

Indian & World Geography

Comprehensive Study Material for SSC CGL Examination

Indian Geography - Physical Features

The Himalayan Range

- **Young fold mountains** formed by tectonic collision
- Three parallel ranges: **Himadri** (Greater Himalayas), **Himachal** (Lesser Himalayas), **Shiwalik** (Outer Himalayas)
- Highest peak: **Mount Everest** (8,848 m) in Nepal
- Highest peak in India: **Kanchenjunga** (8,586 m)
- Important passes: **Nathu La, Jelep La, Shipki La**

Northern Plains

- Formed by alluvial deposits of Indus, Ganga, and Brahmaputra
- Most fertile region of India
- Divided into: **Punjab Plains, Ganga Plains, Brahmaputra Plains**

Peninsular Plateau

Region	Features	States
Deccan Plateau	Lava plateau, black soil	Maharashtra, Karnataka, Telangana
Central Highlands	Malwa Plateau, Vindhyan Range	MP, Chhattisgarh, Rajasthan

Eastern Ghats	Discontinuous, lower than Western Ghats	Odisha, Andhra Pradesh, Tamil Nadu
Western Ghats	Continuous, UNESCO World Heritage Site	Gujarat to Tamil Nadu

Coastal Plains & Islands

- Eastern Coastal Plain : Coromandel Coast, Northern Circars
- Western Coastal Plain : Konkan, Kanara, Malabar Coast
- Andaman & Nicobar Islands : Volcanic origin, coral reefs
- Lakshadweep Islands : Coral origin, smallest Union Territory

Exam Focus: Highest peaks, important mountain passes, coastal regions, and geographical divisions of India.

Indian River Systems

Himalayan Rivers

River	Origin	Length (km)	Major Tributaries
Ganga	Gangotri Glacier	2,525	Yamuna, Son, Gandak, Ghaghara
Yamuna	Yamunotri Glacier	1,376	Chambal, Betwa, Ken

Brahmaputra	Chemayungdung Glacier	2,900	Subansiri, Manas, Teesta
Indus	Mansarovar Lake	3,180	Jhelum, Chenab, Ravi, Beas, Sutlej

Peninsular Rivers

River	Origin	States	Drains into
Godavari	Trimbakeshwar, Maharashtra	Maharashtra, Telangana, AP	Bay of Bengal
Krishna	Mahabaleshwar, Maharashtra	Maharashtra, Karnataka, AP, Telangana	Bay of Bengal
Kaveri	Talakaveri, Karnataka	Karnataka, Tamil Nadu	Bay of Bengal
Narmada	Amarkantak, MP	MP, Gujarat, Maharashtra	Arabian Sea
Tapi	Betul, MP	MP, Maharashtra, Gujarat	Arabian Sea

Important River Projects

- **Bhakra Nangal** : Sutlej River (Punjab-HP)
- **Hirakud** : Mahanadi River (Odisha)
- **Damodar Valley** : Damodar River (Jharkhand-WB)
- **Nagarjuna Sagar** : Krishna River (Telangana-AP)
- **Sardar Sarovar** : Narmada River (Gujarat)

Climate & Monsoon

Seasons in India

Season	Months	Characteristics
Winter	Dec-Feb	Cold weather, snowfall in Himalayas
Summer	Mar-May	Hot weather, local storms (Loo, Kalbaisakhi)
Monsoon	Jun-Sep	Southwest monsoon, 75% of annual rainfall
Retreating Monsoon	Oct-Nov	Northeast monsoon, cyclones in Bay of Bengal

Monsoon Mechanism

- **Southwest Monsoon** : Branches - Arabian Sea branch & Bay of Bengal branch
- **Break in Monsoon** : Rainless intervals during rainy season
- **El Niño** : Warm ocean current that affects Indian monsoon negatively
- **La Niña** : Cool ocean current that brings good rainfall

Climate Regions

- **Tropical Wet** : Western Ghats, NE India
- **Tropical Dry** : Most of Deccan Plateau
- **Subtropical Humid** : Ganga Plains
- **Mountain** : Himalayas
- **Arid** : Thar Desert

World Geography - Continents & Oceans

Continents

Continent	Area (sq km)	Highest Point	Largest Country
Asia	44.6 million	Mt. Everest (8,848 m)	Russia
Africa	30.3 million	Mt. Kilimanjaro (5,895 m)	Algeria
North America	24.7 million	Denali (6,190 m)	Canada
South America	17.8 million	Aconcagua (6,961 m)	Brazil
Antarctica	14.2 million	Vinson Massif (4,892 m)	-
Europe	10.2 million	Mt. Elbrus (5,642 m)	Russia
Australia	8.6 million	Puncak Jaya (4,884 m)	Australia

Oceans

Ocean	Area (sq km)	Deepest Point	Major Currents
Pacific	165.2 million	Mariana Trench (10,994 m)	Kuroshio, California, Humboldt
Atlantic	106.5 million	Puerto Rico Trench (8,648 m)	Gulf Stream, Canary, Brazil

Indian	70.6 million	Java Trench (7,725 m)	Agulhas, West Australian
Southern	20.3 million	South Sandwich Trench (7,235 m)	Antarctic Circumpolar
Arctic	14.1 million	Eurasia Basin (5,450 m)	Transpolar Drift

Major World Landforms

Mountain Ranges

- Andes : South America (Longest continental mountain range)
- Rockies : North America
- Alps : Europe
- Atlas : Africa
- Ural : Asia/Europe boundary

Deserts

Desert	Location	Area (sq km)	Type
Sahara	Africa	9.2 million	Hot
Arabian	Middle East	2.3 million	Hot
Gobi	Asia	1.3 million	Cold
Kalahari	Africa	0.9 million	Hot
Patagonian	South America	0.67 million	Cold

Important Water Bodies

- **Largest Lake** : Caspian Sea (Asia-Europe)
- **Deepest Lake** : Baikal (Russia)
- **Largest Freshwater Lake** : Superior (North America)
- **Longest River** : Nile (Africa)
- **Largest River by Volume** : Amazon (South America)

World Climate Zones

Major Climate Types

Climate Zone	Location	Characteristics
Equatorial	Near equator	High temp, heavy rainfall year-round
Tropical	23.5°N to 23.5°S	Distinct wet and dry seasons
Desert	15-30°N & S	Low rainfall, extreme temperatures
Mediterranean	30-45°N & S	Hot dry summers, mild wet winters
Temperate	30-60°N & S	Moderate temp, distinct seasons
Polar	Above 60°N & S	Very cold, permanent ice

Ocean Currents & Their Effects

- **Warm Currents** : Gulf Stream, Kuroshio, Brazil
- **Cold Currents** : Labrador, Peru, Canary
- **El Niño** : Warming of Pacific Ocean affecting global weather

- **La Niña** : Cooling of Pacific Ocean

Map-Based Questions

Important Latitudes & Longitudes

- **Tropic of Cancer** : 23.5°N (Passes through India: Gujarat, Rajasthan, MP, etc.)
- **Tropic of Capricorn** : 23.5°S
- **Equator** : 0° latitude
- **Prime Meridian** : 0° longitude (Greenwich, UK)
- **International Date Line** : 180° longitude

Important Locations

Important Map Locations for SSC CGL

- **Strait of Hormuz** : Between Persian Gulf and Gulf of Oman
- **Strait of Malacca** : Between Malaysia and Indonesia
- **Suez Canal** : Connects Mediterranean and Red Sea
- **Panama Canal** : Connects Atlantic and Pacific
- **Palk Strait** : Between India and Sri Lanka

Geography Current Affairs

Recent Geographical Events

- **New Island Formation** : Due to volcanic eruptions
- **Glacial Melt** : Impact of climate change on glaciers
- **Coral Bleaching** : Great Barrier Reef, Australia
- **Desertification** : Expansion of desert areas

Important Geographical Discoveries

- New species discoveries in Amazon rainforest
- Deep sea exploration findings
- Archaeological discoveries changing historical geography

Preparation Tip: Regularly follow geographical current affairs from newspapers and monthly current affairs magazines. Pay special attention to environmental issues, climate change summits, and geographical discoveries.

Exam Strategy: Focus on map-based questions, geographical terminology, recent developments in geography, and interlinking of physical and human geography concepts.

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Remember to regularly update this material with recent geographical developments and current affairs