



মহাশিক্ষা বিভাগ (সংস্কৃত)
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION (S)

Government of Manipur

UNIT I

INDIA : LOCATION AND SIZE; RELIEF, STRUCTURE AND MAJOR PHYSIOGRAPHIC DIVISION

NOTES

1. Location and size – **India** is located in the southern part of Asia. It lies entirely in the Northern Hemisphere. The Indian mainland extends between **8°4'N and 37°6'N latitudes and 68°7'E and 97°25'E longitudes**. The tropic of Cancer (23°30'N) divides the country into almost two halves. The Andaman and Nicobar Island lie to the South-East of the mainland in the Bay of Bengal while the Lakshadweep islands are to the South-West in the Arabian Sea.

2. Relief – The major relief features of the earth i.e. mountains, plateaus, plains, deserts and islands. These were formed during different geological periods of the earth. Various processes such as **weathering, erosion and deposition** have modified the relief to its present form.

3. Structure – Geologists have tried to explain the formation of relief or physical features with the help of some theories based on evidences. One such reliable theory is the '**Theory of Plate Tectonics**' which states that the crust of the earth (upper portion) has been formed out of seven major and some minor plates.

4. Major Physiographic Divisions – According to the surface features India can be divided into the following divisions –

- **The Himalayan Mountains** – The Himalayas represent the loftiest and the most rugged mountain barriers of the world. They are geological young and are known as **Fold Mountains**.
- **The Northern Plains** – The northern plain was formed by the filling up of a large depression lying at the foothills of the Himalayas by sediments over millions of years.
- **The Indian Desert** – **The Thar** or the Indian Desert occupies the western part of the Aravalli Range which receives very little rainfall i.e. below 15 cm. annually and the surface is covered with sand dunes.
- **The Peninsular Plateau** - The Peninsular Plateau was formed by the breaking and northward drifting of a part of the **Gondwanaland**, the oldest landmass on the earth.
- **The Coastal Plains** – The Peninsular plateau is flanked by the narrow coastal plain all along the Bay of Bengal on the east and the Arabian Sea on the west.
- **The Islands** – Besides the mainland, the country has two groups of islands. In the Bay of Bengal, the island is of two parts – the Andaman in the north and the Nicobar in the south. The Lakshadweep Island lies close to the Malabar Coast of Kerala in the Arabian Sea.
