

Indian Geography

The Solar System

- It is believed that around 14 billion years ago, a hot ball of matter exploded with a big bang creating the universe stars, planets, etc.
- The Sun is a medium sized star, one among millions. Stars are self-luminous.
- The solar system consists of the Sun, eight planets and more than 170 satellites, with many asteroids, comets and meteors.
- All planets, satellites revolve around the Sun. Sun is about 150 million kilometres away from the earth and is made up of hydrogen and helium.
- Eight planets on the basis of their distance from the Sun are Mercury, Venus, Earth, Mars, Jupiter, Saturn, Uranus and Neptune, Jupiter is the largest whereas mercury is the smallest planet.
- Planets have no heat or light of their own; they receive it from the Sun. Mercury is the nearest to the Sun whereas Neptune is the farthest. Venus is closest to the earth and is considered as "Earth's Twin". The moon is the earth's only satellite. Mercury and Venus have no satellites, Jupiter has 79 and Saturn has 62 satellites. Saturn has a ring around it.

The Earth

- The earth is a unique planet, the only planet having life because of existence of air and water in abundance. The Earth is simultaneously in motion on its axis and around the Sun called Rotation and Revolution. The earth takes 24 hours to complete one rotation and 365 days, 5 hours and 48 minutes and 46 seconds to complete one revolution. The primary effect of rotation is occurrence of day and night and that of revolution is different seasons.
- The day and night are of equal duration (equinox) throughout the world on 21st March and 23rd September. Summer Solstice occurs on 21st June, and Winter Solstice on 22nd December.
- Major domains of the earth Lithosphere (land), Hydrosphere (water). Atmosphere (air) and Biosphere (where life occurs)
- There are seven major continents. In order of size, these are Asia, Africa, North America, South America, Antarctica, Europe and Australia.
- In order of their size, the five major oceans in the world are Pacific ocean, Atlantic Ocean, Indian Ocean. Southern Ocean and the Arctic Ocean
- The earth's atmosphere consists of Nitrogen (78%), Oxygen (21%), carbon dioxide, argon and other gases (1%). The atmosphere is divided into five main layers Troposphere, Stratosphere, Mesosphere, Ionosphere, and Exosphere. Troposphere is the most important layer as 90% of gases are concentrated within 8-18 km of this layer. All weather changes take place here.

Major Riverside Cities in India			
City	River	City	River
Agra	Yamuna	Jabalpur	Narmada
Ahmedabad	Sabarmati	Kanpur	Ganga
Ayodhya	Saryu	Kota	Chambal

Kolkata	Hooghly	Lucknow	Gomti
Cuttack	Mahanadi	Mathura	Yamuna
Varanasi	Ganga	Dibrugarh	Brahmaputra
Delhi	Yamuna	Nasik	Godawari
Vijayawada	Krishna	Patna	Ganga
Ferozepur	Satluj	Prayag	Ganga and Yamuna
Guwahati	Brahmaputra	Ropar	Satluj
Haridwar	Ganga	Srinagar	Jhelum
Hyderabad	Musi	Surat	Tapti
Rishikesh	Ganga	Ujjain	Shipra

India: Location and Extent

- The Indian subcontinent occupies a strategic position in Southern Asia. It is favourably situated on the world's highways of trade and commerce both to the east and the west. The Arabian peninsula and African continent lie in its west and Myanmar, Malaysia and Indonesia in the east.
- The third biggest ocean in the world known as Indian Ocean is named after it. It is a distinct geographic entity, separated from the rest of Asia by the lofty mountain barriers of the Himalayas, the Kirthar, the Sulaiman, the Hindukush and the Poorvachal mountain ranges.
- The countries that the Indian subcontinent comprises are India, Pakistan, Nepal, Bhutan and Bangladesh, India being the largest among them. In fact, it is the second largest country in the world in terms of population and seventh largest in the world in terms of area.

Seventh largest country	
Area	: 32,87,263 sq. km
North to South	: 3,214 km
West to East	: 2,933 km
Latitudinal extent	: 8°4' N to 37°6' N
Longitudinal extent	: 68°7' E to 97°25' E
Southernmost point – Indira Point or Pygmalion Point (Andaman and Nicobar Islands)	
Coastline is 6,100 km (along main landmass) and 7,516 km (if Andaman and Nicobar Islands and Lakshadweep are considered)	

- India is situated in the Northern Hemisphere. The southern tip of India lies at 8°4' N. The Tropic of Cancer (23°30' N) almost divides India into two halves. The line passes through eight States, viz., Gujarat, Rajasthan, Madhya Pradesh, Chhattisgarh, Jharkhand, West Bengal, Tripura and Mizoram.
- India has three distinct physical divisions. The northern boundaries of India are provided by the lofty ranges of the Himalayas, which run almost in a wall-like shape from north-west to north-east. Then we have the Great Plains of northern India formed by the basins of three mighty river systems, viz., the Indus, the Ganga and the Brahmaputra.
- Down below, we have the Deccan Plateau of the Peninsular India, which is geologically the oldest structure of the Indian subcontinent. It consists of huge rock blocks of very ancient times.

The Great Mountain Wall of the North

- India's northern frontiers are distinctly marked out by an arc-shaped huge mountain wall stretching for about 3,600 km comprising the snow-capped mountain ranges of the Karakoram and the Himalayas. The width of this mountain belt varies between 150 km and 400 km.
- The Karakoram mountain ranges rise from the Pamir Knot in the north-west and stretch towards south-east up to the Indus Gorge in Jammu and Kashmir.
- The world's second highest mountain peak K2 (Godwin Austen), which has a height of 8,611 metres, belongs to this chain of mountains.
- Famous Baltoro and Siachen Glacier also lie in the high valleys of Karakoram ranges. To the south of the Karakoram mountains is the Ladakh range and further below southwards is the Zaskar range of mountains.
- The Himalayas (meaning the abode of snow), which form almost a 2,500 km long continuous mountain wall on India's north, extending from Indus in the west to Brahmaputra in the east, can be divided into Western, Central and Eastern Himalayas.
- The Western Himalayas encompass Jammu and Kashmir, Ladakh and Himachal Pradesh. The Central Himalayas are spread over Uttarakhand and Nepal. The Eastern Himalayas cover northern parts of the West Bengal and extend into Sikkim, Bhutan and Arunachal Pradesh.
- The Himalayas broadly consist of three parallel ranges of mountains, viz., the Himadri, the Himachal and the Shiwaliks.
- The Himadri range, also known as the Greater Himalayas, comprises the northernmost range and lies on the edge of the Tibetan Plateau. It is the highest mountain range with an average height of about 6,000 metres above the sea level.
- The world's highest mountain peak, Mount Everest (8,848 metres) in Nepal, belongs to the Greater Himalayas. Kanchenjunga (8,598 metres), Nanga Parbat (8,126 metres) and Nanda Devi (7,817 metres) are the highest peaks of the Greater Himalayas in India.

- South of the Himadri lies the Himachal range, which is also known as the Middle or the Lesser Himalayas, which has a height varying between 3,700 and 4,500 metres above sea level. This range of alternating ridges and valleys and highly dissected uplands contains many of India's important hill stations.
- The beautiful Kashmir, Kulu and Kangra valleys of India and Kathmandu valley in Nepal, lie in this mountain range. The popular hill stations of Shimla (Himachal Pradesh), Mussoorie, Nainital (both in Uttarakhand) and Darjeeling (West Bengal) are also located on the Himachal ranges of the Himalayas.
- The Shiwalik range is the southernmost range of Himalayas which is the lowest among the Himalayan ranges with a height of between 900 metres to 1,200 metres above the sea level. Made up of mud and soft rocks, it is a discontinuous range which lies on the northern border of the Ganga plain and extends towards east to merge with the main mountains.
- Though the Himalayas, with their loftiest mountain range, form the impeccable barrier on India's northern frontiers, they do contain some gaps in their ranges which provide natural routes across these high mountains.
- These gaps, called 'passes', have not only been traditional trade routes over the past many centuries, but have also provided easy access to the foreign invaders and greatly influenced the course of India's history. The important passes in the Himalayas are the Jelep La, Shipki La, Nathu La, Bomdi La, etc.
- On India's north-eastern side are located the Poorvachal mountains, which consist of the Patkai Bum and the Naga Hills in the north; Mizo and Lushai Hills in the south; and the Garo, Khasi and Jaintia Hills in the centre. These mountain ranges are neither as tall nor as spectacular as the mighty Himalayas.

The Northern Plains

- Northern Plains lie between the Himalayas in the north and the Deccan Plateau.
- In the far west of the plains are the rivers Ravi, Beas and Satluj tributaries of Indus draining into the Arabian Sea. The Ganga and its tributaries like Yamuna, Gandak, Kosi, etc. cover the central and eastern part of the plains. The eastern part is drained by the Brahmaputra and its tributaries.
- Thus, the Northern plains are formed by deposition of three main river systems the Indus, Ganga and Brahmaputra.
- These are alluvial plains formed by sand, silt and clay. The Ganga and Brahmaputra form the Sunderbans delta at the mouth of the Bay of Bengal the biggest delta in the world.
- The most salient feature of the northern plains is its extreme levelness or horizontality.
- The Ganga-Brahmaputra river systems forms the largest part of the Great plains.
- The Ganga rises from the Gangotri glacier in the Himalayas and is joined by Yamuna, Sone on its right bank and Gomati, Ghaghra, Gandak and Kosi in its right flank.
- The Yamuna rises from the Yamunotri glacier in the Himalayas but its important tributaries Chambal, Betwa and Ken rise from Malwa plateau.
- The Great plains of the north, being extremely fertile and most suited to agriculture, makes them the granary of India. Apart from food crops of rice, wheat, pulses and millets, this region also provides cash crops like sugarcane, oilseeds, jute, etc.
- The region has a large and dense population, a network of railways and roads, many industries and thriving towns and cities.

The Great Plateau of Peninsular India

- To the south of the Great Plains of northern India lies the oldest landmass of Peninsular India which is made up of hard metamorphic rocks.
- This Great Plateau has two distinct parts -- the Malwa Plateau and the Deccan Plateau.
- The Malwa Plateau is bounded by the Aravalli hills in the north-west and the Vindhyas in the south, both these low old mountains forming the sharp edges of this plateau. The third side of this triangular Malwa Plateau, which extends from west to east, slopes gradually towards the plains of Ganga and merges into it.
- The valley of the river Narmada forms the southern boundary of the Malwa Plateau, while its extensions to the east form the Bundelkhand and Bughelkhand in southern Uttar Pradesh and Chhotanagpur in Jharkhand. Most of the rivers of this plateau flow northward into the river Yamuna.
- The northeastern part of the Malwa Plateau called the Chhotanagpur plateau, is the richest mineral producing region of India.
- The Deccan Plateau, which is roughly triangular, extends from the Satpura hills in the north to Kanniyakumari, the southernmost tip of India, ending in the Indian Ocean. On the western edge of the plateau lie the Sahyadri, the Nilgiri, the Annamalai and the Cardamom Hills, commonly called as the Western Ghats:

- The average height of the Western Ghats, which run along the Arabian Sea, goes on increasing towards the south. Anaimudi peak in Kerala, with a height of 2,695 metres, is the highest peak of the peninsular India. In the Nilgiris lies the Udagamandalam (Ooty), the best known hill station of southern India.
- From the Western Ghats, the Deccan Plateau gradually slopes away towards east to the Bay of Bengal. The eastern edge of the Deccan Plateau is less marked as the Eastern Ghats have discontinuous low hills called Mahendra Giri.
- All the major rivers of the Deccan Plateau Mahanadi, Godavari, Krishna and Cauvery, flow from west to east and piercing through these low discontinuous ranges of the Eastern Ghat hills merge into the Bay of Bengal. Only Narmada and Tapi are the two major rivers which flow from east to west and fall into the Arabian Sea.
- The north-western part of the Great Plateau is made up of lava flows or the igneous rocks called Basalt, also known as the Deccan Trap. The Deccan Trap is spread over the whole of Maharashtra, and parts of Gujarat and Madhya Pradesh, giving a thick dark soil in these regions.
- This soil called Regur or Black soil, is very suitable for cotton cultivation, and makes this region the most important cotton belt in India.
- Many parts of the Great Plateau are rich in minerals the famous gold fields of Kolar, the uranium deposits of Tamil Nadu and Jharkhand, the manganese, iron-ore and copper deposits of the northeast lie in the regions comprising this Great Plateau.

The Great Desert of Rajasthan

- To the north-west of the Malwa Plateau lies the Thar Desert of the Great Desert of Rajasthan in the western part of Rajasthan.
- The desert, which is made up of sand, interrupted by rocky hills and waterless valleys, starts from the west of Aravallis and extends deep into Pakistan.
- The desert is the area of inland drainage system, as the few rivers that flow in this area, either drain into the salt lakes or disappear into sands. Only the river Luni drains off into the Rann of Kutch, where wild ass live.
- The desert climate, being arid and unfavourable for human settlement, makes the region sparsely populated.
- With sparse rainfall (12-25 cm) and very high temperatures (52.8°C) in summer, the area has scanty vegetation kikar, babool, cactus with sand dunes.
- The construction of Rajasthan canal or Indira Gandhi canal has transformed many parts of the desert into a fertile area where wheat is grown on large scale.

The Coastal Strips

- The Deccan Plateau is flanked, on its west and east, by narrow coastal plains, along the Arabian Sea and the Bay of Bengal.
- The Western Coastal plain lies between the Western Ghats and the Arabian Sea.
- The southern part called the Malabar Coast, is narrow, uneven and gradually dissected by a number of fast flowing streams, rivers with many lagoons, backwaters and high beaches.
- The northern part of the Western Coastal plain called the Konkan Coast, gets wider as it moves further northwards and encompasses the plains of Gujarat.
- The Eastern Coastal Plain lying between the Eastern Ghats and the Bay of Bengal, is wider and more levelled. It has some of the most fertile and well-watered deltas formed by big rivers such as Krishna, Cauvery, Godavari and Mahanadi.
- The southern part of Eastern Coastal plain is called the Coromandal Coast and its northern part is called the Northern Circars. The soils on the eastern coast are deep, fertile and famous for cultivation of rice.

Indian Islands

- Besides the mainland, India has two groups of Islands the Andaman and Nicobar islands in the Bay of Bengal and the Lakshadweep islands in the Arabian Sea. Andaman and Nicobar consists of many islands which are very small and uninhabited.
- The northern cluster is called the Andamans, a group of 204 small islands, while the southern cluster is Nicobar Islands, comprising a group of 19 islands. Together they form the Union Territory of Andaman and Nicobar Islands, with capital at Port Blair.
- The Lakshadweep comprises a group of 27 coral islands, scattered in the Arabian Sea, about 300 km to the west of the Kerala Coast.
- None of these horse-shoe or ring-shaped islands is more than a couple of kilometres in length and breadth, and about 17 of these islands uninhabited. The Kavaratti Island is the capital of the Union Territory of Lakshadweep.

Indian Climatic Features

- India is a land of climatic contrasts due to its vast size and huge variations in terrain, with its southern part being surrounded by seas on three sides and the Great Himalayas crowning its northern boundary.
- On an extremely hot afternoon the temperature may shoot up to 55°C in western Rajasthan whereas on a severe winter night, the mercury may drop to 45°C in Kargil (Ladakh)
- Similarly while Mawsynram and Cherapunji (both in Meghalaya) are the wettest places on the earth with annual rainfall of over 1000 cm, western Rajasthan receives no than 13 cm of rainfall.
- Simultaneously, certain regions may be submerged in floods and others in drought. In between these extremes, there is a vast region having moderate and uniform climate, with coastal regions having an equable climate and interiors having continental type of climate.
- The Tropic of Cancer divides India into two halves. Southern India's lies in the tropical zone and northern India in the sub-tropical zone, keeping the temperatures high all over the country, except regions of high altitude where famous hill stations are located.
- The Western Disturbances, which bring rainfall in north-western region of India (Punjab, Delhi, Uttarakhand, Haryana, Himachal) originate from the low pressure systems developing in the eastern Mediterranean region.
- The Upper air currents or Jet Streams too have their influence on India's climatic conditions.
- The most important factor which shapes India's climate is the Monsoon which affect almost all parts of the country with varying intensity and duration and account for the seasonal rhythmic cycles.
- An important characteristic feature of the Monsoons is the complete reversal of winds leading to alternation of season. On the basis of monsoon variations, the year is divided into four seasons-
 - 1) Cold Weather Season (December to February)
 - 2) Hot Weather Season (March to May).
 - 3) Southwest Monsoon Season (June to September).
 - 4) Retreating Southwest Monsoon Season (October to November)
- Starting in December, the cold weather season is fully established in January and the temperature declines as one moves from south to north. Generally, fine weather is occasionally disturbed by the Western Disturbances which bring light rainfall.
- The period between March and May is of rising temperature and decreasing air pressure as the belt of intense heat shifts from south to north.
- In May-June, intense heat waves called Loo blow in northern India. In Kerala and Karnataka, the pre-monsoon showers help in ripening of mangoes, termed as 'mango-showers'. In West Bengal and Assam, violent local thunderstorms called 'Kalbaisakhi' bring heavy rainfall with hailstorm.
- By early June, the low pressure area over northern plains becomes highly intense to attract north-west rain-bearing winds. By mid-July these winds overrun the entire country. The Southwest Monsoons originate from the Indian Ocean and blow over the land mass of India from June to September.
- The landmass of peninsular India divides the Southwest Monsoons into two branches Arabian sea branch and Bay of Bengal branch. The monsoon winds arising from the Arabian Sea, strike the Western Ghats and cause heavy rains. Having crossed the Ghats they advance over the Deccan Plateau and Madhya Pradesh and are joined by a current of winds arising from the Bay of Bengal.
- The monsoon winds from the Bay of Bengal strike the Purvachal Himalayas and bring heavy rainfall in Assam, West Bengal and the adjoining states, sub-Himalayan region and northern plains.
- In all parts of the country, with the exception of the east coast of Tamil Nadu, bulk of annual rainfall is received during the monsoon season from SW Monsoons.
- However, the monsoon is irregular, erratic, unequal with spells of dry periods in between. Monsoons become weaker as they move from east to west.
- The windward side of the Western Ghats receives heavy rainfall while the leeward side gets little rainfall.

Rocks and Minerals

- The earth's crust is made up of rocks which contain a single mineral or a combination of minerals. Rocks can be classified into (i) igneous rocks (ii) sedimentary rocks and (iii) metamorphic rocks. Igneous rocks are formed from the solidification of molten magma on the surface of the earth and beneath the earth's crust.
- These rocks are called primary rocks as most of other rocks are formed from them. These rocks are very hard, impervious, compact and massive. Major examples of igneous rocks are basalt, granite, dolerite,
- Sedimentary rocks are made of many layers of sediments which are compressed, cemented and hardened over a long period. Large deposits of dead plants and animal remains buried inside the earth get changed into coal and petroleum over long geological periods.
- These are referred to as the fossil fuels. Good examples of sedimentary rocks are sandstone and limestone.

- Metamorphic rocks are formed when existing sedimentary and igneous rocks are subject to great heat and pressure over thousands of years. These rocks are extremely hard. Thus, granite changes into gneiss, sandstone into quartzite, shale into slate, limestone into marble, and coal changes into graphite/

Natural Vegetation

- **Evergreen forests**-characterised by heavy rainfall (over 200 cm), luxuriant vegetation with creepers and canopy, trees don't shed their leaves at the same time, important trees are ebony, mahogany, rosewood, rubber and cinchona. These are found in Western Ghats, Lakshdweep, Andaman & Nicobar islands, upper parts of Assam and Tamil Nadu coast.
- **Tropical Deciduous forests** -called Monsoon forests; spread over region receiving rainfall between 200 cm-70 cm; trees shed their leaves in summer.
- **Moist deciduous forests** (rainfall between 200-100 cm) are mostly found in northeastern states, along the forest hills of Himalayas, Jharkhand, West Odisha, Chhattisgarh, eastern slopes of Western Ghats, Important trees - teak, bamboo, sal, shisham, sandalwood, khair, kusum, arjun, mulberry.
- **Dry deciduous forests** -(rainfall between 100 cm 70 cm) are found in rainier parts of peninsular plateau, and plains of Bihar & Uttar Pradesh. Important trees are teak, sal, peepal, neem, mango etc.
- **Thorn forests and scrubs** -are found in the region with less than 70 cm rainfall natural vegetation consists of thorny trees, bushes. This type of vegetation is found in northwestern and semi-arid areas of Gujarat, Rajasthan, M.P, Chhattisgarh and Haryana.
- Important trees are babool, kikar, acacias, palms, euphorbias and cacti. Trees are scattered having long roots, thick stems and thick, small and thorny leaves to minimise evaporation.
- **Montane Forests** -in mountainous areas, there is a succession of natural vegetation belts. The wet temperate type of forests are found between 1000 m 2000 m with evergreen oaks and chestnut tree dominating.
- Between 1500 m 3000 m, temperate forests containing coniferous trees like pine, deodar, fir, spruce and cedar are found. After height of 3600 metres, alpine vegetation is found consisting of silver fir, junipers, pines and birches.
- **Mangrove forests** are found in deltas of Sundarbans, and those of Mahanadi, Krishna, Godavari and Kaveri. In the Ganga-Brahmaputra delta Sundari trees predominate which provide durable and hard timber. Other important trees are palm, coconut, keora, agar etc. The Sundarbans is famous for Royal Bengal tiger.

Cropping Pattern

- There are two major crop seasons Kharif and Rabi. Kharif crops are associated with Monsoons and are sown in the months of June-July and are harvested in November-December, Important Kharif Crops are rice, jowar, bajra, ragi, maize, sugarcane, cotton and jute
- Rabi crops are sown during October - December and harvested in April-May. Important crops are wheat, barley, peas, pulses, linseed, rapeseed and mustard.

TRY THESE QUESTIONS

- 1) Which one of the following places receives the highest rainfall in the world?
 - a) Silchar
 - b) Cherrapunji
 - c) Mawsynram
 - d) Guwahati
- 2) Hot, dry wind blowing in the northern plains in summers is called.
 - a) Loo
 - b) Kal Baisakhi
 - c) Mango Showers
 - d) Trade winds
- 3) Monsoon arrives in India approximately in
 - a) Early May
 - b) Early June
 - c) Early July
 - d) Early August

- 4) **Where is Simlipal bio-reserve located?**
 - a) Punjab
 - b) Delhi
 - c) Odisha
 - d) West Bengal
- 5) **Fir, Deodar, Chir and pine trees are commonly found in**
 - a) Mangrove forests
 - b) Montane forests
 - c) Deciduous forests
 - d) Evergreen forests
- 6) **Ebony, mahogany, rosewood, rubber and cinchona are major trees found in (a) Montane forests**
 - a) Montane forests
 - b) Tidal forests
 - c) Deciduous forests
 - d) Evergreen forests
- 7) **The Western Disturbances bring rainfall in northwest India during which season?**
 - a) Summer
 - b) Winter
 - c) Rainy season
 - d) Autumn
- 8) **In which of the following states or UT is the Wular lake located?**
 - a) Rajasthan
 - b) Punjab
 - c) U.P
 - d) J & K
- 9) **The river Narmada has its source at**
 - a) Satpura
 - b) Amarkantak
 - c) Brahmagiri
 - d) Western Ghats
- 10) **Which one of the following is a salt water lake?**
 - a) Sambhar
 - b) Wular
 - c) Dal
 - d) Gobind Sagar
- 11) **The 'Dhuadhar Falls' is associated with which river?**
 - a) Ganga
 - b) Yamuna
 - c) Narmada
 - d) Tapi
- 12) **The highest peak in the Eastern Ghats is**
 - a) Anai Mudi
 - b) Mahendragiri
 - c) Kunchenjunga
 - d) Khasi
- 13) **Which of the following is also referred to as 'Sahyadri'?**
 - a) Western Ghats
 - b) Satpura
 - c) Ooty
 - d) Aravallis
- 14) **The highest peak in the Western Ghats is**
 - a) Mahendragiri
 - b) Anai Mudi
 - c) Doda Belta
 - d) Shervoy Hills
- 15) **The Thal, Bhore and Pal are names of**
 - a) Rivers
 - b) Lakes

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- c) Mountains
- d) Mountain Passes

16) The Patkai hills, Naga hills, Manipur hills and Mizo hills comprise the

- a) Western Ghats
- b) Eastern Ghats
- c) Purvachal
- d) Astachal

17) The northernmost range of the Himalayas is called

- a) Himadri
- b) Himachal
- c) Shiwaliks
- d) Purvacha

18) Choose the wrong pair.

- a) Coromandel Coast: Tamil Nadu
- b) Northern Circars : Andhra Pradesh
- c) Malabar Coast: Kerala
- d) Konkan : Gujarat

19) The Chilika lake is situated in

- a) Kerala
- b) Odisha
- c) Tamil Nadu
- d) Gujarat

20) Which of the following is a salt water lake?

- a) Chilika
- b) Sambhar
- c) Both of these
- d) None of these

21) The Tropic of Cancer does not pass through

- a) Rajasthan
- b) Chhattisgarh
- c) Odisha
- d) Tripura

22) The easternmost longitude of India is

- a) 97°25' E
- b) 77°6' E
- c) 68°7' E
- d) 82°32' E

23) Uttarakhand, Uttar Pradesh, Bihar, West Bengal and Sikkim have common frontiers with

- a) China
- b) Nepal
- c) Bhutan
- d) Myanmar

24) If you intend to visit Kavarati during your summer vacations, which one of the following Union Territories of India you will be going to

- a) Puducherry
- b) Andaman and Nicobar
- c) Lakshadweep
- d) Diu and Daman

25) My friend hails from a country which does not share land boundary with India. Identify the country.

- a) Bhutan
- b) Bangladesh
- c) Tajikistan
- d) Nepal

26) Which one of the following rivers flows through a rift valley?

- a) Mahanadi
- b) Krishna
- c) Tungabhadra
- d) Tapti

27) Which of the following rivers flow from east to west?

- a) Narmada
- b) Tapi
- c) Both of these
- d) None of these

28) Which river is termed as 'Dakshin Ganga'?

- a) Krishna
- b) Godavari
- c) Mahanadi
- d) Cauveri

29) Which type of soil is very suitable for cultivation of cotton?

- a) Regur
- b) Alluvial
- c) Laterite
- d) Red

30) Choose the wrong pair.

- a) Atmospheric pressure: Barometer
- b) Relative humidity : Hygrometer
- c) Rainfall: Raingauge
- d) Wind speed : Windvane

31) Which of the following kinds of clouds are most likely to bring continuous rainfall?

- a) Stratus
- b) Cumulus
- c) Cirrus
- d) Nimbus

32) Which of the following is a metamorphic rock?

- a) Sandstone
- b) Granite
- c) Limestone
- d) Marble

33) The Sun is a

- a) Star
- b) planet
- c) satellite
- d) meteor

34) Which planet is considered as 'Earth's twin'?

- a) Mercury
- b) Venus
- c) Saturn
- d) Mars

35) Which of the following planets does not have a natural satellite?

- a) Mercury
- b) Venus
- c) Earth
- d) Both (a) and (b)

36) Choose the wrong pair.

- a) Mercury: Nearest to Sun
- b) Neptune: Farthest from Sun
- c) Venus: Closest to earth
- d) Jupiter: Smallest planet

37) Choose the wrong pair.

- a) Mars : Red planet
- b) Venus: Morning Star
- c) Earth : Blue Planet
- d) Jupiter: Planet with rings

38) Which type of soil you are most likely to find on a river bank?

- a) Alluvial
- b) Black

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- c) Red
- d) Laterite

39) Almost all soils except this one are formed in situ. Name this soil.

- a) Regur
- b) Alluvial
- c) Red
- d) Laterite

40) Which is the most widespread forest of India?

- a) Deciduous
- b) Rainforests
- c) Mangrove
- d) Thorns & Scrubs

41) Where will you find Xerophytes?

- a) Deserts
- b) Wetlands
- c) Hills
- d) Plains

42) Which of the following pairs is incorrect?

- a) Rainforests: ebony
- b) Mountains: silver fir
- c) Mangrove: teak
- d) Desert: Cacti

43) Chipko movement is associated with which state

- a) Bihar
- b) Odisha
- c) Nagaland
- d) Uttarakhand

44) Which kind of forests are referred to as "jewels of the earth" and "world's largest pharmacy"?

- a) Deciduous
- b) Coniferous
- c) Tidal
- d) Rainforests

45) Which of these fruits helps in controlling diabetes?

- a) Jasmine
- b) Jamun
- c) Arjun
- d) Mango

46) Sunderbans is a fine example of which kind of forests?

- a) Tidal
- b) Evergreen
- c) Montane
- d) Deiduous

47) Leaves of which of the following trees are used to make *bidis*?

- a) Tendu
- b) Mahua
- c) Mango
- d) Semul

48) Oils from which tree is used to make perfumes and cosmetics ?

- a) Neem
- b) Sandalwood
- c) Tendu
- d) Arjun

49) Which one of the following is not a site for 'in-situ' conservation of forests?

- a) National Park
- b) Botanical gardens

- c) Wildlife sanctuary
- d) Biosphere reserves

50) Branches of this tree have stilt roots which give rise to more trunks and branches. This tree is considered immortal and is an integral part of our myths and legends. Name this tree.

- a) Peepal
- b) Banyan
- c) Mango
- d) Neem

51) Which type of forests are inaccessible but have huge biodiversity potential?

- a) Littoral
- b) Rainforests
- c) Deciduous
- d) Desert & semi-desert

52) Which of the following sectors is the largest consumer of water?

- a) Domestic & household
- b) Agriculture
- c) Urban areas
- d) Industries

53) Choose the only correct pair.

- a) Dongs: Tamil Nadu
- b) Kere: Bihar
- c) Johads: Rajasthan
- d) Khadin: Uttar Pradesh

54) Bark of which of the following trees is used to make quinine?

- a) Shisham
- b) Semul
- c) Teak
- d) Cinchona

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55) Western disturbances cause rainfall in which part of India?

- a) Northeast
- b) Northwest, mainly Punjab & Haryana
- c) South India
- d) Bihar, Uttar Pradesh

56) What is the duration of Retreating South-West Monsoon?

- a) March-May
- b) June-September
- c) October-November
- d) December-February

57) Kal Baisakhi brings heavy rainfall and thunderstorms in which state of India?

- a) Bihar
- b) West Bengal
- c) Chennai
- d) Uttarakhand

58) Which of the following brings Sandstorms in northern India?

- a) Loo
- b) Mango showers
- c) Kal Baisakhi
- d) None of these

59) Which of the following is a characteristic of the Monsoons?

- a) Seasonal reversal of winds
- b) Monsoons are erratic and uneven
- c) South-West Monsoons pick up moisture from the Arabian Sea
- d) All of these

60) Which state of India receives first Monsoon showers?

- a) Kerala
- b) Tamil Nadu
- c) Bihar
- d) West Bengal

61) Why does Pune receive less than 70 cm rainfall whereas Mahabaleshwar receives 250 cm of rainfall?

- a) Mahabaleshwar lies on the windward side of Western Ghats while Pune lies on the leeward side
- b) Mahabaleshwar lies on the leeward side of Western Ghats whereas Pune lies on the windward side of Western Ghats
- c) None of these
- d) Both of these

62) Which branch of South-West Monsoon brings more rainfall to India?

- a) Arabian Sea branch
- b) Bay of Bengal branch
- c) Neither of these
- d) Either of the two

63) Which type of rainfall is received by Mawsynram?

- a) Relief rainfall
- b) Convectional rainfall
- c) Cyclonic rainfall
- d) Frontal rainfall

64) Which of the following regions gets maximum rainfall from the Bay of Bengal branch?

- a) Bihar
- b) Sikkim
- c) Andaman and Nicobar Islands
- d) None of these

65) Rainfall in India is largely controlled by

- a) Climate
- b) Orography
- c) Geography
- d) None of these

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66) Which type of climate is experienced by Kanyakumari?

- a) Equable or Maritime
- b) Continental
- c) Extreme
- d) None of these

67) Why does Shillong get little rainfall why Mawsynram gets the heaviest rainfall?

- a) Mawsynram lies on the windward side of the hills, whereas Shillong lies on the leeward side
- b) Mawsynram lies on the rain shadow of Khasi Hills, whereas Shillong lies on the windward area
- c) Both of these
- d) None of these

68) Winter rainfall in Tamil Nadu & Andhra Pradesh is caused by

- a) Retreating Monsoons
- b) South-West Monsoons
- c) Both of these
- d) None of these

69) The climate of India is greatly influenced by which of the following factors?

- a) Tropic of Cancer
- b) Himalayan range
- c) Both of these
- d) None of these

70) Places situated on the vast east-west coastline of India experience which type of climate?

- a) Maritime or equable
- b) Continental

- c) Mediterranean
- d) Temperate

71) Which of the following winds may cause sunstroke?

- a) Loo
- b) Kal Baisakhi
- c) Sea Breeze
- d) Land Breeze

72) How do the Himalayas influence the climate of India?

- a) They prevent cold Siberian winds from entering India
- b) They force the moisture -laden south-west monsoon winds to give rainfall
- c) Both of these
- d) None of these

73) Why is Ooty cooler than Kochi?

- a) Because of altitude
- b) Because of latitude
- c) Because Kochi is located nearer to Sea
- d) None of these

74) What is El-Nino?

- a) Wind
- b) Warm ocean current
- c) Cold ocean current
- d) None of these

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75) Which season is prevalent in India during June to September?

- a) Winter
- b) Summer
- c) Rainy
- d) Spring

76) In which of the following states Loo does not blow?

- a) Bihar
- b) Tamil Nadu
- c) Uttar Pradesh
- d) Madhya Pradesh

77) Which of the following is called 'Cherry blossoms in Karnataka'?

- a) Kal Baisakhi
- b) Loo
- c) Mango showers
- d) Bardoli Chheerhu

78) Which is the first state to receive the Monsoon showers and also the last to see its withdrawal?

- (a) Bihar
- (b) Kerala
- (c) Karnataka
- (d) Odisha

79) What causes 'October Heat'?

- (a) High temperature
- (b) High humidity
- (c) High rainfall
- (d) Both (a) and (b)

80) Which of the following was declared a 'dwarf planet' in 2006 and lost the coveted status of a planet?

- a) Venus
- b) Pluto
- c) Saturn
- d) Neptune

81) The asteroid belt is found between the orbits of

- a) Mars and Jupiter
- b) Saturn and Jupiter
- c) Uranus and Neptune
- d) Venus and earth

82) Name the hottest and the coldest planet respectively.

- a) Mercury, Neptune
- b) Venus, Neptune
- c) Mars, Jupiter
- d) Saturn, Uranus

83) The zone of earth receiving maximum heat is called

- a) Torrid zone
- b) Frigid zone
- c) Temperate zone
- d) South Pole

84) Choose the wrong pair.

- a) Standard Meridian of India: $82^{\circ}30'$ E
- b) Tropic of Cancer: $23^{\circ}30'$ N
- c) Tropic of Capricorn: $23^{\circ}30'$ S
- d) Arctic Circle: $66^{\circ}30'$ S

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85) Which of the following is called the Land of Midnight Sun?"

- a) North Cape
- b) Tokyo
- c) Sydney
- d) Kohima

86) The Tropic of Cancer receives the direct rays of the Sun on

- a) 21 March
- b) 21 June
- c) 23 September
- d) 22 December

87) Europe and Asia are separated by the

- a) Himalayas
- b) Alps
- c) Andes
- d) Urals

88) The narrow sea connecting Arctic Ocean and Pacific Ocean is

- a) Arabian Sea
- b) Dead Sea
- c) Bering Strait
- d) Coral Sea

89) North America is connected to South America by the

- a) Panama Canal
- b) Isthmus of Panama
- c) Panama Strait
- d) Bering Strait

90) Choose the wrong pair.

- a) Hurricane: North America
- b) Typhoon: Australia
- c) Willy-willy: Australia
- d) Taifu : Japan

91) Select the wrong pair.

- a) Prairies: North America
- b) Pumpas : South America
- c) Veld: South Africa
- d) Downs : Eurasia

92) How many spokes are there in the Dharma Chakra of the National flag?

- a) 22
- b) 14
- c) 24
- d) 18

93) Who composed the National song?

- a) R.N Tagore
- b) Bankim Chandra Chatterjee
- c) Sri Aurobindo
- d) Mahatma Gandhi

94) The inscription on India's national emblem, 'Satyameva Jayate', is a quotation from

- a) Gita
- b) Mundak Upanishad
- c) Vishna Purana
- d) Matsya Purana

95) Which is the capital of the newly formed Union Territory of Ladakh?

- a) Leh
- b) Ladakh
- c) Kargil
- d) Srinagar

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Answer Key:-

1) C	2) A	3) B	4) C	5) B	6) C	7) B	8) D	9) B	10) A
11) C	12) B	13) A	14) B	15) D	16) C	17) A	18) D	19) B	20) C
21) B	22) A	23) C	24) B	25) B	26) D	27) C	28) B	29) A	30) D
31) D	32) D	33) A	34) B	35) D	36) D	37) D	38) A	39) B	40) A
41) A	42) C	43) D	44) D	45) B	46) A	47) A	48) B	49) B	50) B
51) B	52) B	53) C	54) D	55) B	56) C	57) B	58) A	59) D	60) A
61) A	62) A	63) A	64) C	65) B	66) A	67) A	68) A	69) C	70) A
71) A	72) C	73) A	74) B	75) C	76) B	77) C	78) B	79) D	80) B
81) A	82) B	83) A	84) D	85) A	86) B	87) D	88) C	89) B	90) B
91) D	92) C	93) B	94) B	95) A					