

Chapter 1: Geographical Diversity of India

A. Tick the correct option

1. (c) Himalayan Region
2. (b) Collision of the Indian Plate with the Eurasian Plate
3. (c) Fertile soil and rivers
4. (c) Aravallis

B. Fill in the blanks

1. Arabian
2. cold
3. Royal Bengal Tiger
4. Arabian

C. Very short answer type questions

1. The Himalayas are the highest mountain range in India.
2. The lifeline of the Thar Desert is the Luni River.
3. The Island group known for coral atolls is Lakshadweep.
4. The highest peak in the Aravalli Hill is Guru Shikhar.

D. Short answer type questions

1. The three ways in which the Himalayas are important to India are:
 - a) They act as natural barrier protecting India.
 - b) They are the source of major rivers that feed the Northern Plains.
 - c) They influence the climate by blocking cold winds and attracting monsoon rains.

2.

Northern Plains	Peninsular Plateau
1. Located in the northern part of India, stretching from Punjab in the west-to-West Bengal in the east.	1. Situated in the southern part of India, covering states like Maharashtra, Madhya Pradesh, Chhattisgarh, Odisha, and parts of Karnataka and Andhra Pradesh.
2. Characterized by flat and fertile land, formed by the alluvial deposits of rivers like the Ganges and Brahmaputra.	2. Comprises rugged terrain with hills, valleys, and plateaus, primarily made of ancient crystalline rocks.

3. Andaman and Nicobar Island and Lakshadweep Islands are the two major island group of India.

a) **Andaman and Nicobar Island** - The Andaman & Nicobar Islands are over 500 volcanic islands in the Bay of Bengal

b) **Lakshadweep Islands** - Lakshadweep is a group of 36 coral atolls in the Arabian Sea near the Kerala coast.

4. Geographical diversity of India affect the lifestyle of its people in the following ways:

a) **Climate & Clothing:** People in the Himalayan regions face cold, leading to woollen clothing and cozy housing. The Thar Desert experience necessitates lightweight clothing and traditional homes designed for extreme heat.

b) **Occupations & Livelihood:** The fertile Indo-Gangetic Plains support farming. Coastal residents rely on fishing and trading. Mountain dwellers often work in agriculture (terraced farming), animal rearing, or tourism.

E. Long answer type questions

1. The process of formation of Himalayas is as follows:

- a) The Himalayas were formed due to the movement of Earth's tectonic plates.
- b) About 50 million years ago, due to internal forces, the Indian Plate started moving northwards and collided with the Eurasian Plate.
- c) This collision forced the accumulated sediments at the bottom of the Tethys Sea to buckle, fold, and rise upwards.
- d) The immense pressure and folding of the earth's crust over millions of years led to the formation of the Himalayas.
- e) The Indian plate continues to push into the Eurasian plate even today and the Himalayas are still growing by about 5 mm to 1 cm per year.

2. The key features of the Thar Desert:

- a) The Thar Desert is located in northwestern India. It has an extreme climate with very hot summers, cold winters.
- b) The region receives very little rain (less than 25 cm annually). This makes water scarce and the land mostly dry throughout the year.
- c) The desert is covered with sand dunes, rocky plains, and very little vegetation. Only hardy plants like cactus and thorny bushes can survive.

- d) People wear loose, light-coloured clothes to stay cool. Houses are often made of mud with thick walls to keep interiors cool.
- e) Many people depend on animal rearing (like camels, goats) and limited farming. They use techniques like storing rainwater and irrigation (like canals) to survive.

3.

The Peninsular Plateau is a large, triangular landmass in central and southern India. It is one of the oldest landforms made of hard rocks.

- a) It has broad valleys, rolling hills, and flat-topped plateaus. Important ranges include the Western Ghats and Eastern Ghats, with rivers like Narmada and Godavari flowing through it.
- b) The plateau is rich in minerals like coal, iron, and manganese. Mining, industries, and agriculture (like cotton farming) are major economic activities.
- c) The Peninsular Plateau has rich biodiversity with wide variety of plants and animals, including forests, grasslands, and wildlife.
- d) The Western Ghats have dense forests with many rare and endangered species of plants, birds, and animals.

4.

Feature	Western Ghats	Eastern Ghats	Deccan Plateau
Location	Along the western coast of India	Along the eastern coast of India	Between the Western and Eastern Ghats
Height	Higher, steep and continuous like a wall	Lower, broken into smaller hills and valleys	High, flat land (plateau)
Special Features	Many waterfalls during the monsoon season	Separated by rivers and valleys	Slopes towards the east: has valleys and river basins
River Flow	Few west-flowing rivers like the Narmada and Tapi	East-flowing rivers such as the Mahanadi and Krishna	Rivers mostly flow eastwards into the Bay of Bengal
Life of People	People in the Western Ghats depend more on plantation farming (like tea, coffee, spices) due to heavy rainfall,	People in the Eastern Ghats practice mixed farming and forest-based activities	People mainly depend on agriculture like growing millets, cotton, and pulses due to moderate rainfall.

