



মণিপুরৰ শাসনৰত্ন (সংস্কৃতি)

DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION (S)

Government of Manipur

**CLASS IX
GEOGRAPHY
CHAPTER I**

**INDIA : LOCATION AND SIZE; RELIEF,
STRUCTURE AND MAJOR PHYSIOGRAPHIC DIVISION**

NOTES

1. **Location and size** – India is located in the southern part of Asia. It lies entirely in the Northern Hemisphere. The Indian mainland extends between $8^{\circ}4'N$ and $37^{\circ}6'N$ latitudes and $68^{\circ}7'E$ and $97^{\circ}25'E$ longitudes. The tropic of Cancer ($23^{\circ}30'N$) divides the country into almost two halves. The Andaman and Nicobar Islands lie to the South-East of the mainland in the Bay of Bengal while the Lakshadweep islands are to the South-West in the Arabian Sea.

2. **Relief** – The major relief features of the earth i.e. mountains, plateaus, plains, deserts and islands. These were formed during different geological periods of the earth. Various processes such as weathering, erosion and deposition have modified the relief to its present form.

3. **Structure** – Geologists have tried to explain the formation of relief or physical features with the help of some theories based on evidences. One such reliable theory is the 'Theory of Plate Tectonics' which states that the crust of the earth (upper portion) has been formed out of seven major and some minor plates.

4. **Major Physiographic Divisions** – According to the surface features India can be divided into the following divisions –

- **The Himalayan Mountains** – The Himalayas represent the loftiest and the most rugged mountain barriers of the world. They are geological young and are known as Fold Mountains.
- **The Northern Plains** – The northern plain was formed by the filling up of a large depression lying at the foothills of the Himalayas by sediments over millions of years.
- **The Indian Desert** – The Thar or the Indian Desert occupies the western part of the Aravali Range which receives very little rainfall i.e. below 15 cm. annually and the surface is covered with sand dunes.
- **The Peninsular Plateau** - The Peninsular Plateau was formed by the breaking and northward drifting of a part of the Gondwanaland, the oldest landmass on the earth.
- **The Coastal Plains** – The Peninsular plateau is flanked by the narrow coastal plain all along the Bay of Bengal on the east and the Arabian Sea on the west.
- **The Islands** – Besides the mainland, the country has two groups of islands. In the Bay of Bengal, the island is of two parts – the Andaman in the north and the Nicobar in the south. The Lakshadweep Islands lie close to the Malabar coast of Kerala in the Arabian Sea.