



OUR COUNTRY INDIA

An Introduction



SIZE AND LOCATION

- India is a country of vast geographical expanse.
- Located centrally in south Asia, India protrudes in the Indian Ocean as a peninsula.
- Area - 3.28 million sq. km.
- The north-south extent - 3,200 km.
- The east-west extent - 2,900 km.



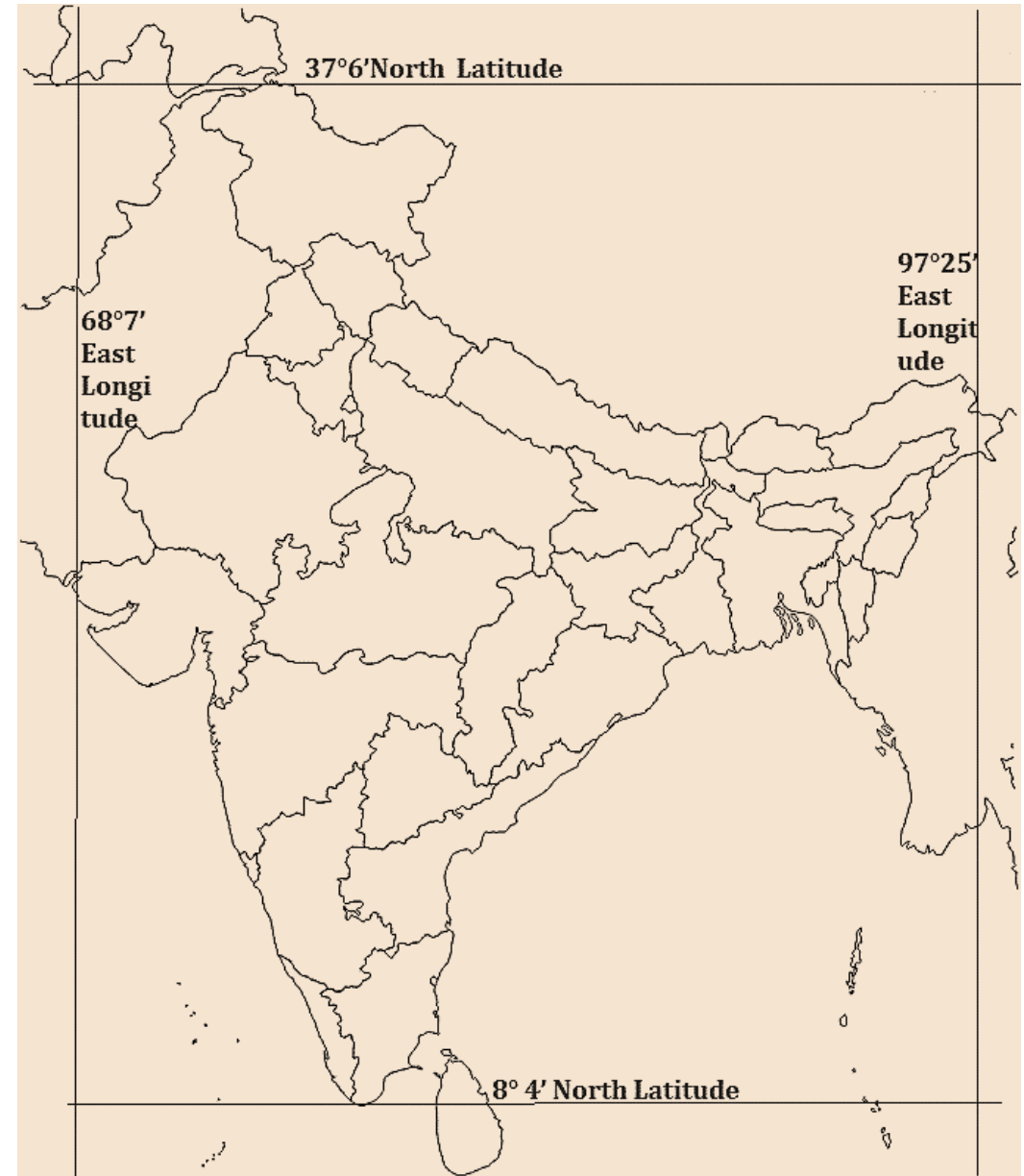
GEOGRAPHICAL LOCATION

- In the north, it is bound by the lofty Himalayas.
- The Arabian Sea in the west, the Bay of Bengal in the east and the Indian Ocean in the south, wash the shores of the Indian peninsula.
- The peninsula is a piece of land that is surrounded by water on three sides.



GRID LOCATION

- India is located in the northern hemisphere.
- The Tropic of Cancer ($23^{\circ}30'N$) passes almost halfway through the country.
- From south to north, main land of India extends between $8^{\circ}4'N$ and $37^{\circ}6'N$ latitudes.
- From west to east, India extends between $68^{\circ}7'E$ and $97^{\circ}25'E$ longitudes.



A LAND OF DIVERSITIES

Cultural India





A LAND OF DIVERSITIES

- The lofty mountains, the Great Indian Desert, the Northern Plains, the uneven plateau surface and the coasts and islands present a diversity of landforms.
- There is a great variety in the climate, vegetation, wildlife as well as in the language and culture.
- In this diversity, we find unity that is reflected in traditions that bind us as one nation.
- India has a population of more than one hundred twenty crores since the year 2011. It is the second most populous country of the world after China.

STANDARD MERIDIAN AND IST

- Due to great longitudinal extent of about 29° , there could be a wide differences in local time of places located at two extreme points of India. As such, the difference between Western most point in Gujarat and easternmost point in Arunachal would be of about two hours.
- We know that the local time changes by four minutes for every one degree of longitude.
- Therefore Arunachal Pradesh sees the sunrise two hours earlier to Gujarat.
- The local time of longitude of $82^\circ 30'E$ has been taken as the Indian Standard Time. This meridian or longitude is also termed as the Standard Meridian of India.
- Large countries which stretch extensively from east to west do not have a single Standard Time for the whole country. The USA and Canada have seven and six time zones respectively.



Shakti IAS Academy

Founded by an IAS

LONGITUDE

68°7' EAST

29°

97°25' EAST



1° = 4 Minutes

29° = 4 x 29 = 116 minutes

SUNRISE DIFFERENCE



Shakti IAS Academy

Founded by an IAS

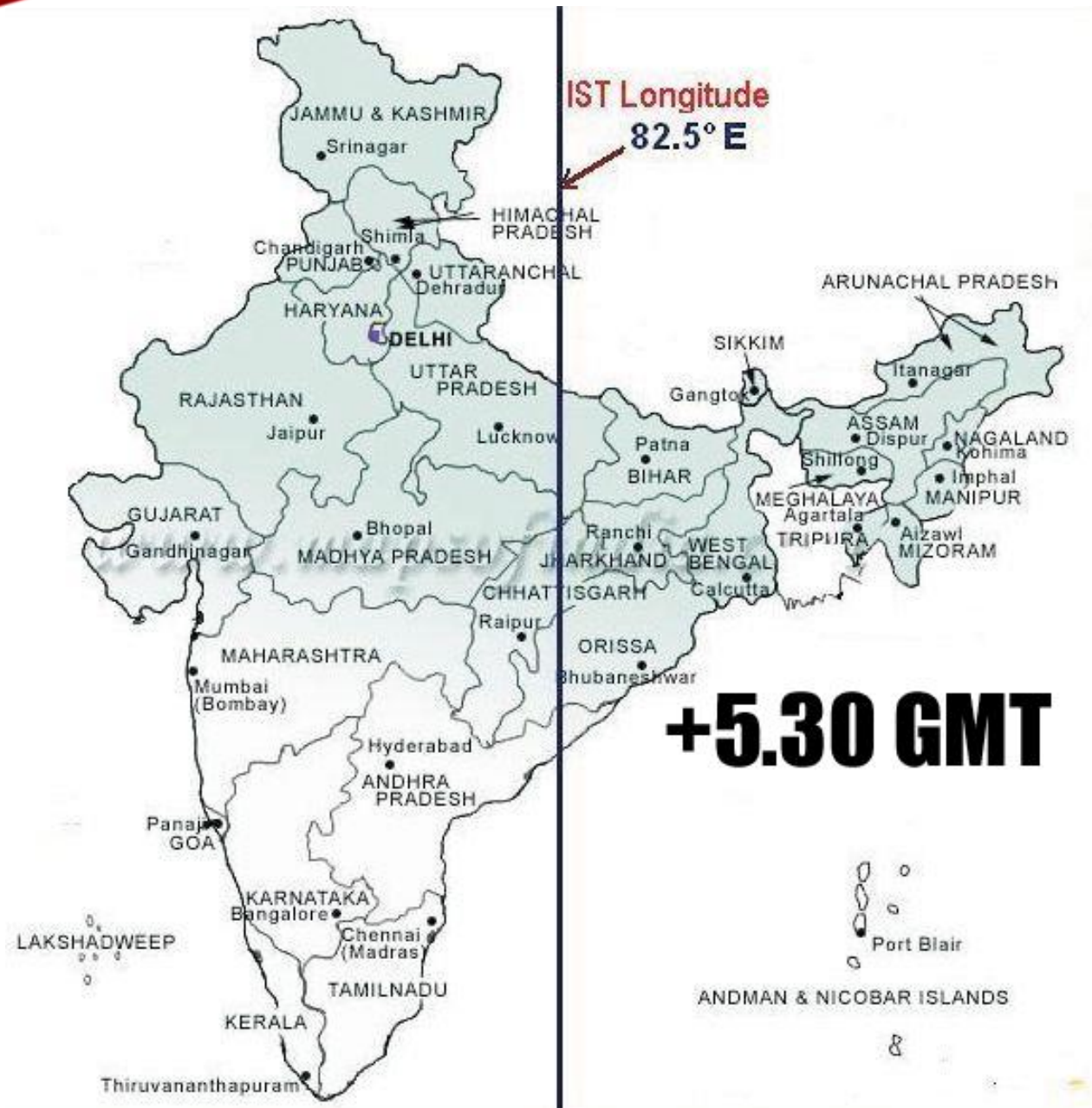


Gujarat



Arunachal Pradesh





INDIA'S NEIGHBOURS

- There are seven countries that share land boundaries with India.
- Across the sea to the south, lie our island neighbours— Sri Lanka and Maldives. Sri Lanka is separated from India by the Palk Strait.





Neighbouring Countries	Bordering States
Afghanistan	Jammu and Kashmir (Pakistan-Occupied Area).
China	Jammu and Kashmir, Himachal Pradesh, Uttarakhand, Sikkim and Arunachal Pradesh
Bangladesh	West Bengal, Mizoram, Meghalaya, Tripura and Assam
Bhutan	West Bengal, Sikkim, Arunachal Pradesh and Assam
Myanmar	Arunachal Pradesh, Nagaland, Manipur and Mizoram
Nepal	Bihar, Uttarakhand, Uttar Pradesh, Sikkim and West Bengal
Pakistan	Jammu and Kashmir, Punjab, Rajasthan and Gujarat



POLITICAL AND ADMINISTRATIVE DIVISIONS

- For administrative purposes, the country is divided into 29 States and 7 Union Territories.
- Telangana became the 29th state of India on 2 June 2014. It was previously a part of Andhra Pradesh.
- Delhi is the national capital.
- The states have been formed mainly on the basis of languages.
- Rajasthan is the largest state and Goa is the smallest state in terms of area.
- The states are further divided into districts.

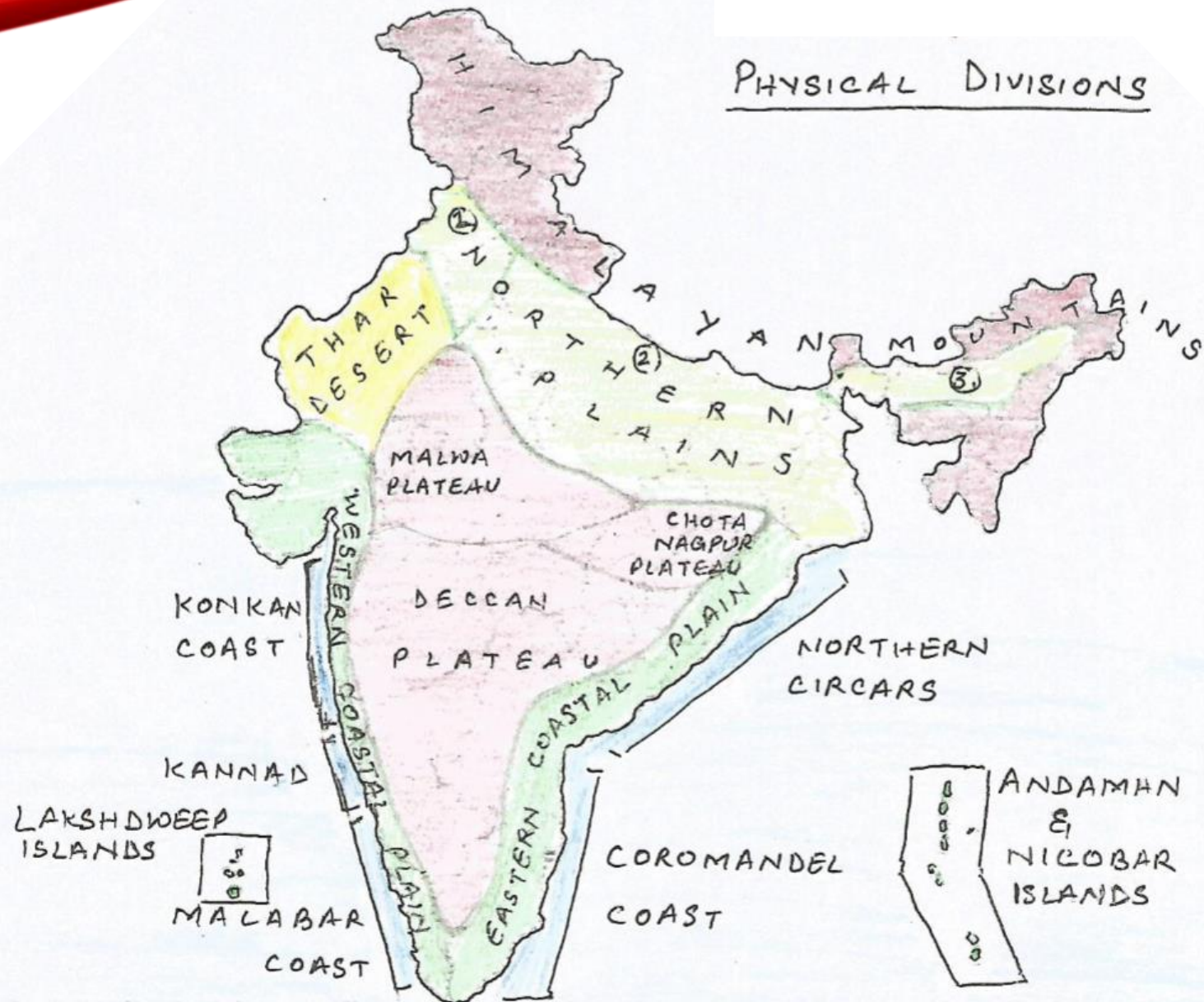
INDIA – STATES AND UNION TERRITORIES



PHYSICAL DIVISIONS



PHYSICAL DIVISIONS

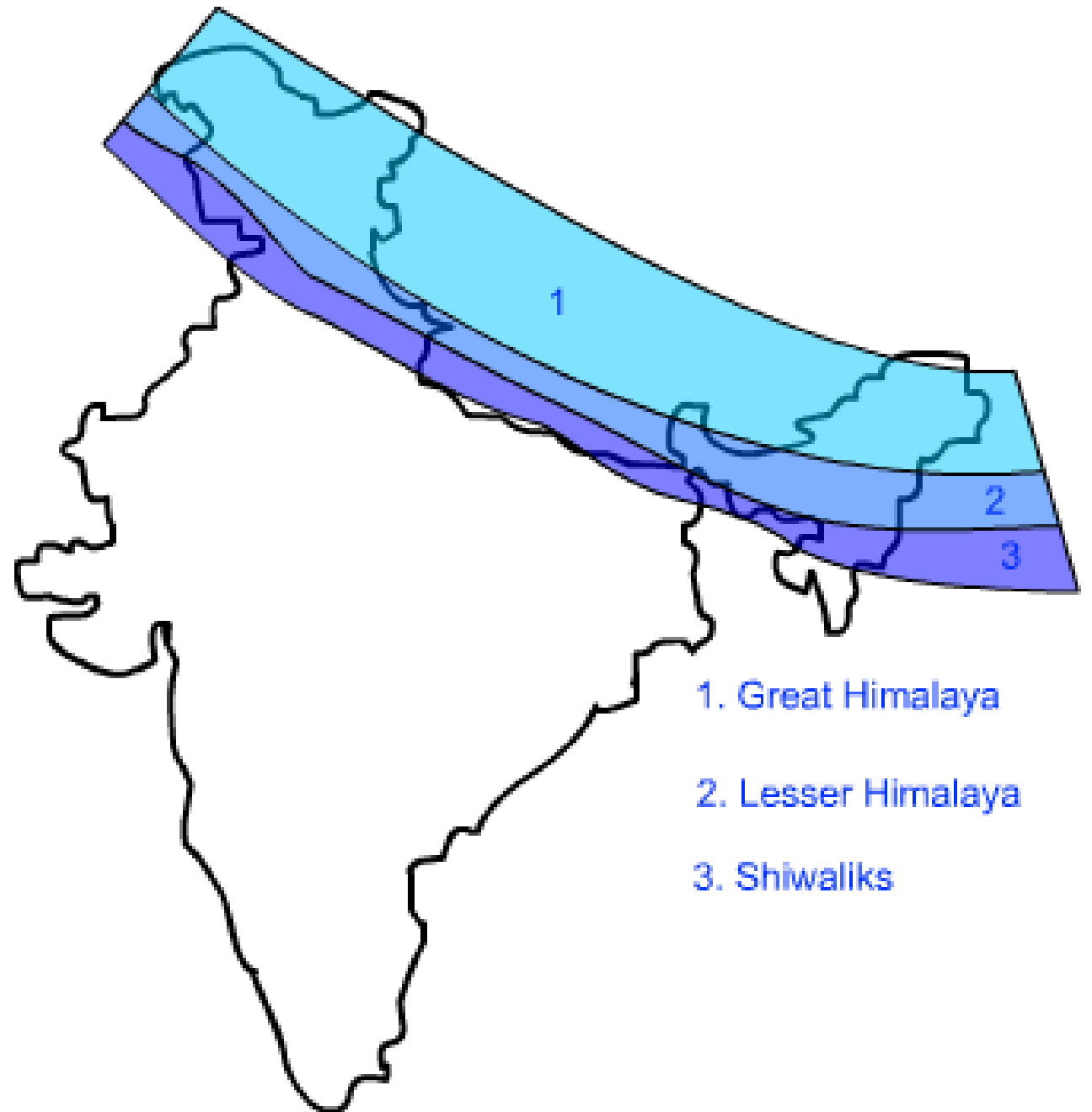


- 
- India is marked by a diversity of physical features such as mountains, plateaus, plains, coasts and islands.
 - The landmass of India can be divided into following major physiographic divisions:
 - The Himalayan Mountains
 - The Northern Plains
 - The Peninsular Plateau
 - The Indian Desert
 - The Coastal Plains
 - The Islands



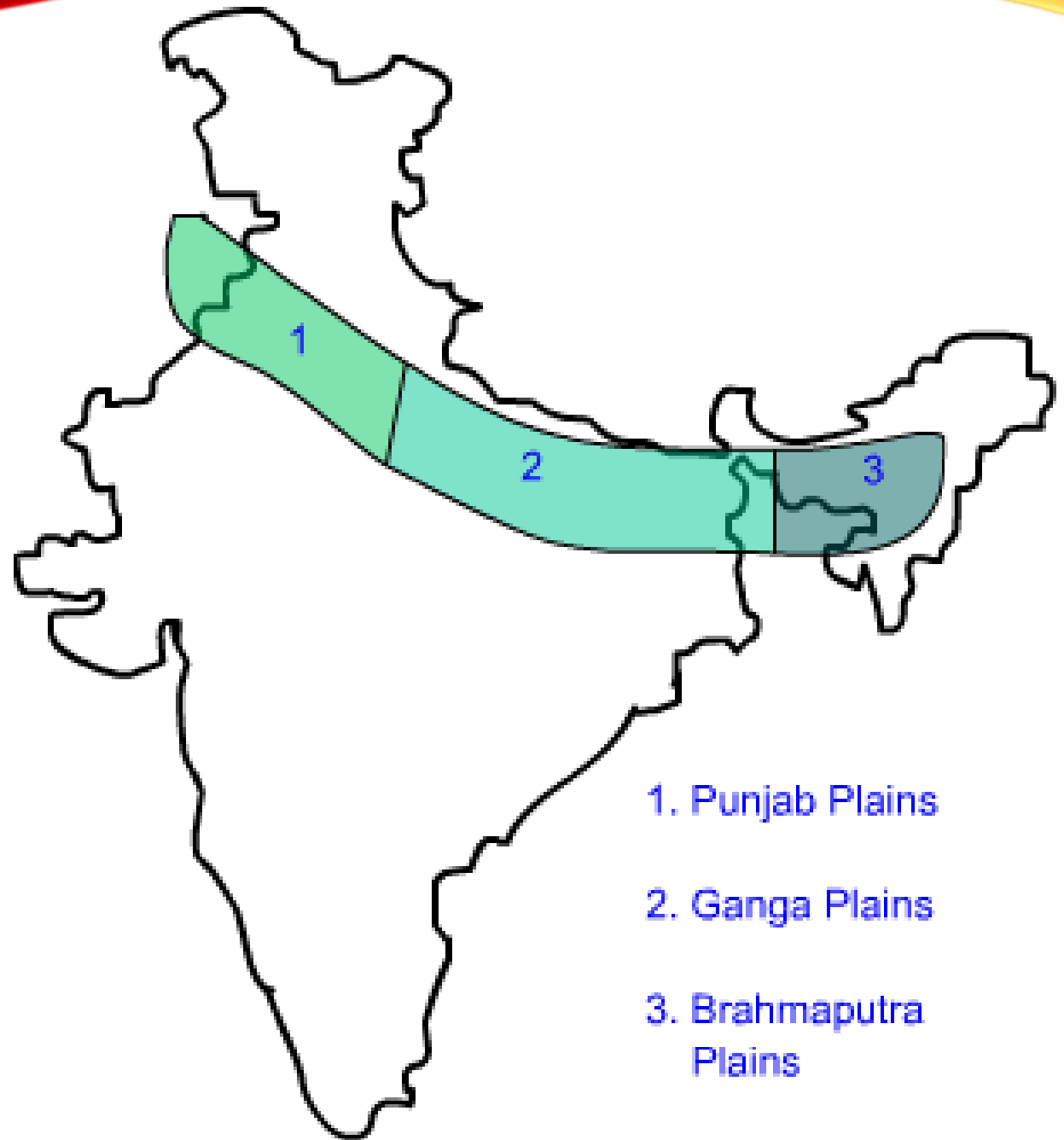
THE HIMALAYAN MOUNTAINS

- The Himalayan mountains are divided into three main parallel ranges –
- The northernmost is the Great Himalaya or **Himadri**. The world's highest peaks are located in this range.
- Middle Himalaya or **Himachal** lies to the south of Himadri.
- Many popular hill stations are situated here.
- The **Shiwalik** is the southernmost range.



THE NORTHERN INDIAN PLAINS

- The **Northern Indian plains** lie to the south of the Himalayas. They are generally level and flat.
- These are formed by the alluvial deposits laid down by the rivers– the **Indus**, the **Ganga**, the **Brahmaputra** and their tributaries.
- These river plains provide fertile land for cultivation.
- That is the reason for high concentration of population in these plains.



THE GREAT INDIAN DESERT

In the western part of India lies the Great Indian desert. It is a dry, hot and sandy stretch of land. It has very little vegetation.



PENINSULAR PLATEAU

- To the south of northern plains lies the Peninsular plateau.
- It is triangular in shape. The relief is highly uneven.
- This is a region with numerous hill ranges and valleys.
- The plateau is rich in minerals like coal and iron-ore.



HILLS OF THE PENINSULAR PLATEAU

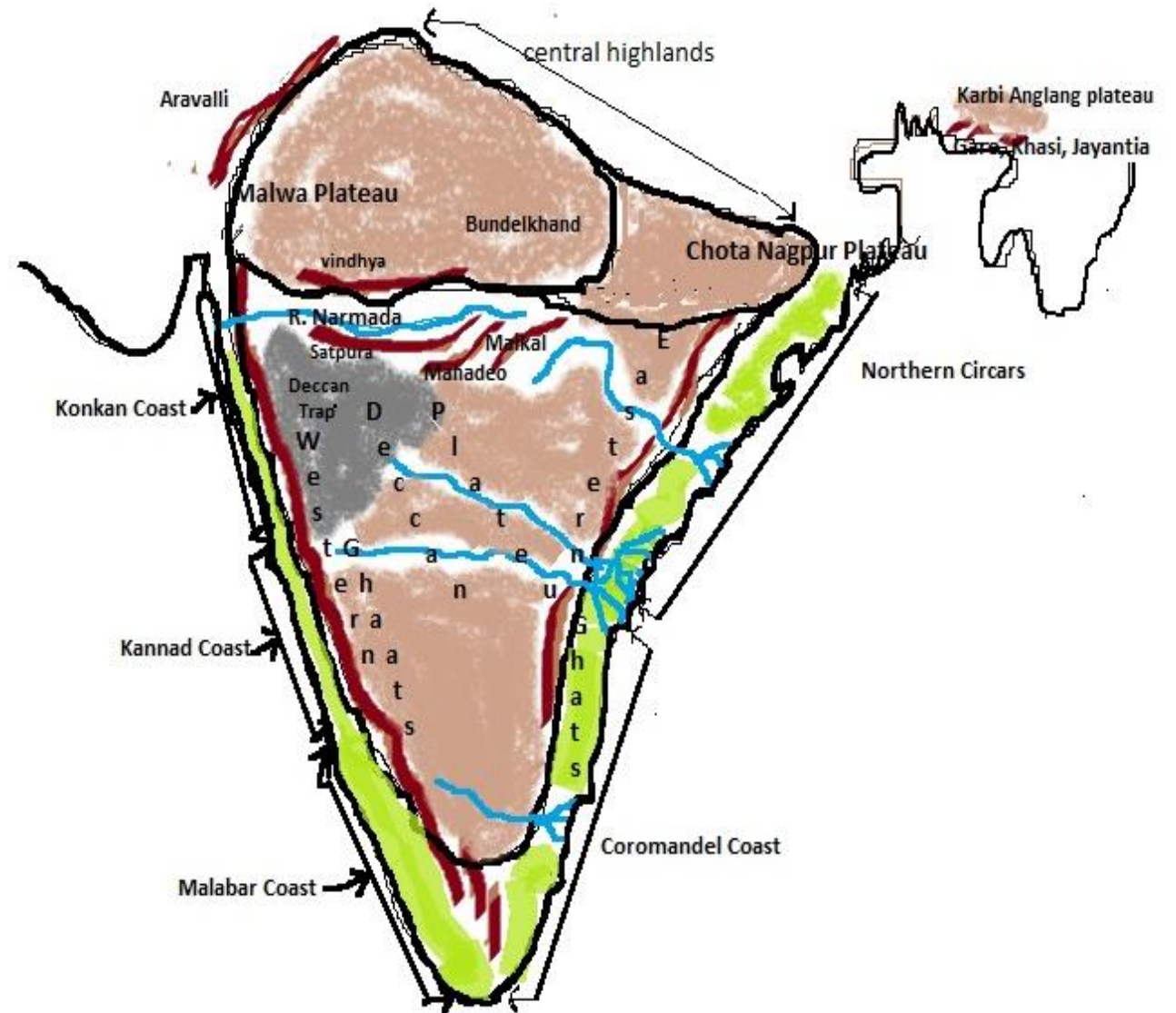
Aravali hills, one of the oldest ranges of the world, border it on the north-west side.

The Vindhya and the Satpuras are the important ranges.

The rivers Narmada and Tapi flow through these ranges. These are west-flowing rivers that drain into the Arabian Sea.

The Western Ghats or Sahyadris border the plateau in the west and the Eastern Ghats provide the eastern boundary.

While the Western Ghats are almost continuous, the Eastern Ghats are broken and uneven



THE COASTAL PLAINS

- To the West of the Western Ghats and the East of Eastern Ghats lie the Coastal plains.
- The **western coastal plains** are very narrow.
- The **eastern Coastal plains** are much broader.
- There are a number of east flowing rivers. The rivers **Mahanadi, Godavari, Krishna and Kaveri** drain into the Bay of Bengal.
- These rivers have formed **fertile deltas** at their mouth.
- The **Sunderban delta** is formed where the Ganga and Brahmaputra flow into the Bay of Bengal.



THE ISLANDS

- There are two groups of islands on either side of the Indian peninsula.
- Two groups of islands also form part of India.
- Lakshadweep Islands are located in the Arabian Sea. These are coral islands located off the coast of Kerala.
- The Lakshadweep Islands are of coral origin lying in the Arabian sea off the coast of Malabar
- The Andaman and Nicobar islands are of volcanic origin recognised as the extensions of Himalayas which emerged higher from the Bay of Bengal.



