

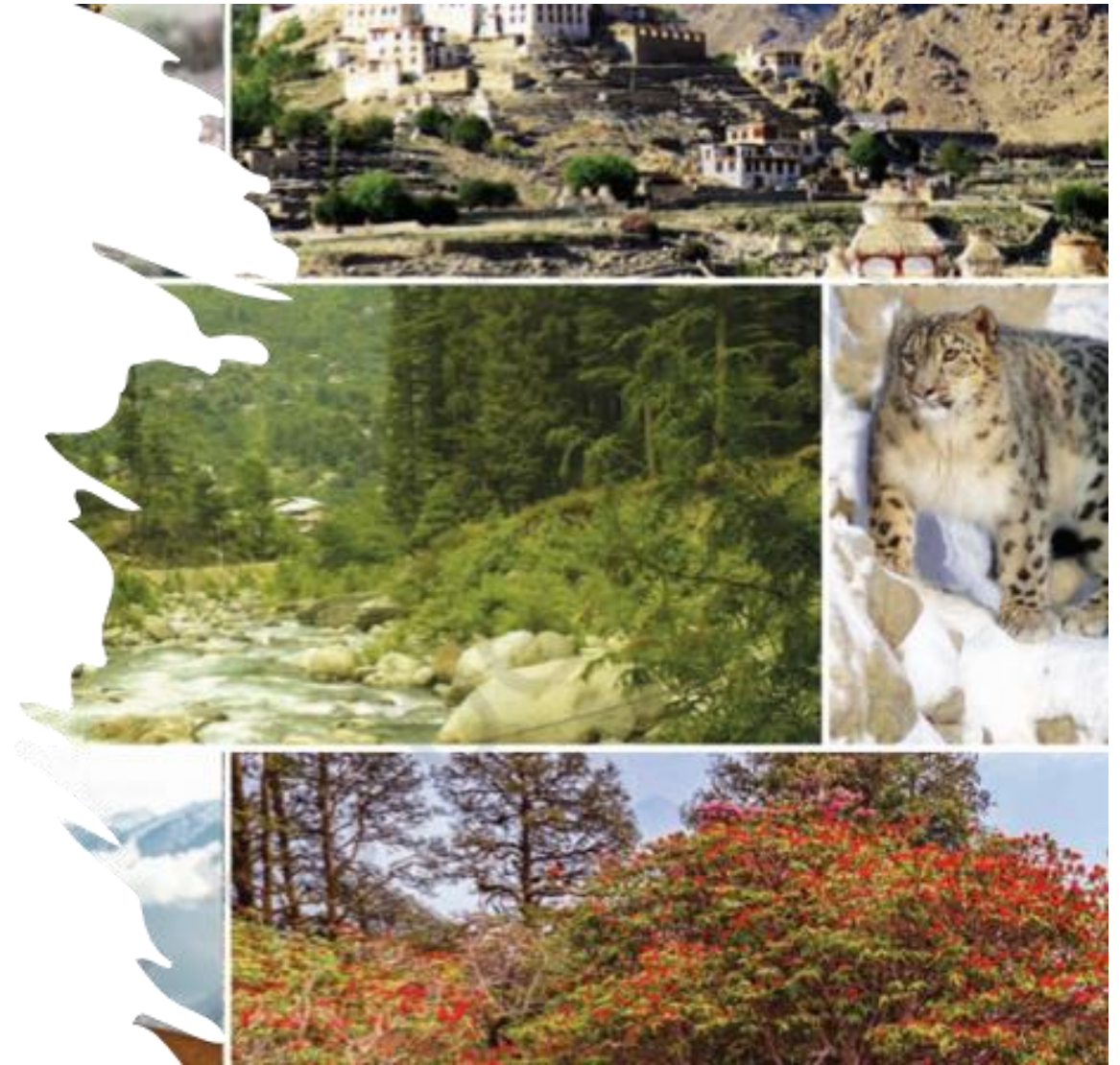


Class: VII
Subject: Social
Science
Chapter: 1
Geographical
Diversity of India

The Big Questions?

What are some key geographical features of India?

How does India's geographical diversity affect our lives?



Jog Falls in Karnataka. Notice the plateau and the waterfalls. The power of the waterfall is converted into electricity (hydroelectricity; 'hydro' means water) through special turbines.



**To us, by its very
geography, the
country [India]
appears to be quite
distinct from other
countries, and that
itself gives it a certain
national character. –
Sri Aurobindo**



LET'S REMEMBER

In 1984, Rakesh Sharma, the first Indian astronaut to go into space,



India – A Quick Introduction

01

India is the seventh-largest country in the world.

02

It is located in Asia.

03

India is part of a larger region called the Indian Subcontinent.

India's Neighbours

Pakistan

Bangladesh

Nepal

Bhutan

Sri Lanka (across the sea)

Myanmar



What is the Indian Subcontinent?

A **subcontinent** is a large, distinct part of a continent.

The Indian Subcontinent is part of **Asia**.

It includes India and its neighbouring countries.

Pakistan, Bangladesh, Nepal, Bhutan, Sri Lanka, and Myanmar

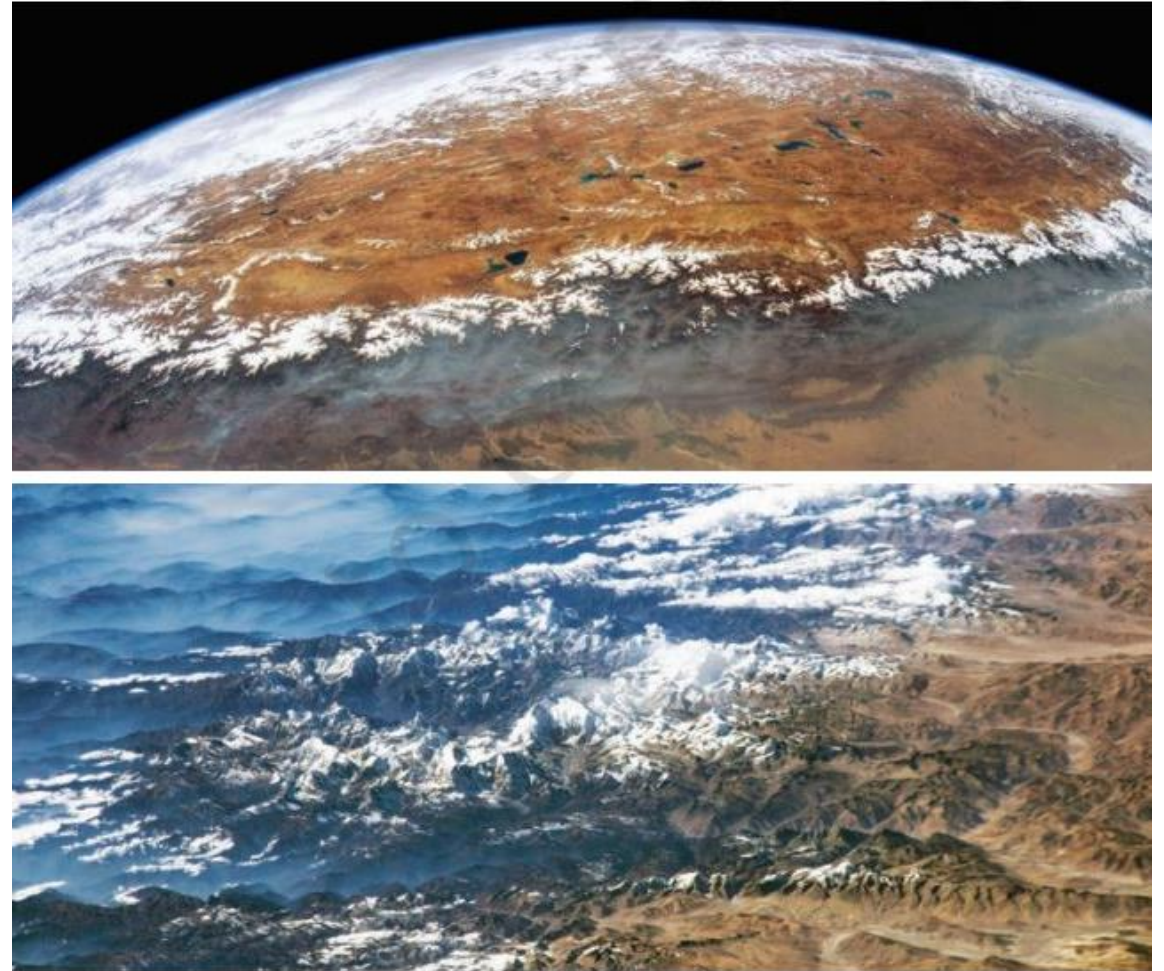


Fig. 1.2. These are satellite images of the Himalayan range. Note that the length of the range is about 2500 km.

Five Main Geographical Regions of India



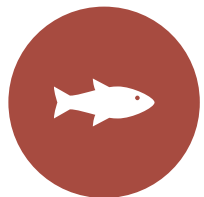
**The Great
Mountain Zone**



**The Plains of the
Ganga and Indus**



**The Desert
Region**



**The Southern
Peninsula**



The Islands

The Himalayan Mountain

- The Himalayan Mountain range stands as a natural barrier in the north,
- while the Thar Desert and the Arabian Sea mark its western limits.
- To the south, the Indian Ocean and to the east, the Bay of Bengal form a natural boundary

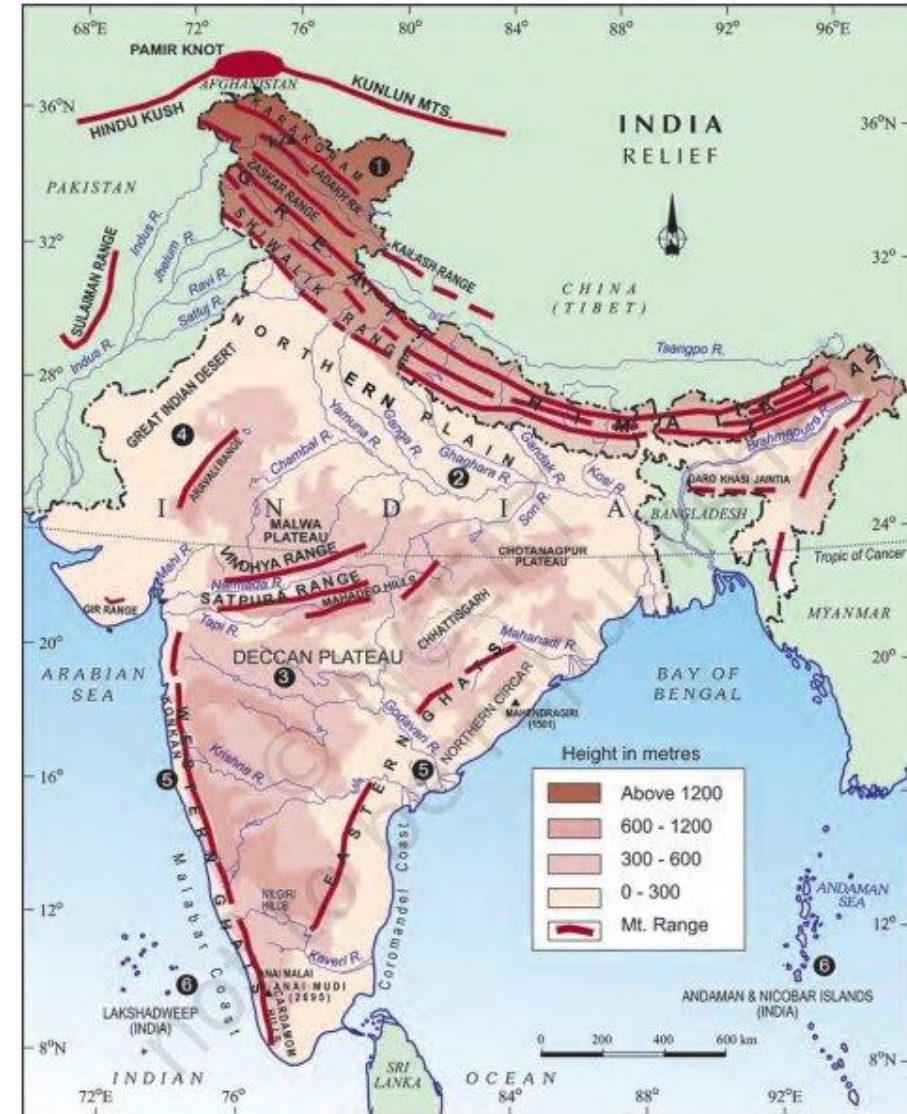




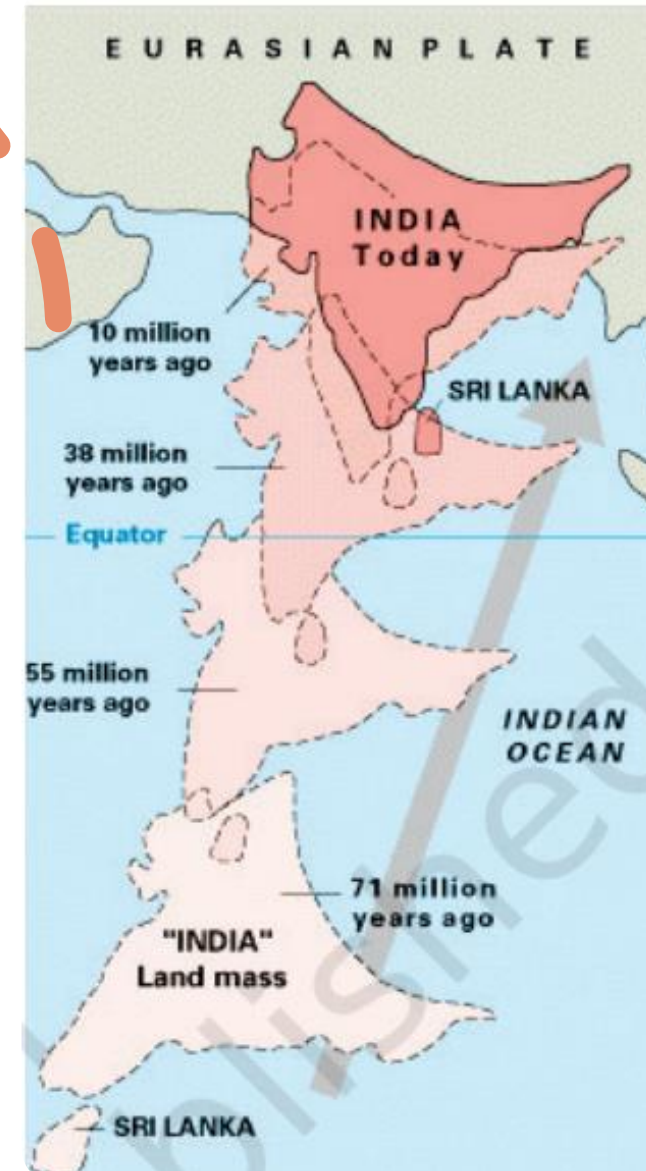
Fig. 1.3. Gaumukh

Origin of Ganga

- The Bhagirathi River, a major tributary of the Ganga, originates from Gaumukh ('Cow's Mouth'), in Uttarakhand. It is the edge of the Gangotri Glacier.

How the Himalayas were formed ... an interesting story

- A long, long time ago, India was part of a much bigger landmass called 'Gondwana', where its neighbour was Africa!
- At some point, it broke away and slowly started moving north.
- About 50 million years ago, it reached the landmass of Eurasia and collided with it.
- As India pushed against Eurasia, the land between them crumpled and rose up – just like how a carpet wrinkles when you push it.
- That's how the mighty Himalayan mountains were formed!





Folded layers of Himalayan rock

The word 'Himalaya' is a combination of two Sanskrit words – hima, meaning 'snow', and ālaya, meaning 'abode' or 'dwelling' – thus, 'abode of snow'.

Three Main Ranges of the Himalayas

Himadri (Greater Himalayas)	Himachal (Lower Himalayas)	Shivalik Hills (Outer Himalayas)
• Highest and most rugged • Includes Mount Everest, Kanchenjunga • Snow-covered year-round • Few people live here	• Milder climate, more people • Rich in plants and animals • Famous hill stations: Nainital, Darjeeling, Shimla, Mussoorie	• Lowest range with rolling hills • Dense forests and wildlife • Lies between mountains and Northern Plains

The traditional house construction method in the western Himalayan region is known as 'kath-kuni' or 'dhajjidewari' style of houses.



*Fig. 1.6. Kath-kuni House,
Himachal Pradesh*

The Cold Desert of India – Ladakh

- **Ladakh** is a **cold desert** in India.
- Winters are extremely cold, with temperatures below **-30°C**.
- It gets **very little rainfall**.
- The land is **rocky, dry, and mountainous**, with deep valleys and lakes like **Pangong Tso**.
- The terrain looks like the **moon**, so it's called "**moonland**".
- Formed when the **Indian plate collided with Eurasia**, folding ocean rocks into mountains.



Fig. 1.8. Moonland, Ladakh



Yaks are very important for the lives of people in the Himalayas. They are reared for their milk, meat, wool and dung, and are also used for transport.

Fig. 1.9. Yaks are very important for the lives of people in the Himalayas. They are reared for their milk, meat, wool and dung, and are also used for transport.



Pangong Tso, Ladakh. This lake has salty water, unlike most other lakes. The saltiness is a result of the minerals that dissolve from the surrounding mountain areas.



The Gangetic Plains



Located **south of the Himalayas**.



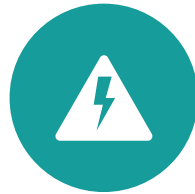
Very fertile and important for **farming**.



Fed by rivers like the **Ganga, Indus, and Brahmaputra**.



Rivers bring **mineral-rich soil** and help in **growing crops**.



Also used for **generating electricity**.



Home to a **large part of India's population**.

Agricultural practices in the plains & Aerial view of Delhi



Fig. 1.11. Modern agricultural practices in the plains



Fig. 1.12. Aerial view of Delhi with the river Yamuna on top right



The Great Indian Desert or Thar Desert

- **Sand dunes** formed by wind can rise up to **150 metres**.
- A **large arid region** mostly in **Rajasthan**, also in **Gujarat, Punjab, and Haryana**.
- Has **extreme temperatures** – very hot days and cold nights.
- **Very little water**, making life difficult.
- Acts as a **natural barrier** due to harsh conditions.
- People have **adapted** their food, clothing, and lifestyle to survive here.



Jaisalmer, the 'Golden City', located in the middle of the Thar desert in India. The Jaisalmer fort is a UNESCO World Heritage site.





Fig. 1.24. (Left) Women fetching water from a source far away from home
(Right) Rainwater harvesting structure in a village

Water problem in the Thar Desert

- **Water is scarce**, so women walk long distances to collect it.
- **Utensils are cleaned with sand** and rinsed with very little water.
- **Used water is reused**, for example, to water plants.
- **Rajasthan** uses smart methods like **taanka** and **kunds** to **store rainwater** for drinking.

The Aravalli Hills

- **One of the oldest mountain ranges** in the world (about **2.5 billion years old**).
- **Highest peak** is **Mount Abu** (over **1700 m**).
- Most hills are between **300 and 900 metres** high.
- A **4.5-hour drive** from Mount Abu to the Thar Desert shows a change in geography.



The Aravalli Hills

- Acts as a **natural barrier**, preventing the Thar Desert from expanding eastward.
- Rich in **minerals** like marble, granite, zinc, and copper.
- Historic **mining** and **construction** activities, including ancient **zinc extraction**.
- Home to **forts** like **Chittorgarh**, **Kumbhalgarh**, and **Ranthambore**.



Fig. 1.26. Kumbhalgarh Fort surrounded by the Aravallis; this location in the hills proved to be an excellent deterrent to the enemy.

The Peninsular Plateau

- Located in the **middle and south** of India, it is an **old land formation**.
- Surrounded by **water** on three sides: **Arabian Sea**, **Bay of Bengal**, and **Indian Ocean**.
- Bordered by the **Western Ghats** (taller, on the west) and **Eastern Ghats** (lower, on the east).



Fig. 1.32. Coal mines in the plateau; an important resource, especially in the production of electricity. Coal is a fossil fuel, the use of which contributes to global warming.

The Peninsular Plateau

- The **Western Ghats** are a **UNESCO World Heritage Site**, home to **rivers** and **rich biodiversity**.
- The area between the two mountain ranges is the **Deccan Plateau** – a large, **flat highland**.
- Important rivers like **Godavari**, **Krishna**, and **Kaveri** flow across the plateau, providing water for **farming** and millions of people.

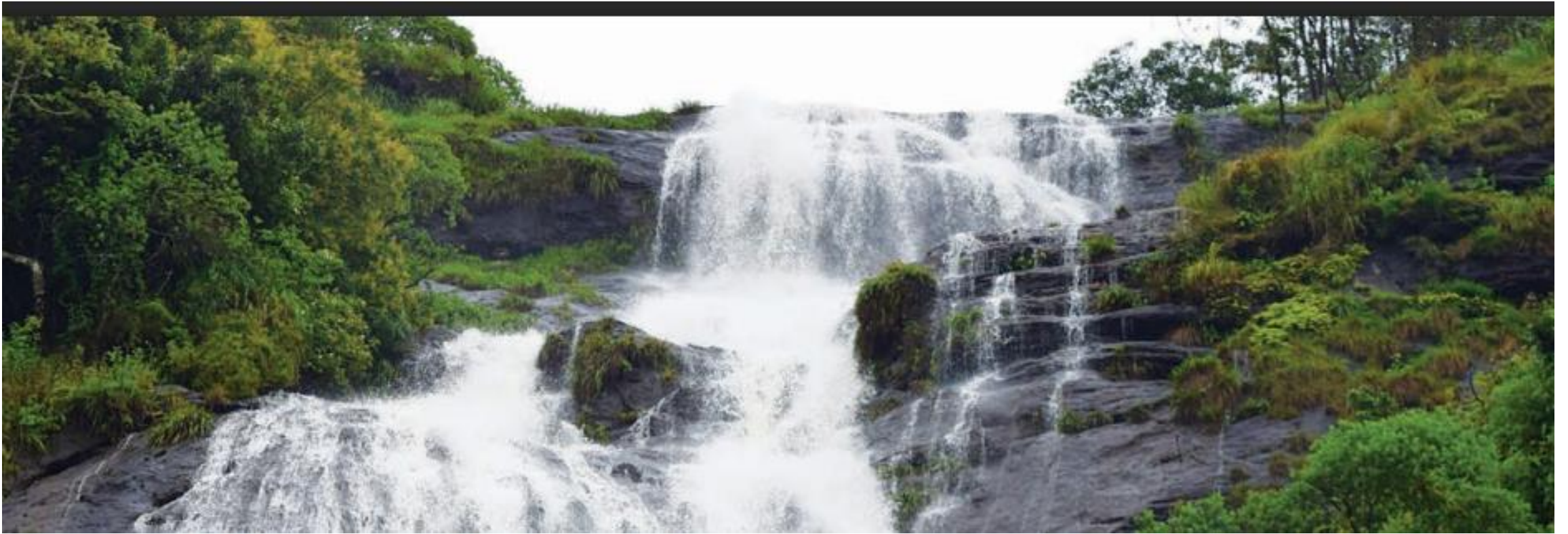


*Fig. 1.29. Lion-tailed macaque
in the Western Ghats*



*Fig. 1.30. King cobra of the
Western Ghats*

Plateaus are home to many beautiful waterfalls in India



India's Amazing Coastlines

India has a coastline over **7500 km** long.

Features **beautiful beaches, rocky cliffs, and lush forests.**

Some beaches have **golden sand**, others have **black rocks.**

Some islands have **coral reefs**, while others are covered in **thick jungles.**

India's coasts are full of **natural surprises!**



The West Coast of India

- Stretches from **Gujarat** to **Kerala**, passing through **Maharashtra, Goa, and Karnataka**.
- Rivers **originate in the Western Ghats**, flow swiftly, and form **estuaries**.
- Shaped by **alluvial deposits** with **coves, creeks, and estuaries**.
- **Important ports** and cities are centers of **economic activity**.
- **Largest estuaries: Narmada and Tapti**.

The East Coast

- Lies between the **Eastern Ghats** and the **Bay of Bengal**, from **Ganga delta** to **Kanyakumari**.
- Features **wide plains** and major **river deltas** (Mahanadi, Godavari, Krishna, Kaveri).
- Important water bodies: **Chilika Lake** and **Pulicat Lake** (a lagoon).
- Deltas form at river **mouaths** and create **fertile land** ideal for farming.



Fig. 1.35. Satellite view of the East Coast of India.



Fig. 1.36. Coral reef in the Lakshadweep Islands



Fig. 1.37. Coral reef in the Andaman Islands

Indian Islands

- India has two major island groups:
- **Lakshadweep Islands** (Arabian Sea)
- **Andaman and Nicobar Islands** (Bay of Bengal)



Lakshadweep Islands (Arabian Sea):

- An **archipelago** of **36 coral islands** near Kerala.
 - Some islands are **uninhabited**.
 - Important for **fishing, resource exploration**, and **environmental protection**.
-

Andaman and Nicobar Islands (Bay of Bengal):

- Comprises **500+ volcanic islands**, divided into **Andaman** and **Nicobar** groups.
- **Strategically located**, serving as **outposts** of India in the ocean.
- Home to unique **flora** and **fauna**.
- Historically significant, with **freedom fighters** jailed in the **Cellular Jail** on the Andaman Islands.



The Delta in West Bengal and the Sundarbans

- Located in the **delta** of the **Ganga** and **Brahmaputra** rivers.
- Half of it is in **India**, and the other half in **Bangladesh**.
- A unique **combination** of river, sea, and land.
- A **UNESCO World Heritage Site**.
- Home to species like the **Royal Bengal Tiger**.



Fig. 1.40. Mangroves of the delta in the Sundarbans of West Bengal

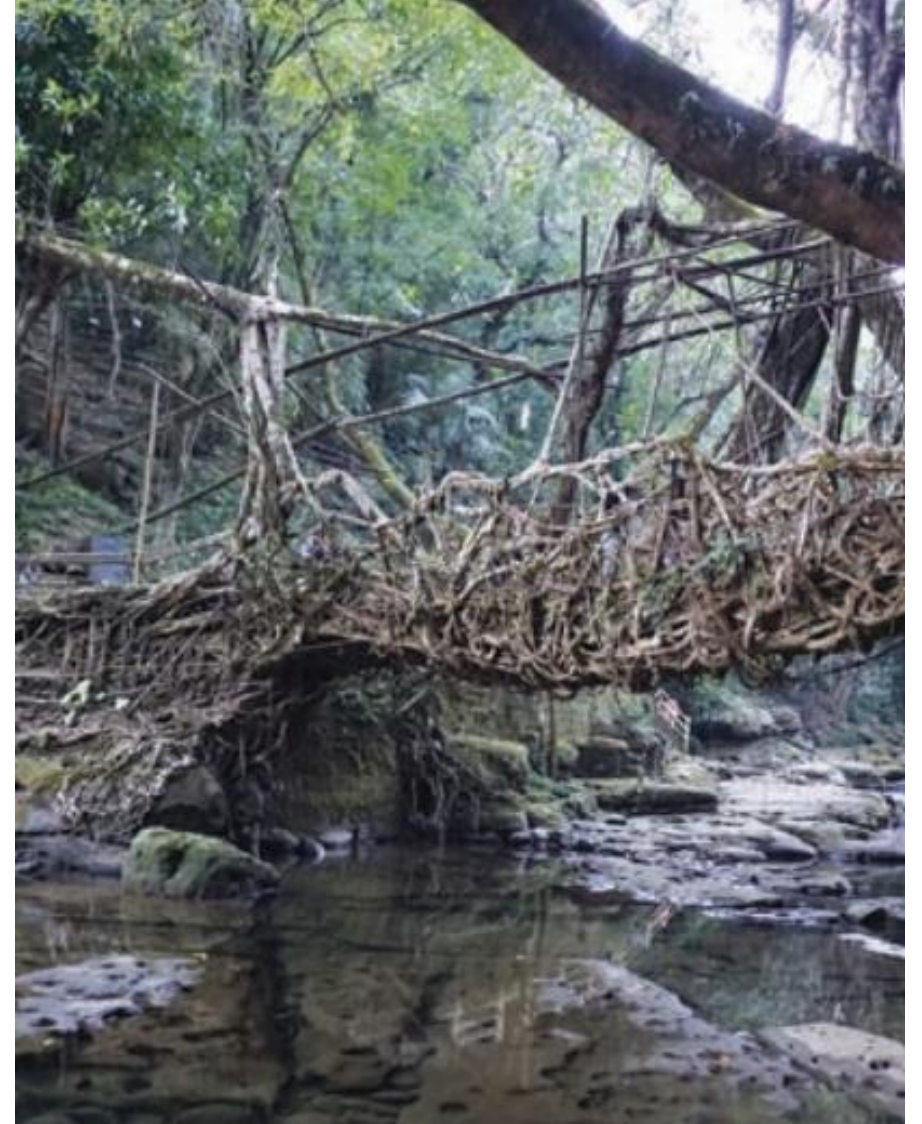
The hills of the Northeast

The **Garo, Khasi, and Jantia** hills, part of the **Meghalaya Plateau**, are known for their **lush greenery**, heavy **rainfall**, and beautiful **waterfalls**.

This region, one of the **wettest** in the world, is rich in **forests, wildlife**, and **fertile land**.

Living root bridges showcase the craftsmanship of the tribes of the Northeast.

- Mawlynnong Village, situated in the East Khasi Hills of Meghalaya, is renowned as the 'cleanest village in Asia'.
- This picturesque village is famous for its well-maintained cleanliness, bamboo dustbins, and eco-friendly living practices.
- The village is also known for its living root bridges, which are created by weaving tree roots over the course of many years.





**THANK
YOU**