



DEPARTMENT OF HISTORY

**ST. JOHN'S COLLEGE
PALAYAMKOTTAI – 627002**



I B.A HISTORY

Semester – II

TOURISM PRODUCTS IN INDIA



GEOGRAPHICAL FEATURES OF INDIA

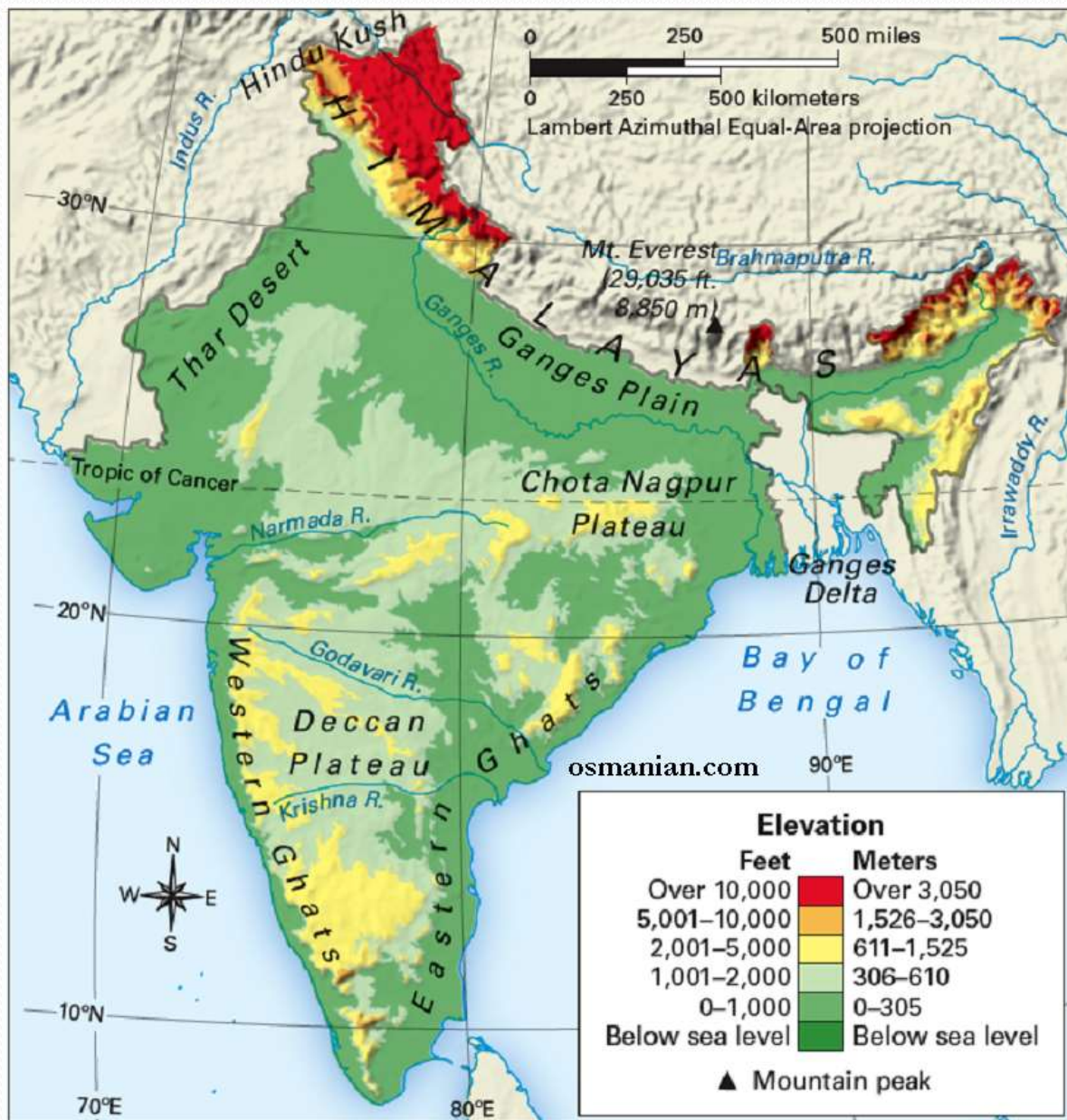
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Introduction

"Tourism is a collection of activities, services and industries which deliver a travel experience comprising transportation, accommodation, eating and drinking establishments, retail shops, entertainment businesses and the hospitality services provided for individuals or groups traveling away from home“

- WTO



In particular, a country's geography largely determines its tourism developments. The Indian tourism is also influenced by its geography. Hence the study of Indian geographical features contributes to the promotion of Tourism in India.

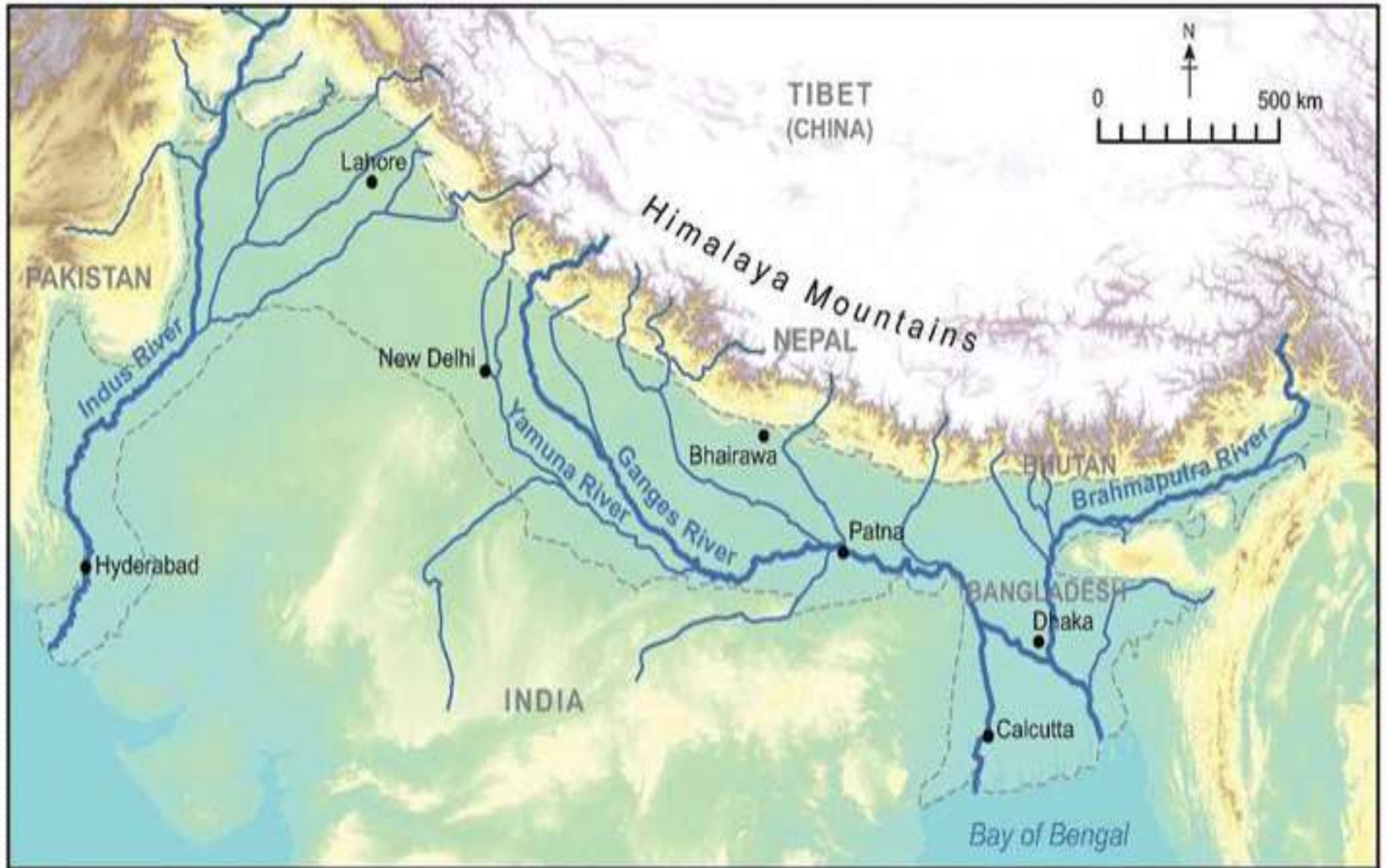


Geographically India is divided into four major regions

- (i) The Himalayan Mountains.
- (ii) The Indo-Gangetic plain.
- (iii) The Southern Peninsula and Deccan Plateau
- (iv) The Coastal plains.

The Himalayan Mountains:

The Himalayan Mountains are situated on the north of India. Starting from the Pamir in the extreme northwest of India, the mighty Himalayan range extends towards northeast. It has a length of nearly 2,560 kilometres with an average breadth of 240 to 320 kilometres. Mount Everest is the highest peak known to be the highest in the world with a height of 8869 metres. It acts as a natural wall and protects the country against the cold arctic winds blowing from Siberia through Central Asia.




Some Highest Peaks of the Himalayas

Peak	Country	Height in metres
Mt. Everest	Nepal	8848
Kanchenjunga	India	8598
Makalu	Nepal	8481
Dhaulagiri	Nepal	8172
Nanga Parbat	India	8126
Annapurna	Nepal	8078
Nanda Devi	India	7817
Kamet	India	7756
Namcha Barwa	India	7756
Gurla Mandhata	Nepal	7728

MOUNT EVEREST





The high mountain portions are covered with snow round the year. The rivers like the Ganges, the Jamuna and the Brahmaputra have originated from the Snow Mountains. The Western off shoots of the Himalayas consists of Hindu Kush, the Safed Koh, the Sulaiman Koh, and the 'Kirthar ranges'.

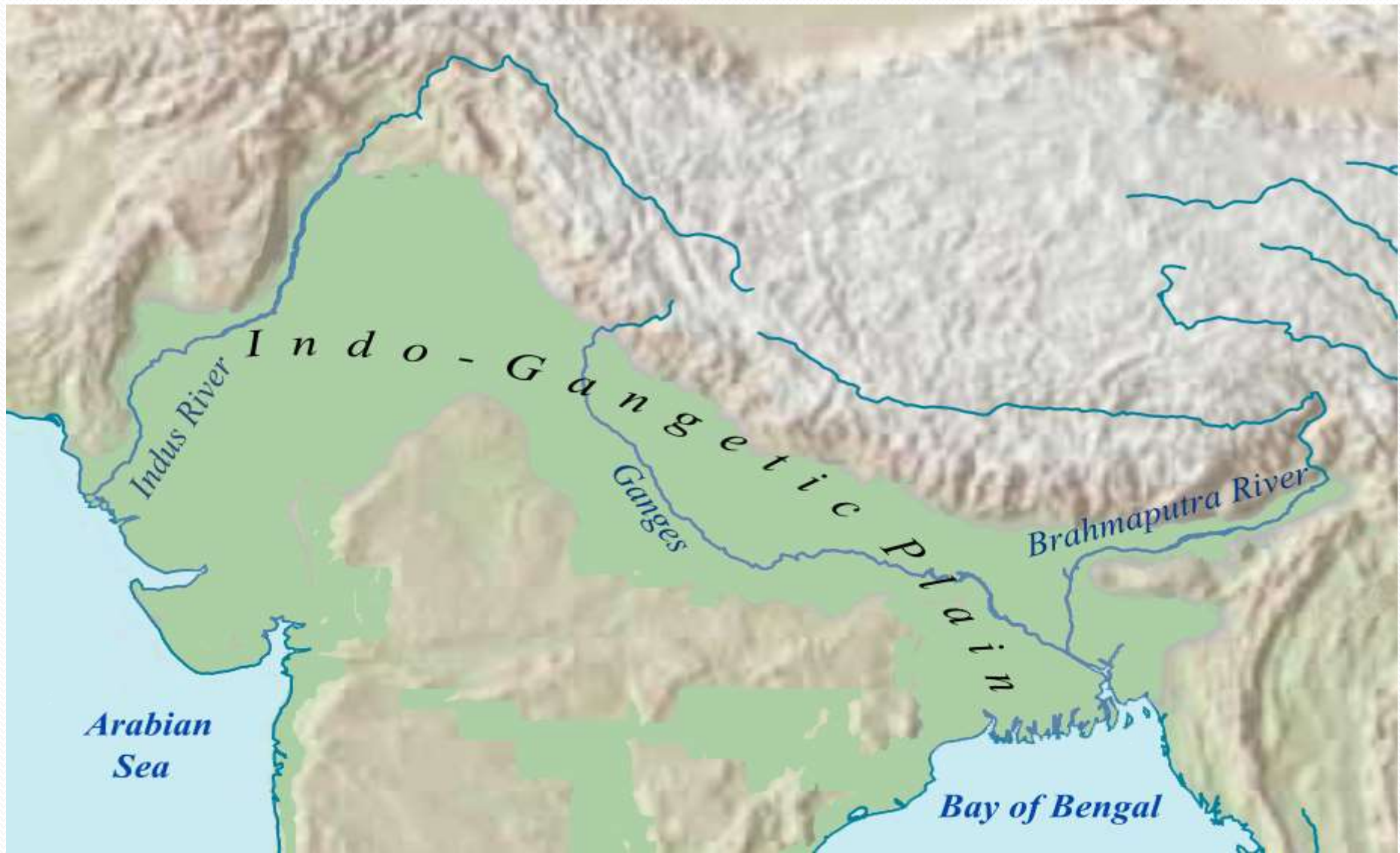
The height of the mountain in these regions are comparatively low, the area is dry with scanty rainfall. In this belt there are several famous passes named the Khyber, the Kurram, the Tochi, the Gomal and the Bolan passes. Most of these passes are situated in low lying ground and thereby has made the country accessible to the foreign invaders.




The Indo-Gangetic Plain:

The Indo- Gangetic plain is irrigated by three important rivers, the Ganges, Indus and Brahmaputra.

This vast plain is most fertile and productive because of the alluvial soil brought by the streams of the rivers and its tributaries.






The Indus river rises beyond the Himalayas and its major tributaries—the Sutlej, the Ravi, the Beas, the Chenab and the Jhelum), the Punjab plains are benefited by the Indus river system.

These rivers played an important part in the evolution of Indian culture. It was in the valley of the river Indus that the earliest civilization of India flourished (Mohenjodaro and Harappa).





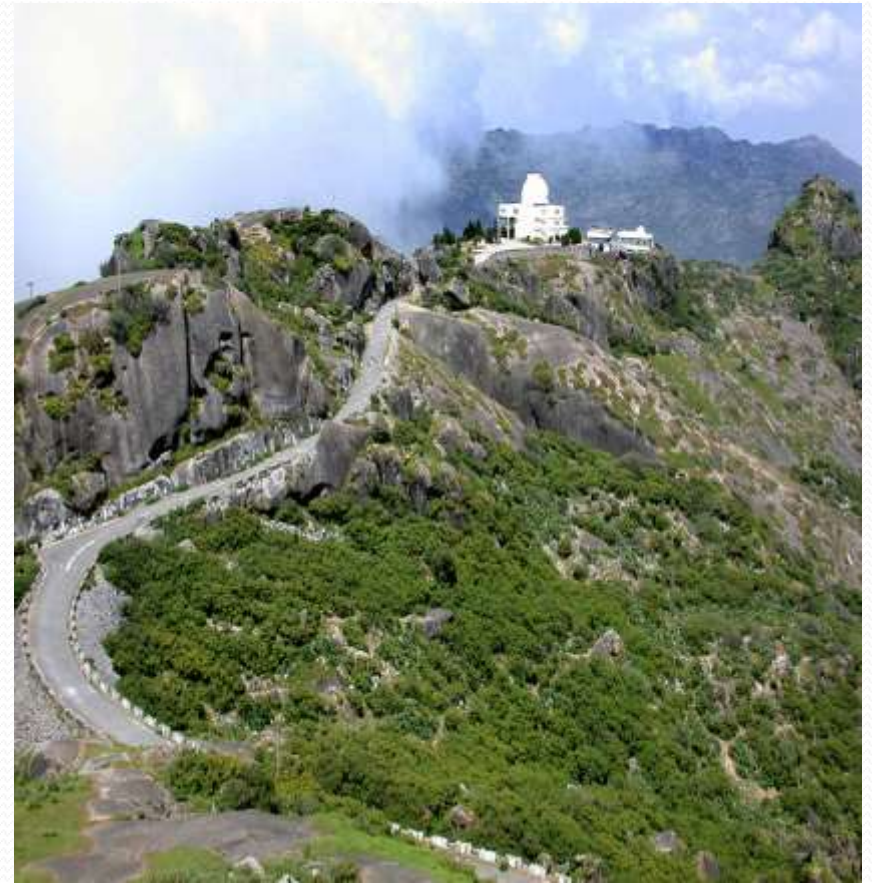
The Thar Desert and Aravalli hills are situated in between the Indus and Gangetic plains. Mount Abu is the highest point (5650ft.) in the Aravalli hills.

The Ganges river rises in the Himalayas, flows south and then towards the east. The river Yamuna flows almost parallel to the Ganges and then joins it. The area between these two rivers is called *doab* – meaning the land between two rivers.

Thar Desert



Aravalli Hills and Mount Abu



The Southern Peninsula and Deccan Plateau

The Deccan Plateau lies in the south of Indo-Gangetic plain. On its north the Vindhya and the Satpura ranges separates it from Indo-Gangetic plain and slope-down to the Cape Comerin. In the east it starts from the Bay of Bengal and spreads right up to Arabian Sea in the West. Rivers like the Godavari, the Krishna, the Kaveri, the Tungabhadra have swept the land and made the plateau highly covetous.

The Western Ghats and the Eastern Ghats mark the western and the eastern edges of the Deccan Plateau respectively. Western Ghats lie parallel to the western coast.

The Deccan Plateau



The Western Ghats

The Western Ghats are higher than the Eastern Ghats. Their average elevation is 900– 1600 metres as against 600 metres of the Eastern Ghats. The Eastern Ghats stretch from the Mahanadi Valley to the Nigiris in the south.


The Western Ghats cause orographic rain by facing the rain bearing moist winds to rise along the western slopes of the Ghats. The Western Ghats are known by different local names. The height of the Western Ghats progressively increases from north to south.

The highest peaks include the Anai Mudi (2,695metres) and the Doda Betta (2,637 metres). Mahendragiri (1,501 metres) is the highest peak in the Eastern Ghats.

The Coastal Plains

The Peninsular plateau is flanked by stretch of narrow coastal strips, running along the Arabian Sea on the west and the Bay of Bengal on the east. The western coast, sandwiched between the Western Ghats and the Arabian Sea, is a narrow plain.

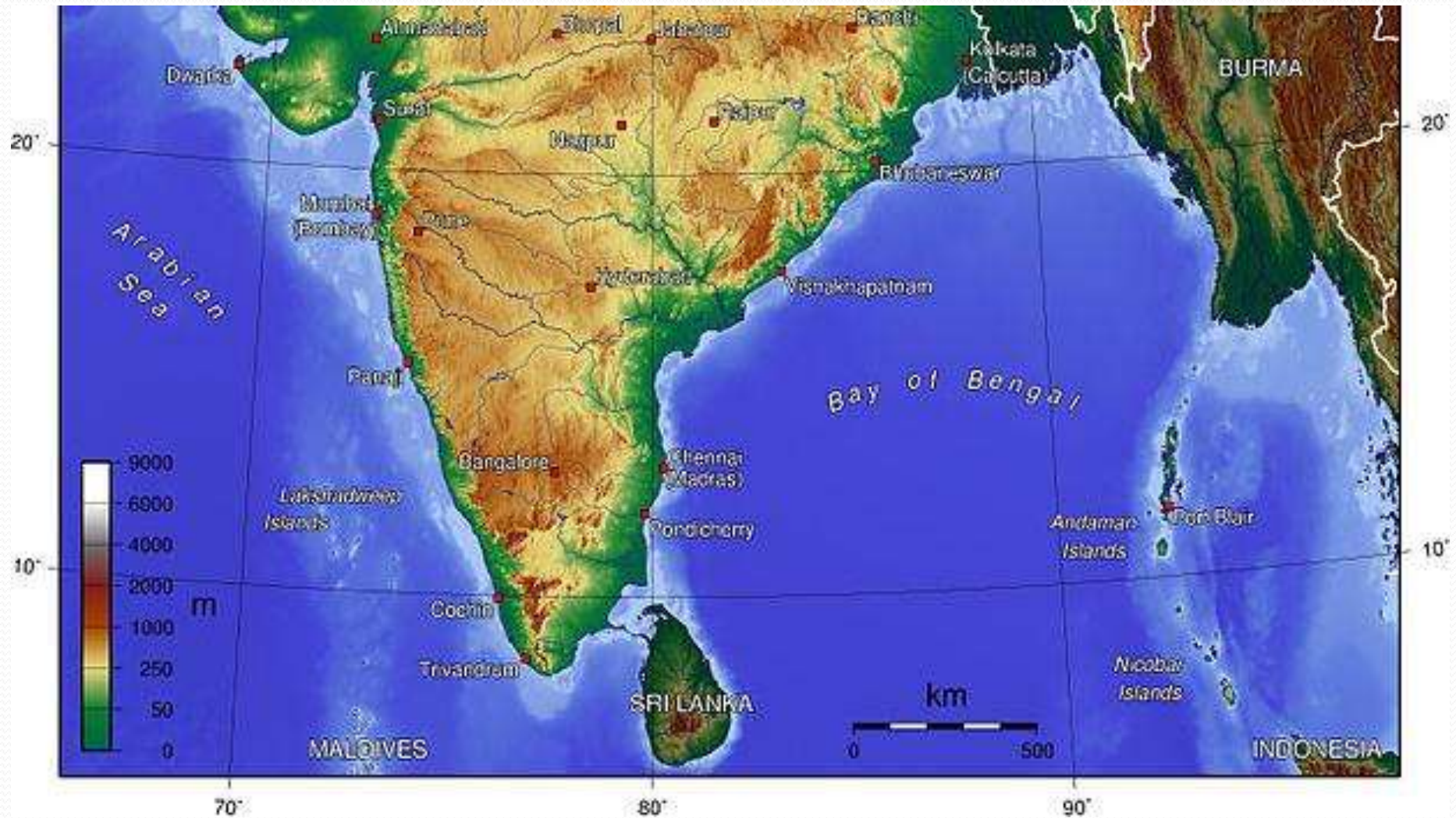
It consists of three sections. The northern part of the coast is called the Konkan (Mumbai – Goa), the central stretch is called the Kannad Plain while the southern stretch is referred to as the Malabar coast. Locate the Lakshadweep Islands group lying close to the Malabar coast of Kerala.



The plains along the Bay of Bengal are wide and level. In the northern part, it is referred to as the *Northern Circar*, while the southern part is known as the *Coromandel Coast*.

Large rivers such as the Mahanadi, the Godavari, the Krishna and the Kaveri have formed extensive delta on this coast. Lake Chilika is an important feature along the eastern coast

Coastal area



Conclusion

A detailed account of the different physiographic units highlights the unique features of each region. It would, however, be clear that each region complements the other and makes the country richer in its natural resources. The mountains are the major sources of water and forest wealth. The northern plains are the granaries of the country. They provide the base for early civilisations. The plateau is a storehouse of minerals, which has played a crucial role in the industrialisation of the country. The coastal region and island groups provide sites for fishing and port activities. Thus, the diverse physical features of the land have immense future possibilities of development.



THANK YOU