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**PRELIMS
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FACT FILE

GEOGRAPHY

02



**INDIAN MOUNTAIN
RANGES & PLATEAU**

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1
MOCK
TEST

13
APRIL

2
MOCK
TEST

19
MAY

3
MOCK
TEST

02
JUNE

TEST
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PAPER 1: 9:30 AM to 11:30 AM
PAPER 2: 01:00 PM to 03:00 PM

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DISCUSSION

ONLINE MODE
5:30 PM on the Day of Test

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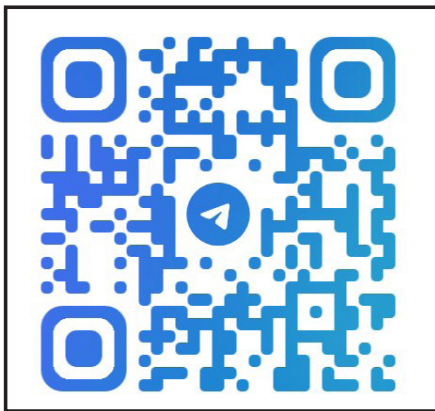
PRELIMS SAMPOORNA

The **UPSC CSE Prelims** exam necessitates the retention of fundamental and pertinent information, crucial from an examination perspective. It's vital to emphasize that candidates should have the **capacity to acquire and review all information** in a unified manner.

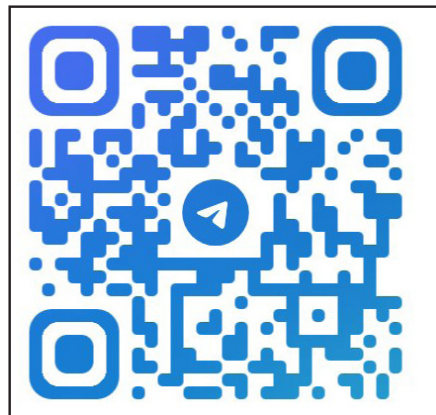
To facilitate this procedure, we have organized all significant and pertinent details according to diverse themes spanning all subjects. The **PRELIMS FACT FILE** series will encompass:

- * Categorization of subjects into assorted themes.
- * Essential and current facts and statistics categorized under each theme.
- * Swift recapitulation of facts.

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RELATIONS

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8

ART &
CULTURE

9

GIST OF INDIA
YEAR BOOK

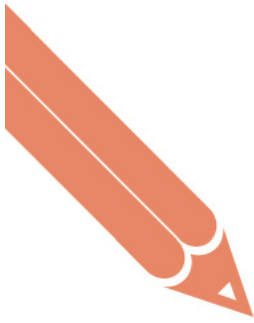


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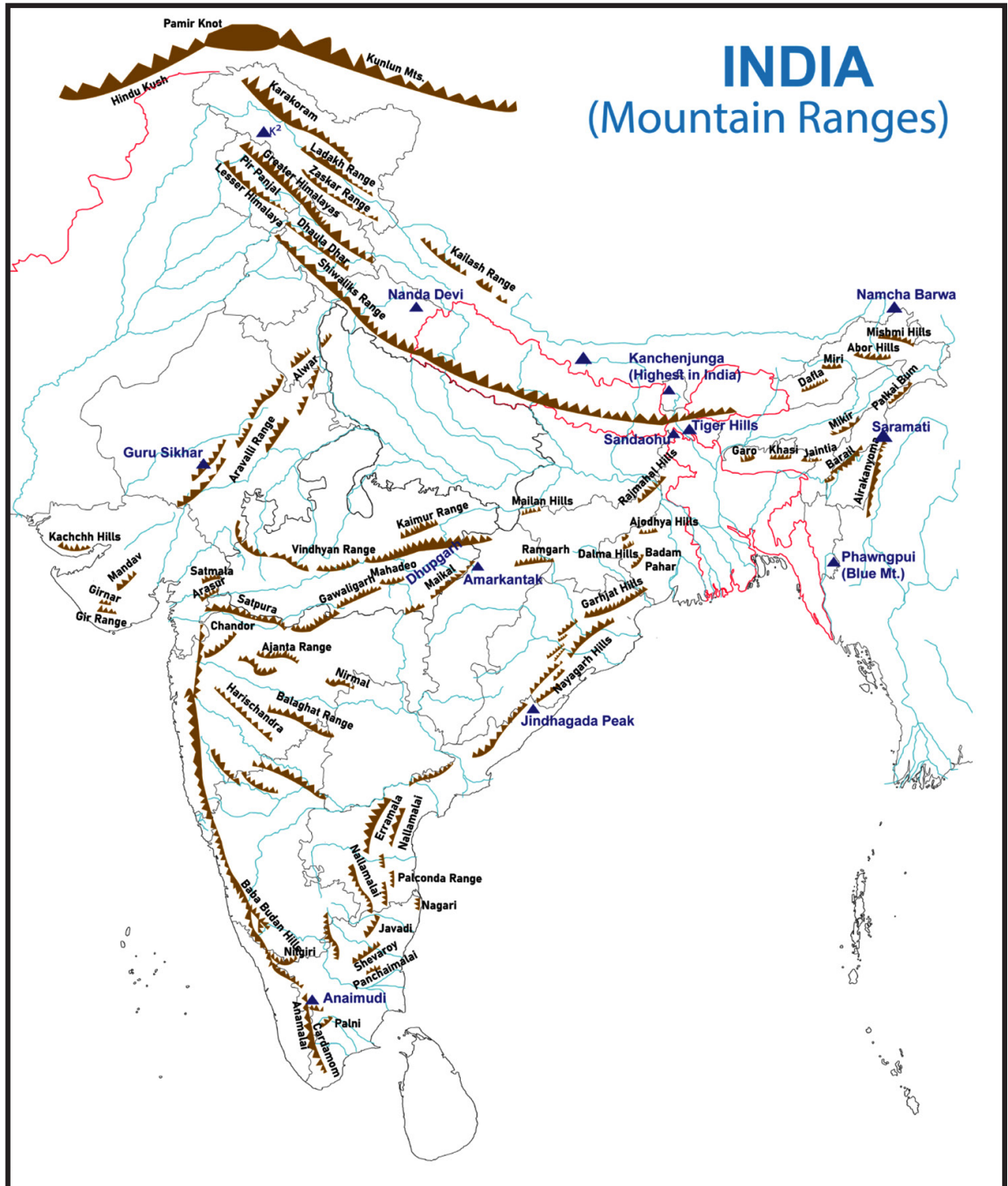


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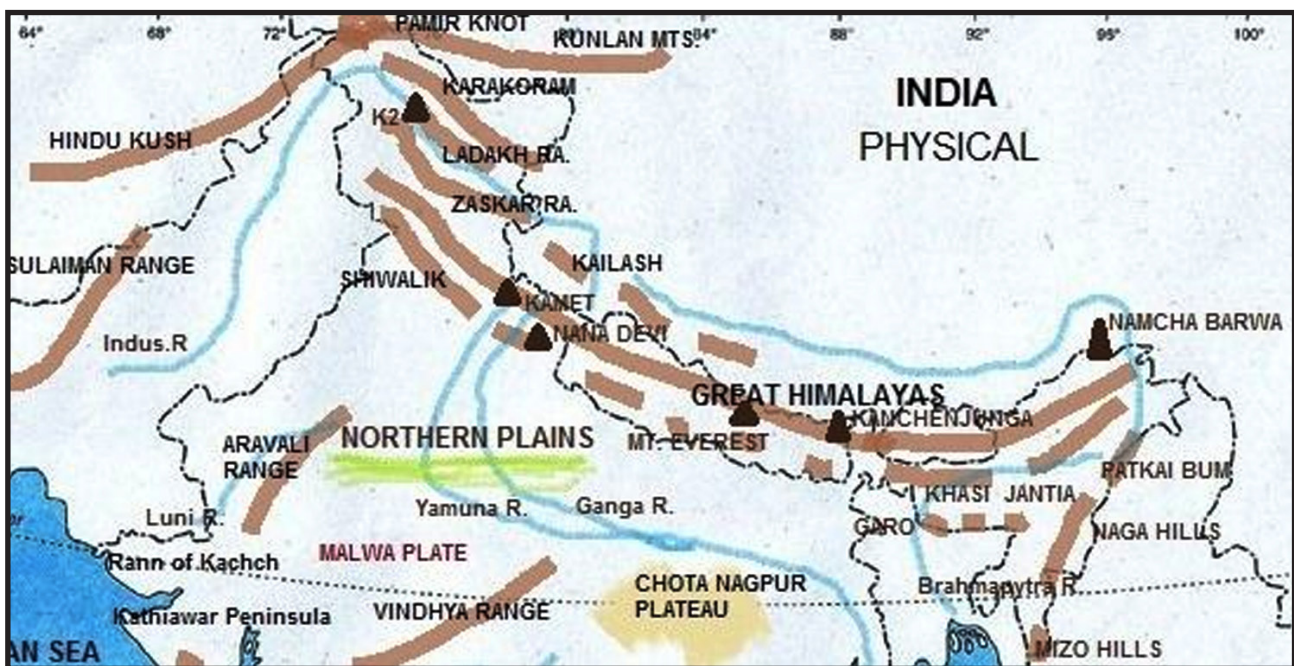
INDIAN MOUNTAIN RANGES & PLATEAU



Mountain Ranges

- Mountain ranges are series of hills or mountains formed mostly due to **Orogeny**.
- They are usually segmented by valleys, passes and highlands.
- India has some of the most diverse mountain systems in the world. From pre-Cambrian mountains (Aravalis) to tertiary period mountains such as the Himalayas.

* THE HIMALAYA RANGE



- Himalayan ranges are a series of multiple parallel and converging ranges.
- Its western anchor, Nanga Parbat, lies just south of the northernmost bend of the Indus River. Its eastern anchor, Namcha Barwa, lies immediately west of the great bend of the Yarlung Tsangpo River.
- The range varies in width from **350 km (220 mi) in the west to 150 km (93 mi) in the east**.
- Due to the Tibet plateau the northern slopes of Himalayas have comparatively gentle slopes as compared to southern slopes which are steeper.

Geography

- Lifted by the subduction of the Indian tectonic plate under the Eurasian Plate, the Himalayan mountain range runs west-northwest to east-southeast in an arc 2,400 km (1,500 mi) long.
- The peaks of Dhaulagiri and Annapurna in Nepal, separated by the **Kali Gandaki Gorge** splits the Himalayas into Western and Eastern sections, both ecologically and orographically.

Formation

- 225 million years ago (Ma) India was a large island situated off the Australian coast and separated from Asia by the Tethys Ocean. The Indian plate started moving northwards and closed the Tethys Sea about 50 million years ago.

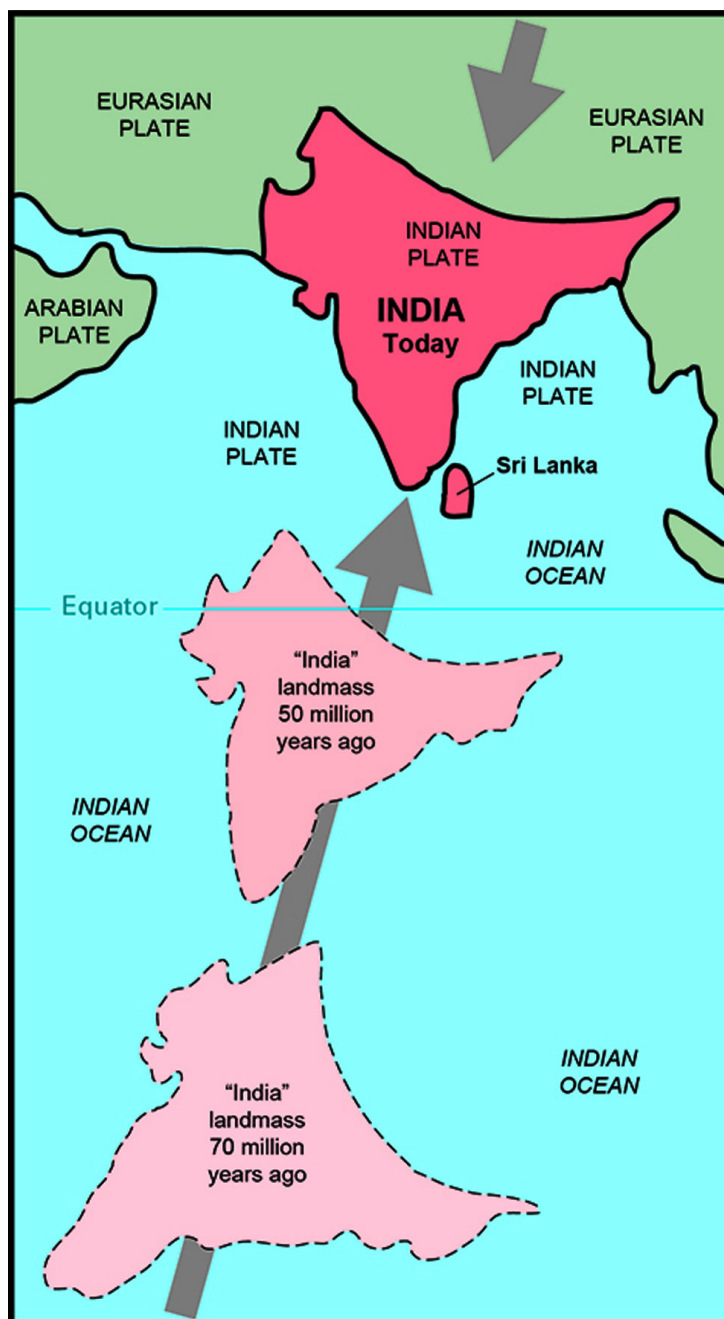
- Himalayas formation is a result of a continental collision or orogeny along the convergent boundary (Main Himalayan Thrust) between the Indo-Australian Plate and the Eurasian Plate which continues till today.

Divisions of Himalayas

- The Shiwaliks (The Outer Himalayas)
- The Lesser Himalayas (The Middle Himalayas or The Himachal)
- The Greater Himalayas (The Himadri)
- The Trans-Himalayas – Tibetan Himalayas
- The Eastern Hills – Purvanchal: chain of hills in North-East India

The Shiwaliks

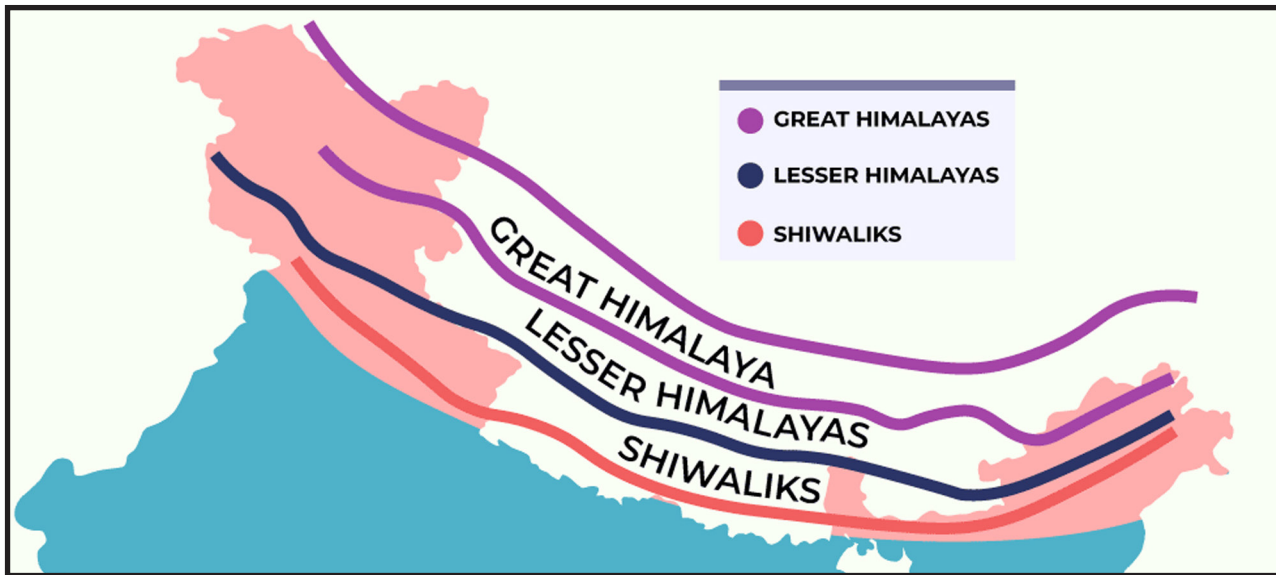
- This is also known as Shiwalik hills or outer Himalayas.
- It was the final range to develop in Himalayas.
- It runs from Potwar Plateau in the west to Brahmaputra valley in the east.
- It is mostly covered in thick forests from Northeast India to Nepal, However the southern slopes of Shiwalik in Punjab and Himachal Pradesh is almost devoid of forest cover.
- Valleys are part of Synclines and hills are part of anticlines.
- The seasonal stream which flows through it is called **Chos**.
- The rivers flowing through Shiwalik carried heavy sediment load especially conglomerates.
- These conglomerates formed sometimes obstructed flow of rivers and formed temporary lakes.
- Later when these lakes were drained out, the lake bed formed plains known as **Doons**.



- Important Duns include **Dehradun**, Kotli Dun, and Patli Dun.

The Lesser Himalayas (The Middle Himalayas or The Himachal)

- The Lesser Himalayas extend for some 1,550 miles (2,500 km) northwest-southeast across the northern limit of the Indian subcontinent.
- The **Pir Panjal** is the largest range of the Lesser Himalayas.
- The **Mussoorie** and **Nag Tibba** range in Uttarakhand denotes the Middle Himalayas.



Passes in pir panjal range

- Pir Panjal Pass (3,480 m), the Bidil (4,270 m), Golabghar Pass (3,812 m) and Banihal Pass (2,835 m).

The Greater Himalayas (the Himadri)

- The Great Himalayas or Greater Himalayas or Himadri is the highest mountain range of the Himalayan Range.
- The world's highest peaks, Mount Everest, as well as other "near-highest" peaks, such as **Kangchenjunga, Lhotse, and Nanga Parbat**, are part of the Greater Himalayas range.
- It is mostly composed of **metamorphosed sediments (limestone)** covering central **crystalline rocks (granites and gneisses)**.
- This range's asymmetrical folds provide **hogback topography**, which is characterized by a long, steep hill or mountain ridge on the south and a mild slope on the north.
- The Himadri **terminates at the syntaxial bends, Namcha barwa** in the north-east and Nanga Parbat in the Northwest.

Passes of the Himadri

- **Burzil pass** and **Zozila** in Jammu and Kashmir
- **Bara Lacha la** and **Shipki la** in Himachal Pradesh
- **Thangla pass, Niti pass** and **Lipulekh** in Uttarakhand
- **Nathu la** and **jelep la** in Sikkim

The Trans Himalayas

- Trans-Himalayas, an eastward continuation of the most northerly ranges of the Himalayas in the southern part of the Tibet is also known as Tibet Himalayas
- It consists of an ill-defined mountain area about 600 miles (1,000 km) long and 140 miles (225 km) wide in the center, narrowing to a 20-mile (32-km) width at the eastern and western ends.
- The Trans-Himalayas mainly composed of granites and volcanic rocks of the Neogene and Paleogene age (i.e., about 2.6 million to 66 million years old).

GEOGRAPHY 02 | Indian Mountain Ranges & Plateau

- They are bounded by the **Kailas (southwest), Nganglong Kangri (north), and Nyainqêntanglha (southeast) mountain ranges** and by the Brahmaputra (Yarlung Zangbo) River (south).
- Unlike the main Himalayas, the mountains are not divided by deep river gorges and lack a definite alignment.
- The highest peak is Mount Kailas (6714 m).
- The northern slopes of the Kailas range are the source of the River Indus.

Purvanchal or Eastern Hills

- The Himalayas' southern extensions, known as the Eastern Hills or Purvanchals, run along India's northeastern border.
- The Purvanchal is the collective name for a group of relatively low hills formed by a sharp southerly bend in the Himalayas at the Dihang Gorge.
- The Patkai and other associated mountain ranges (including the **Mishmi, Naga, Manipur, Tripura, and Mizo hills**) that run through this region are referred to collectively as Purvachal (purva, "east," and achal, "mountain").
- The highest peak in the region is **Mount Dapha** (in Arunachal Pradesh), with an elevation of 15,020 feet (4,578 metres).
- The watershed separating India and Myanmar is formed by the Patkai Bum and Naga Hills.
- The Purvanchal Mountains are composed largely of strong sandstone geological formations.

Punjab Himalayas

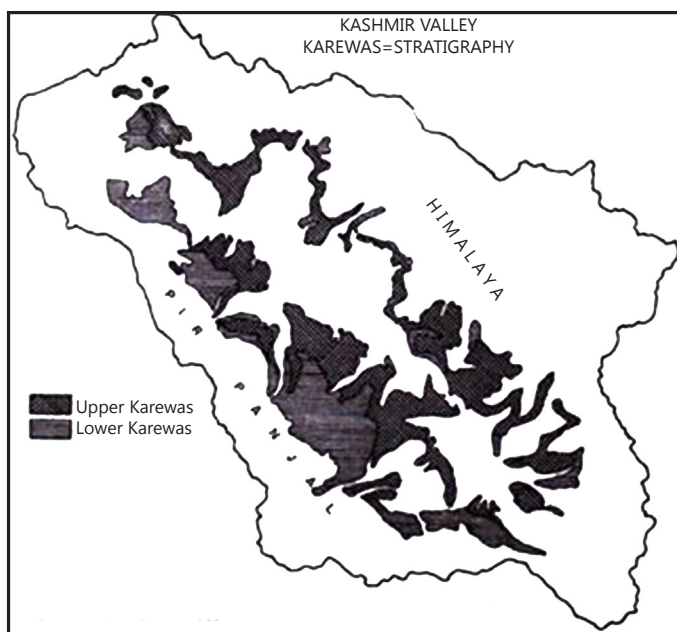
- The Himalayan area, spanning 560 kilometers, between the Indus and Satluj rivers.
- Four of the five tributaries of the Indus River in Punjab (Beas, Chenab, Jhelum, and Ravi) rise in the Western Himalayas; while the fifth, the Sutlej cuts through the range after rising in Tibet.
- Included within the Western Himalayas are the **Zaskar Range, the Pir Panjal Range, and the Dhauladhar Range**, and western parts of the Sivalik Range and the Great Himalayas.

Karewas

- Karewas are lacustrine deposits or deposits in lakes, found in the Jammu Division's Valley of Kashmir and Bhadarwah Valley.
- Karewa plateaus are 13,000-18,000 metre-thick deposits of alluvial soil and sediments like sandstone and mudstone.
- This makes them ideal for cultivation of saffron, almonds, apples and several other cash crops.

Glaciers

- The Himalayas are the **third-largest deposit of ice and snow** in the world, after Antarctica and the Arctic. There are approximately 15,000 glaciers located throughout the range. At 48 miles (72 km) in length, the Himalayan **Siachen glacier** is the largest glacier outside the poles.
- Other notable glaciers located in the Himalayas include the **Baltoro, Biafo, Nubra, and Hispur, Gangotri** in Kumaon Garhwal range.



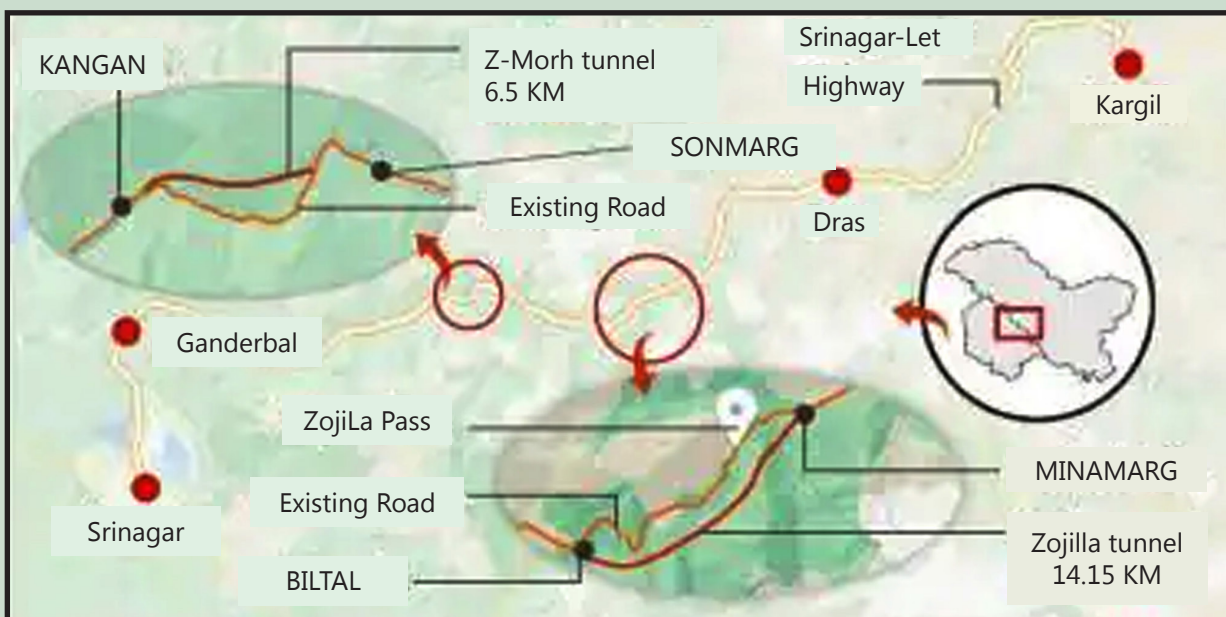
Rivers

- The Himalayas are the source of the **Indus, the Yangtze, and the Ganga-Brahmaputra**. All three are major river systems for the continent of Asia.
- The main rivers sourced in the Himalayas are the **Ganges, Indus, Yarlung, Yangtze, Yellow, Mekong, and Nujiang**.

In News

ZOJI LA PASS

- For the first time Border Roads Organisation (BRO) has kept the Zoji mountain pass open beyond 31st December.

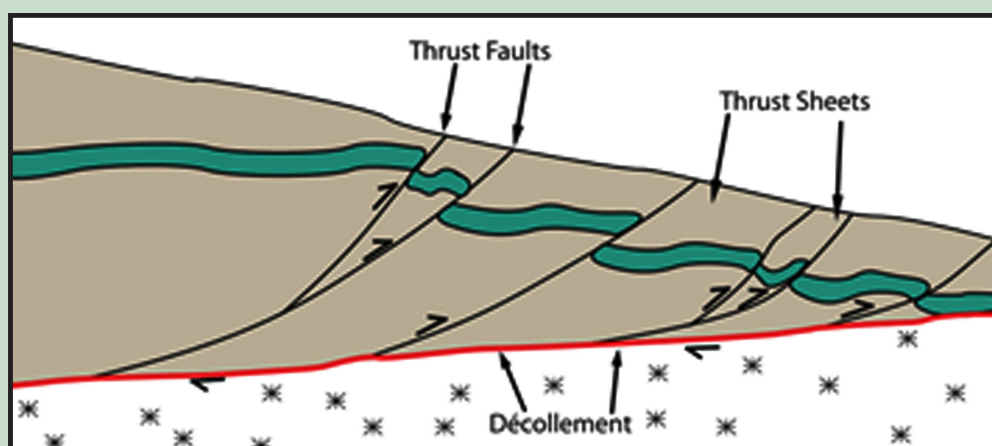


- Zoji La Pass is a high mountain pass at an elevation of 3,528 m (11,575ft) above the sea level, located in the Kargil district of Ladakh.
- It is the strategic link connecting Ladakh to Srinagar and the rest of India.
- Zojila Tunnel is being constructed to provide all-weather connectivity to Ladakh.
- Once completed, at 14.15 km, it will be India's longest road tunnel, and Asia's longest bi-directional tunnel.

Sinking of Joshimath

- The ancient Uttarakhand town has become a cause of concern.
- Located at a height of 6,000 feet in Uttarakhand's Chamoli district, the town on the route to Badrinath and Hemkund Sahib falls in **high-risk seismic 'Zone-V'**.
- It is located on the top of **Main Central Thrust (MCT) line**.
- The geography of entire state of Uttarakhand is fragile. And, Joshimath in particular is situated on old land deposits.

- The Jyotirmath Hindu monastery, one of the most important sites in Hinduism, is here.
- It also has nearby one of the closest military stations to the border with China.
- Ground subsidence, Tunnelling and slope cutting, **Tapovan-Vishnugad hydro project** and ongoing construction of **Helang bypass** are considered as the main reasons.
- **Main Central Thrust (MCT) line**
- In simplest terms, the MCT is a crack or geological fault in Himalayas.
- It is formed due to the collusion of Indo-Australian plate and Eurasian plate.
- The area underneath the MCT is particularly very fragile due to frequent tectonic activities.
- And, therefore, seismic activities are very common in MCT areas.
- The MCT extends for over 2200 km across the Himalayas in northwest-southeast direction. Joshimath is located above the MCT.



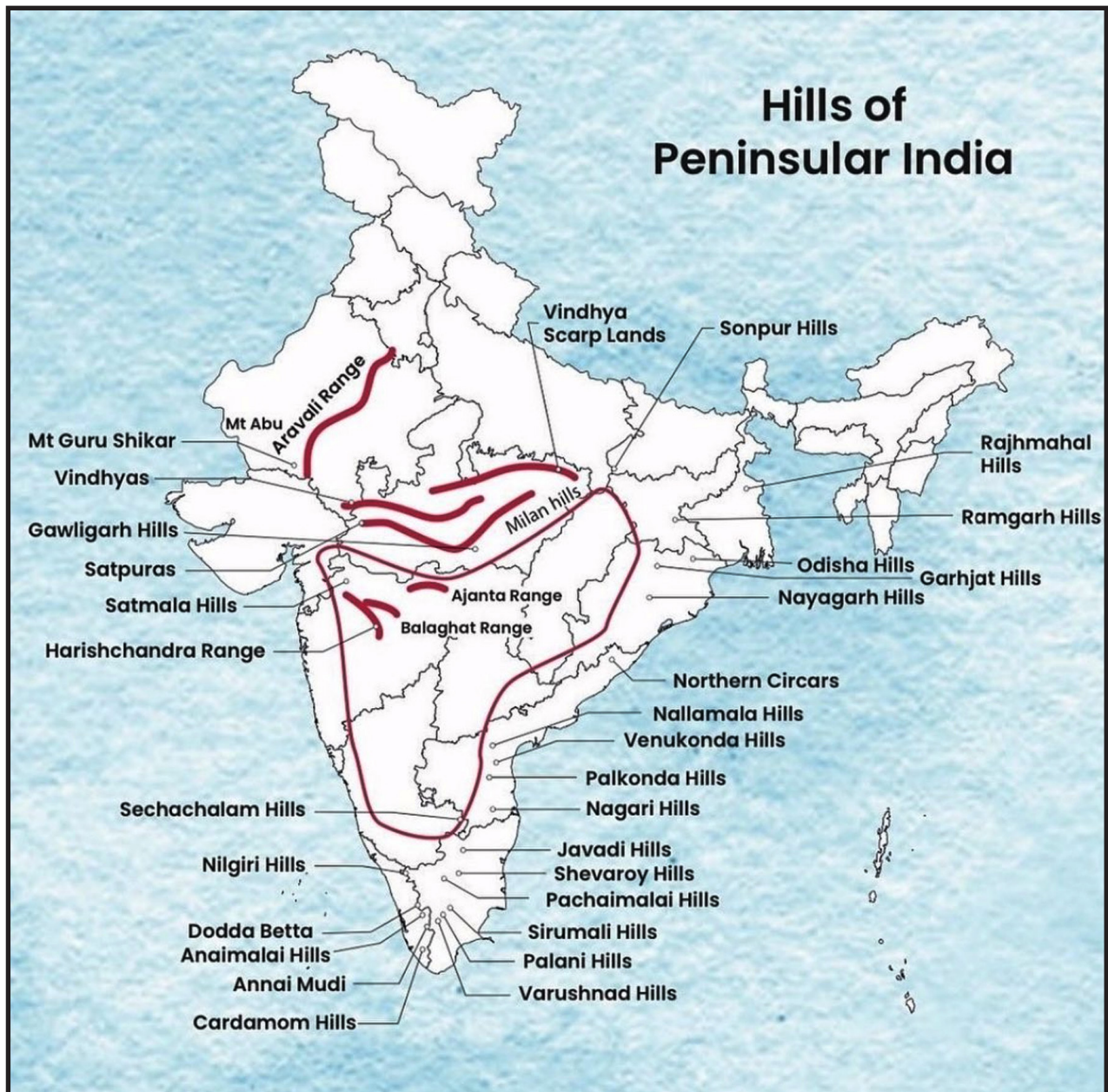
Significance of Himalayas

- They act like a wall that intercepts the summer monsoons coming from the Bay of Bengal and the Arabian Sea, causing precipitation in the entire Ganga Plains, North-Eastern Hills.
- They shield the northern plains from the chilly central Asian continental air masses.
- The Sub-tropical Jet stream in the area is influenced by the Himalayas in its course. They caused the jet stream to split, and this split jet stream is crucial in bringing the monsoons to India.

Vegetation

- The vegetation is diverse, ranging from tropical evergreen to temperate evergreen and coniferous, and includes species of oak, chestnut, birch, magnolia, cherry, maple, laurel, and fig; there are also extensive bamboo thickets.

Mountain Ranges of Peninsular Plateaus



- In the peninsular region, residual hills, or relict hills, make up the majority of the hills.
- These are what's left behind from the horsts and hills that formed millions of years ago (horst: an elevated block, graben: a lowered block).
- These hill ranges and numerous river valleys divide the peninsulas of the Peninsular area from one another.

The Vindhyas Range

Geography

- Vindhya Range, a broken range of hills forming the southern escarpment of the central upland of India.
- From Gujarat state on the west, it extends about 675 miles (1,086 km) across Madhya Pradesh state to abut on the Ganges (Ganga) River valley near Varanasi, Uttar Pradesh.

GEOGRAPHY 02 | Indian Mountain Ranges & Plateau

- The mountains form the southern edge of the Malwa Plateau and then divide into two branches: **the Kaimur Range, running north of the Son River into western Bihar state**, and **the southern branch, running between the upper reaches of the Son and Narmada rivers to meet the Satpura Range in the Maikala Range** (or Amarkantak Plateau).

Highest Peak

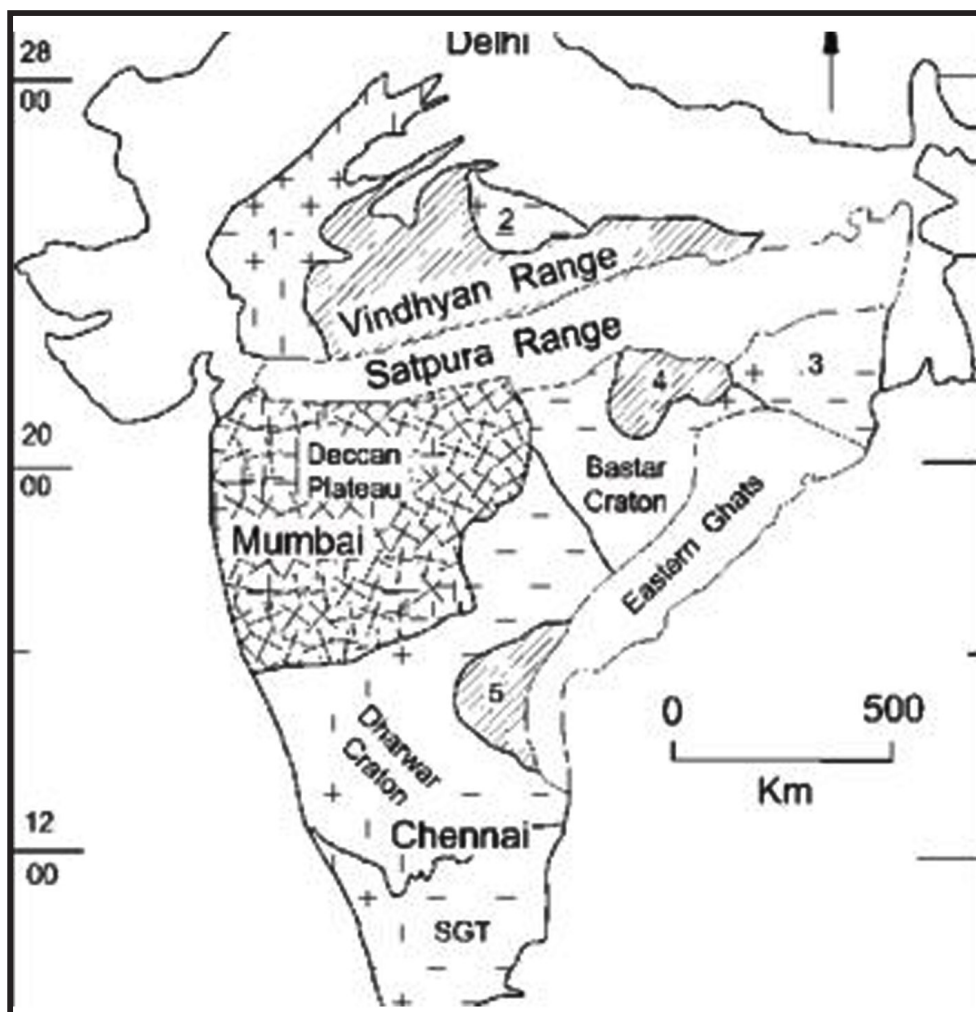
- **Amarkantak is the tallest peak** of Vindhya Range with an elevation of 1,048 m (3,438 ft) in Madhya Pradesh.

Rivers

- It gives rise to the main southern tributaries of the Ganges-Yamuna system, including the Chambal, Betwa, Ken, and Tons rivers.

Satpura Range**Geography**

- Satpura Range, range of hills, part of the Deccan plateau, western India.
- The hills stretch for some 560 miles (900 km) across the widest part of peninsular India, through Maharashtra and Madhya Pradesh states.



Rivers

- Satpura range is triangular with its apex at **Ratnapuri** other two sides being parallel to the **Tapti and Sacred Narmada River**.
- The Narmada and the Tapti are the only major rivers that flow into the Arabian Sea.

Highest Peak

- The highest peak of the Satpura mountain range is **Dhupgarh** with a height of 1,350 m (4,429 ft) in Madhya Pradesh.
- With peaks more than 4,000 feet (1,200 metres) high, the Satpura Range includes the Mahadeo Hills to the north, the Maikala Range to the east, and the Rajpipla Hills to the west.

Vegetation

- It is largely forested, dissected plateau country, and it contains valuable teak stands in the west.

The Aravalis Range





Geography

- Aravalli Range, also spelled Aravali Range, hill system of northern India, running north-easterly for 350 miles (560 km) through Rajasthan state. Isolated rocky offshoots continue to just south of Delhi.
- The Aravalli Range is the eroded stub of a range **of ancient folded mountains**.
- The Deccan Traps, or horizontal sheets of Deccan lavas, make up the northern part of the Ghats, extending from Tapti Valley to a point just north of Goa.
- Kalasubai (1,646 m) near Igatpuri, Salher (1,567 m) about 90 km north of Nashik, Mahabaleshwar (1,438 m) and Harishchandragarh (1,424 m) are important peaks.
- The Middle Sahyadri runs from 16°N latitude up to Nilgiri hills.
- This area is covered with dense forests.

Highest Peak

- Guru Peak** on **Mount Abu**, the highest peak in the Aravalli Range.

Rivers

- It gives rise to several rivers, including the Banas, Luni, Sakhi, and Sabarmati.

The Western Ghats

Geography

- The range **starts near the border of Gujarat and ending at Kanyakumari**.
- About sixty percent of the Sahyadri Range is located in the state of Karnataka.

Ecology

- This area is one of the world's ten **hottest biodiversity hotspots**.
- The **Arabian Sea area is known as the Konkan area**, one of the best tourist attractions in India.
- Green city Pune is the largest city within this mountain range in Maharashtra.



- The Western Ghats mountain ranges make up an impressive fortress all along with Kerala.
- There are several beautiful hill stations and wildlife sanctuaries in Kerala.

Highest Peak

- **Anai Mudi in the Anaimalai Hills in Kerala is the highest peak in the Western Ghats.**
- The Ghats also offer the best valley's scenery-view throughout the journey.

Rivers

- The major river systems originating in the Western Ghats are the Godavari, Kaveri, Krishna, Thamiraparani, and Tungabhadra rivers.

The Eastern Ghats

Geography

- The Eastern Ghats is an irregular range of mountains, its range starts from West Bengal to Tamil Nadu

Rivers

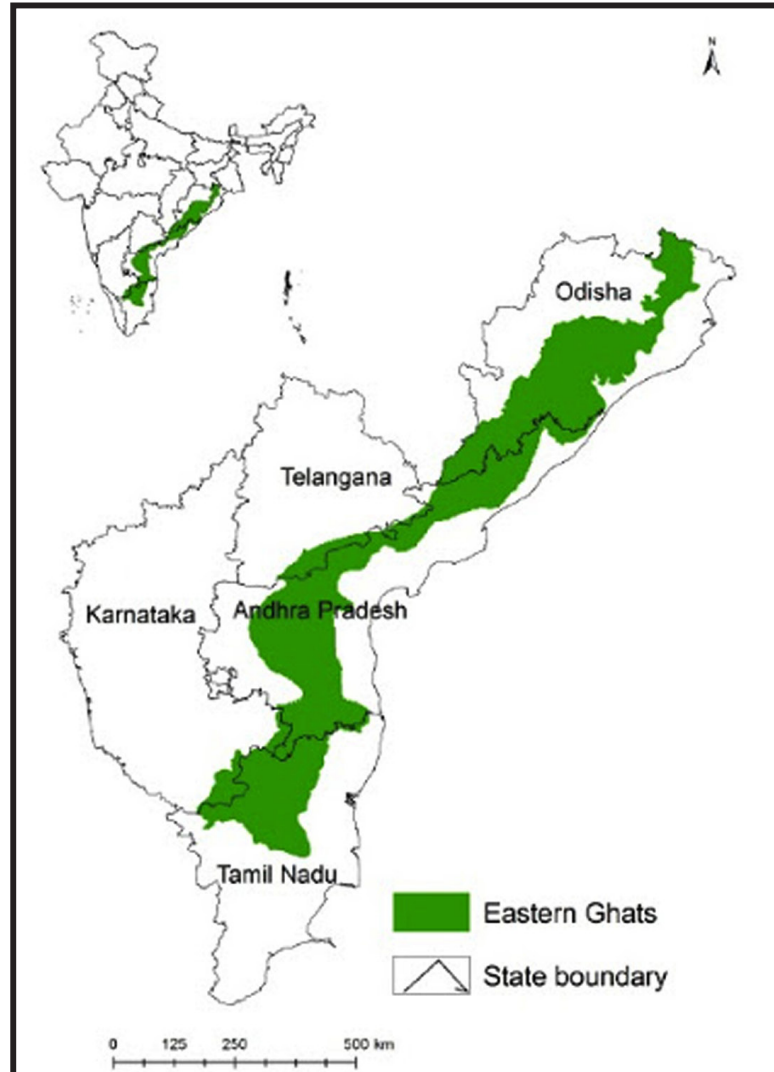
- It includes four major rivers **The Godavari, Mahanadi, Krishna, and Holy Kaveri.**
- The **Nilgiri hills "The Blue Mountains" in Tamil Nadu** lies at the junction of the Eastern and Western Ghats.
- This area has the largest population of the Indian elephant.
- These discontinuous mountain ranges run parallel to the Bay of Bengal.

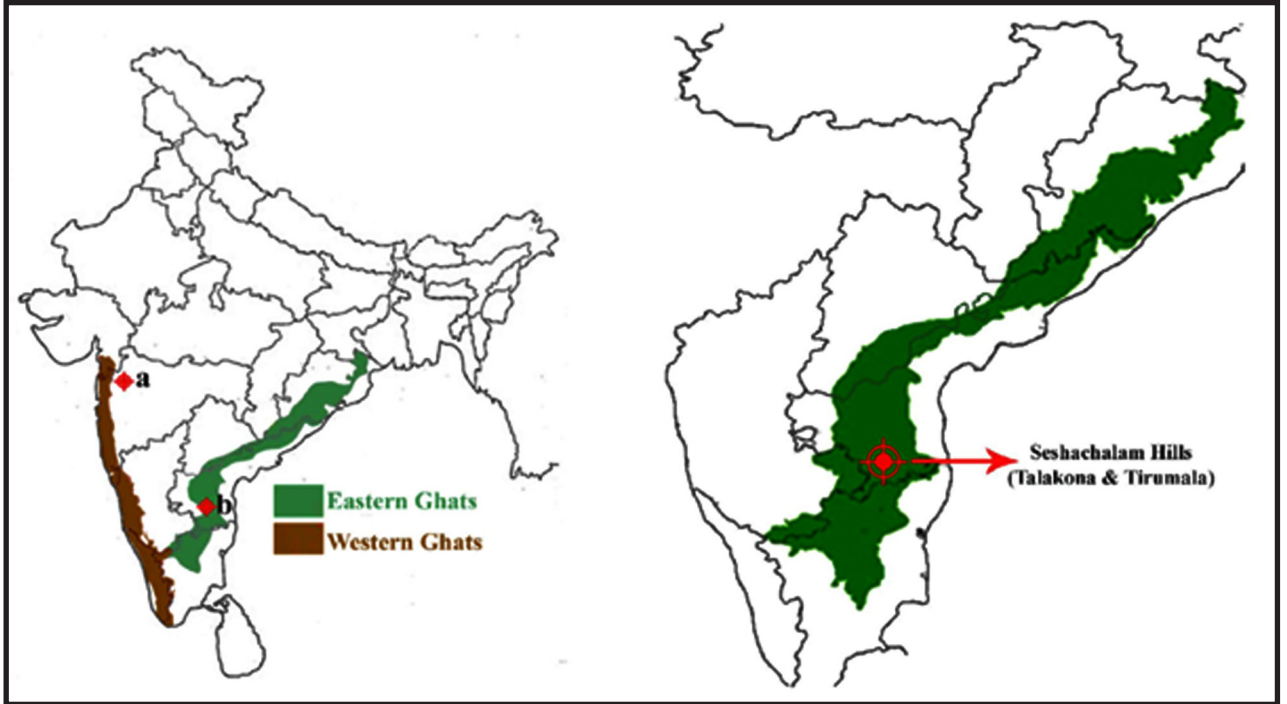
Highest Peak

- **The Shevaroy hill** is the highest peak in the Eastern Ghats.

Eastern Ghats

- There are wide plains between the foot of the Eastern Ghats and the coast, which run nearly parallel to India's east coast.
- It is a chain of severely fractured and separated hills that stretches from Tamil Nadu's Vagai to Odisha's Mahanadi. Between the Krishna and the Godavari, they essentially vanish.
- The Eastern Ghats only really show off their full mountain character in the northern region, between the Mahanadi and the Godavari. The Madugula Konda and Maliya ranges are included in this section.





Peninsular Plateaus



- The Peninsular Plateau is one of the oldest landforms of the earth.
 - It is a highly stable block composed mostly of the Archaean gneisses and schists.
- Some of the major plateaus of peninsular India are as follows:

The Marwar Upland

- This is also called the **Upland of eastern Rajasthan** as it lies in the **east of the Aravali Range**.
- The average elevation of this area is 250-500 m above sea level and it slopes down eastwards.
- It is made up of **sandstone, shales, and limestones** of the Vindhyan period.
- The **Banas River originates in the Aravali Range** and flows for about 400 km before joining the Chambal River.
- The area has been carved into a **rolling plain** by the **erosional work of the Banas River** and its **tributaries**.

The Central Highland

- Also called the **Madhya Bharat Pathar** is in the **east of the Marwar Upland**.
- Most of it comprises of the **basin of the Chambal River** which flows in a rift valley.
- **The Sindh and the Parhati** are its main tributaries.
- It is an open rolling plateau made of old rocks that are interspersed with rounded hills composed of sandstone.
- Thick forests grow here. To the north are the **ravines or badlands of the Chambal River**.

The Bundelkhand Upland

- To the **south of the Yamuna river** between the Madhya Bharat Pathar and the Vindhyan Scarplands is the old dissected upland of the '**Bundelkhand gneiss**' comprising of **granite and gneiss**. This is called **Bundelkhand upland**.
- This upland spreads **over five districts of Uttar Pradesh** (Jalaun, Jhansi, Lalitpur, Hamirpur, and Banda) and **four districts of Madhya Pradesh** (Datia, Tikamgarh, Chhatarpur, and Panna).
- With an average elevation of 300-600 m above sea level, this area slopes down from the **Vindhyan Scarp** toward the Yamuna River.
- The area is recognized by a mass of **rounded hummocky hills** made of **granite and sandstone**.
- In the north-west and north-east, the system is covered by **the Ganga-Yamuna alluvium** and in the **south-west by the Deccan Trap**.
- The erosional work of the rivers flowing here has converted it into an **undulating area and rendered it unfit for cultivation**.
- The region is characterized by **senile topography**.
- Streams **like Betwa, Dhasan, and Ken** have carved out steep gorges, precipitous rocky banks, and waterfalls.

4. The Malwa Plateau

- The Malwa Plateau roughly forms a **triangle based on the Vindhyan Hills**, bounded by the **Aravali Range in the west** and sharply defined scarp overlooking **Bundelkhand in the east**. The plateau inherits **complex geology**; scarcely any one of the peninsular groups is unrepresented here.
- This plateau has **two systems of drainage**:
 - **One towards the Arabian Sea** (The Narmada, the Tapi, and the Mahi), and
 - **The other towards the Bay of Bengal** (Chambal and Betwa, joining the Yamuna).

GEOGRAPHY 02 | Indian Mountain Ranges & Plateau

- In the **north, it is drained by the Chambal** and many of its **right bank tributaries like the Kali, the Sindh, and the Parbati**.
- It also includes the upper courses of **the Sindh, the Ken, and the Betwa**.
- It is composed of an **extensive lava flow** and is covered **with black soils**.
- There are **rolling surfaces and flat-topped hills** dissected by rivers flowing through the area.
- In the north, the plateau is marked by the **Chambal ravines**.

5. The Baghelkhand

- **East of the Maikal Range is the Baghelkhand** made of **limestones and sandstones** on the **west and granite in the east**.
- It is bounded by the **Son River on the north**, and to its **south occurs anticlinal highlands** and **synclinal valleys of sandstones and limestones**.
- The central part of the plateau acts as a **water divide** between the **Son drainage system in the north and the Mahanadi river system in the south**.
- The main elements of physiography are **scarps of the Vindhyan sandstones** between the **Ganga plain and the Narmada-Son trough**.
- The **Panna and Kaimur** are located close to the trough-axis.
- The general horizontality of the strata shows that this area has not undergone any major disturbance.

6. The Chotanagpur Plateau

- East of Baghelkhand, the Chotanagpur plateau represents the **north-eastern projection of the Indian Peninsula**.
- It covers areas mostly in **Jharkhand, the northern part of Chhattisgarh, and the Purulia district of West Bengal**.
- The Son River flows in the north-west of the plateau and joins the Ganga.
- This plateau is composed mainly of **Gondwana rocks** with **patches of Archaean granite and gneisses and Deccan Lavas**.
- The Chotanagpur plateau virtually consists of a series of plateaus standing at different levels of elevation.
- The highest general elevation of about 1,100 m is in the mid-western portion known as the **Pat lands** (high-level laterite plateau).
- From here, the land descends in all directions in a series of steps which are marked by **waterfalls across the rivers**.
- The plateau is drained by numerous rivers and streams in different directions and presents a **radial drainage pattern**.
- Rivers like the **Damodar, the Subarnarekha, the North Koel, the South Koel, and the Barkar** have **developed extensive drainage basins**.
- The Damodar River flows through the middle of this region in a rift valley from west to east. Here are found the **Gondwana coal fields** which provide the bulk of coal in India.
- North of the Damodar river is **the Hazaribagh plateau** with an average elevation of 600 m above mean sea level. This plateau has isolated hills; **Parasnath** in the east.
- The area is **made of granites and gneisses** while the hills have **quartz rocks**. It looks like a **penneplain** due to large scale erosion.
- The **Ranchi Plateau** to the south of the Damodar Valley rises to about 600 m above mean sea level.

- **The Netarhat Pat and Goru** rise to 1,119 and 1,142 m above sea level respectively. Most of the surface is rolling where the city of Ranchi (661 m) is located. At places, it is interrupted by **monadnocks and conical hills**.
- The **Rajmahal Hills** forming the northeastern edge of the Chota Nagpur Plateau are mostly made of basalt and are covered by lava flows.
- They run in the north-south direction and rise to an average elevation of 400 m (highest mount is 567 m). These hills have been dissected into separate plateaus.

7. The Meghalaya Plateau

- The rocks of the peninsular plateau of India extend further north-east beyond the Rajmahal hills and form a rectangular block known as the **Meghalaya or the Shillong plateau**.
- This plateau has been separated from the main block of the peninsular plateau by a wide gap known as the **Garo-Rajmahal Gap**.
- This gap was formed by **down-faulting** and was later on filled by sediments deposited by the Ganga.
- Extending over an area of about 35 thousand sq km, this plateau is largely formed by **Archaean (Dharwarian) quartzites, shales, and schists with granite intrusions and some basic silt**.
- The plateau slopes down to **Brahmaputra valley in the north** and the **Surma and Meghna valleys in the south**.
- Its western boundary **more or less coincides with the Bangladesh border**.
- The western, central, and eastern parts of the plateau are known as the **Garo Hills, the Khasi-Jaintia Hills and the Mikir Hills**. **Shillong is the highest point of the plateau**.

The Deccan Plateau

- This is the **largest unit of the Peninsular Plateau** of India covering an area of about five lakh sq km.
- This triangular plateau is bounded by **the Satpura and the Vindhya in the north-west**, the **Mahadev and the Maikal in the north**, the **Western Ghats in the west**, and the **Eastern Ghats in the east**.
- Its general slope is **from west to east** which is indicated by the flow of its major rivers like the **Mahanadi, the Godavari, the Krishna, and the Cauvery**.
- These rivers have further subdivided this plateau into several smaller plateaus described as under:
 - **The Maharashtra Plateau** lies in **Maharashtra** and forms the **northern part of the Deccan Plateau**.
 - Most of the region is underlain by **basaltic rocks of lava origin**.
 - The area looks like a **rolling plain** due to weathering. The horizontal lava sheets have led to the formation of typical **Deccan Trap topography**.
 - The broad and shallow valleys of the **Godavari, the Bhima, and the Krishna** are flanked by flat-topped steep-sided hills and ridges.
 - The **Ajanta range** lies to the **south of the Tapi River**. The entire area is covered by **black cotton soil known as regur**.
- The Karnataka Plateau also known as the Mysore plateau lies to the south of the Maharashtra plateau.
 - Made up primarily of **the Archaean formations**, it is a rolling country with an average elevation of 600-900 m.
 - It is **highly dissected** by numerous rivers rising from the **Western Ghats**. It contains the heads of the **Tungabhadra and the Cauvery rivers**.
 - The general trend of the hills is either parallel to the Western Ghats or athwart it. The highest peak (1913 m) is at **Mulangiri in Baba Budan Hills in Chikmagalur district**.

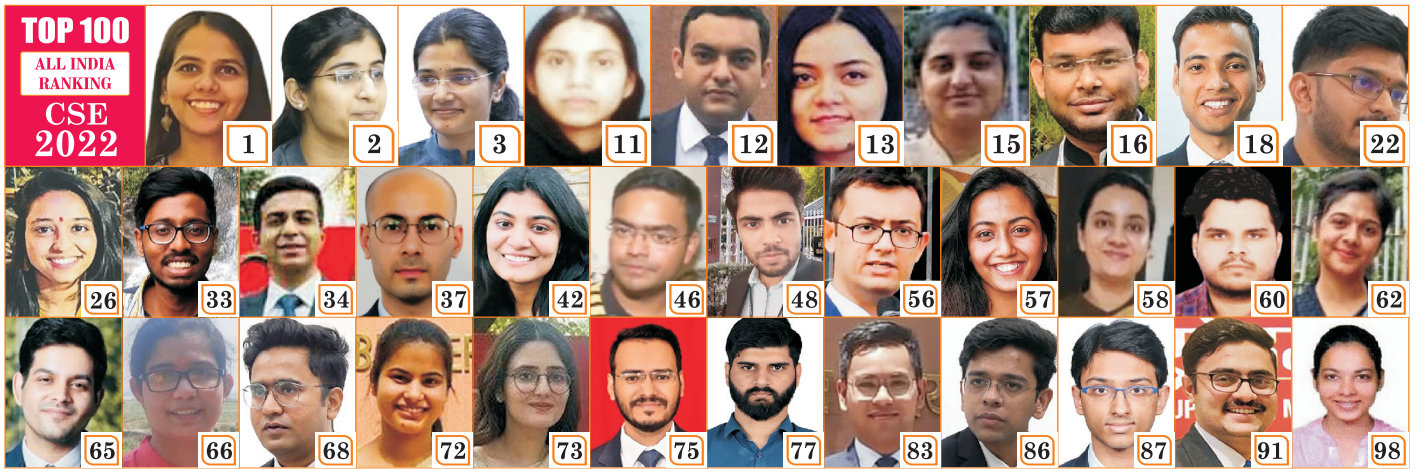
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- The plateau is divided into two parts called **Malnad and Maidan**.
- The Malnad in Kannada means the **hill country**. It is dissected into deep valleys covered with dense forests.
- The Maidan on the other hand is formed of **rolling plain with low granite hills**. The plateau tapers between the Western Ghats and the Eastern Ghats in the south and merges with the **Niligiri hills there**.
- **The Telangana plateau in Andhra Pradesh consists of Archaean gneisses** at an average elevation of 500-600 m.
 - ◆ The **southern part is higher than its northern counterpart**.
 - ◆ The region is drained by three river systems, the **Godavari, the Krishna, and the Penneru**.
 - ◆ The entire plateau is divided into two major physiographic regions, namely, the **Ghats and the Penplains**.

The Chhattisgarh Plain

- The **Chhattisgarh plain** is the only plain worth the name in the vast stretch of plateaus and hill ranges of the peninsular plateau.
- It is a **saucer-shaped depression** drained by the **upper basin of the Mahanadi**.
- The whole basin lies between the **Maikala Range and the Odisha hills**.
- The region was once ruled by **Haithaivanshi Rajputs** from whose **thirty-six forts (Chhattisgarh)** it derives **its name**.
- The basin is laid with nearly horizontal beds of **limestone and shales** deposited during the **Cuddapah age**.





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