

Sahara Desert

LADAKH

LIFE IN DESERTS

COMPARATIVE CASE STUDY – SAHARA AND LADAKH



LOCATION

SAHARA

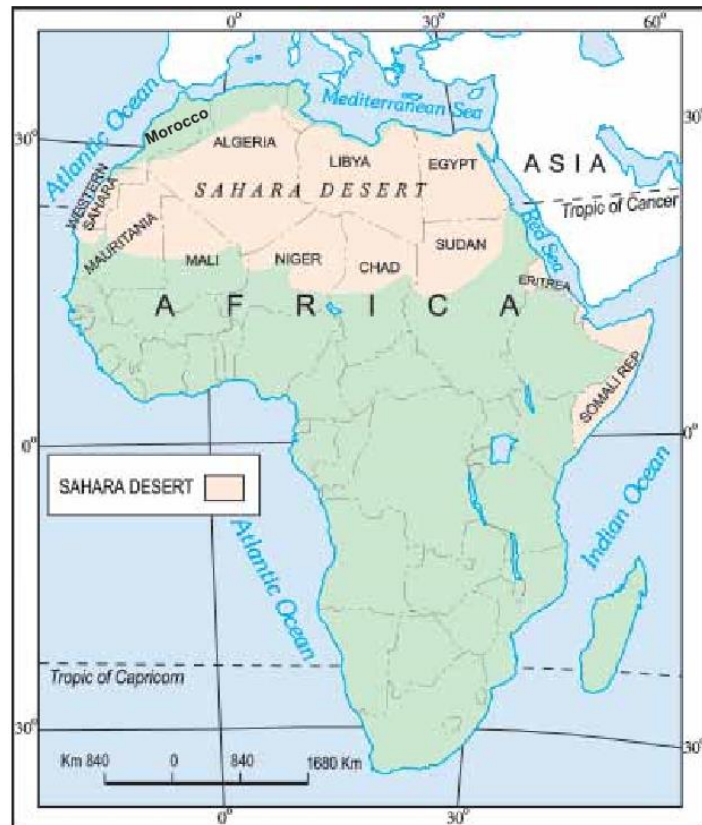
- The Sahara desert covers a large part of North Africa. It is the world's largest desert. It has an area of around 8.54 million sq. km.
- The Sahara desert touches eleven countries. These are Algeria, Chad, Egypt, Libya, Mali, Mauritania, Morocco, Niger, Sudan, Tunisia and Western Sahara.

LADAKH

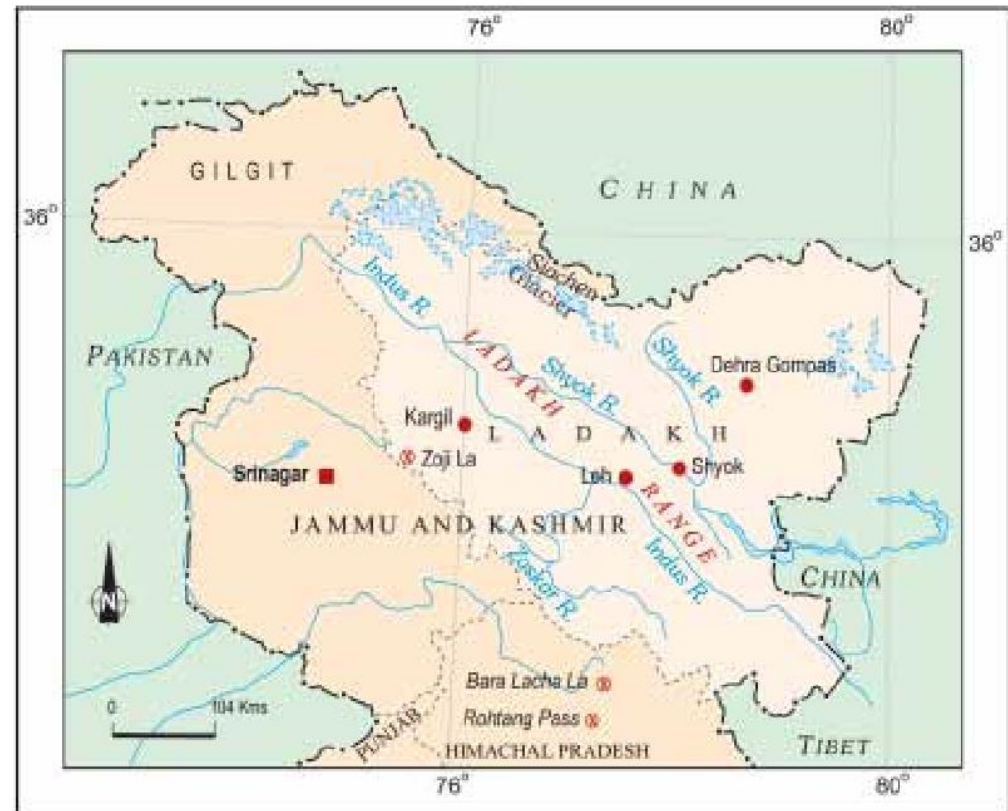
- Ladakh is a cold desert lying in the Great Himalayas, on the eastern side of Jammu and Kashmir.
- The Karakoram Range in the north and the Zaskar mountains in the south enclose it.
- Several rivers flow through Ladakh, Indus being the most important among them. The rivers form deep valleys and gorges.

LOCATION

SAHARA



LADAKH





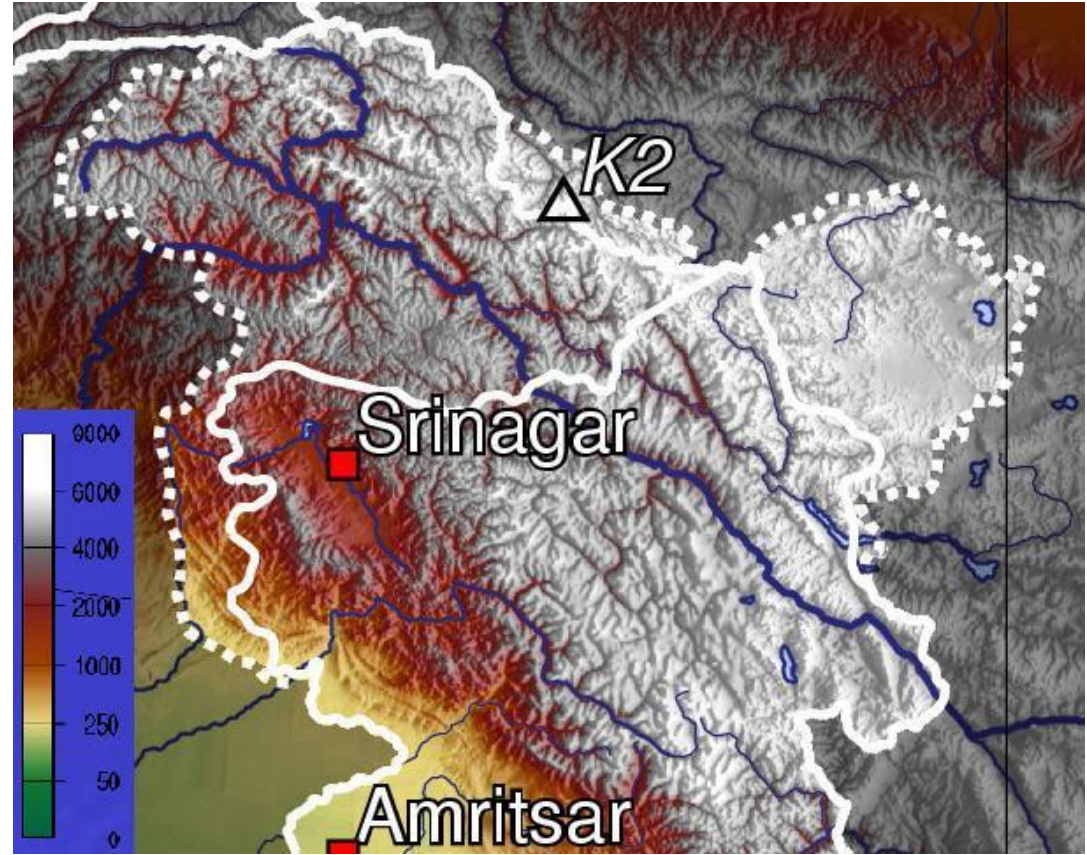
RELIEF

SAHARA

- Besides the vast stretches of sands, that Sahara desert is covered with, there are also gravel plains and elevated plateaus with bare rocky surface.
- These rocky surfaces may be more than 2500m high at some places.

LADAKH

- The altitude in Ladakh varies from about 3000m in Kargil to more than 8,000m in the Karakoram.



CLIMATE

SAHARA

- The climate of the Sahara desert is scorching hot and parch dry.
- It has a short rainy season. The sky is cloudless and clear. Here, the moisture evaporates faster than it accumulates.
- The temperatures during the day may soar as high as 50°C , heating up the sand and the bare rocks, which in turn radiates heat making everything around hot.
- The nights may be freezing cold with temperatures nearing zero degrees.

LADAKH

- Due to its high altitude, the climate is extremely cold and dry. The air at this altitude is so thin that the heat of the sun can be felt intensely.
- The day temperatures in summer are just above zero degree and the night temperatures well below -30°C . It is freezing cold in the winters when the temperatures may remain below -40°C for most of the time.
- As it lies in the rain shadow of the Himalayas, there is little rainfall, as low as 10 cm every year. The area experiences freezing winds and burning hot sunlight.



LEH

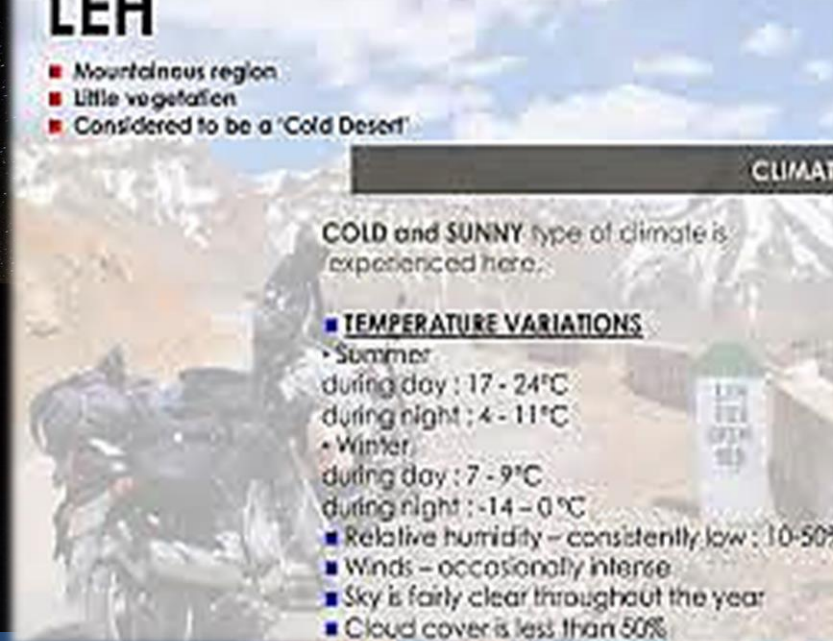
- Mountainous region
- Little vegetation
- Considered to be a "Cold Desert"

CLIMATE

COLD and SUNNY type of climate is experienced here.

■ TEMPERATURE VARIATIONS

- Summer
 - during day : 17 - 24°C
 - during night : 4 - 11°C
- Winter
 - during day : 7 - 9°C
 - during night : -14 - 0°C
- Relative humidity – consistently low : 10-50%
- Winds – occasionally intense
- Sky is fairly clear throughout the year
- Cloud cover is less than 50%



FLORA AND FAUNA

SAHARA

- Vegetation in the Sahara desert includes cactus, date palms and acacia.
- In some places there are oasis – green islands with date palms surrounding them.
- Camels, hyenas, jackals, foxes, scorpions, many varieties of snakes and lizards are the prominent animal species living there.

LADAKH

- There are scanty patches of grasses and shrubs for animals to graze.
- Groves of willows and poplars are seen in the valleys.
- Several species of birds are sighted in Ladakh. Robins, redstarts, Tibetan snowcock, raven and hoopoe are common.
- The animals of Ladakh are wild goats, wild sheep, yak and special kinds of dogs.
- The animals are reared to provide for the milk, meat and hides. Yak's milk is used to make cheese and butter. The hair of the sheep and goat is used to make woollens.

SAHARA



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LADAKH





PEOPLE

SAHARA

- The Sahara desert despite its harsh climate has been inhabited by various groups of people, Among them are the Bedouins and Tuaregs.
- These groups are nomadic tribes rearing livestock such as goats, sheep, camels and horses.
- These animals provide them with milk, hides from which they make leather for belts, slippers, water bottles; hair is used for mats, carpets, clothes and blankets.
- They wear heavy robes as protection against dust storms and hot winds.

LADAKH

- People of Ladakh resemble the inhabitants of Tibet and Central Asia.
- The people here are either Muslims or Buddhists. In fact several Buddhists monasteries dot the Ladakhi landscape with their traditional 'gompas'.
- Some famous monasteries are Hemis, Thiksey, Shey and Lamayuru

BEDUINS



TUREGS



Thiksey Monastery in Ladakh



ECONOMIC ACTIVITIES

SAHARA

- The oasis in the Sahara and the Nile Valley in Egypt supports settled population.
- Since water is available, the people grow date palms.
- Crops such as rice, wheat, barley and beans are also grown. Egyptian cotton, famous worldwide is grown in Egypt.

LADAKH

- In the summer season the people are busy cultivating barley, potatoes, peas, beans and turnip.
- The climate in winter months is so harsh that people keep themselves engaged in festivities and ceremonies.
- The women are very hard working. They work not only in the house and fields, but also manage small business and shops



ECONOMIC ACTIVITIES

SAHARA

- The discovery of oil – a product in great demand throughout the world, in Algeria, Libya and Egypt is constantly transforming the Sahara desert. Other minerals of importance that are found in the area include iron, phosphorus, manganese and uranium.

LADAKH

- Leh, the capital of Ladakh is well connected both by road and air.
- The National Highway 1A connects Leh to Kashmir Valley through the Zoji la Pass.



HUMAN

ACTIVITIES



DID YOU KNOW???

SAHARA

- Sahara once used to be a **lush green plain**. Cave paintings in Sahara desert show that there used to be rivers with crocodiles. But the change in climate has changed it to a very hot and dry region.
- Scientists have actually found **skeletons of fish** in this desert.
- **Al Azizia** in the Sahara desert, south of Tripoli, Libya recorded the highest temperature of **57.7°C** in 1922.
- Sometimes the oasis may be abnormally large. **Tafilalet Oasis** in Morocco is a large oasis with an area of about 13,000 sq.km

LADAKH

- Ladakh is made up of two words – “**La**” meaning ‘mountain pass’ and “**Dak**” meaning ‘country’
- Ladakh is also known as **Khapa-chan** which means snow land.
- **Drass**, one of the coldest inhabited places on earth is located in Ladakh.
- The **Chiru** or the Tibetan antelope is an endangered species. It is hunted for its wool known as shahtoosh, which is light in weight and extremely warm.