

CBSE CLASS 9 SOCIAL SCIENCE

Geography — Contemporary India – I

CHAPTER 2: PHYSICAL FEATURES OF INDIA

ULTIMATE IMPORTANT QUESTIONS BANK WITH MODEL ANSWERS

Strictly Aligned with the Latest NCERT Textbooks & CBSE Secondary School Examination Standards



HIGH-VALUE DELIVERABLES INSIDE THIS EDITION:

- **Exhaustive Question Sets:** Focused 1-Mark, structured 3-Mark, and descriptive 5-Mark long-form answers.
- **Geomorphological Mapping:** Comprehensive map work keys covering relief peaks, rivers, passes, and physical divides.
- **Tectonic & Structural Logic:** Clear step-by-step breakdowns of the convergence of Gondwanaland, Tethys Sea compression, and Peninsular drift.
- **Correction Registers:** Specialized callouts to eliminate systemic confusion between Bhabar-Terai, Khadar-Bangar, and Western-Eastern Ghats.

SECTION 1: FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS (FAQS)

Q1. Differentiate clearly between 'Bangar' and 'Khadar' alluvial soils found in the Northern Plains. FREQUENTLY REPEATED

The Northern Plains are composed of rich alluvial soils, which are categorized into two distinct types based on age and composition:

FEATURE	BANGAR	KHADAR
Age & Position	Older alluvium that forms the largest part of the northern plain, lying above the floodplains of the rivers.	Newer, younger alluvium deposits found on the floodplains.
Terrace Form	It presents a terrace-like feature above the river channel.	It forms lower clay or silt plains that are renewed almost every year by floods.
Composition	Contains calcareous deposits locally known as <i>Kankar</i> . Less fertile overall.	Fine-grained, highly fertile, and does not contain coarse calcareous concentrations.
Agricultural Suitability	Requires heavy fertilization; suitable for less intensive farming.	Ideal for intensive agriculture and cash crop cultivation due to natural replenishment.



EXAM BOOSTER: THE ACCELERATION CONCEPT

The Kankar Rule: Remember that 'Bangar' contains *Kankar* nodules (calcium carbonate deposits), whereas 'Khadar' is pure, renewed, fine silt. This single distinction secures maximum marks in short answer comparisons!

Q2. Explain the step-by-step geological process behind the formation of the Himalayan Mountains.**HALF-YEARLY CORE**

The formation of the Himalayas is explained by the Theory of Plate Tectonics through a series of geological phases:

1. **The Ancient Landmasses:** Millions of years ago, the earth's crust was divided into massive plates. The northernmost part of the Indian peninsula was part of a huge ancient supercontinent called **Gondwanaland**.
2. **Tectonic Drift:** Convectional currents broke the earth's crust into several pieces, causing the Indo-Australian plate to separate from Gondwanaland and drift slowly northward toward the much larger Eurasian plate.
3. **The Collision Phase:** This northward drift led to a major collision between the Indo-Australian plate and the Eurasian plate.
4. **The Compression of Tethys Sea:** Due to this collision, the sedimentary rocks that had accumulated over millions of years in the geosyncline known as the **Tethys Sea** were folded and compressed, rising to form the mountain systems of western Asia and the Himalayas.

SECTION 2: PREVIOUS YEAR QUESTION COLLECTION

Q3. Compare and contrast the distinct structural and geographical features of the Western Ghats and the Eastern Ghats. CBSE PAST YEAR FOCUS

The Western and Eastern Ghats form the matching edges of the Peninsular Plateau, but they differ significantly in their physical characteristics:

- **Continuity and Elevation:** The Western Ghats are continuous and can be crossed only through natural passes (like Thal, Bhor, and Pal Ghats). Their average elevation ranges from 900 to 1,600 meters. The Eastern Ghats are discontinuous, irregular, and cut through by major rivers draining into the Bay of Bengal. Their average elevation is lower, around 600 meters.
- **Highest Peaks:** The highest peak in the Western Ghats is **Anamudi** (2,695 meters), followed by Dodabetta. The highest peak in the Eastern Ghats is **Mahendragiri** (1,501 meters).
- **Rainfall Pattern:** The Western Ghats cause orographic rainfall by blocking moisture-laden monsoon winds along the western coast. The Eastern Ghats run parallel to the monsoon winds, receiving less rainfall overall, primarily during winter from retreating monsoons.

SECTION 3: VERY SHORT ANSWER QUESTIONS (1 MARK)

Q4. Name the ancient southern part of the supercontinent that included India, Australia, South Africa, and South America.

Gondwanaland.

Q5. What was the name of the ancient shallow sea that existed before the formation of the Himalayas?

The Tethys Sea.

Q6. Which is the northernmost and most continuous range of the Himalayas?

The Himadri (or Great/Inner Himalayas).

Q7. State the average height of the peaks located in the Himadri range.

6,000 meters.

Q8. What is the regional name given to the Lesser or Middle Himalayas?

The Himachal range.

Q9. Define the term 'Duns'. Give two examples.

Longitudinal valleys lying between the Lesser Himalayas and the Shiwalik range, such as Dehra Dun, Kotli Dun, and Patli Dun.

Q10. What is the 'Bhabar'?

A narrow belt of pebbles, about 8 to 16 km wide, running parallel to the slopes of the Shiwaliks, where streams disappear underground.

Q11. Name the swampy, marshy, and thickly forested region lying south of the Bhabar belt.

The Terai region.

Q12. Which river marks the easternmost boundary of the Himalayas?

The Brahmaputra River.

Q13. Name the prominent circular coral islands of India located in the Arabian Sea.

The Lakshadweep Islands.

Q14. What is the black soil region of the Peninsular Plateau called?

The Deccan Trap.

Q15. Name the unique, only active volcano found in India.

Barren Island, located in the Andaman and Nicobar Islands group.

SECTION 4: SHORT ANSWER QUESTIONS (2–3 MARKS)

Q16. Explain how the 'Terai' region differs from the 'Bhabar' belt in terms of drainage and vegetation.

The Bhabar and Terai run parallel to each other along the base of the mountains but show very different characteristics:

- **The Bhabar Belt:** Located right at the foot of the Shiwalik hills, this area is covered in heavy layers of pebbles and stones. Because the ground is so porous, streams and rivers sink into the pebbles and flow underground. As a result, the surface lacks water and supports only sparse vegetation.
- **The Terai Region:** Situated just south of the Bhabar, this area is where the underground streams re-emerge at the surface. This creates a wet, swampy, and marshy plain. Because water is abundant, the Terai is naturally a thickly forested region rich in wildlife, and its fertile soils are highly suited for growing crops like sugarcane and wheat when cleared.

Q17. Describe the major geographical divisions of the Himalayas from west to east, along with the river boundaries that define them.

From west to east, the Himalayas are divided into distinct regions bounded by major river systems:

1. **Punjab Himalayas:** The section lying between the Indus and Satluj rivers (locally known as the Kashmir and Himachal Himalayas from west to east).
2. **Kumaon Himalayas:** The part of the mountains located between the Satluj and Kali rivers.
3. **Nepal Himalayas:** The central section stretching between the Kali and Teesta rivers.
4. **Assam Himalayas:** The easternmost division, situated between the Teesta and Dihang (Brahmaputra) rivers.



QUICK SUMMARY OF WEST-TO-EAST DIVISIONS

Indus → (Punjab) → Satluj → (Kumaon) → Kali → (Nepal) → Teesta → (Assam) → Dihang. Memorizing these river transitions is essential for scoring full marks on exam matching questions!

SECTION 5: LONG ANSWER QUESTIONS (5 MARKS)

Q18. Provide a detailed description of the three parallel ranges of the Himalayas, including their structure, composition, and key physical features.

The Himalayas consist of three parallel mountain ranges separated by deep valleys, each showing distinct structural features:

1. **The Great or Inner Himalayas (Himadri):** This is the northernmost, highest, and most continuous range, with an average peak elevation of 6,000 meters. It contains all the world's highest peaks, including Mount Everest and Kanchenjunga. Structurally, the core of these mountains is composed of granite rock. Because of its extreme height, the range is permanently covered in snow, giving rise to numerous large glaciers.
2. **The Lesser Himalayas (Himachal):** Located south of the Himadri, this range forms an irregular, rugged mountain system. Its peaks have an average height ranging from 3,700 to 4,500 meters. The range is composed of highly compressed and altered rocks. It includes famous sub-ranges like the **Pir Panjal** (the longest and most important), Dhauladhar, and Mahabharat ranges. This region is also home to India's famous hill stations, including Shimla, Mussoorie, and Nainital.
3. **The Outer Himalayas (Shivaliks):** This is the southernmost range of the mountain system, with an average altitude between 900 and 1,100 meters. It is a newer formation, composed of loose sediments brought down by rivers from the main Himalayan ranges further north. These loose layers make the Shivaliks highly vulnerable to landslides and soil erosion. The longitudinal valleys that lie between the Himachal and Shivalik ranges are known as **Duns**, such as Dehra Dun.

SECTION 6: MAP-BASED QUESTIONS

Q19. Outline the specific identification guidelines for the major relief features and mountain peaks required for the map examinations.

For map evaluation and location questions, master these key physical features:

- **Mountain Peaks:** Locate **K2** in the Karakoram range (Kashmir/Ladakh), **Kanchenjunga** on the border of Sikkim and Nepal, and **Anamudi** in Kerala (southern Western Ghats).
- **Mountain Ranges:** Be prepared to draw and identify the Karakoram, Zaskar, Shivalik, Aravali, Vindhya, and Satpura ranges.
- **Plateaus:** Identify the triangular shape of the **Deccan Plateau** south of the Narmada River, the **Malwa Plateau** north of the Vindhyas, and the resource-rich **Chota Nagpur Plateau** in eastern India.

SECTION 7: CASE-BASED QUESTIONS

SOURCE TEXT: THE STRUCTURE OF THE PENINSULAR PLATEAU

"The Peninsular Plateau is a tableland composed of old crystalline, igneous, and metamorphic rocks. It was formed due to the breaking and drifting of the Gondwanaland landmass, making it one of the oldest and most stable land blocks on the earth's surface. The plateau features broad, shallow valleys and rounded hills. It is broadly divided into two main sections: the Central Highlands and the Deccan Plateau. The part of the plateau lying north of the Narmada River, covering a major area of the Malwa plateau, is known as the Central Highlands."

Q20. Based on the source provided, answer the following questions:

(i) Why is the Peninsular Plateau considered one of the oldest and most stable land blocks on Earth?

It was formed directly from the breaking and drifting of the ancient supercontinent Gondwanaland millions of years ago, escaping the intense tectonic folding that created younger mountain systems like the Himalayas.

(ii) Name the two main divisions of the Peninsular Plateau and the river boundary that separates them.

The plateau is divided into the **Central Highlands** to the north and the **Deccan Plateau** to the south, separated by the path of the Narmada River.

SECTION 8: ASSERTION AND REASON QUESTIONS

STANDARD EVALUATION DIRECTIONS

Evaluate the statements and select the correct option:

- A:** Both Assertion and Reason are true, and Reason is the correct explanation of Assertion.
- B:** Both Assertion and Reason are true, but Reason is not the correct explanation of Assertion.
- C:** Assertion is true, but Reason is false.
- D:** Assertion is false, but Reason is true.

Q21. Assertion (A): The Northern Plains of India are highly populated and agriculturally productive regions.

Reason (R): The plains are formed from deep deposits of rich alluvial soil, combined with an abundant water supply from major rivers and a favorable farming climate.

Answer: A

Explanation: Both statements are true, and the reason correctly explains that the combination of deep alluvial soils, plentiful water from the Indus, Ganga, and Brahmaputra, and a favorable climate makes the Northern Plains highly productive and densely populated.

SECTION 9: COMPETENCY-BASED QUESTIONS

Q22. Explain how India's different physiographic divisions complement each other to provide the country with a rich diversity of natural resources.

India's physical features form an interconnected system where each region provides essential resources that support the others:

- **The Northern Mountains:** Act as a massive water tower, storing water as glaciers that feed India's major perennial rivers. They also support vast forest resources.
- **The Northern Plains:** Form the agricultural heartland of the country, utilizing rich alluvial soils to produce the bulk of the nation's food supplies.
- **The Peninsular Plateau:** Serves as the industrial backbone, holding rich storehouses of minerals like iron ore, coal, and manganese that power factories and manufacturing.
- **The Coastal Plains and Islands:** Provide ideal locations for fishing industries, maritime trade through major ports, and unique ecosystems that support biodiversity and tourism.

SECTION 10: MOST IMPORTANT EXAM QUESTIONS

★ **HIGHEST PROBABILITY QUESTION:** Detail the three distinct sections of the Western Coastal Plains and the two sections of the Eastern Coastal Plains.

The coastal plains of India are divided into distinct regional sections along the western and eastern coasts:

1. **The Western Coastal Plain:** A narrow strip of land along the Arabian Sea, divided from north to south into:
 - **Konkan Coast:** The northern section, covering the coast of Mumbai and Goa.
 - **Kannad Plain:** The central section, stretching along the coast of Karnataka.
 - **Malabar Coast:** The southern section, located primarily along the coast of Kerala.
2. **The Eastern Coastal Plain:** A broader, flatter plain along the Bay of Bengal, divided into:
 - **Northern Circars:** The northern part stretching along the coast of Odisha and Andhra Pradesh.
 - **Coromandel Coast:** The southern section running along the coast of Tamil Nadu.

SECTION 11: CHAPTER QUICK REVISION

INSTANT REVISION SUMMARIES

- **The Deccan Trap:** A region of the Peninsular Plateau characterized by black volcanic soil, ideal for growing cotton.
- **Chilika Lake:** The largest saltwater lake in India, located in Odisha to the south of the Mahanadi delta.
- **Barchi / Barchans:** Crescent-shaped sand dunes that cover large areas of the Thar Desert.
- **Majuli:** The largest inhabited river island in the world, located in the Brahmaputra River in Assam.

SECTION 12: COMMON MISTAKES STUDENTS MAKE

COMMON EXAM ERRORS TO AVOID:

1. **Confusing Bhabar and Terai:** Students frequently mix up these two belts. Remember that the *Bhabar* is dry on the surface because streams flow underground beneath its pebble layers. The *Terai* is wet, swampy, and marshy because those underground streams re-emerge at the surface.
2. **Mixing Coast Sections:** Make sure not to mix up the coastal names. The *Coromandel Coast* belongs to the eastern plain (Tamil Nadu), while the *Malabar Coast* belongs to the western plain (Kerala). Mixing these up can lead to lost marks on both short-answer and map questions.

SECTION 13: LAST-MINUTE REVISION SHEET

THE ULTIMATE GEOGRAPHY CHEAT SHEET

Mountain Peaks to Know: Anamudi is the highest peak in Southern India (2,695m). Mahendragiri is the highest peak in the Eastern Ghats (1,501m).

Island Origins: The Lakshadweep Islands are built from coral deposits, whereas the Andaman and Nicobar Islands are elevated portions of submarine mountain ridges, volcanic in origin.