

Lesson at a Glance

- Our country, India is vast. It has an area of about 3.28 million sq. km. In the north, it is surrounded by the Himalayas; in the west; there is the Arabian Sea; in the east; the Bay of Bengal and in the south; the Indian Ocean.
- India has a **diverse landforms**—the lofty mountains, the Great Indian Desert, the Northern plains, the uneven plateau, and the coasts and islands.
- The **climate** of India also varies from region to region.
- We also find **diversity** in flora and fauna as well as in language and culture.
- India is the second most **populous** country of the world after China.
- India is located in the Northern hemisphere. The Tropic of Cancer passes through it.
- The sun rises two hours earlier in the east, *i.e.* Arunachal Pradesh than in the west, *i.e.* Gujarat.
- India's seven **neighbouring** countries are—Pakistan, China, Nepal, Bhutan, Bangladesh, Sri Lanka and Afghanistan.
- Sri Lanka is separated from India by the Palk Strait.
- India is divided into **28 states** and **7 Union Territories**. Delhi is the national capital.
- Rajasthan is the largest state while Goa is the smallest state in terms of area.
- India has a diverse **physical features**—mountains, plateaus, plains, coasts and islands.
- The Himalayas mountains are divided into three main parallel **ranges**—the Great Himalaya or Himadri, Middle Himalaya or Himachal and the Shiwalik.
- To the south of the Himalayas lie the Northern Indian plains.
- In the western part of India lies the Great Indian desert with little vegetation.
- To the south of northern plains lies the Peninsular plateau. It is triangular in shape. This is a region with numerous hill ranges and

valleys. The Aravali hills, the Vindhyas, the Satpuras are the important ranges.

- The Western Ghats border the plateau in the west and the Eastern Ghats provide the eastern boundary.
- To the west of the Western Ghats and the East of Eastern Ghats lie the Coastal plains.
- Lakshadweep islands are located in the Arabian sea while Andaman and Nicobar islands group lie to the south-east of the Indian mainland in the Bay of Bengal.

TEXTBOOK QUESTIONS SOLVED

9. 1. Answer the following questions briefly.

- Name the major physical divisions of India.
- India shares its land boundaries with seven countries – Name them.
- Which two major rivers fall into the Arabian Sea?
- Name the delta formed by the Ganga and the Brahmaputra.
- How many States and Union Territories are there in India? Which states have a common capital?
- Why do a large number of people live in the Northern Plains?
- Why is Lakshadweep known as a coral island?

Ans. (a) Major physical divisions of India:

- The Himalayas
 - The Northern Indian Plains
 - The Great Indian Desert
 - The Peninsular Plateau
 - The Coastal plains
 - The two groups of Islands.
- Pakistan, Nepal, Bhutan, China, Bangladesh, Sri Lanka and Afghanistan.
 - The rivers Narmada and Tapi fall into the Arabian Sea.
 - The Sundarbans delta.
 - There are 28 states and 7 Union Territories in India. Punjab and Haryana have a common capital, *i.e.* Chandigarh.

(f) The Northern Plains are generally flat and level land, having alluvial deposits laid down by the rivers such as the Indus, the Ganga, the Brahmaputra and their tributaries. These river plains provide fertile land for cultivation. Hence, a large population prefer to live here.

(g) Lakshadweep is made of corals which are skeletons of tiny marine animals called polyps.

9. 2. Tick the correct answer.

- (a) The southern most Himalayas are known as
- (i) Shiwaliks (ii) Himadri
(iii) Himachal.
- (b) Sahyadris is also known as
- (i) Aravali (ii) Western Ghats
(iii) Himadri.
- (c) The Palk Strait lies between the countries
- (i) Sri Lanka and Maldives
(ii) India and Sri Lanka
(iii) India and Maldives.
- (d) The Indian islands in the Arabian sea are known as
- (i) Andaman and Nicobar Islands
(ii) Lakshdweep Islands
(iii) Maldives.
- (e) The oldest mountain range in India is the
- (i) Aravali hills (ii) Western Ghats
(iii) Himalayas

Ans. (a)—(i), (b)—(ii), (c)—(ii), (d)—(ii), (e)—(i).

9. 3. Fill in the blanks.

- (a) India has an area of about
- (b) The Greater Himalayas are also known as
- (c) The largest state in India in terms of area is
- (d) The river Narmada falls into the
- (e) The latitude that runs almost halfway through India is

Ans. (a) 3.28 million sq. km, (b) Himadri, (c) Rajasthan,
(d) Arabian, (e) The Tropic of Cancer.

MAP SKILLS

1. On the outline map of India, mark the following:

- (a) Tropic of Cancer
(b) Standard Meridian of India

(c) State in which you live

(d) Andaman Islands and Lakshadweep Islands

(e) Western Ghats and Eastern Ghats.

Ans.

