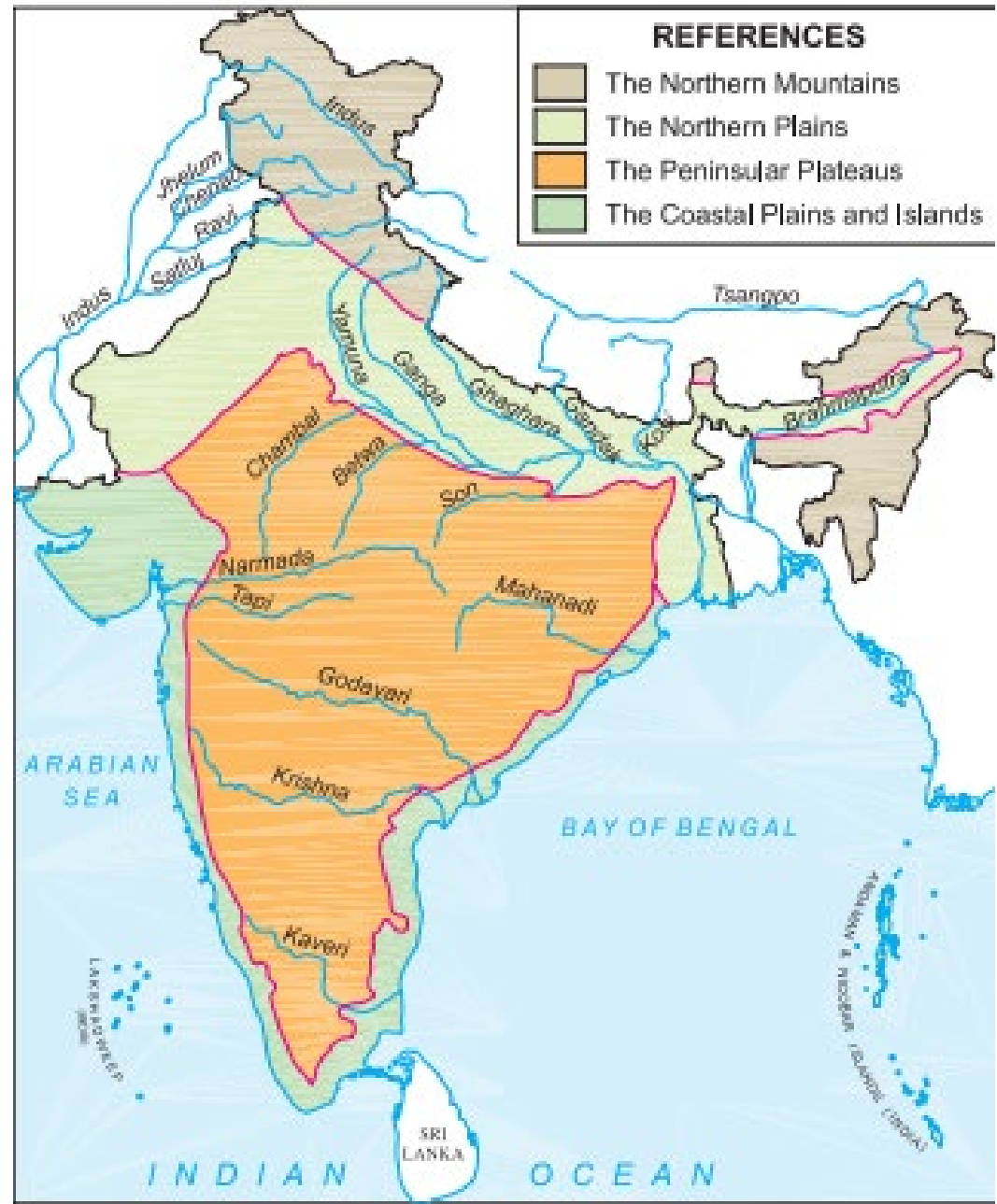
THE PHYSICAL FEATURES

On the basis of tectonic history and relief features, India can be divided into the following four major physical divisions:

1. the Northern Mountains,
2. the Northern Plains,
3. the Peninsular Plateaus, and
4. the Coastal Plains and Islands.

THE NORTHERN MOUNTAINS

A number of young fold mountain ranges radiate in all directions from the Pamir Knot. The mountain ranges enclose very high plateaus and desert basins. The Plateau of Tibet is known as the 'Roof of the World'. Along the frontiers of India, Nepal and Bhutan lie the Great Himalaya mountains and the Karakoram range.



India – Physical divisions

The Himalaya mountains

The Himalaya mountains, known as the abode of snow, lie between the Indus river in the west and the Brahmaputra river in the east.

The Himalayas can be divided into Trans Himalaya, Himalaya and the Eastern hills. The Himalaya mountains have three parallel ranges, such as

1. Greater Himalaya or Himadri
2. Middle Himalaya or Himachal
3. Shiwalik ranges

1.Himadri

Himadri (more than 6,000 metres high) is the highest range in the world. Mt. Everest also called Sagarmatha (8,848 metres high) is the highest mountain peak in the world and Mt. Kanchenjunga (8,598 metres high) is the highest peak in the Indian Himalayas. This snow-covered range has many passes, such as Zoji La, Bara Lacha La, Shipki La, Niti Pass, Nathu La, Jelep La, Bomdi La, etc



Mt. Kanchenjunga

2.Himachal

Himachal has the Pir Panjal, Dhauladhar, Mussoorie range, Nag Tibba, etc. The height varies between 3,500 and 4,500 metres. The main passes are Pir Panjal and Banihal Pass. The important hill stations are Shimla, Mussoorie, Nainital, Ranikhet, Darjiling, etc. The Vale of Kashmir lies between the Pir Panjal and the Zaskar ranges

3.The Shiwalik

The Shiwalik ranges lie between Potwar plateau in the west up to the Brahmaputra valley in the east. They are formed of sand and gravel deposited by the Himalayan rivers. This region has Duns and Chos. The Bhabar is along the foothills and terai, a marshy tract, is towards the south of the bhabar tract.



Mt. Godwin Austen (K2)

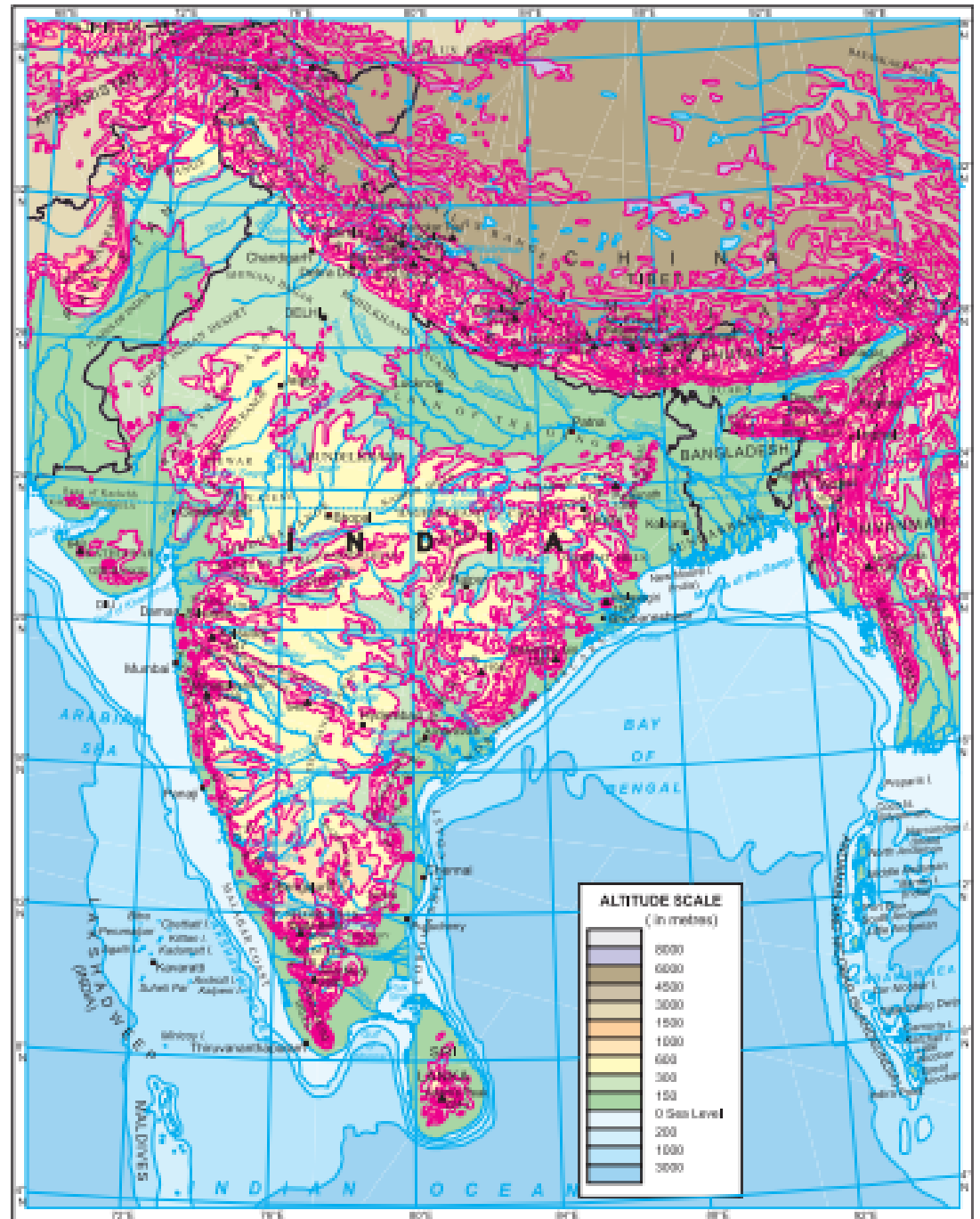
The Trans-Himalayan ranges include the Zaskar, Ladakh and Karakoram ranges. They are towards the north of Himalayas. This region has many peaks and some of the biggest glaciers of the world. K2 or Mt. Godwin Austen (8,611 metres high) is the highest in India and second highest in the world. The Ladakh plateau, the highest in India, is towards the northeast of Karakoram range

The Eastern hills

The Eastern hills, also called the Purvanchal, include Patkai Bum, Naga hills, Manipur hills, Mizo hills and the Meghalaya plateau. The Garo, Khasi and Jaintia are main hill ranges in the Meghalaya plateau. The elevation of the eastern hills decreases from north to south.

THE NORTHERN PLAINS

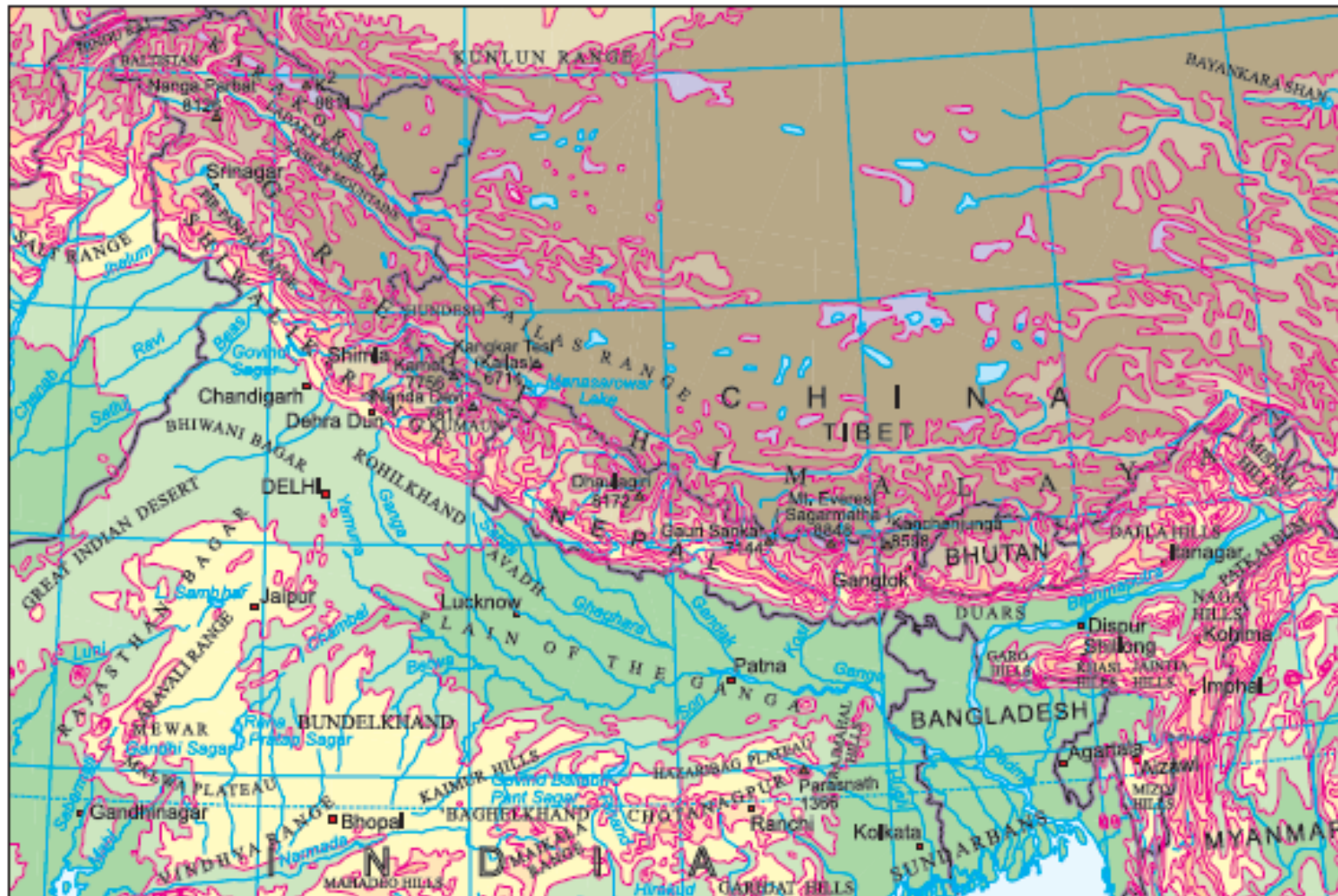
The Northern Plain lies between the northern mountains and the Peninsular plateaus of India. It is the largest alluvial tract between the Indus and Ganga rivers. The monotony of physical landscape is broken by bhabar, terai, bhangar and khadar.



India – Physical features

On the basis of regional variations, it can be divided into the following parts:

1. the Rajasthan plain
2. the Punjab–Haryana plains
3. the Ganga plain, and
4. the Brahmaputra plain



India – Northern mountains and Northern plains

1.The Rajasthan plain is located towards the west of Aravali range and about two-thirds of the region is under desert. It is drained by many seasonal rivers, such as Luni river. In the north of Luni river, there is a large area of inland drainage, which has several dry river beds. Sambhar is the largest saline lake, which is 65 km west of Jaipur.

2.The Punjab-Haryana plains are towards the northeast of Rajasthan plain. In the east, the Delhi ridge separates it from Ganga plain. This plain area is formed by the depositional work of Satluj, Beas and Ravi rivers. The Punjab plain is made up of doabs. The Haryana plain lies between Ghaggar and Yamuna rivers.

3.The Ganga plain is the largest part and extends from Yamuna river in the west up to Bangladesh in the east. It covers the states of Uttar Pradesh, Bihar and West Bengal. The western part is the Ganga-Yamuna doab and towards the east is low-lying Rohilkhand. In the middle part, the Ganga river is sluggish and shifts its course. The main tributaries of Ganga are Gomti, Ghaghra, Gandak, Kosi, Yamuna, Chambal, Son, Betwa, etc.

4.The Brahmaputra plain in the eastern part is drained by the Brahmaputra river and its tributaries. This river is called Tsangpo in Tibet. It enters the Assam valley through the Dihang gorge. There are many marshy tracts in the region. The Brahmaputra river is called the red river because during floods, the water mixes with red soil of Assam and appears red.

THE PENINSULAR PLATEAU

This region lies to the south of the Northern plains and is divided by the Narmada river into two unequal parts—the Central Highlands and the Deccan Plateau. The Peninsular plateau region is surrounded by hill ranges on all sides.

1. The Central Highlands

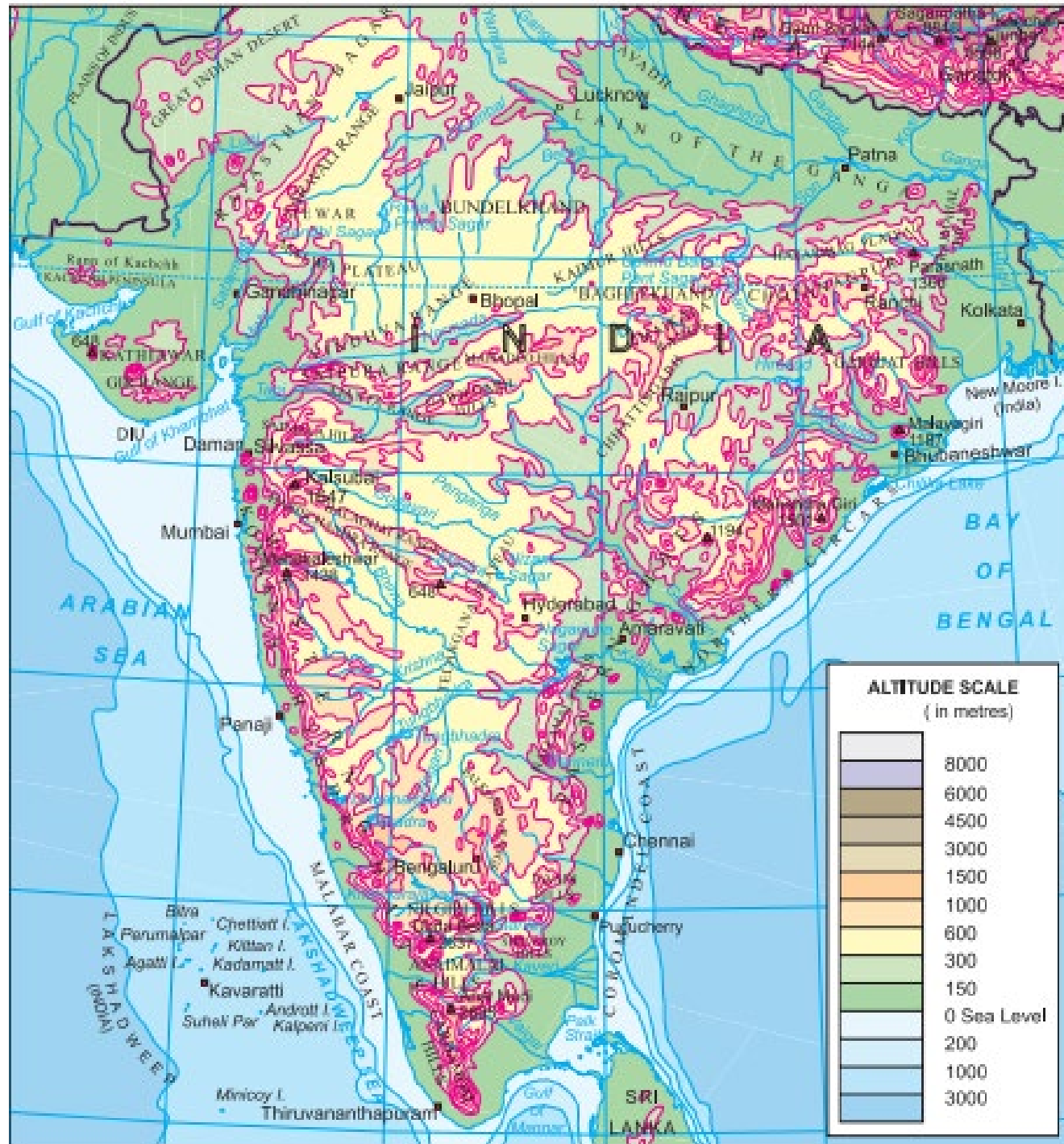
The Central Highlands are towards the north of Narmada river and cover a major area of Malwa plateau. The Malwa plateau is bounded by the Aravali range in the northwest and Vindhya range in the south. The eastward extensions are locally known as the Bundelkhand and the Baghelkhand. The Chotanagapur plateau, drained by Damodar river is the eastward extension of this plateau. The Chambal, Sind, Betwa and Ken rivers flow from southwest to northeast.

2. The Deccan Plateau

The Deccan Plateau is bounded by the Satpura and Vindhya ranges in the northwest, the Mahadev and Maikala ranges in the north, the Western Ghats in the west and the Eastern Ghats in the east. The northern part is known as the Deccan Trap. The Karnataka plateau merges with the Nilgiri hills and the Telangana plateau is drained by the Godavari, Krishna and Penneru rivers. The Satpura range lies between the Narmada and the Tapi rivers.

The Eastern Ghats

The Eastern Ghats are a series of detached hills lying between Mahanadi river in Odisha and Vaigai river in Tamil Nadu. Godavari valley divides the Eastern Ghats into two parts. Mahendra Giri (1,501 metres high) is the highest peak in northern part. Nallamala range forms the southern part. Udagamandalam is a hill station at the foot of Doda Beta in the Nilgiris.



India – Northern mountains and Northern plains

THE COASTAL PLAINS AND THE ISLANDS

The Deccan Plateau is surrounded by coastal plains on the eastern and western sides. It extends from the Rann of Kachchh in the west to the Ganga-Brahmaputra delta in the east. The western coast has three sections, that is, Konkan (northern part), Kannad (central part) and Malabar coast (southern part). The Eastern Coastal Plain lies between the Eastern Ghats and the Bay of Bengal. The coastal plain between Mahanadi and Krishna rivers is called Northern Circars, while the southern part is called the Coromandel coast.

There are two main groups of islands far away from the coast of India. The Andaman and Nicobar Islands are in the Bay of Bengal, while the Lakshadweep group is in the Arabian Sea. India's only active volcano is found on Barren island in the Andaman and Nicobar group of islands

THANK YOU