



## Lesson- 6

### Our country – India

#### NOTES:

- India is the seventh largest country in the world. It has an area of 3.28 million square kilometer.
- India is the second most populous country after China.
- Bangladesh, Myanmar, Pakistan, Afghanistan, China, Nepal and Bhutan are our neighbours.
- Sri Lanka and Maldives are island neighbours.
- According to surface feature, India is divided into four physiographic divisions; namely–
  1. Himalayan Region
  2. Northern Plain
  3. Peninsular Plateau
  4. Coastal Plains and Islands

#### **Himalayan Region**

- The Himalayas are known as young mountains and they are also known as fold mountains.
- There are three parallel ranges in the Himalayas; namely– The Inner Himalaya or Great Himalaya (Himadri) in the north, the Middle or Lesser Himalaya (Himachal) in the middle and the Outer Himalaya (Siwalik) in the south.
- The Inner Himalaya is the tallest of the three ranges.
- Mount Everest (8848m) is the highest peak in the world. It is in the Inner Himalaya Range situated in Nepal.
- Mount Kanchenjunga (8598m) in Sikkim is the highest peak in India.
- Hill stations like Shimla, Mussorie, Nainital and Darjeeling are located in the Middle Himalaya.

- In the Outer Himalaya there are some flat valleys called **duns**. Dehradun is one of them.
- The Himalayas extend southward as the Patkai, the Naga, the Manipur and the Mizo hills in the north-eastern part of India. These hill ranges are known as **the North-Eastern Hills** or **the Purvanchal**.

### Northern Plain

- Northern plain extend from Punjab in the west to Assam in the east.
- This plain is one of the largest in the world. It is formed by the deposition of silt brought by the Indus, the Ganga and the Brahmaputra.
- The northern plain is the most fertile region in the country.
- **Tributaries** are the smaller rivers or streams that join the big rivers.
- A **Delta** is a triangular landmass formed at the mouth of a river due to the deposition of silt.
- The western part of the northern plain is a dry sandy land. We called it **Thar Desert** or the **Great Indian Desert**.
- It is located in the western part of Rajasthan.

### Peninsular Plateau

- A land mass surrounded by the sea on three sides is called a **Peninsula**.
- River Narmada divides the Peninsular Plateau into two parts- the **Malwa plateau** in the north and the **Deccan plateau** in the south.
- Anai Mudi (2695m) in the Anaimalai hills is the highest peak of the peninsula plateau.

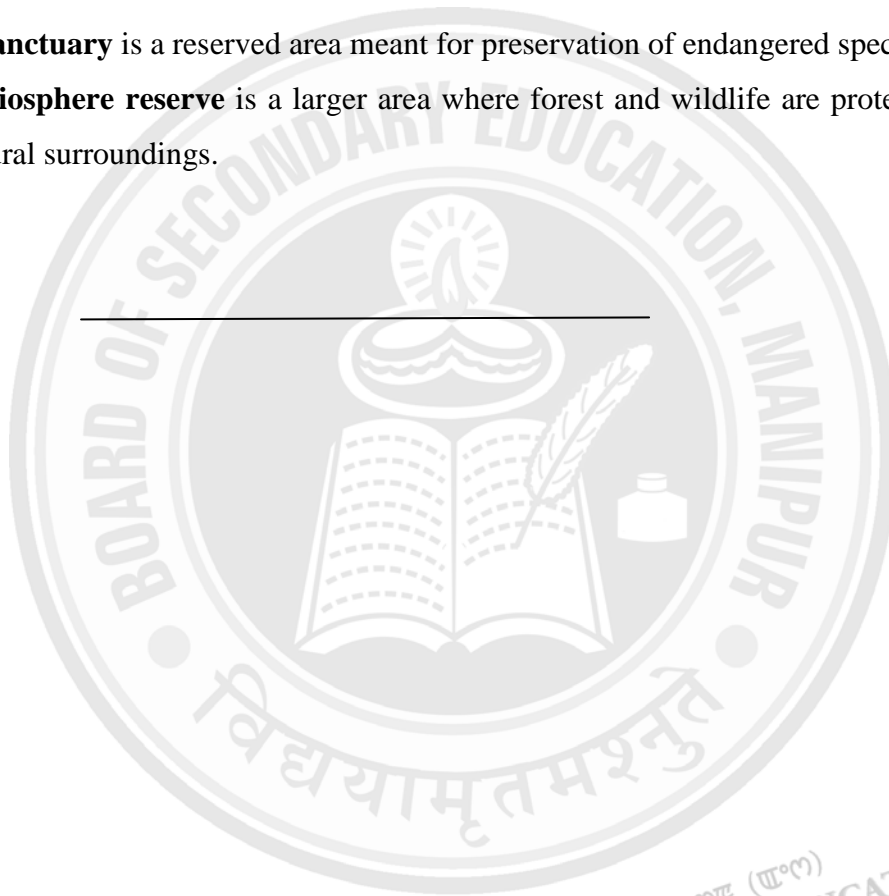
## Coastal Plains and Islands

- **The Coastal Plains** are the strips of plain all along the **Arabian Sea** (i.e. the western coastal plain) and **Bay of Bengal** (i.e. the eastern coastal plain).
- The southern part of the of the eastern coastal plain is known as **Coromandel**.
- The northern part of the Western Coastal plain is known as **Konkan** the southern part is known as **Malabar**.
- The Malabar Coast is famous for its backwaters and lagoons.
- **Backwater** is a part of a river in which there is little or no current.
- **Lagoons** are salt water lakes getting cut off from the main sea.
- Our country has two groups of islands– the **Andaman and Nicobar Islands** in the Bay of Bengal and the **Lakshadweep Islands** in the Arabian Sea.
- There are more than 300 islands in the Andaman and Nicobar group.
- **Indira Point** ( located in the Nicobar Island) is the southernmost part (point) of India.
- The Lakshadweep islands lie off the coast of Kerala. These islands are also known as Coral Islands.
- **Coral Island** are formed by the deposition of skeleton of dead coral polyps (tiny sea organism).

## Climate, Natural Vegetation and Wildlife

- A year in India is divided into four different seasons. They are cold season, hot season, southwest monsoon season and retreating monsoon season.
- Based on rainfall, we can divide India into 5 vegetation zones. They are 1) **Tropical Evergreen forest** 2) **Tropical Deciduous forest** 3) **Thorn forest** 4) **Tidal forest** and 5) **Himalayan forests**.
- The **Gir forest** in Gujarat is the home of the Indian lion.
- Tiger is our National Animal.
- Peacock is our National Bird.

- **Corbett Park** in Uttarakhand, **Gir** in Gujarat, **Kanha** in Madhya Pradesh, **Kaziranga** in Assam and **Periyar** in Kerala are some of the famous sanctuaries of India.
- Depletion of forest causes soil erosion and is the main reason for the occurrence of floods in our country.
- Wild life is an important asset for the nation. So, we need to preserve wild life in its natural setting. Several national parks, sanctuaries and biosphere reserves are set up in India.
- A **national park** is a reserved area meant for preserving its natural vegetation and wildlife.
- A **sanctuary** is a reserved area meant for preservation of endangered species.
- A **biosphere reserve** is a larger area where forest and wildlife are protected in their natural surroundings.



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