

- Physical Features of India

## Physical Features of India

India's physical features are diverse and have been shaped by geological processes over millions of years. The country's relief has been influenced by the African, South American, Australian, Antarctic, the Indian subcontinent, and the Arabian Peninsula. The Peninsular Plateau is one of the oldest within plates.

### Major Physiographic Divisions

India's physical features are classified into six major physiographic divisions:

- The Himalayan Mountains
- The Northern Plains
- The Peninsular Plateau
- The Indian Desert
- The Coastal Plains
- The Islands

### The Himalayan Mountains

The Himalayas are geologically young, fold mountains stretching across India's northern border in a west-east direction from the Indus to the Bay of Bengal.

- **Great or Inner Himalayas (Himadri):** The northernmost range with the highest peaks averaging 6,000 meters.
- **Himachal or Lesser Himalaya:** Located south of the Himadri, this rugged range has altitudes between 3,700 and 4,500 meters and an average width of 100 km.
- **Shivaliks:** The outermost range with widths from 10 to 50 km and altitudes between 900 and 1,100 meters, made of unconsolidated sediments.

The longitudinal valleys between the Lesser Himalayas and the Shivaliks are called 'Duns'. The Himalayas are also divided regionally by rivers.

Coral islands located in the Arabian Sea, near Kerala.

Lakshadweep Islands

Group of 204 islands in the Bay of Bengal.

Andaman and Nicobar Islands

## 6. The Islands

Home to Barren Island, India's only active volcano.

Narrow; divided into Konkan (Mumbai-Goa), Kannad Plain and Malabar Coast.

Western Coastal Plains

Wider; divided into Northern Circar and Coromandel Coast.

Eastern Coastal Plains

## 5. The Coastal Plains

Fertile areas with prominent deltas (e.g., Godavari, Krishna, Mahanadi and Kaveri).

Located west of Aravalli Hills.

Undulating sandy plains with crescent-shaped dunes (barchans).

Characteristics

## 4. The Indian Desert

River: Luni is the only significant river.

Formation: Formed from Gondwana land breakup; the oldest landmass in India.

Central Highlands: Includes Malwa Plateau; slopes towards the north.

Deccan Plateau: Triangular plateau to south of Narmada River, bordered by Western and Eastern Ghats.

Divisions

## 3. The Peninsular Plateau

Black soil area (The Deccan Trap).

Extensions like Bundelkhand, Baghelkhand and Chotanagpur Plateau.

Distinct Features

