

UNIT-1 THE VAST COUNTRY INDIA



1

OUR MOTHERLAND INDIA



India is situated in the continent of **Asia**. It is the seventh largest country in the world. It is also the second most populous country in the world. There are several countries around India. They are Pakistan, Afghanistan, China, Nepal, Myanmar, Bhutan, Bangladesh and Sri Lanka. Besides these countries, the Arabian Sea, the Indian Ocean and the Bay of Bengal also touch its border.

India has 29 States and 7 Union Territories including National Capital Territory of Delhi. **New Delhi** is the capital of India.

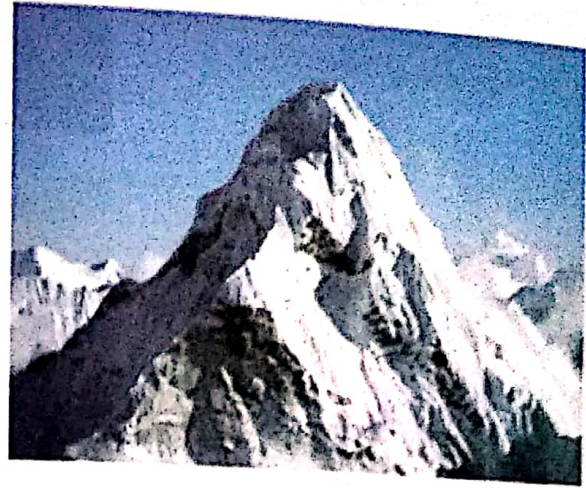
PHYSICAL FEATURES

There is a variety in India's people, land, climate and vegetation. People of different parts have different customs, costumes, cultures and languages. In spite of all these diversities, we are **Indians**. We believe in unity in diversity.

India also varies in the land surface. In some places, it has high mountains. In some other places, it has large plains, rivers and beautiful lakes.

NATURAL REGIONS OF INDIA

The land surfaces having similar physical features throughout make a **natural region**. India is divided into six natural regions. They are described as follows.



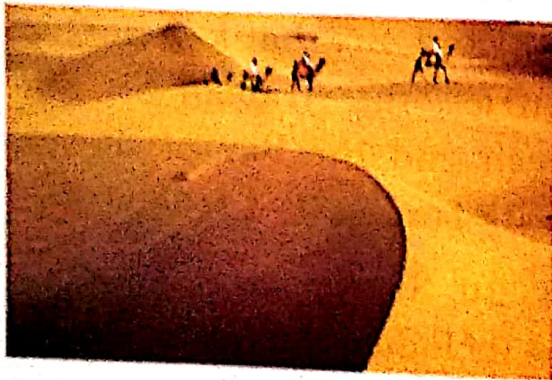
The Mount Everest

THE HIMALAYAN REGION

The Himalayan region has very high ranges of mountains in the world. The high mountain peaks like **Mount Everest** and **Kanchenjunga** lie in this region.

THE NORTHERN PLAINS

The northern plains are the flat surface of land. Rivers like the Ganga, Yamuna, Satluj and Brahmaputra flow and water these plains. This makes the land fertile. Good yield of crops are obtained from these plains.



A scene of a desert

THE INDIAN DESERT

The Indian Desert lies in the western part of India. The land is very dry and sandy. It is not fertile. At some places, small patches of land with surface water can be seen. Some trees like date-palm and babool are found here.



The plateau region

THE PLATEAU REGION

The plateau region is an uneven land higher than the plains and lower than the mountains. It is a tableland and less fertile. The plateau region is a storehouse of minerals-our natural wealth.

THE COASTAL PLAINS

The coastal plains of India lie along the sea coast of India. Many rivers like Kaveri and Krishna flow and water these plains. So, these plains are also fertile like the northern plains.



Sea coast

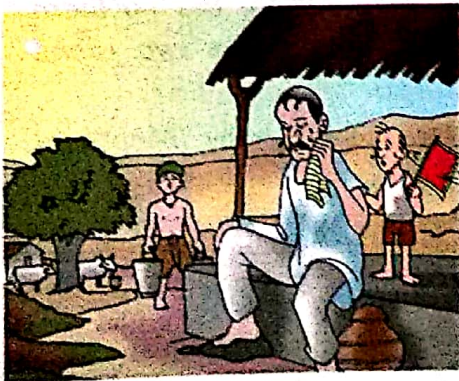
THE GROUPS OF ISLANDS

There are two groups of islands in the Indian Ocean. They can be known as the sixth natural regions of India. The Lakshadweep islands are in the Arabian Sea and the Andaman and Nicobar islands lie in the Bay of Bengal.

CLIMATE OF INDIA

India has different types of land forms like mountains, hills, valleys, plains, plateaus, deserts, coastlines, etc. These physical features determine the climate of a place. So, the climate in our country varies from place to place. Some places are very hot and some places are very cold. Some places get heavy rainfall, while others remain dry.

Generally, the mountain region is very cold, while the desert region is quite dry and hot. The eastern and north-eastern states get too much rain whereas the desert region hardly gets rainfall.



Summer season

SEASONS IN INDIA

India experiences three main seasons- the summer, the winter and the rainy (Monsoon) season.

SUMMER SEASON

The summer starts from April and continues till June. Days are longer than nights. It is extremely hot all over the country except in the mountain region. The southern part of India is less hot than the northern part. Hot winds blow in the northern plains. The desert region suffers a lot in summers.



Winter season

Winter season

The **winter** starts by the end of October. Days become shorter and nights are longer. December and January are very cold. Winter continues till February. Weather in the coastal plains is pleasant, but the mountain region is extremely cold. There is no rainfall during winters except in Tamil Nadu.

Rainy season (Monsoon)

The **rainy season** starts in June and continues till September. This season is also called the **Monsoon season**. The monsoon winds carrying clouds blow from the Bay of Bengal and the Arabian Sea. First, they reach the Malabar coast and then reach every part of our motherland. It rains heavily in the western, eastern and north-eastern states while the desert areas in Rajasthan and Gujarat receive very little rainfall.



Rainy season

FLASH BACK

1. India is the seventh largest country in the world.
2. India is divided into six natural regions, namely, the Himalayan region, the northern plains, the Indian Desert, the plateau region, the coastal plains and the two island groups.
3. India experience three main seasons- the summer, the winter and the rainy (Monsoon) seasons.

Recall these new terms

1. Natural region - land surfaces having similar physical features.
2. Desert - very dry and sandy land.
3. Plateau - an uneven land higher than the plains and lower than the mountains.



EXERCISES

A. Answer in brief.

1. Name the neighbouring countries of India.
2. Name the water bodies touching India's border.
3. Why are the northern plains of India fertile?
4. Name the cold months of India.

B. Long Answer Questions.

1. Write a note on the Indian Desert.
2. What is the plateau?
3. Why does the climate in India vary from place to place?
4. Write a note on the Summer season of India.

C. Fill in the blanks.

1. India is situated in the continent of _____.
2. The high mountain peaks like _____ and _____ lie in the Himalayan region.
3. In the Indian Desert the land is _____ and _____.
4. The physical features determine the _____ of a place.
5. The summer season starts from _____.



ACTIVITY

D. Choose the correct alternative.

1. The capital of India is-

(a) Mumbai

(c) Chennai

(b) New Delhi

(d) Lucknow