

Minister. All the Money Bills are first presented in the Loksabha which passes through the following process.

- (i) A preliminary discussion is carried out on the Money Bill presented in the Loksabha.
- (ii) The expenses mentioned in the budget are discussed upon. The finance minister presents all the numeric details of the budget in the Parliament.
- (iii) All the ministers like Agriculture, Science, Defence, Trade Business and Human Resource Department etc. puts forth their demands in front of the Loksabha and then the voting is carried out to get permission of demands.
- (iv) Sources of income and taxes are separately presented in the budget and both are to be separately approved.

The Bill approved in the Loksabha first is sent to the Rajyasabha for recommendations. The Rajyasabha has to return it to the Loksabha with necessary recommendations within 14 days. Loksabha can either accept or reject the total or partial recommendations of the Rajyasabha. If a Money Bill is not returned to the Loksabha within 14 days by the Rajyasabha, the Bill is considered to have been passed by the Rajyasabha. If the Loksabha accepts the recommendations of the Rajyasabha, the Bill is considered to have been passed by both the Houses of the Parliament. But if the Loksabha rejects the recommendation of the Rajyasabha and the Bill is again passed in the Loksabha, the Money Bill is deemed to have been passed by both the Houses of the Parliament. Hence, in the matter of the Money Bill the Rajyasabha has limited powers.

After the Money Bill is passed by both the Houses of the Parliament, it is sent to the President for his assent. The President has to sign the Money Bill. If the budget is not passed in the house then the government has to resign.

Apart from this in both the houses of the Parliament the social, economic, political, defence and foreign matters are discussed. The Loksabha monitors and controls the workings of Executive, Cabinet of Ministers and the Bureaucrats. It is the work of the elected members to see that the funds of the public are utilized properly. Loksabha has a direct control over the use of public funds. Without the consent of the houses of the Parliament no new taxes can be levied or any improvement in the existing taxes can be done. The Houses of the Parliament are called as the custodians of public funds as it controls the functioning of the Executive. Besides this the Parliament has the power to remove President, Vice President, Chief Justice of the Supreme Court as well as the High Court, Chief Election Commission, Auditor General or Attorney General under the charge of proven misbehaviour or inefficiency or violation of the Constitution, through the process of Impeachment.

Legislature at the State Level

(A) Legislative Assembly : Each State has a Legislature and it is called Legislative Assembly. Legislative Assembly is the Lower House.

(B) Legislative Council : The other House of the Legislature is called the Legislative Council. Bihar, Maharashtra, Karnataka, Uttar Pradesh, Tamil Nadu etc. States have two Houses. There the Legislative Council is the Upper House and the Legislative Assembly is the Lower House. Gujarat State does not have a Legislative Council.

Various States have different numbers of members of the Legislative Assembly. As per the provision in the constitution the minimum number of members of Legislative Assembly is 60 and the Maximum number of members is 500. The number of members of Gujarat Legislative Assembly is presently 182.

Qualification for membership of the State Legislature : Any person who is a citizen of India and is of 25 years or more and is not in a State of unsound mind, insolvent or criminal can contest the elections of Legislative Assembly.

Time Period : The Legislative Assembly is not a permanent House. Its time period is of 5 years. After the given period the Legislative Assembly is dissolved. In unusual situations, wherein the Government cannot function as per constitutional provision or if Government cannot be formed then the Governor can send a recommendation to the President of India to dissolve the Government. The President then dissolves the Legislative Assembly and imposes 'President Rule' in that State. During that time period the Governor

administers the State. For the purpose of smooth functioning of the Legislative Assembly Speaker and Deputy Speaker are elected by the members from amongst themselves.

The members of the Legislative Council are elected from among the institutions of Local Self Governance, registered graduates, teachers of secondary and higher secondary by electorates. To be eligible as a member of the Legislative Council, the candidate should be of 30 years or more and must be a citizen of India. The Legislative Council is a permanent House. Like the Rajyasabha each of its members gets elected for a term of 6 years. Its 2/3rd members retire every 2 years. A State has to decide whether to keep a Legislative Council or not. Gujarat does not have a Legislative Council. Like the Lok Sabha the Legislative Assembly has more power. Ordinary as well as Money Bills can be presented in it. After the Bills pass through various steps they are sent to the Governor for his assent. After the Governor signs the Bill it becomes an Act.

(2) Executive : The most efficient effective and central organ of the Government is the Executive. Union Executive means at Central Government, Political, Executive comprising Administration of the Prime Minister and Cabinet of Ministers, President, Vice-President and Bureaucrats. Political and Administrative Executive officers and employees are in direct contact of the people. The people are influenced by their work. The Executive implements the laws framed by the Legislature. The administrative executive carries out the work of implementing the policies, programmes and planning done by the Government keeping in view the aspiration and expectation of the people.

The Political Executive changes every five years or if the power is given up. Whereas the administrative executive is formed by permanently appointed bureaucrats and hence it is permanent. However the retirement age of the Administrative Bureaucrats is different in different states. Before their retirement, if they misbehave, or shows lack of efficiency to work, they can be removed from their post after following prescribed inquiry procedure. The Political Executives are the members belonging to any political party. Their main qualification is to get elected based on their individual honesty to the party, public choice and public opinion whereas Administrative Executive requires educational qualifications, quality, experience as well as passing competitive examination to be appointed permanently. The service of the administrative officers is known as the Civil Service. At the Centre, the Political Executive consists of President, Vice President, Prime Minister and Cabinet of Ministers as per the Constitution.

President

President is the Constitutional Head of India. All the executive powers of the federal Government is given to the President by the Constitution. All the administration of the Central government is carried out in the name of the President. He is the Head of the nation and the first citizen of Republic of India.

Qualification : A Presidential candidate should be a citizen of India and should be 35 years of age or above. He should not be a salaried employee of the Government or hold any office of profit. He should not be a member of any of the Houses of the Parliament or State Legislative Assembly. The Presidential election is indirectly carried out by the members of both the Houses of the Parliament and the members elected to the State Legislative Assembly. A President is elected for a term of 5 years and he can contest the election after the completion of his term. When the President is in power neither criminal case can be framed against him nor an order of arrest or improvement can be issued..

Functions and Powers : He appoints the leader of the party who has gained majority in the general election as the Prime Minister. Then with the consultation of the Prime minister, he appoints the other ministers of the cabinet. He administers the oath and distributes the portfolios to the ministers. As long as the cabinet enjoys the support of the majority members of Lok Sabha the President cannot dissolve the cabinet. President is the Head of the defence forces of the country. The President has the power to declare war, cease the war or conclude treaties with other countries. He appoints the Judges of the Supreme Court and High courts, Governors of the State, Attorney General, Comptroller and Auditor General. He appoints the Head of the defence forces. He appoints the Chairman of the Union Public Service Commission and Ambassadors to various nations. Thus, vast authorised executive and administrative powers are vested in the President. He can grant pardon, or reduce the sentence of any convicted person, or can postpone its implementation, or can change the nature of the punishment. He summons the sessions of both the Houses of Parliament and

prorogues them. He can even dissolve the Lok Sabha. If the President is satisfied that the security of India or any part of its territory is threatened by a war or external aggression or armed rebellion, he can declare a state of emergency for the whole of India or any of its parts. The declaration of emergency cannot be challenged in court. Based on report of the Governor the President can declare Constitutional Emergency in that state. He can establish 'President rule' by dissolving the State Cabinet Ministry. In case of financial emergency the President can reduce salaries of all government officials, including Judges of the Supreme Court and the High court. Though the President has vast executive and administrative powers and though all the administration can be considered in the hands of the President only and done in his name only, in reality, the Prime Minister and the Council of Ministers enjoy these powers.

The Vice President

In the absence of the President, the Vice President performs the functions of the President. The Vice Presidential election is carried out by the members of both the Houses of the Parliament. The term period of the Vice President is of 5 years. The Vice President is the Chairman of the Rajya Sabha. The President submits his resignation to the Vice President.

Prime Minister

The Prime Minister is the real head of the Central Government. The Prime Minister is the head of the party who has achieved a majority in the general elections. He is appointed formally by the President. The Ministers to the Cabinet are appointed as per the counsel of the Prime Minister. He distributes the portfolios. Any Minister either to be taken, left or continued in the cabinet is decided by the Prime Minister. He presides over the meetings of the Cabinet and also looks after the functioning of various departments of the cabinet. He takes pivotal decisions. The Prime Minister is the head of the Planning Commission which is now known as Policy Commission. There are three level of ministers under the Prime Minister. The Cabinet Ministers, the State Ministers and the Deputy Ministers. The Prime Minister should be a member of any one House of the Parliament. The Ministers are individually responsible for their Ministries and departments. The Council of Ministers is collectively responsible and accountable to the Lok Sabha. If the Lok Sabha rejects the Policy of the government on a particular issue, it is not only the responsible Minister for that subject, but the whole Council of Ministers must accept the responsibility and resign.

The State Executive

The Governor

The Governor is appointed by the President of India on the advice of the Council of Ministers headed by the Prime Minister. The President can appoint a person as the Governor of more than one state. Any citizen of India who is 35 years of age or above may be appointed as the Governor. The term of the Governor is for five years. However, he holds office during the "Pleasure" of the President and can be removed from office even before the expiry of his term or he can also be transferred to any other State as the Governor.

The Governor is the Constitutional and formal head of the State. All executive powers of the State government are vested in him. He appoints the chief Minister who has a clear Majority. He also appoints other members of the Council of Ministers on the advice of the Chief Minister. He appoints the Advocate General, the Chairman, the members of the State Public Service Commission. He is consulted by the President of India for the appointment of judges of the High Court.

The Governor has significant legislative powers. He summons and prorogues the sessions of the State Legislature. He can dissolve the state Assembly before the expiry of its full term. He can also issue ordinances. A Bill passed by the state Legislature can become a law only after the Governor assents to it.

The position of the Governor in a State is similar to that of the President at the Centre. His powers are actually exercised by the Council of Ministers headed by the Chief Minister. But the Governor can exercise certain powers independently also. Normally, the Governor of a state is Ex-officio Chancellor of all the universities of the State. A Governor can belong to any political party. But after assuming his post the Governor has to perform his duties firmly and impartially.

The Chief Minister and Council of Ministers :

The Chief Minister is appointed by the Governor. The Governor appoints the leader of the majority party as the Chief Minister. If no single party gets the majority, the leader of the combination of parties constituting the majority or the leader of the largest party having the support of the majority is appointed as the Chief Minister. Other members of the Council of Ministers are also appointed by the Governor on the advice of the Chief Minister though the administration of the State is carried out in the name of the Governor, in reality, the Chief Minister and the Council of Ministers enjoy most of the powers of the Governor. In Gujarat the office of the Chief Minister and the Cabinet Ministers is situated in the New Secretariat - Swarnim Sankul, Gandhinagar. The Governor administers the oath of secrecy to the Chief Minister and the Council of Ministers orally and there after they sign the same. In the State Cabinet. Ministry there are four types of Ministers : (A) Cabinet (B) State Level (C) Deputy Level (D) Parliamentary Secretary. The Chief Minister distributes the portfolios to the Cabinet Ministers, He also presents the issues of policy making, transparent administration, questions of people of the Central Government. During the time of calamity he provides basic amenities, love and care to the people. He provides a strong leadership to the State Legislature. The Chief Minister is the torch bearer and path finder of the government policies regarding the growth of the State.

Administrative System (Administrative Executive) : The Political Executive frames various policies in different fields. The detailed and efficient implementation of these policies is done by the Administrative Executive. The Administrative Executive advises and guides the state executives in the matters of policies. It provides required information and figures. However, the Political Executive is not bound to follow the advice of it.

No matter how important or welfare oriented are the policies, laws if they are not effectively implemented by the Administrative Executive then its purpose is marred. Thus the Administrative system provides the necessary back up to the Executive in the formulation and implementation of policies. Expert and professionally efficient and experienced public servants in the field of foreign relations, defence, security forces, international trade and commerce, nuclear energy, energy, production, distribution, banking, insurance, foreign exchange are the backbone of the Government. Collector is appointed as an Administrative Head at District Level and his office is at "Jilla Seva Sadan". Their expertised knowledge, administrative insight, broad experience, prediction, administrative efficiency helps them to carry out the administration effectively. From the organs of the Government the State Executive acts as the brain behind the welfare of the people. Whereas the Administrative Executive is like the limbs. An amicable relation between the Political Executive and the Administrative Executive is the prerequisite for the smooth governance of the State.

The power and influence of the government is becoming more centered in the bureaucracy. Nepotism, corruption, dishonesty, inefficiency, misconduct, escapism are the evils of bureaucracy. So to control such evils Lokpal or Lokayukt is needed. To stop the corruption Gujarat State Government has Started an entire seperate department by the name of Anti Corruption Bureau. Its toll free number is 1800 2334 4444. People can contact the number to file their complaints.

Political stability is expected from the Administrative System as there is a Government comprising of different political parties. The Administrative System helps to excel the development of the Government by implementing various developmental schemes and programmes.

Governance at the Local Level

It is extremely difficult to carry out the Governance of the entire nation from a single place as the Central Government has way too many responsibilities. The power is decentralised with the objective to timely solve various problems, needs, expectations and aspirations of the people. By decentralizing the power, the administration can be carried out easily and efficiently. At the local level the Institute of Local Self Governance have emerged. When the administration of a village, town or city is carried out by the representative of the people elected by the locals in the local institutions then such organisations are called Institutes of Local Self Governance. For administrative efficiency of geographical regions the responsibility and functions of the Government are divided to the local organisations. Similarly the municipality, municipal corporation are the Institutes of Local Self Governance of urban area an for villages one can find Gram Panchayat, Taluka Panchayat and District Panchayat.

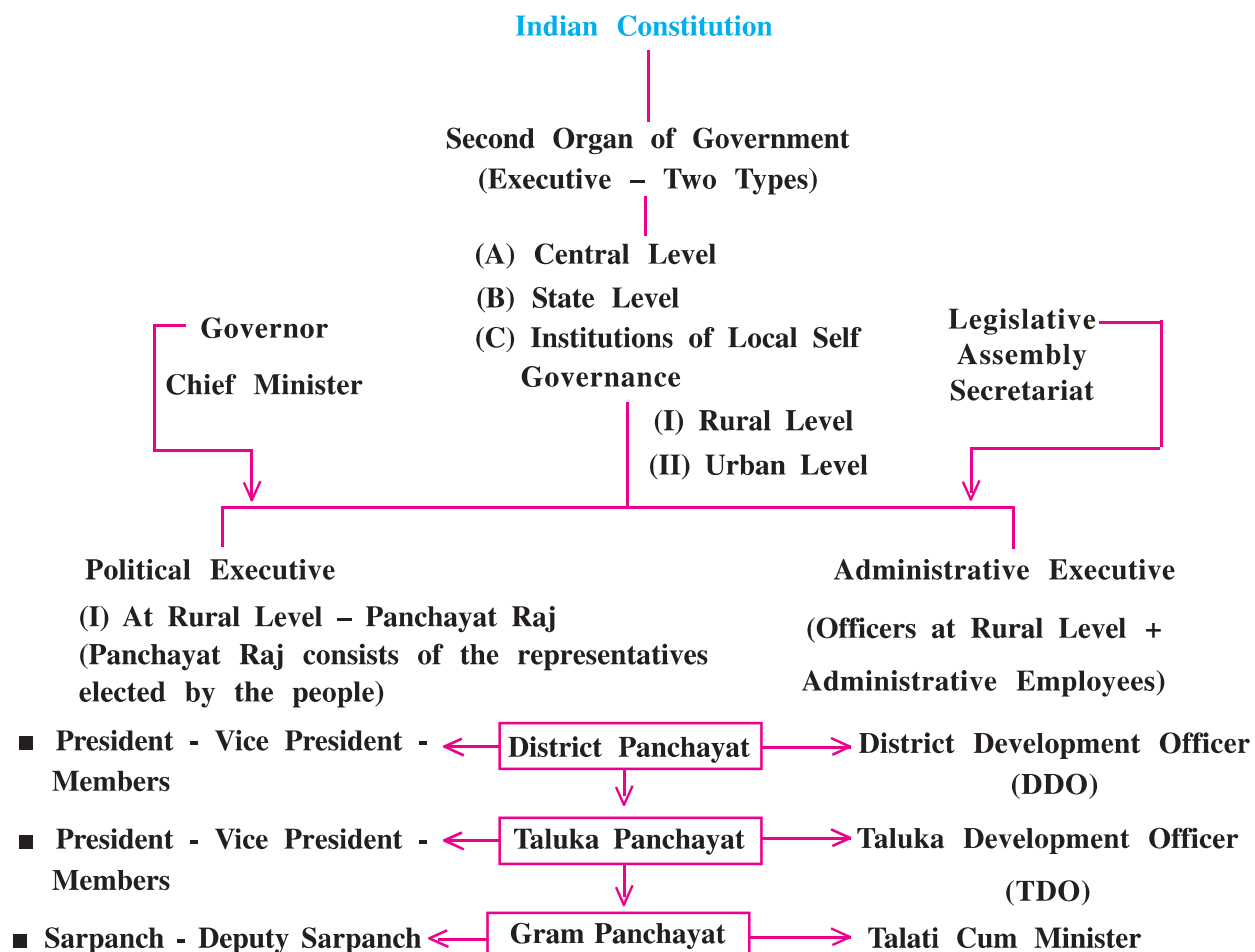
Institutions of Local Self Governance give the training which is available for election, voting, duties, responsibilities, administration and ruling; and opposing parties. It gives an opportunity of self development. As all the policies are implemented at the local level first, it gives a chance to improve the lacunas at the upper levels too. Therefore Local Self Rule Organisations are known as the training schools and laboratory of constitutional improvement in a democracy.

In 1992 in the entire country similar 'Panchayati Raj' and 'Urban Institutions of Local Self Governance' came into existence.

Three Tier Structure of the Panchyati Raj :

(A) Institutions of Local Self Governance at the Rural Level : Gram Panchayat, Taluka Panchayat and District Panchayat is an administrative structure. Each organisation is mutually joined from top to bottom. At all the levels of the Panchayati Raj in order that the local developmental tasks, schemes and welfare oriented programmes are carried out efficiently these organisations are provided with required funds and means. There is a Chief of the District Panchayat and Variors Chairman of Variours committees of the District Panchayat whereas the administrative head is the District Development Officer (DDO) and the main office of the District Panchayat is situated at the District head quarter.

Similarly the leader of the elected wing of the Taluka Panchayat is called the President and the head of the administrative wing is called Taluka Development Officer (TDO). At the lower level Sarpanch is the representative elected by the people, and the administrative head is the Talati-cum-Minister and he handles the administration of the Panchayat. The village in which the election and the Sarpanch are unanimously elected are declared as 'Samras Village' and it is honoured by a prize.



Figur 2 (C) - 1

(B) Urban Institute of Self Governance : As per the 74th Constitutional Amendment the urban areas were provided with the Urban Institute of Self Governance as per the population of the area. At the first level there is Municipality, at the second level there is Municipal Corporation and the third level there is Maha Nagar Megacity Nigam. In all the three wings of the Urban Institute of Self Governance, a Mayor is elected from the majority wing, Apart from this there are Chairman of various Committees and Corporators as per various wards. Ward wise reservation for women and reserved castes is maintained. Various Committees carry out various responsibilities of many fields in a decentralised manner. City Planning, land reforms, roads, bridges, flyovers, bridge construction, water management, sewage management, civil development environmental facility, fire department service, education-health, culture and entertainment, city scape development, development of morgue, crematorium, graveyard, removal of slum, over all development etc are carried out by the Urban Institute of Self Governance. All are managed by funds collected from people under the Public Private Partnership (PPP) as well as the taxes collected from the people and Government Grants. The administrative head of the municipal corporation is known as the 'Municipal Commissionaire'. Under him there are zonal heads having technical and administrative knowledge and various officers. When a cordial relation is established between the elected wing and the administrative wing then many works can be carried out relating to the welfare of the people.

Judiciary :

The Constitution of India has accepted the ideals that all its citizen should get social, economic and political justice Thereby a just and equitable social order can be established. If any person breaks any law then he is either punished or fined by the judiciary. The judiciary checks whether the laws are in accordance with the constitutional provision. And if the law is not consistent with the Constitution it declares the law unconstitutional and void.

If Federal System powers and functions are divided among Unit States and Centres, it is the function of the Judicial System to see that both the Central and the State government carry out their own work without interfering with each other's work. When any disputes arise between the Centre and the Unit State then they are solved by the Supreme Court. The Indian judiciary is continuous and linear. At the top at the Central Level there is the Supreme Court, at the middle at the State Level there are High Courts and at the bottom level there are Trial Courts, Civil Courts, Criminal Courts and various subordinate Courts.

Exercise

1. Answer the following questions :

- (1) What is the principle of division of power ?
- (2) What is the eligibility of a member of Parliament ?
- (3) What is the Quorum for the Loksabha and the Rajyasabha ?
- (4) How are the members of the Rajyasabha elected ?
- (5) How is the Speaker the protector of the dignity of the House ?
- (6) Describe the emergency powers of the President.

- (7) What is the process of Impeachment ?
- (8) Mention the powers of the Parliament.
- (9) State the Institute of Local Self Governance.
- (10) State the vices of bureaucracy.

2. Explain giving reasons the following statements :

- (1) Indian Parliament is bicameral.
- (2) Rajyasabha is the permanent house.
- (3) Parliament in India is not supreme, but the Constitution is supreme.
- (4) Independent and impartial judiciary is the foundation of democracy.
- (5) The Institutes of Local Self Governance are the training schools and laboratory of constitutional improvement in a democracy.
- (6) The State Legislative Assembly is the representative of the people's desires.
- (7) Governor plays a key role between the Centre and the State.
- (8) Loksabha is the key public organisation of the nation.
- (9) An amicable relation between the Political Executive and the Administrative Executive is a pre-requisite for the smooth governance of the nation.
- (10) Efficient and bold public servants are the backbone of the Government.

3. Write short notes on :

- (1) Position of the Governor and his functions.
- (2) Executive powers of the State Legislative Assembly.
- (3) Position and executive powers of the Prime Minister.
- (4) The Legislative and administrative powers of the President.
- (5) How does a Bill become an Act ? Explain procedure.
- (6) Constitutional provisions regarding the money bill.
- (7) The usefulness and limitations of the Rajyasabha.

4. Choose the correct option :

- (1) What is the decided age for the member of the Legislative Assembly ?

(A) 25 years	(B) 30 years
(C) 35 years	(D) 18 years
- (2) How many members are there in the Loksabha and the Rajyasabha ?

(A) 545;250	(B) 455;350
(C) 182;11	(D) 543;238

- (3) Which Indian State does not have two Houses of the Legislative ?
- (A) Karnataka (B) Andhra Pradesh
(C) Tamil Nadu (D) Rajasthan
- (4) Who appoints the judges of the Supreme Court ?
- (A) Prime Minister (B) Governor
(C) President (D) Vice President
- (5) What is the time period of the members of the Loksabha ?
- (A) 4 years (B) 6 years
(C) 2 years (D) 5 years
- (6) In which house does the President appoint two Anglo Indian members ?
- (A) Rajyasabha (B) Loksabha
(C) Goa Legislative Assembly (D) Planning Commission
- (7) Who administers the oath of secrecy to the Prime Minister ?
- (A) Vice President (B) President
(C) Chief Justice of the Supreme Court (D) Speaker of the Loksabha

- (8) Match the Parts :

Administrative Organisations

Administrative Heads

(1) District Sevasadan

(A) Mayor

(2) Municipal Corporation

(B) D. D. O.

(3) District Panchayat

(C) Collector

(D) Commissioner

(A) 1-A, 2-C, 3-D

(B) 1-C, 2-D, 3-B

(C) 1-B, 2-C, 3-D

(D) 1-C, 2-A, 3-B

- (9) How many members are nominated by the President in the Rajyasabha ?

(A) 238

(B) 12

(C) 2

(D) 14

- (10) Who presents the budget in the Parliament ?

(A) Prime Minister

(B) Home Minister

(C) Finance Minister

(D) Member of the Parliament

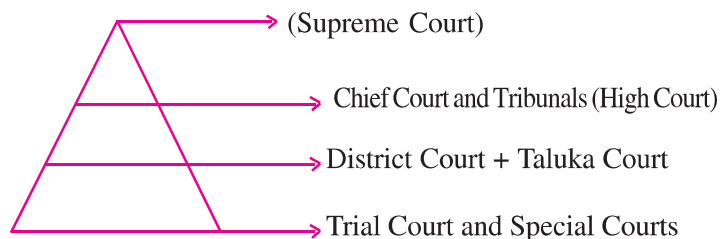
Activity : (Divide the class in groups and allot the activities)

- Make a handwritten pictorial issue on the Prime Minister and Presidents of India, their work span.
- Prepare a Chart of all the Chief Ministers of Gujarat and their work span.
- Invite a Parliamentarian or a member of the Legislative Assembly or a Corporator or Sarpanch to your school and collect information from them pertaining to functions and schemes of the Government.
- Organize a 'Mock Parliament' in the school and discuss any social, economic or political problem.
- Organize a tour to visit the State Legislative Assembly or the Corporation.
- Organize a quiz contest in the school on the topics of Constitution, Fundamental Rights, duties, Directive Principles of the State Policy and Organs of the Government.
- Organize a debate on the topic, 'Have we been successful in establishing social order by establishing Panchayat Raj ?
- Carryout a project on the Institute of Local Self Governance at the Centre, State and Local level.

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We have studied in detail about the two organs of the Government, the Legislative and the Executive. Now we shall study in detail about the third organ of the Government, the Judiciary, which is the independent, statutory and impartial organ of the government.

The Consitution of India provides for a systematic, organized and uniform judicial system throughout India. The Indian judiciary system is in the form of a pyramid hierarchy. We have established a uniform



judiciary and in it at the top most level there is a Supreme Court which is the Apex court at the middle level there are High Courts and under their jurisdiction are the District Courts at the district level and at the taluka level there are Local and Special courts. Apart from these there are Trial Courts and Tribunals, which are established to cater to various objectives.

Importance of Judiciary

A neutral and impartial Judiciary is essential in the Federal System for the protection and preservation of the rights of the Indian citizens and to solve any incongruity between the Center and State or between One State and the other State regarding the division of workload. The Judiciary is an important organ as to interpret Constitutionality of any provision of any Law so that the supermacy of the Constitution prevails. In order that the Legislature or the Executive do not violate any of the Constitutional limitations, we require in a country, Independent, firm, impartial and fearless Judiciary which is the foundation of democracy. The objective of the Constitution is to see that in the Judiciary process there is no flaw or delay and the citizens get quick, cheap and equal justice.

In the presence of alert Legislature and Executive, the Judiciary would always remain active; but many a times due to administrative inactiveness and irresponsibility of the Executive and an authoritativeness of the Legislature impartial, congizant, independent and fearless Judiciary has shown Judicial inactiveness.

Apex Court (Supreme Court)

Supreme Court is at the apex of the Indian Judiciary. As per the Constitution of India it is the top most judicial organization. It is situated in Delhi. All the civil and criminal courts of India have to work under the jurisdiction of the Supreme Court. The Supreme Court consists of one chief justice and 28 additional judges. The chief justice of the Supreme Court is appointed by the President of India. The number of judges in the Supreme Court is decided by the Parliament but if the President feels that the workload of the Supreme Court is increased then the President can appoint additional adhoc judges to the Supreme Court as per the provision of the Constitution. The judges in the Supreme Court are appointed on the basis of seniority. Except for the chief justice of the Supreme Court all the other judges are appointed in consultation with the chief justice as well as other senior judges.

Qualifications : A person who is appointed as judge of the Supreme Court should be -

- (1) A citizen of India.
- (2) Should have provided a service of at least 5 years as a judge in any one of the High Court of India or
- (3) Should have an experience of at least 10 years as an advocate in any of the High Court of India or
- (4) Should be a distinguished judge or a famous jurist as per the opinion of the President or
- (5) Should not be more than 65 years of age.

Thus the retirement age is 65 years for the judges of the Supreme Court.

Time Period : The retirement age is 65 years for a judge of the Supreme Court. However the change in the age of retirement can be made by the Parliament through framing a law. They cannot carry the practice of law in any of the Indian courts but they can provide their services in committees appointed to investigate into uncommon situations or events. If incapable to carry out their duties before the time of retirement then under such circumstances they can resign willingly from their posts by tendering written resignation to the President. But the judges can be removed from their posts and power if they are found to be guilty of incapability, misconduct or inefficiency. This removal is in accordance with the provisions of the constitution and is carried out through “Impeachment Motion in Parliament.” The procedure for it is as follows. Every House of Parliament has to submit a memorandum having majority support to the President of the total number of members and at least 2/3 (two third) number of the members present in the respective session. Based on the presentation, by the order of the President, the judge can be removed from his post. The Parliament monitors the presentation of the memorandum regarding the misbehaviour of the judge and the conducting of the investigation as well as the conducting of proof for the same. The concerned judge is given the opportunity to present his narration in his self-defence in the Parliament.

The President of India administers the oath of secrecy and loyalty towards the Constitution, to the judges who are appointed to the Supreme Court. Before taking the charge of their posts the judges are required to take the oath in oral as well as sign the pledge.

The Power and Jurisdiction of the Supreme Court

The Supreme Court of India possesses more powers and has vast jurisdiction in comparison to any other country of the World. This jurisdiction can be divided into Original Jurisdiction, Appellate Jurisdiction and Advisory Jurisdiction.

(1) Original Jurisdiction : When a court has a power to directly give judgment after hearing a case, such a power is known as Original Jurisdiction and the Supreme court has the power to make decision regarding the case, which no other courts has. Under this jurisdiction the following parties should be involved whose conflicts are resolved by the Supreme Court.

- (i) It has the power to settle the dispute between the Government of India and one or more states.
- (ii) It has the power of resolving difference of opinions, fights or conflicts between the Government of India and one or more states on the other side and one or more other States.
- (iii) It has complete power to give judgment regarding fights or quarrells between State-States.
- (iv) The Supreme Court has the right to give judgement concerning any set of Union Government or constitutionality.
- (v) It has the power to protect and preserve the Fundamental Rights of the citizen of India. Moreover it is empowered to issue of Habeas Corpus Mandamus or order of prohibition.

It is not in the jurisdiction of the Supreme Court to settle disputes related to the distribution of river waters between state-state, states-state, state-states or states-states. A separate ‘Water Tribunal’ gives Judgement. The judgment of the Supreme Court is final and it cannot be challenged anywhere. They have to be respected by all.

(2) Appellate Jurisdiction: three types of appeals can be made in the Supreme Court under the Appellate Jurisdiction. (i) Cases of Constitutional interpretation (ii) Appeal against the civil cases (iii) Appeal against criminal cases.

(i) Any person can approach a Supreme Court against the judgment, order or writ given by the High Court on any case only if a certificate is issued by the High Court along with the judgment that the case involves any matter pertaining to the constitution which has been falsely interpreted or contains any important question of law and hence the petitioner can appeal in the Supreme Court for the same. If any such

certification is not given by the High Court and if the petitioner approaches the Supreme Court then in such circumstances if the Supreme Court finds that any constitutional right is violated then it can accept the petitioner's appeal. But in any of the circumstances only the petitioner who is a party in the working of High Court, can approach the Supreme Court, only under the reasons that a false judgment is issued by the High Court or any other Court.

(ii) In case of the civil cases if the High Court certifies that the case involves important question of interpretation of law and that the case holds general importance and it is necessary that Supreme Court decides, then an appeal can be made in the Supreme Court. Judgment of any civil cases involving a sum of rupees one lakh or more can be challenged in the Supreme Court.

(iii) In case of the criminal cases if any lower court has acquitted the criminal from a capital punishment and in that case the High Court has given capital punishment to the criminal then in such circumstances an appeal can be made in the Supreme Court. The Supreme Court can review its own judgments. It can transfer cases, that are going on in other courts to the Supreme Court. The Parliament can increase the powers of the Supreme Court by framing Act.

(3) Advisory Jurisdiction : If the President feels that any particular matter or question holds importance from the point of view of public welfare then the President can take a counsel of the Supreme Court by sending the matter or question to the Supreme Court for consideration. Under this provision the President can avail counsel from the Supreme Court in the questions pertaining to law, reality, and constitutional interpretation or relevancy of any Bill. But if the Supreme Court finds it unnecessary to consider or give opinion on the sent matter it can send it back to the President. And it is not mandatory for the President to follow the advice or counsel given by the Supreme Court.

(4) Other powers : A Supreme Court has the power to review its own judgment or decision. The Supreme Court can punish for 'Contempt of the Court'. Supreme Court has a power to nullify any steps, law taken by the Executive if it violates the Constitution. This right has been given to the President in the constitution under the provision of Right to Constitutional Remedies. Supreme Court is thus the guardian and savior of the constitution and citizens.

Court of Records

Court of Records holds an evidential value and when any records from the court are presented, no objection can be taken against it. The judgments and decisions of the Supreme Court are considered as permanent documents and all are bound to accept it. They are used as references by the subordinate courts while giving judgments and decisions. Any court showing its contempt or disapproval can be punished.

High Court

One of the key positions in the continuous hierarchical pyramid of the Indian Judiciary is occupied at the state level by the High Courts. High Court is the apex court at state level. The constitution provides one high court for every state. The President has the power to form one High Court for two or more states. In India there is one common High Court for the states of Punjab, Haryana and Chandigarh. Similarly under the jurisdiction of the High Court of Assam falls the states of Manipur, Meghalaya, Nagaland, Tripura, Mizoram and Arunachal Pradesh.

Formation : The chief justice of the High Court is appointed by the President in consultation with the chief justice of the Supreme Court and the governor of the respective state. The chief justice of High Court is consulted in the appointment of the other judges of the High Court. A President is a representative of the Prime Minister and the Cabinet of Ministers and hence only President appoints a chief justice only after discussion and consultation with the Prime Minister and the Cabinet Ministers.

The age limit of judges of the High Court is 62 years. They can tender resignation addressed to the President. The President can remove any of the judges of the High Court through the process of impeachment carried out in the Parliament and on proving the charges of misconduct or malpractice of the judges. The judges of the High Court can be transferred anywhere in India. The number of judges is not the same in all the High Courts of India. If the President feels that the workload of the High Court has increased then he can appoint adhoc in-charge judges to the High Court for a period of two years. All the work of the Supreme Court and the High Court is carried out in English language but if any Legislative Assembly of any state passes a resolution that the work of the High Court of related state be carried out in the language of that state then the work of the High Court of that state can function in the language of that state.

Qualification : As per the provision of the Constitution the person eligible to be appointed to the High Court (i) Should be a citizen of India (ii) Should have served for a minimum period of 10 years on any of the judicial post in the lower court of the Indian states. (iii) Should have at least 10 years of practice as an advocate in the High Court (IV) Should be a distinguished jurist, constitutional expert or famous law maker as per the opinion of the President. (v) Should be below 62 years of age.

The Judge of the High Court has to take an oath of secrecy in front of the governor of the state or any person appointed by the governor and sign the corresponding Pledge.

The Jurisdiction of the High Court : The power and functions of the High Court can be divided into the following three jurisdictions :

(1) Original Jurisdiction : Under the original jurisdiction the High Court is empowered to issue directions, orders or writs including writs in the nature of Habeas Corpus to any person, authority and any government in case of violation of the fundamental rights of citizens. The High Court has the authority in the cases related to companies, marriage, divorce and alimony. The cases of contempt of court, land revenue and its imbursement, land reforms and returns can also be carried out in the High Court. All writ petitions challenging the judgments given by Lower Court of the civil and the criminal courts can be made in the High Court. These petition challenging the provisions provided in the entrance examination.

(2) Appellate Jurisdiction : Under the appellate jurisdiction of the High Court the court hears the petition against the civil and the criminal cases. Any petition challenging the judgment of the lower courts and tribunals can be made in the High Court. In case a Session Court has issued any judgment punishing the accused for more than 4 years, then the petitioner can challenge the judgment in the High Court. If any accused is given a capital punishment by a Sessions Court in a case of murder for which a less severe punishment is issued by the lower court then in such condition the judgment can be challenged in the High Court. The petitioner who is unsatisfied with the judgment of the Tribunal can also approach a High Court. The High Court has a power to decide upon important questions pertaining to law including constitutional interpretation.

(3) Administrative Jurisdiction : Each High Court has the authority and power to supervise the working of all subordinate courts and Tribunals of the state or of its region. If the High Court feels it is necessary then it can ask case papers from the subordinate court and then carry out the case proceedings. The Court can frame general Laws to control the procedure and Functioning of the Courts under its power. The High Court can decide criteria and tabular form of various types of fees. All these provisions should be in accord and harmony with the Constitution. The High Court can guide and direct the subordinate Courts in the matter of maintaining records and entries.

The High Court occupies the place as the Court of Records. The High Court publishes its judgments, decisions in an organised form.. These Judgements and decision are binding and final for they can use these court decisions and judgments as reference while taking decisions on various cases in future. The lawyers use these published judgments and decisions as citations while pleading their cases. The court has a power to punish for contempt of Court.

The High Court of Gujarat is located on the Sarkhej-Gandhinagar Highway, Sola, Ahmedabad.

Subordinate Courts

Under the guidance and supervision of the High Court of any state there are District and Taluka Courts, Fast Track Court, POTA Courts, Tribunals and certain special courts. Each state is divided into an administrative unit called District, consisting of a Civil Court, Criminal Court and Revenue Court.

District Judge

The appointment and promotion of any individual to the post of a District Judge is done by the Governor of the respective state in consultation with the High Court of that state.

Qualifications : A person being appointed as a District Judge should be a citizen of India, should possess a practice as an advocate for at least seven years. An officer in the judiciary of either the state or the Central Government too is eligible to be appointed as the Judge of the District Court. All the other judges other than the District Judge are appointed by the Governor or the High Court in consultation with the State Public Service Commission in accordance with the rules framed by the Constitution.

The judge who handles the civil suites is called as the District Judge and the Judge who handles the criminal cases is called a Sessions Judge. A District Court hears the petitions challenging the judgments of the lower courts under it. All the civil suits of rupee one lakh or more either by the Government or against the government are carried out in the district civil courts. The Judge of the District Court has the power to run the cases of marriage, divorce, alimony, reforms and cases of parental custody.

The criminal courts include Session Court, First Class Judicial Magistrate Court, Second Class Judicial Magistrate Court, Mamlatdar and Executive Magistrate Court. These courts have a power to give punishment of imprisonment ranging from 3 to 10 years and a penalty up to rupees 5000 or more. In case of a murder, the court can give capital punishment, life time imprisonment and life sentence.

Apart from these in a district there are small cause court and family court too. For the case pertaining to land-revenue there is Revenue Court and for the disputes of the labourers there is a Labour Court along with other Tribunals. As per example a Tribunal for compensating vehicle-accidents, for the protection of service and other rights of the teachers and professors there is a ‘Gujarat Educational Organisation Service Tribunal’, Tribunals for recovering debts, for the protection of consumer’s right, ‘Consumer’s Rights Protection Forum’. These tribunals function like a court and help the cases wherein the petitioners recover their losses and receive compensation. In each district there is a ‘Fast Track Court’ with an objective to run a case faster. For hearing the cases of POTA, there are POTA Courts in Gujarat. All these courts have gathered importance by decentralizing their administration and function independently, firmly and lawfully. People have started taking all the benefits and have become aware.

Lok Adalats

Gujarat state is first to start Lok Adalats to provide speedy and economical justice to the poor, weak and exploited section of the society. Under this the court provides free support and guidance through ‘Legal Aid Service Center’ situated in Ahmedabad. Lok Adalats function voluntarily even on Sundays and holidays at the district and taluka headquarters as per the convenience of the petitioners. The Lok Adalats generally hear the cases of accident and is related compensation, divorce, alimony, general debts, personal complaints, police

complaints etc. Lok Adalats consist of advocates, social workers, educationists, reputed citizens, businessmen, police officers, insurance officers, judges and judicial officers. Here cases are settled amicably such that both the parties are satisfied. The cases fought in the Lok Adalats are neither won nor loss. Lok Adalats save time and money. Many pending cases are solved. All the judgments of the Lok Adalats are backed by the law. Therefore the Lok Adalats have become a centre of attraction.

Independence of Judiciary

The Indian Constitution has kept the Judiciary independent, firm and fearless from the Legislature and the Executive for the protection of the fundamental rights of the citizens, for the social, political and economical equality and for providing justice. The Judiciary should not be inclined or biased towards the Government. The terms and conditions for the appointment of judges, the appointment process, pay scales, transfer, promotion, retirement etc. is taken care of by the Executive as per the constitutional provision. The judges are appointed for a specific period of time. The Executives cannot remove any of the judges due to their will or any political pressure. The pay scale, the term of service, promotion, transfer, benefits of promotion, pension fund of the judges cannot be altered. During the term of service of the judges any of their behaviour or their judgments cannot be discussed or critically reviewed in the Parliament or the Legislative Assembly. The judges after their retirement cannot carry out their practice in any of the courts. The purpose is to empower the judges to perform their duties fearlessly, honestly, self reliantly, independently and firmly so that the judges can impart true, transparent and quick justice. The Indian Constitution has given the Judiciary an independent, impartial and uniform place. The cases of public welfare, the questions of public welfare or important problems pertaining to public welfare can be written on a simple post card or an ordinary letter to the Supreme Court. In the past, the Supreme Court has treated such matters as petitions and has given trend setting judgments. This has proved the vigilance of the Judiciary in the public.

At present there are about 3.5 crore pending cases in our Judiciary. Insufficient number of courts, judges and staff is the reason in the delay in justice. The present Central Government has undertaken the task of reframing one and a half thousand old and irrelevant laws.

Exercise

1. Answer the following questions in short :

- (1) State the required qualifications for being appointed as the Judge of the Supreme Court.
- (2) State the powers under the original jurisdiction of the Supreme Court.
- (3) Describe matters that are out of the jurisdiction of the Supreme Court.
- (4) Explain the process of impeachment.
- (5) Describe the powers of the High Court in the criminal cases.
- (6) State the required qualifications of the judge of the High Court.
- (7) Name the various subordinate courts.

2. Explain the following statements :

- (1) Judiciary is the foundation of democracy.
- (2) The Supreme Court is the protector and guardian of the Constitution and citizens.
- (3) The High Court occupies a key position.
- (4) Lok Adalats have become a centre of attraction.
- (5) The functioning of the Judiciary is a boon in case of negligence by the Legislature and the Executive.
- (6) The Supreme Court is considered as a Court of Records.
- (7) The Judges of the Supreme Court cannot practice law in any of the courts after retirement.

3. Write short notes on :

- (1) Independence of the Judiciary.
- (2) Appellate jurisdiction of the High Court.
- (3) Court of Records.
- (4) Lok Adalats and Public Interest Litigations.
- (5) Subordinate courts.

4. Choose the correct option :

- (1) The retirement age for a Judge of Supreme Court and High Court is
(A) 65 and 58 (B) 65 and 60 (C) 60 and 65 (D) 65 and 62
- (2) How many years of experience as a lawyer is required to be appointed as a District Judge ?
(A) Three years (B) Seven years (C) Ten years (D) Five years
- (3) In which state is the High Court of Mizoram and Tripura situated ?
(A) Meghalaya (B) Arunachal (C) Assam (D) Nagaland
- (4) The headquarter of 'Legal Aid service Centre' is situated at ?
(A) Vadodara (B) Rajkot (C) Ahmedabad (D) Gandhinagar
- (5) Who appoints the judges of the Supreme Court ?
(A) Prime Minister (B) President (C) Vice President (D) Law Minister
- (6) Which organization has been formed to settle the complaints of the consumers ?
(A) Free Judicial Counseling Centre (B) Civil Court
(C) Consumer Forum (D) Small Cause Court

Activity

- Form a 'Student Court' and provide direct training to carry out proceeding pertaining to small-big matters of indiscipline in this court. Give judgment as well as order fine.
- Prepare a handwritten issue containing all the details of the chief justice of the Supreme Court and the High Court. Paste pictures.
- Prepare a scrapbook of the trendsetting judgments of the last five years.
- Arrange a debate competition under the chairmanship of an expert MLA on the topic of 'Impartial, fearless and firm Judiciary.'
- Arrange a visit to the Lok Adalat and Consumer Forum and organize an essay competition or report writing.
- Arrange a lecture of any famous MLA on the topic of 'Supremacy of the Judiciary and independence.'
- Organize a poster competition, slogan competition on the occasion of 'Human Rights Day', or 'Consumer Rights Day.' Take out a rally in your area to increase public awareness.



India has the highest number of voters in the world. Population wise India is the largest democratic country of the world. This amazing democracy is more than six decades old. During this period in India there has been many political upheavals and up and downs. The Indian democracy is sustained due to the dedication and insight of its citizens. We shall study in detail the characteristic features of Indian democracy.

Election in Democracy

In the world many countries have democracy. In spite of democracy there exists differences in Governance of these countries. In a democracy a voter casts his own vote. The right to vote remains the same in each democratic country though the country's Governance may vary. The democracy thrives through the voting process of the voters during the elections. Our country has a Parliamentary System. Parliament is the national institution representing the people. The Parliament of India consists of the President, the Vice President, Rajyasabha, and Lok Sabha. As mentioned in earlier chapter, Rajyasabha is the Upper House of the Parliament and the Lok Sabha is the Lower House of the Parliament. The State has the Legislative Assembly. Some states have the Legislative Council also. A voter is at the centre in forming a Rajyasabha, Lok Sabha, and Legislative Assembly or Legislative Council. In our country all the governing bodies are elected through voting. Thus democracy is realized by elections.

Democracy and Voter

A voter is very important in a democracy. Our country has Universal Adult Suffrage. A person of 18 year of age or above who is enlisted in the voter list can cast vote. A person who has not declared bankruptcy or is not mentally unstable can vote without any discrimination. The Constitution guarantees a right to vote even amidst illiteracy, poverty and many similar issues. The system of Universal Adult Suffrage is based on the principle of 'One Person One Vote.' It is the duty of every citizen to vote without greed or fear. A voter should be aware and vigilant of his right. The Constitution has provided a right to vote to each of its citizens without the discrimination of caste, creed, religion or education. Voting is an important process in democracy. In our country there is a Universal Adult Suffrage. Voting is a right as well as a duty of citizens. Every voter should exercise the right to vote.

Election – The Foundation of Democracy

Election is the foundation of democracy. A festive environment is seen during elections. The people can evaluate their representatives during elections. Any person who has the pre-requisite to contest elections can do so. Candidates belonging to the political parties as well as the independent candidates who do not belong to any political party can contest election. In an election the winning candidate of any party or belonging to a coalition of parties come to power. In a democracy only with the support of the people one can reach to power. In our democracy Parliament is the apex body and the basic foundational block is the Gram Panchayat. Elections are also held in the Institutions of Self Government like the Gram Panchayat, Taluka Panchayat and District Panchayat. Candidates in these Institutions of Local Self Government are chosen through elections. Elections are conducted in Municipality in towns and Municipal Corporation in cities. Election is the life line of a nation's democracy.

Elections are very important for the political parties as well as the candidates. Election is the barometer of Democracy. Election provides an opportunity to a voter to evaluate the contesting candidates. Election ushers in new political set up or political waves. Election gives a picture of a country's social and economic environment. Election decides the future of the Government. Elections are contested by political parties, independent candidates, as well as a coalition of political parties. In Parliamentary Democracy, the party or a coalition of parties having majority of winning candidates forms the Government and comes in power. The power is obtained as well as maintained by the support of the people. Election being soul of a democracy it is essential that it is transparent.

Public Opinion in Democracy

We have a democratic country. The candidate who wins the election represents the people. In representative system the ruling party would like to regain and retain its power. To regain and retain its power it becomes essential for the political parties to connect with the people. To maintain and run the government, it becomes essential to consider public opinions and thoughts for framing policies or for various questions pertaining to many problems. Public opinion is highly essential for political parties, representatives and organizations. Collective public opinion is extremely important in democracy.

Strong and organized public opinion is very important in Democracy. Malfunctioning of the Government can be presented through public opinion. Public opinion helps in creating such a condition where the Government cannot afford to misrule or neglect the country. Alert and intelligent public that keeps itself informed cannot be misled by the Government. Various mediums in the modern times have proved to be very important in creating public opinion. Let us obtain detailed information of these mediums.

Media of Public Opinion in Democracy

To cultivate the human psyche and to create a strong public opinion the various information and broadcasting agencies are very useful. In today's time various mediums are used to transmit information to the public. These mediums contributing to build strong and effective public opinion are :

Print Media : In today's world newspapers, periodicals and journals hold utmost importance in facilitating people to know more about incidences, events and situations taking place nationally as well as internationally. Print media helps people to evaluate their opinions either in favour or against the information presented by them. The same information presented by the print media can create multiple view points in the people. People give different individual responses to the same information and develop individually diverse opinion.

It is essential that the opinions created are true, firm and unbiased. If the print media presents biased or false details then it is possible to create a false public opinion. It is absolutely essential to have 'Freedom of Press' so that a false public opinion is not created by presenting only achievements of the Government and thereby hiding the faults, failures or shortcomings of the Government. Ours is a diverse nation in terms of language, culture and regional varieties. The regional newspapers are much sought after in corresponding regions. Regional newspapers then have an immense contribution in cultivating public opinion. Print media has failed in cultivating public opinion in countries and regions having less literacy rates. In spite of this various organizations, industrial groups and political parties publish their own dailies or periodicals owing to the influence exerted by printed material. The Government also publishes various periodicals and issues providing important information.

Electronic Media : Audio visual media like the radio, television, cinema etc. are important in cultivating public opinion. Electronic media is more effective in the regions of lower literacy rates. It is seen that radio and television are considered far more important than newspapers and periodicals. Live telecast of incidents occurring nationally as well as internationally can be easily made available through the mediums of radio and

television. A public opinion can be created through the serials, dramas and movies which can help portray socioeconomic as well as other problems like untouchability, dowry, exploitation and poverty in an entertaining manner.

In today's world apart from television the arrival and spread of internet has helped people to enjoy news, serials, dramas and movies sitting comfortably in their homes. All these media can create an adverse effect through the presentation of distorted, obscene and violent information. Hence it is essential to monitor and control transmission of harmful content through these important mediums. In a democracy it is desirable that the political parties and NGOs protest against various obscene and violent programmes telecasted by the electronic media.

Today in the fast moving age of technology people can stay in constant touch with each other through the medium of internet or smart cell and exchange thoughts as well as ideas. Electronic media is widely used to cultivate public opinion. Television, radio, personalized radio i.e. FM plays a special role in cultivating public opinion in modern times.

In today's time, rumours spread instantaneously in the absence of facts and details. Hence there remains a danger of false public opinions being generated. Various types of surveys carried out by electronic media help create public opinion. Surveys are carried out to know public opinion with the help of some details. 'Opinion Polls' are presented during the elections. Opinion polls help to estimate the direction of public opinion. Opinion polls are not always true and reliable.

Electronic media are very important in today's time. In a democracy the people and the Government should exercise patience. Electronic media helps to transmit people's thoughts, details and talks to the government and similarly helps transmit details about the various plans and achievements of the government to the people. Radio can reach in distant and remote areas. But as it is only audio media it has been less effective. Television programmes though expensive in nature have gained more public viewership than radio. In a democracy it is desirable that public opinion should be cultivated so as to cater to the needs of the welfare of the nation.

Types of Democracy : Various countries in the world have democracy. There still exists diversity within various democracies of different countries. Our country has a Parliamentary democratic system. In a country like USA there is a presidential parliamentary system. We shall see in detail about the two types of democracies i.e. Parliamentary Democracy and Presidential Democracy.

Parliamentary Democracy

Our country has accepted the Parliamentary Democracy. In a Parliamentary Democracy the President appoints the leader of the party who gets the majority number of seats in the Lok Sabha as the Prime Minister. The Prime Minister forms the Government. The Parliamentary Government is completely accountable to the Lok Sabha. Government remains in power as long as it enjoys the confidence of the majority of the members of the parliament.

Presidential Democracy : Presidential Democracy is the second important type of democracy. In such a type of democracy the President is directly elected by the people. The President remains in power for a specific period as mentioned in the Constitution. Presidential Democracy is prevalent in many countries including USA.

Election System in Democracy

Our country has maximum number of voters in the world. The Election Commission maintains the administration, control and monitoring of the entire process of election. It is essential for any democracy that its Election Commission is independent, impartial and autonomous. It is mandatory to maintain the autonomy of the Election Commission. In the Constitution there is a special provision for the terms and conditions of appointing the election commissioner, their criteria for service, or their removal or suspension from their service. The responsibility and authority to hold elections for the Parliament, State Assembly, Legislative Council, President and the Vice President rest with the Election Commission. The election of our country is carried out by secret ballot. Legislative assembly or the Parliament is dissolved after every five years and then fresh elections are held. The election carried out to elect a new candidate to fill up

vacant place due to death or resignation of the candidate is known as by-election. The dates of election, advertisement, filling and scrutinizing the nomination forms, the dates for withdrawing the nomination forms, the declaration of the final list of the eligible candidates, the allotment of election symbols etc. falls under the work area of the Election Commission. From the time of announcement of the election dates a protocol is implemented by the Election Commission. The Government is bound to abide by the protocol and not carry out any activity or campaign that can affect the public opinion.

The candidates and the political parties come up with their own election manifesto. The election manifesto reflects the proposed plans and works of the party in terms of economic, defence, foreign policy and various problems.

Secret Ballot in Democracy

In our country elections are conducted in a complete independent and secret manner. Indian parliamentary elections are considered to be the largest election process in the world. Various political parties, organizations and independent candidates contest the elections. Each of them presents their works, ideas, and future plans to the voters. It is expected that the voters vote without any benefit, greed or fear. 'Secret Ballot' is given utmost importance in a democracy. A voter has a right to maintain the secrecy of his vote. No one can ask a voter regarding his vote. The amazing process of election maintains the secrecy of each voter's vote. The election commission facilitates the voting of all persons involved with the election process as well as the army personnel too. Two processes are used for voting. (1) Voting by a ballot paper (2) Voting through an Electronic Voting Machine(EVM). Counting ballot papers is more time consuming. Now a days most of the voting is carried out using EVMs. Counting votes in EVMs is less time consuming. It saves time and labour. Voting by using EVM is environment friendly as it does not make use of the paper. If a voter decides to exercise his right to vote but not to cast his vote in favour of any of the contesting candidates, he can use the option of NOTA(None of the Above).

Democracy and Political Parties

India is multi party democracy and hence we have various political parties. Specific criteria are fixed by the Election Commission to validate any political party. Political parties are classified either into National party or Regional party based on certain specific policies and criteria decided by the Election Commission. As per this a party that secures more than four percent of the total votes in the previous general elections, in at least four major states, is identified as a national party and the rest are identified as regional parties. As per the information given by the Election Commission by March 10th, 2014 a total of 1593 national parties were registered. Last year 239 parties were added.

In our country Indian National Congress (INC) and Bhartiya Janta Party (BJP) are the two major political parties. Along with this Bahujan Samajwadi Party (BSP), Communist Party of India Marxist (CPIM) and National Congress Party (NCP) are the other national parties. Apart from this the Shivsena, Trinamool Congress, Samajwadi Party (SP), Dravida Munnetra Kalagam (DMK), All India Anna Dravida Munnetra Kalagam (AIADMK), Aam Aadmi Party (AAP), Jantadal United (JDU), Rashtriya Janta Dal (RJD), are regional parties. Based on the specified criteria any national party can lose its status or any regional party can gain the status of the national party depending on the number of votes obtained by the party. The party forming the Government is known as the ruling party. The party which forms the opposition is called the opposition party.

The opposition party helps form public opinion by democratically opposing the objectionable plans and policies of the Government. But in a healthy democracy it is desirable that the opposition party supports the social and public causes of the ruling party which are aimed at the welfare of the nation. The success of democracy depends on a balanced relationship between the ruling and opposing party. Effective and strong opposition party is a pre-requisite of a good democracy. Democracy is like a chariot. Ruling party and the opposing party are the two wheels of the chariot.

Exercise

1. Answer the following questions in short :

- (1) At what age one gets a right to vote ?
- (2) Which media are used to cultivate public opinion ?
- (3) Which national and regional political parties are active in India ?

2. Explain giving reasons :

- (1) A voter is a life line of a democracy.
- (2) Parliamentary democracy is unique and important.
- (3) Information broadcasting media are highly effective in cultivating public opinion.
- (4) Election is a barometer of democracy.

3. Write short notes on :

- (1) Types of political parties (2) Voter and Government
- (3) Election Commission and political parties

4. Distinguish between :

- (1) National party and Regional party
- (2) Parliamentary Democracy and Presidential Democracy
- (3) Print media and Electronic media

5. Fill in the blanks :

- (1) The system of Universal Adult Suffrage is based on the principle of
 (A) One person many vote (B) One person one vote
 (C) One person no vote (D) One person all vote
- (2) The media is less effective in cultivating public opinion.
 (A) Audio visual media (B) Visual media (C) Audio media (D) Print media
- (3) Full form of EVM is
 (A) Electronic Value Machine (B) Electronic Vat Machine
 (C) Electronic Voting Method (D) Electronic Voting Machine

Activity :

- Celebrate National Voter's Day (25th January). Arrange a discussion on subjects like, 'Voting a form of philanthropy'.....'Voting is a right of the voter'.....'Voting makes the Government'.....
- Organize a school level exhibition displaying pictures, charts, photographs etc. on the theme of democracy. Plan a debate competition. Carry out various such activities in school that enhances the spirit of democracy.
- Plan a mock Parliamentary Election process and make the students participate in it.
- Discuss the uses and misuses of the print media and electronic media and enlist them.

Individual uses of print media	Individual uses of electronic media
●	●
●	●
●	●
Individual misuses of print media	Individual misuses of electronic media
●	●
●	●
●	●

Unit 3 : INDIA – Its Land and People

We are acquainted with the events and the circumstances which affected many countries of the world in the beginning of the last century. The Independence Movement and the Independence of our country are among the most important events of the last century incorporating the world as a whole. We have carved out a new way by successfully completing the challenges created before the newly independent nations. We are determined to reformation of a new nation with a responsible administration, civil rights, independent judiciary etc.

It is almost the completion of second decade of the twenty first century. With India's progress march of six decades, it will be easier for us to view it for the planning of development.

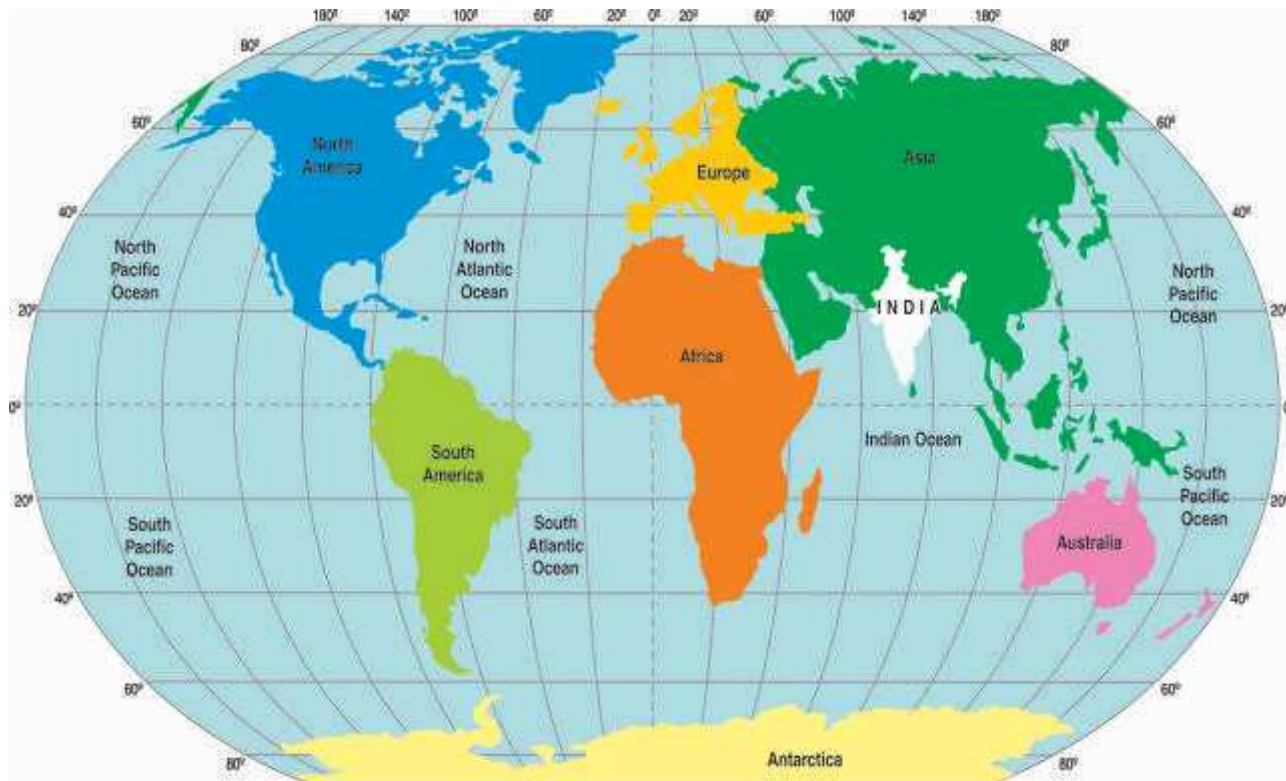
Natural resources and their location are an important base for the endless possibilities of the economic development and progress of any country. In this context, the study of physiography, drainage system, bio-diversity of our country will be of much interest. A diversity in the lifestyle, food habits, dresses, or rituals etc. create an exact picture of a large nation. With the knowledge of disaster management, we can reduce the intensity of the impact of the disaster.



13 India : Location, Geological Structure And Physiography-I

India holds a unique position among the countries of the world. India is a country having largest democracy and its culture is one of the oldest. It has the largest democracy in the world. The coordinating attitude of our culture has not discarded any religion, race or people, but has accepted them whole heartedly. Thus, impartiality towards all religions, people and races is the peculiar characteristics of India. That is why India has become a “cultural confluence.”

Even though many natural and man-induced disasters have taken place, India has consistently continued her progress. The geographical conditions have contributed immensely towards the development and progress of Indian culture.

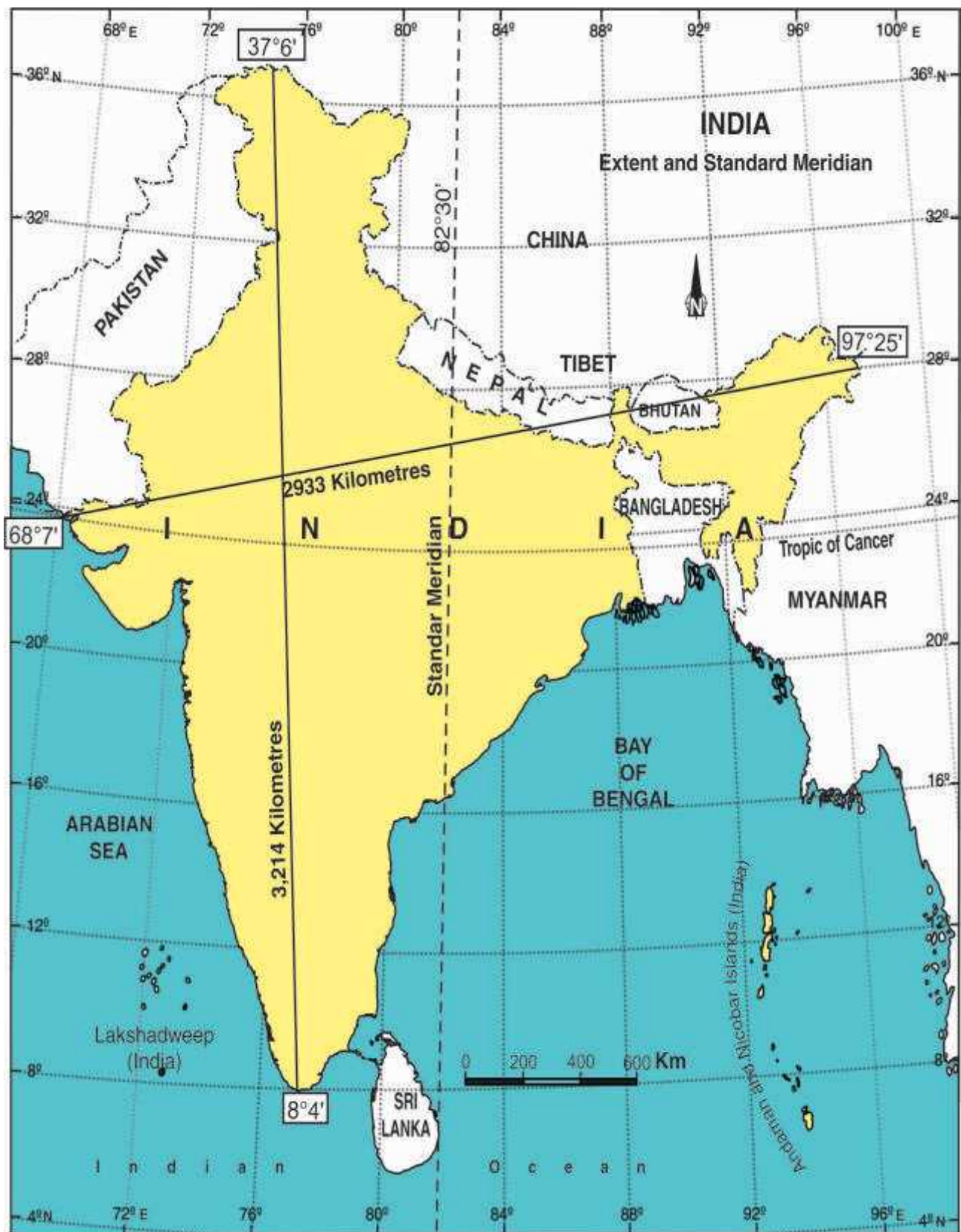


13.1 India in the World

India : Location, size and area :

Geographically, India lies in the northern hemisphere. It extends up to the southern part of Asian continent. The span of the mainland of India extends from $8^{\circ} 4'$ to $37^{\circ} 6'$ North latitudes and from $68^{\circ} 7'$ to $97^{\circ} 25'$ East longitudes. The Tropic of Cancer, which is located at $23^{\circ} 5'$ north latitude and divides the country into two parts, passes through the centre of India. Its northern part is spread more in the east-west direction. The large plains and the Himalayan mountain system are located in this part. The area to the south of Tropic of Cancer has a triangular shape and tapers towards the south. This is basically a part of the peninsular plateau. It includes the eastern plains and the narrow western coastal plains.

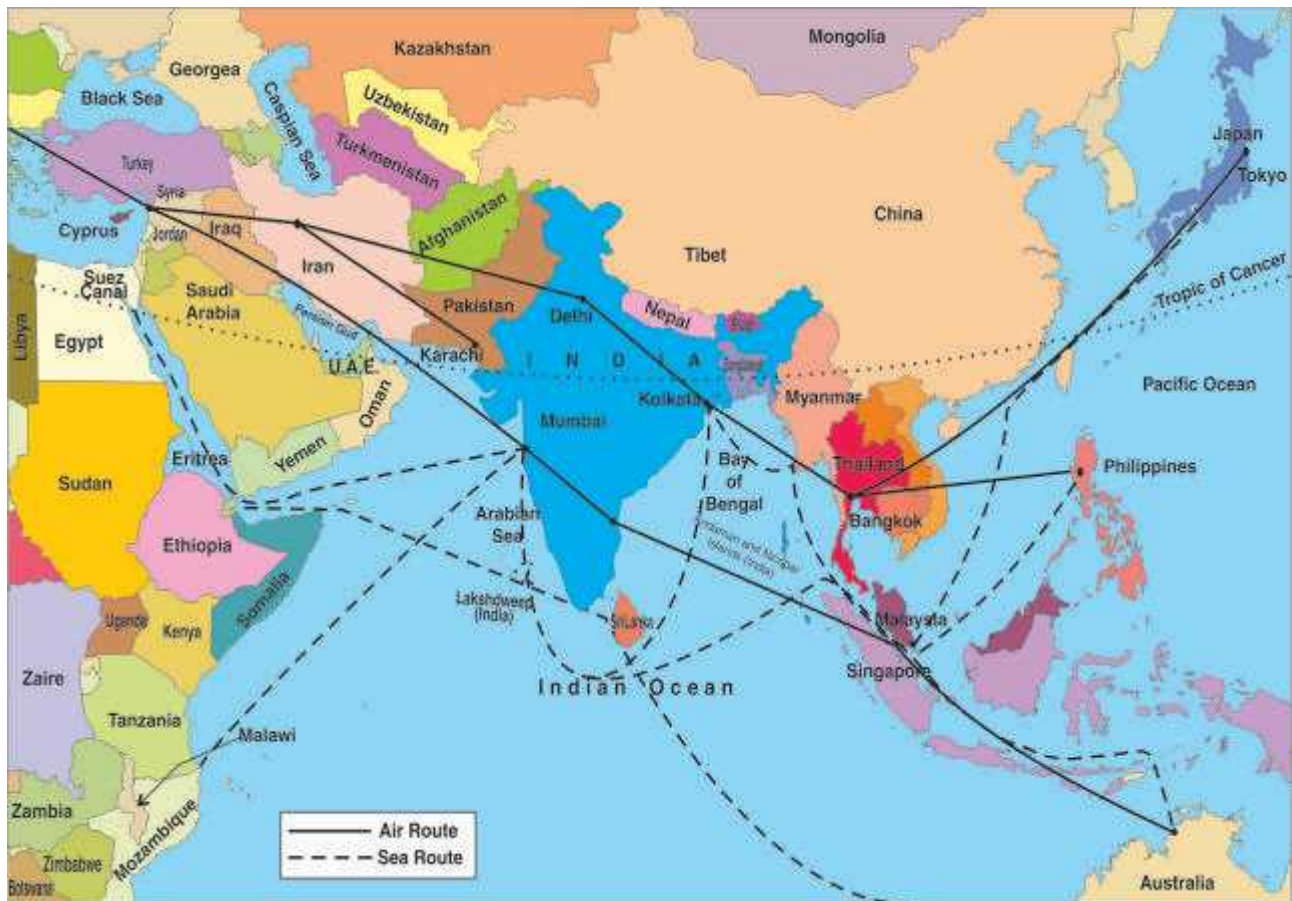
The latitudinal as well as longitudinal extents of India are almost equal, which is about 30° , but actually the length between Kashmir to Kanniyakumari is 3214 km and from Gujarat to Arunachal Pradesh, the width is 2933 kilometres. There is a difference of two hours in the local times between the two extreme places starting from Gujarat in the west up to Arunachal Pradesh in the east due to the longitudinal difference. When it is sunrise in Arunachal Pradesh, it is still night time in Gujarat. The standard meridian of India is $82^{\circ} 30'$ east longitude. It passes through five states. Its local time is accepted as the standard time of India.



13.2 India : Extent Standard Meridian

Total area of India is 32.8 lakh sq. km, and India ranks seventh in the world in terms of area. Other six countries larger than India are (1) Russia (2) Canada (3) U.S. A. (4) China (5) Brazil, and (6) Australia.

The land area of India lies in south Asia. In the north, lofty mountain ranges are spread over hundreds of kilometres from west to east direction. That is why, the commuting with Tibet and China is possible only through passes located at high altitude. Bay of Bengal lies to the east, Arabian Sea to the west and Indian Ocean to the south of peninsular India. The sea is utilised as a waterway. Even though the land routes are obstructed by surrounding mountains, India has accepted all cultural elements arriving from outside, and these have merged into Indian society.



13.3 Strategic location of India

India holds a strategic location in eastern hemisphere, and it has a strategic importance also. India is in the eastern hemisphere. Oceans have contributed immensely in developing mutual relations in ancient times. India had trade relations with East Africa, West Asia, South Asia and South-East Asia since ancient times. India had developed cultural and commercial relations with them due to her location. No country in Indian Ocean has a long maritime boundary as India has. Due to this strategic location, the ocean is named as **Indian Ocean**.

Location of India across the international waterways is also important. With the opening of Suez Canal in 1869, the distance between India and Europe has reduced by about 7000 kilometres. Sea routes connecting East and South-East Asia and Australia to Africa and Europe pass through the Indian Ocean. The Circum African waterway and Suez Canal waterway pass by India. Canada and U.S.A. can be reached through the same waterway via Strait of Malacca and the Pacific Ocean.

India has contacts with many countries since many centuries. Goods and ideas are being exchanged since ancient times. Similarly, concepts of Upanishads, stories of Ramayana and Panchtantra, therapeutic methods, Indian numerical figures and decimal system etc. could reach many parts of the world. India has an important location in South Asia. There are 29 States and a National Capital Territory and 6 Union Territories in India.

India holds an important place in south Asia. There are 29 states, one National capital Territory of Delhi and 6 Union Territories in India.

- **Like to know...**

Telangana was created as 29th State from its mother state Andhra Pradesh on 2nd June, 2014.

Neighbours of India

India has a common land boundary with Pakistan and Afghanistan in north-west, with China, Nepal, Bhutan in north-east and with Myanmar and Bangladesh in the east.



13.4 India and Adjacent countries

In the south, Sri Lanka and Maldives are our maritime neighbours. India and Sri Lanka are separated by Palk Strait and Gulf of Mannar. Lakshadweep Islands are located in Arabian Sea, while Andaman – Nicobar Islands are located in Bay of Bengal.

● **Like to know...**

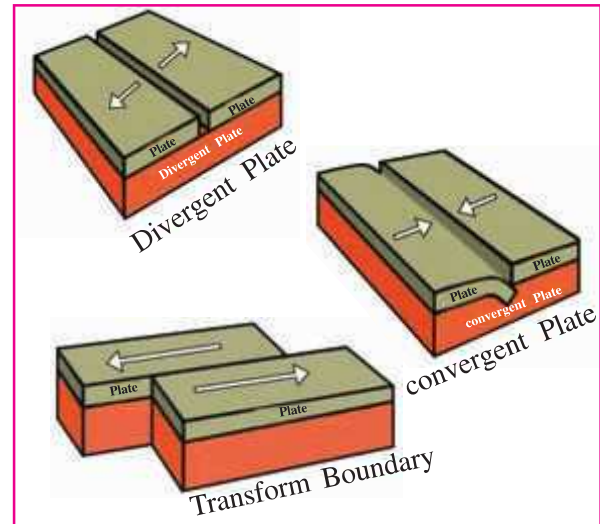
Indira Point, which was the southern most point of India, was submerged in 2004 due to tsunami. With this, few islands of Andaman – Nicobar were also submerged into the ocean.

Geological structure :

The current physiography of India is the result of tectonic and crustal movements of the earth. Both constructive as well as destructive effects of these movements are seen.

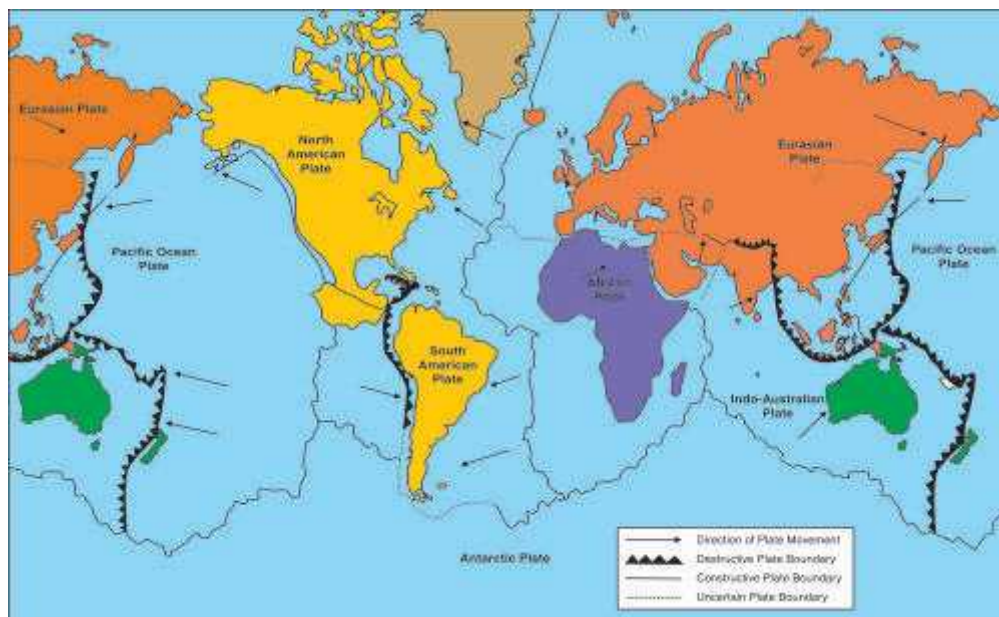
The knowledge about the interior of the earth is very interesting. The crust of the earth floats over the semi-liquid rocks of the asthenosphere. Heat is generated due to the radioactive process in the interior of the earth. It tends to reach the surface of the earth by generating convectional currents. These upward currents break the upper layers which break into large pieces which are known as “**lithospheric plates**” or “**tectonic plates**”. There are seven major tectonic plates. These are : (1) Pacific plate (2) North American plate (3) South American plate (4) European plate (5) African plate (6) Indo-Australian plate, and (7) Antarctic plate. At some places, these plates are drifting away from each other, which are known as divergent plates.

At some places these plates come closer to each other, which are known as convergent plates. Due to divergence and convergence processes, folding and faulting take place. Due to the movements of



13.5 Tectonic Plates

these plates over millions of years, shapes of landforms as well as their locations have changed. The process of divergence is responsible for all the tectonic and volcanic activities on the earth. Wherever these drifting plates have collided with one another, it has resulted into mountain building process. Wherever these plates drift away, fissures are created within landforms and oceans. The continents situated along these fissures are drifting continuously. Such plates are called convergent plates.



13.6 World : Major plates

India was a part of a very vast and an ancient landmass known as the Gondwanaland. This large landmass consisted of the present South America, Africa, Australia and Antarctica. Over a period, the ‘Indo-Australian plate’ started drifting gradually towards north. It is so believed that this plate collided with the large European plate before about five crore years. Due to the collision between Indo-Australian plate and the European plate, the Himalayan mountain system emerged out of Tethys Sea.

A large valley was formed to the south of the Himalayan system, wherein alluvial sediments were deposited by the rivers flowing from north and south of it. Thus the Ganga plain between Himalayas and the southern peninsula was formed. A huge volcanic eruption took place in the north-west of the peninsular plateau as a result of which the western portion of the plateau was disintegrated and was submerged. This led to the formation of Arabian Sea. Due to this submergence the Western Ghats became more distinct.

Thus, a large diversity is seen in the Indian sub-continent. Lofty mountain ranges are seen in the north. Many plateaus, summits and passes are seen within them. Ganga, Yamuna and Brahmaputra rivers flow in the northern plains. Their alluvial deposits have formed this plain. Two edges in the form of Ghats on two sides of the plateau and coastal plains on eastern and western margins are situated. Thus, India holds a diversified physiography.

Self Study

1. Write short answers for the following questions :

- (1) India has a strategic location. Explain.
- (2) Why is the physiography of India explain ?
- (3) Why has the international trade of India become easy ?
- (4) India has become a place of ‘cultural confluence’ – Explain.
- (5) State how many and which are the tectonic plates.

2. Explain the concept of the following terms :

- | | |
|----------------------|-----------------|
| (1) Standard Time | (4) Convergent |
| (2) Tropic of Cancer | (5) Hemisphere |
| (3) Peninsula | (6) Circulation |

3. Answer the following questions :

- (1) Give information about the location and area of India.
- (2) How was India benefitted due to the opening of Suez Canal ? State.
- (3) Give a detailed account of the structure of the earth.

4. Select the correct option of the following questions and write answers :

- (1) Through which state of India, the standard meridian does not pass ?
(A) Uttar Pradesh (B) Chhattisgarh (C) Madhya Pradesh (D) Tamil Nadu
- (2) North of India : China, To the north-west of India :
(A) Bangladesh (B) Pakistan (C) Sri Lanka (D) Nepal
- (3) Arrange the following states in order from north to south :
Uttarakhand, Kerala, Madhya Pradesh, Andhra Pradesh, Delhi
(A) Uttarakhand, Delhi, Madhya Pradesh, Andhra Pradesh, Kerala
(B) Kerala, Andhra Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh, Delhi, Uttarakhand
(C) Andhra Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh, Uttarakhand, Delhi, Kerala
(D) Kerala, Andhra Pradesh, Delhi, Madhya Pradesh, Uttarakhand
- (4) Which of the following countries is larger in area than India ?
(A) Canada (B) England (C) Pakistan (D) Thailand
- (5) Which of the following pairs is incorrect as a neighbour of India ?
(A) Afghanistan – North-West
(B) Nepal – North-East
(C) China – North
(D) Bangladesh – West

Activities

- Get information about the directions from your teacher and prepare a list of what is situated in which direction in your house and in the class room.
- Locate yourself with the help of Internet.
- Study an atlas and prepare a list of neighbouring countries of India and their capital cities.
- Know the names of the extreme points of India in all four directions and write them in your notebook.



1. Northern mountainous region

This is an important natural region of India. It is known as the Himalayan mountain system spread over 2400 km in west-east direction in the north. It has an arc shape. Its width ranges between 240 km to 320 kilometres. The Himalaya is not a single mountain, but is a complex of many mountain ranges. Going towards east from Afghanistan, it extends upto Myanmar via India, Nepal and Bhutan. It has more span in Tibet in the north. It is a part of the mountain system known as the Pamir knot.

Himalayas on the whole can be divided into two divisions :

(1) Northern Himalayan Region (2) Eastern Himalayas

(1) Northern Himalayan Region : There are three mountain ranges parallel to each other. The northern range is called the Greater Himalayas. This is the loftiest range among the Himalayas wherein there are more than 40 peaks which exceed height of 7000 metres. Most famous among them is Mt. Everest which is 8848 metres high. It is on Nepal – China border. It is known as Sagarmaththa in Tibet. Other famous peak is Godwin Austin or K²(8611 m) which is the highest peak of India. There are three distinct ranges in Himalayas which are almost parallel to each other. In the Greater Himalayas, there are some high mountain passes such as Jelep La, Nathu La, Shipki La etc. Mansarovar, which is considered to be a sacred holy place (China) is located in this range.

Like to know...

Mt. Everest	8848 metres
K ² (Mt. Godwin Austin)	8611 metres
Kanchenjunga	8598 metres
Makalu	8481 metres
Dhavalgiri	8198 metres
Annapurna	8070 metres

Second range, in the south of the Greater Himalayas is also spread a in wider area. It is called Central Himalayas or the Lesser Himalayas. With a width ranging from 80 to 100 km, this range includes mountain ranges like PirPanjal, Mahabharat, Nagtiba etc. Many hill stations have developed in this moderately high range. Some of these hill stations are Dalhousie, Dharamshala, Shimla, Mussoorie, Ranikhet, Almoda, Nainital, Darjeeling etc. Gangotri, Yamnotri, Badrinath, Kedarnath, Hemkund Sahib etc. are famous holy places. Kullu, Kangada and Kashmir are extremely beautiful natural valleys in this region.

Third range, situated in further south is known as Shivalik (Outer Himalayas) and most of it falls within India. It is about 10 to 15 km wide and has an average height of 1000 metres. Peculiar valley formations have taken place in this range which are covered by gravel, stones and thick sediments. Locally these are known as 'DUN', e.g. Dehra Dun, Patlidun, Kotharidun etc.

(2) Eastern Himalaya : Ranges situated in the eastern part of Himalayan ranges have lesser height. Some of them are more famous as Hills. These hills in eastern Himalayas are spread as smaller ranges. Among them, Patkai Hills are situated in Arunachal Pradesh, Naga Hills in Nagaland, and Lushai (Mizo) Hills in Mizoram. These hills are located near the eastern border and have their continuation in ArakanYoma range of Myanmar. Garo, Khasi and Jaintia Hills are in Meghalaya. Mountainous regions have more rainfall so dense forests have developed here. As this is a forested area, roads and railways have not developed much.

2. Great Northern Plain :

This northern plain is located between the northern mountainous region and the southern peninsula. This plain is formed due to the alluvial sediments brought by Himalayan rivers such as Satluj, Ganga and Brahmaputra. At some places, the layers of the sediments are about 50 metres thick. As these plains occupy very large area in North India, these are known as great plains of Northern India.

The plain is about 2400 km long. It is considered as one of the largest river plains of the world. Its western part is narrower than the eastern part. The plain is almost a level land. None of its part is higher than 180 metres from sea level. The plain is very narrow near Delhi. The Satluj plain lies to the west of Delhi while the Ganga plain is in the east. This plain is considered to be the most prosperous region of India. Important cities such as Delhi, Kanpur, Lucknow, Allahabad, Varanasi, Patna, Kolkata etc. are situated in this plain.

Sindhu river and its tributaries Jhelum, Chenab, Ravi, Beas and Satluj originate in Himalayas. Generally, a region between two rivers is called 'DOAB' (i.e. DO means two and AB means water). Thus the plain which is formed by five rivers is called 'Punjab' (Panj + Ab). Most of this plain is in Pakistan.

On the basis of physiography, the plain is divided into four parts : (1) Bhabar (2) Tarai (3) Bangar (4) Khadar. A small and narrow belt of gravels and stones lies parallel to the river from Sindhu up to Tista river in Shivalik foothills. This belt is almost 8 to 16 km wide. It is called Bhabar. The Terai region which is more humid and marshy comes next. Dense forests and diversified wild life are seen here. The old alluvium in the plains is called 'Bangar'. Due to consistent deposition, it develops a terrace shape which is at a higher level than flood plains. The new sediment of the flood is called 'Khadar'.

3. Peninsular Plateau

This is the oldest region of India. This region appears as an inverted triangle. Its average height is about 600 to 900 metres. Its northern part slopes towards north-east which is evident from the flow of Chambal, Son and Damodar rivers. The southern part slopes towards south-east. Most of its area is in south, hence it is also called Southern Plateau. As it is surrounded by sea on its three sides, it is called a Peninsular Plateau.

Peninsular Plateau can be divided into two parts (1) Malwa Plateau (2) Deccan Plateau.

(1) Malwa Plateau : Aravalli Range is situated to the north-west part of Malwa plateau. Aravalli is one of the oldest ranges in the world. It is a folded mountain. Mt. Abu is the famous hill station on this range. It is very beautiful and pleasant. Gurushikhar is its highest peak and it is 1722 metres high. To the south of this region, the rivers Chambal and Betwa, emerging from Vindhya, flow northwards and meet river Yamuna, while river Son flows northwards and meets river Ganga. It can be known from the direction of river flow that the region slopes northwards. The north-eastern part of this central upland is known as Bundelkhand. Besides this, rivers Luni and Banas also originate in the Aravalli range in north-east. These rivers vanish in the Rann of Kachchh while Sabarmati and Mahi rivers meet the Gulf of Khambhat. From the flow of these rivers, it can be ascertained that the western part of Malwa Plateau slopes towards south-west. Rajmahal Hills and Shillong plateau are a part of Chhota Nagpur plateau, which also includes Ranchi plateau.

(2) Deccan Plateau : The Deccan Plateau is situated to the south of Satpuda, Mahadev and Maikal ranges which are located to the south of the Malwa plateau. The north-western parts of the plateau are composed of lava deposits. On the western side, its border is demarcated by Western Ghats which runs north-south along the Arabian Sea coast. It has several local names. It is known Sahyadri in Maharashtra and Karnataka, as Nilgiri in Tamil Nadu, as Annamalai and Cardamum ranges along the border of Kerala and Tamil Nadu. The southern portion of Western Ghats is more lofty.

Generally the average height of Deccan Plateau ranges between 900 to 1000 metres, but at a few places it exceeds that height. Few isolated hills having more than 900 metres of height form the eastern boundary of this plateau. This is called 'Eastern Ghats'. It has a general slope towards south-east which is evident from the direction of the flow of the rivers. Except rivers Narmada and Tapi which flow westwards, most of the rivers of Deccan Plateau flow eastwards and meet the Bay of Bengal.

4. Coastal Plains (Plains along the sea coast) :

Peninsular plateau is surrounded by a narrow belt of plains from Kachchh to Odisha. It is divided into western and eastern coastal plains. The west coast plain is spread from Gujarat to Kerala. Except in Gujarat, the plain is mostly narrow. It is very much undulating and is known as Malabar Coast to the south of Goa. West coast rivers have developed creeks at their estuaries. Most of these creeks are submerged valleys under river water. These are formed due to the emergence of sea shore. It provides favourable conditions for fishery. There are many natural ports on the western coast, which include Mumbai and Marmagao. Backwaters have developed along the southern coast of Kerala, and these are known as **Kayal** in local language.

East coast plain is much broader than the west coast plain. There is substantial alluvial deposition in the deltas of Kaveri, Krishna, Godavari and Mahanadi. Its northern coast is known as North Sircar Coast and the Tamil Nadu coast is known as Coromandel coast.

(5) Archipelagos

There are few archipelagos in India. Andaman – Nicobar and Lakshadweep are major archipelagos among them. There are many smaller islands in Lakshadweep and these are located at some distance off Kerala coast. These islands have a horse-shoe shape. Such coral islands are called ‘Atolls’.

Andaman – Nicobar islands, are situated in the Bay of Bengal. Here, the number of islands is also more and three are situated very far from Indian coast. There are few mountain ranges, some of which are formed due to the volcanic activity. These islands are spread over 350 km and have a strategic importance.

Like to know...

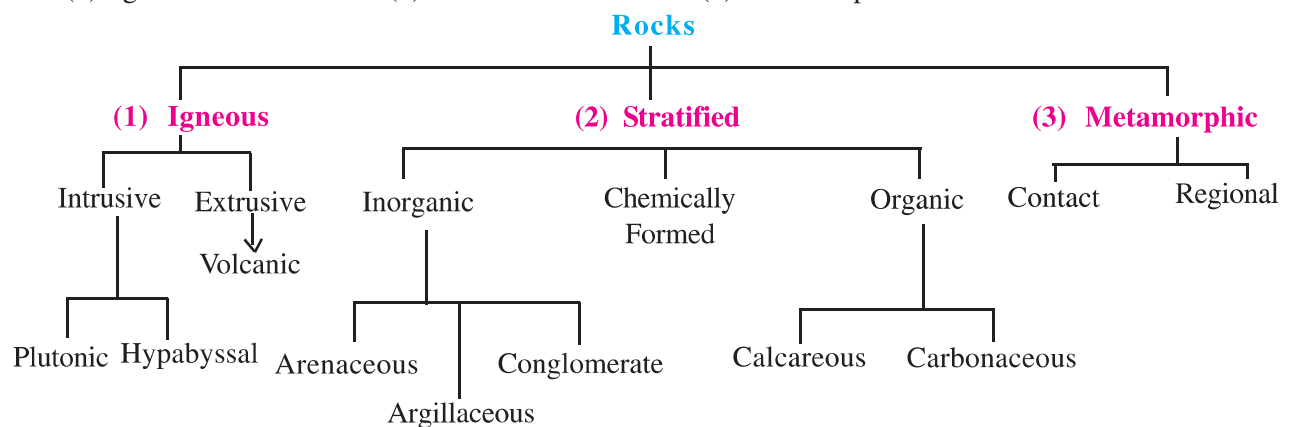
The only active volcano in India is ‘Barren’ Island in Andaman – Nicobar archipelago. Narkondam, which is very near to it is a dormant volcano.

Thus there is a diversity in the physical features of India. Every region has its own distinct characteristics and yet all regions are inter connected. All of them have important contribution in the progress of the nation and are useful in the forest resources. Northern fertile plains are also called Storehouse of Grains. Southern plateau is rich in many mineral resources which has enhanced the national progress. Many rivers with large volume of water originate in the northern mountainous region which is also known for a variety of forest resources.

Rock :

A composite matter made up of one or more minerals is called a ‘Rock’. Rocks can be hard as well as soft. They can be porous or non-porous, and can be light or heavy in weight. Various types of rocks are formed due to different processes. Rocks can be divided into three categories on the basis of their formation. These are :

- (1) Igneous rocks (2) Stratified rocks (3) Metamorphic rocks



(1) Igneous Rocks : The intense heat in the interior of the earth is responsible for the formation of these rocks. The interior of the earth remains very hot due to this heat. So the matter here is in semi liquid state, which is called as 'Magma'. Eventually when this magma cools down, rocks are formed. These rocks are formed due to the effect of heat, hence these are called Igneous (Agneya) rocks. In the formation of the crust of the earth, these rocks were formed earliest, so these are also called primary rocks.

At many places in Rajasthan, Madhya Pradesh and southern peninsula in India, such rocks are formed. Igneous rocks are most solid of all rocks. Granite is a well known example of plutonic rock. Basalt is also this type of rock.

(2) Stratified Rocks : Igneous rocks disintegrate due to the collective effect of water and other forces. These are also known as sedimentary rocks. The broken rock material is constantly deposited in water and they form layers. Thus, rock material is deposited into different layers. The upper layers exert pressure on the layers of underlying rocks, which were formed initially and are lying at the bottom, and eventually rocks are formed with different layers. These are called 'Stratified rocks'. Its examples are gypsum, limestone and coal. Coal and gypsum are obtained from Bihar and Jharkhand states.

(3) Metamorphic Rocks : In certain peculiar conditions, the form, composition and other characteristics of rocks are totally changed. Due to the combined effect of two factors high temperature and pressure of rock strata, the igneous and sedimentary rocks change into a totally new form. These newly formed rocks are known as metamorphic rocks.

Marble and quartzite available in Rajasthan are their best examples.

Mineral

'Mineral' is that matter which is formed due to natural organic or inorganic process and has a specific chemical composition. Minerals are available from the interior of the earth in solid, liquid and gaseous forms. Minerals depend on the geological structure of the surface of the earth. Minerals such as iron, copper, nickel, gold, silver etc. are found in igneous rocks. Coal, mineral oil and natural gas etc. are available from stratified rocks, while slate, marble, diamond etc. are available from metamorphic rocks.

Classification of minerals : In our routine life, about 200 minerals are used directly or indirectly. A universally accepted classification of minerals is not possible. However, a general classification can be done as follows :

(1) Metallic minerals :

- (a) Precious metallic minerals : gold, silver, platinum etc.
- (b) Light metallic minerals : Magnesium, bauxite, titanium etc.
- (c) Minerals of general use : Iron, copper, lead, zinc, tin, nickel etc.
- (d) Minerals used alloys : chromium, manganese, tungsten, vanadium etc.

(2) Non – Metallic minerals : Limestone, chalk, asbestos, mica, fluorspar, gypsum, sulphur, diamond etc.

(3) Energy resources : Coal, mineral oil and natural gas, uranium, thorium etc.

Major minerals and their spatial distribution

Serial	Mineral	States
1.	Iron	Jharkhand, Chhattisgarh, Andhra Pradesh, Goa, Odisha, Tamil Nadu, Maharashtra, Rajasthan, Karnataka, Bihar, Madhya Pradesh
2.	Manganese	Karnataka, Odisha, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Goa,
3.	Copper	Gujarat, Karnataka, Andhra Pradesh, Uttar Pradesh, Rajasthan Sikkim, Meghalaya, Maharashtra, West Bengal M.P., Jharkhand
4.	Bauxite	Odisha, Andhra Pradesh, Chhattisgarh, Maharashtra, Jharkhand, Gujarat
5.	Lead	Rajasthan, Andhra Pradesh, Tamil Nadu, West Bengal, Madhya Pradesh, Uttar Pradesh, Odisha, Maharashtra, Meghalaya, Sikkim, Gujarat
6.	Mica	Andhra Pradesh, Rajasthan, Bihar, Jharkhand
7.	Limestone	Madhya Pradesh, Chhattisgarh, Andhra Pradesh, Rajasthan, Gujarat, Karnataka, Himachal Pradesh

Soil :

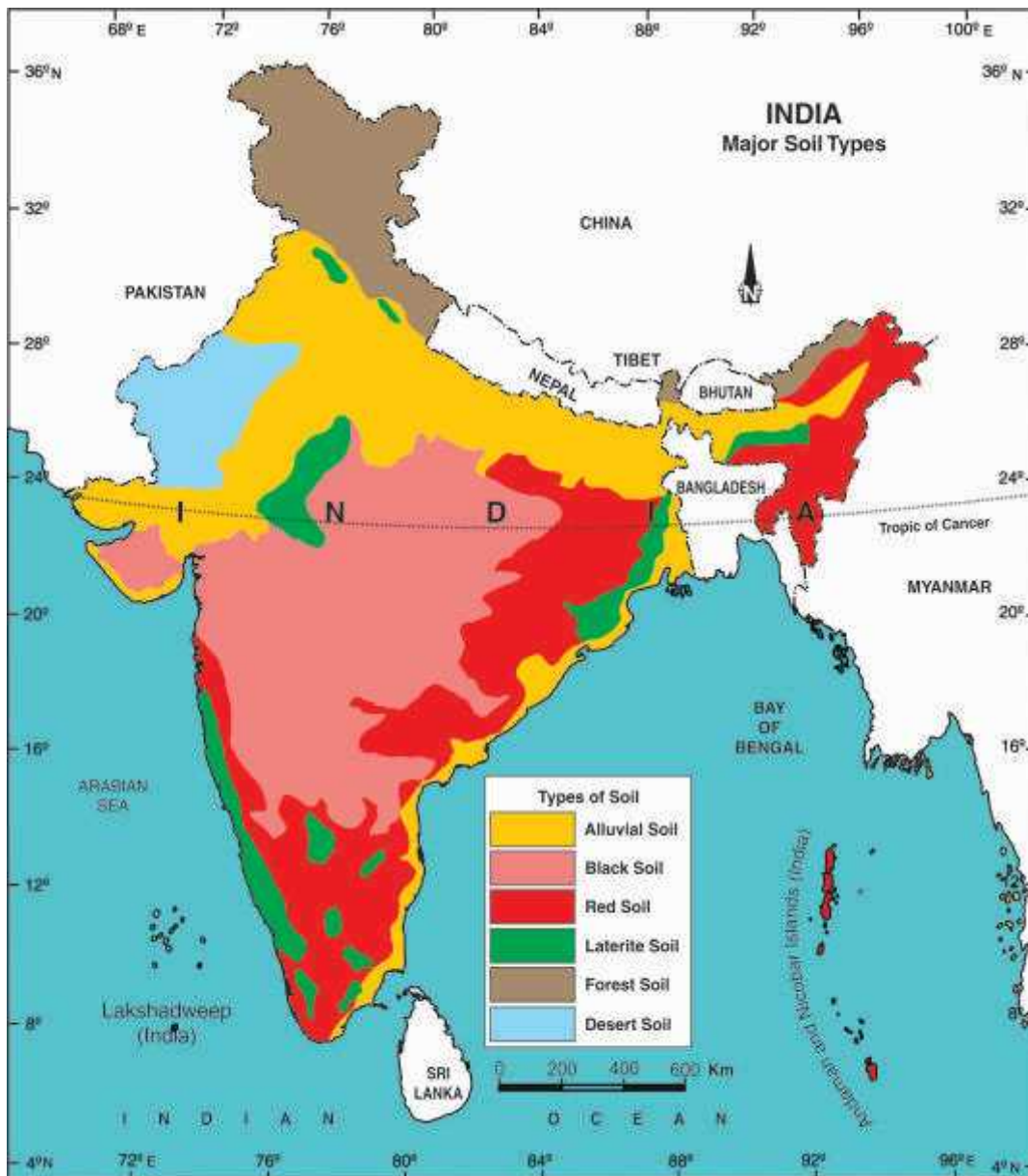
We know that soil is the basic resource for agriculture. Besides agriculture, soil is also very important.

Soil is a thin layer formed of the organic and inorganic matter on the surface of the earth. Soil is related to the surface of the earth in the same way as the apple with its skin. The thin layer on the crust of the earth is called soil.

Soil Formation : Soil is the result of denudation of rocks. The rock surface is eroded due to factors like temperature, rain, snow, air, vegetation and insects and it turns into powdery form. Thus it forms the land layer. In this layer, there are gravels, smaller stones, pebbles, soil particles etc. which are known as 'Regolith'. It contains only mineral contents. Then the biotic matter, air and water are mixed with it. Finally soil is formed out of this mixture. The process of soil formation is a long term process.

Soils in India : Soils in India are classified into six types :

- (1) Alluvial Soil (2) Black (or regur) soil (3) Red soil (4) Laterite soil (5) Mountain soil
- (6) Desert soil.



14.3 India – Major Soil Types

(1) Alluvial Soil : Alluvial soil can be divided into two parts : (1) Khadar, and (2) Bangar. The soil formed due to the fresh alluvial deposit is known as Khadar soil. As this soil is formed due to the river floods, it is found mostly nearby the river. Generally such soil is sandy. Soil containing old alluvium in the upper valley region of a river is called Bangar soil. It is sticky and has dark colour. Alluvial soil is seen in many parts of the country. Their fertility is also different at different places. Generally, such soil is very fertile. It is found in Punjab, Uttar Pradesh, Bihar, West Bengal etc.

(2) Black Soil : This soil is found mostly in Maharashtra, western Madhya Pradesh, Gujarat, Karnataka, Andhra Pradesh, Telangana and Tamil Nadu. Black soil is the gift of peninsular plateau. This soil is very sticky and fertile. It can contain humidity for a prolonged time. It is formed from the metamorphic rocks and is very useful for cotton cultivation. That is why it has become famous as Black Cotton Soil. It is also known as regur soil.

(3) Red Soil : Such soil is found in regions of igneous and metamorphic rocks. Its red colour is due to its ferrous and other humus contents. The soil is porous and fertile. Such soil is seen in Goa, Tamil Nadu, Karnataka, Andhra Pradesh, Odisha and Jharkhand.

(4) Laterite Soil : Laterite soil develops as a result of excessive erosion by rain. Due to heavy rain, the humus contents from the top soil descend into the lower strata which is called leaching. As the soil contains less humus, it is less fertile. The red sandstones contain iron and aluminium. The erosion of these rock results into its red colour. Such soil is found in mountainous region of Deccan, Karnataka, Kerala, Odisha and some parts of North-East.

(5) Mountain Soils : Humus content is more due to the forests, although it differs from place to place. Such soil on Shivalik Range is less fertile and less developed. The soil is sandy and porous and does not contain humus. Such soil is found in the mountainous region of the country, such as in Meghalaya, Arunachal Pradesh, eastern hill ranges, Uttarakhand, Himachal Pradesh and Jammu-Kashmir states.

(6) Desert Soils : Such soil is found in the arid and semi-arid regions of Gujarat, Rajasthan, Punjab and Haryana. The soil here is more alkaline and has less humus contents. Agriculture has been made possible in such soil only through irrigation.

Thus, a large diversity in soils of the nation is seen due to diversity in climate and relief features.

Self study

1. Write short answers for the following questions :

- (1) Which passes are located in the Himalayan system ?
- (2) What is regolith ?
- (3) Which are the major types of rocks ? State them.
- (4) State the soil formation process.

2. Explain the following terms :

- | | |
|----------------|----------|
| (1) Deposition | (4) Rock |
| (2) Bangar | (5) Soil |
| (3) Mineral | |

3. Write to-the-point answers of the following questions :

- (1) Archipelagos of India
- (2) State the types of soils of India and give a detailed information.
- (3) Classify the minerals.

4. Select the correct option of the following questions and complete the answer :

- (1) Patkai Hills : Arunachal Pradesh :: Lushai
(A) Nagaland (B) Manipur (C) Mizoram (D) Meghalaya
- (2) Who from the following speaks the incorrect statement ? Find out.
(A) Kashish : Gold, silver, platinum are precious minerals.
(B) Kinni : Bauxite, titanium and magnesium are light metallic minerals.
(C) Dhruvi : Tungston, manganese, and chromium etc. are non-metallic minerals.
(D) Nidhi : Lead, copper and iron etc. are minerals taken in common use.
- (3) Join correct matches :

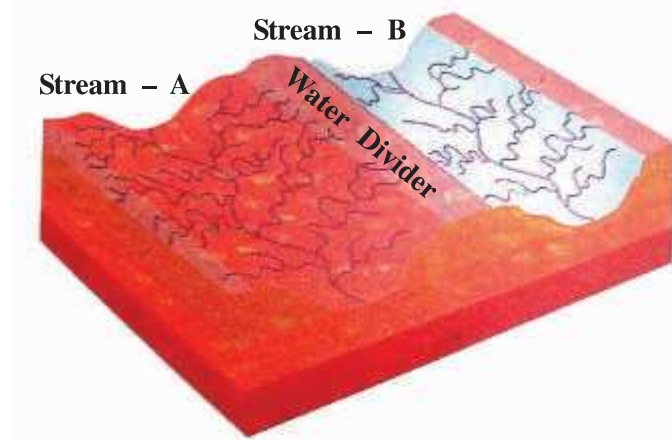
AA

(1) Stratified rock	(A) Granite
(2) Metamorphic rock	(B) Limestone
(3) Igneous rock	(C) Marble
(A) 1-B, 2-C, 3-A	(B) 1-A, 2-C, 3-B
(C) 1-C, 2-B, 3-A	(D) 1-B, 2-A, 3-C
- (4) Which of the following statement is true ?
(A) Western Ghats have more height in north region.
(B) Western Ghats are called Nilgiri in Karnataka.
(C) Western Ghats are spread north-south in unbroken form along the Arabian Sea coast.
(D) Western Ghats are called as Sahyadri on the border of Kerala and Tamil Nadu.
- (5) Which plateau is situated between Aravalli and Vindhya ?
(A) Chhota Nagpur (B) Malwa
(C) Deccan (D) Shilong

Activities

- Arrange a visit to the major archipelagos of India.
- With the help of an atlas, observe the map of relief features of India and study.
- Prepare an album containing the information about natural disasters like earthquake and volcano, and prepare their models also.

The word 'drainage system, is used for the systematic pattern of rivers. While observing the physiography of India, it is seen that one main river along with its tributaries come from different directions and merge into a single river. The water of these rivers is emptied into a water reservoir, sea or a desert. Thus, when a river flows through its system in any area, it is called a 'river basin'. When a mountain or an upland separates the flow of water from one another, it is called Water-divide.



15.1 Water Divider

Like to know...

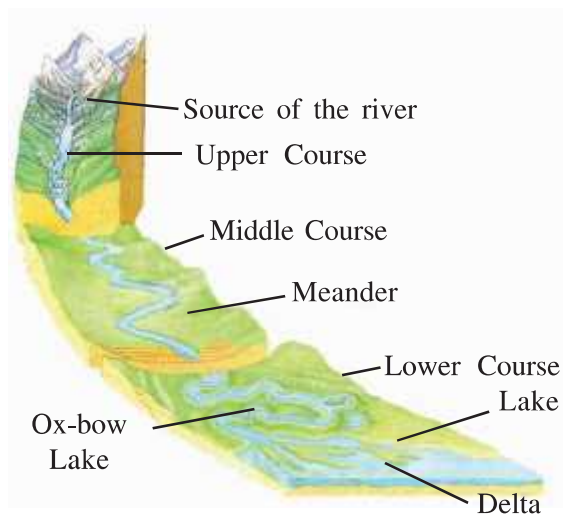
River amazon has the largest river basin in the world. Ganga has the largest river basin in India.

Drainage system of India :

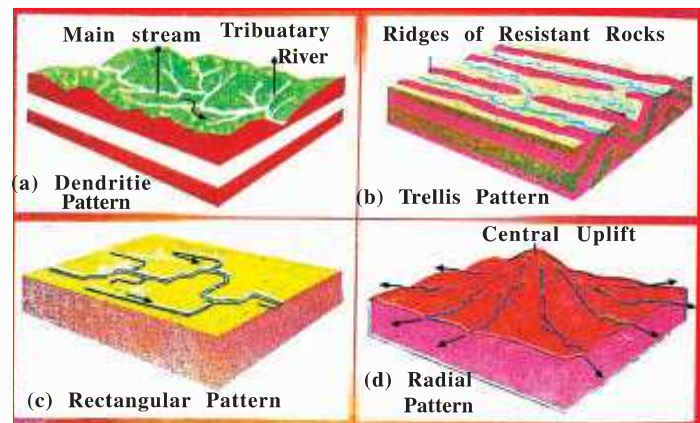
The drainage system of India follows its physiography. Accordingly, the drainage system of India is divided into two parts :

- (1) Himalayan Rivers (2) Peninsular Rivers

Rivers of India are divided into two zones according to the physical features. Due to this a large difference is seen among the Himalayan and Peninsular rivers. Himalayan rivers contain water throughout the year. These rivers are perennial because of the increase in water volume due to heavy rain during monsoon and due to the melting of snow during summer. Two major rivers of Himalaya, Sindhu and Brahmaputra, originate in the northern part of this mountain system. These rivers have cut deep gorges by cutting the mountains. Himalayan rivers cross a long way from its origin to the sea.



15.2 Different Stages of River



15.3 River Systems

Three stages of a river system

(1) Upper Course (2) Middle Course (3) Lower Course

When a river starts from mountainous region, it causes intense erosion. It carries huge volume of sand and sediments along with it. Its flow decreases in its middle and lower course. Meanders are seen here. Due to these meanderings and the impact of floods, a lake is formed in the shape of animal's hoof. Near its delta, a river is divided into many tributaries. This divided area turns into a very fertile plain in a triangle shape. This is called Delta.

Peninsular rivers are seasonal because these are dependent on rain water. During dry season, their flow is either reduced or is totally stopped. Compared to the Himalayan rivers, their length is also less and are also shallow. Due to the physiography and the slopes of the mountains, most of the peninsular rivers originate in the Western Ghats, flow eastwards and meet Bay of Bengal. Western Ghats serve as a major water divide for the peninsular rivers.

- Like to know...

Arrangement of river Pattern :

The river system of main river and its tributaries is seen as follows :

(A) Dendritic Pattern :

When the arrangement of a river and its tributaries make a shape of the branches of a tree, it is called Dendritic Pattern, e.g. Ganga.

(B) Trellis Pattern :

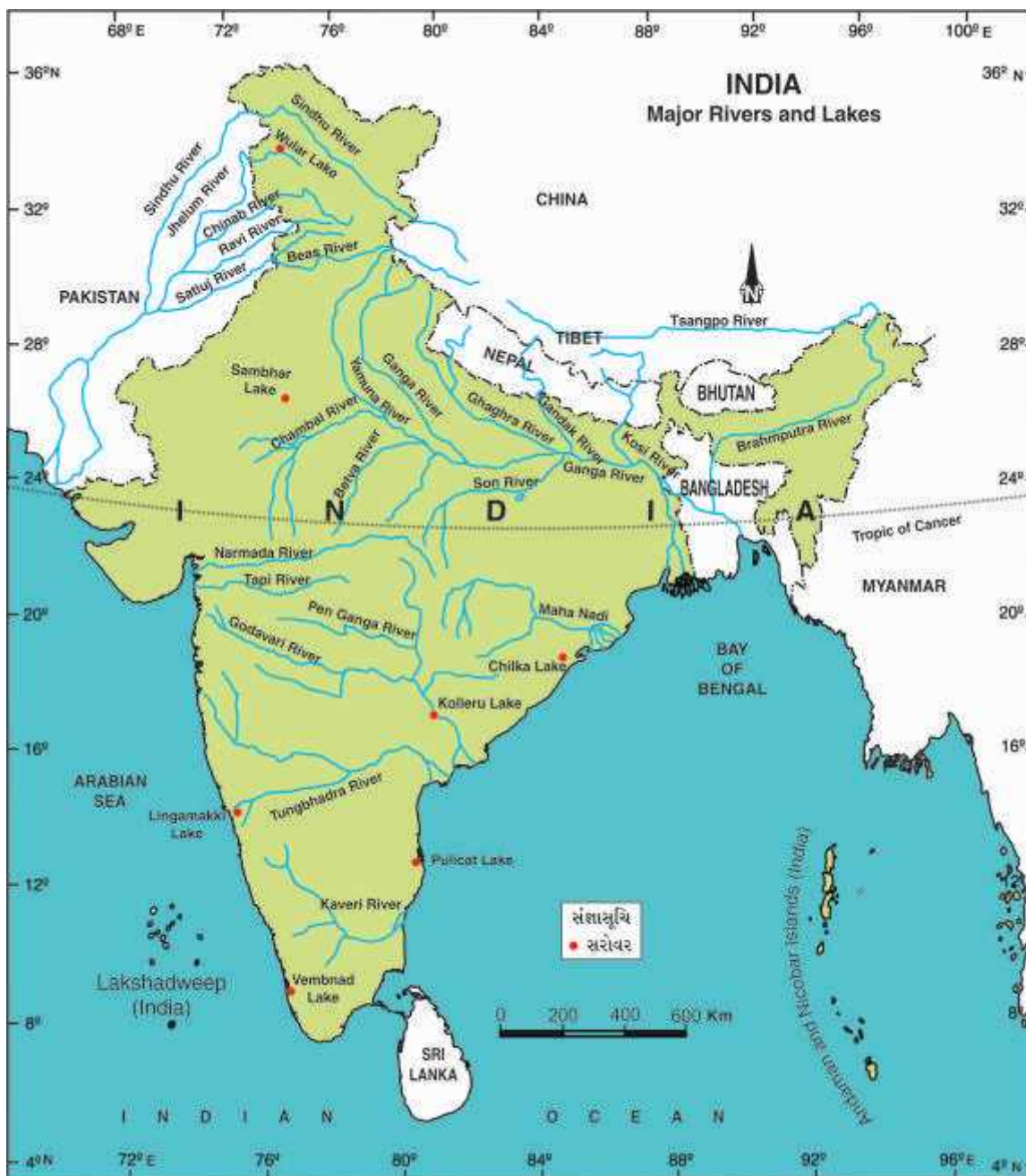
Streams starting from mountainous region meet one-another due to the slopes, they make a net-like shape. It is called Trellis Pattern. e.g., many streams from Himalayan region.

(C) Rectangular Pattern :

When the main river and its tributaries meet at right angles, it develops Rectangular Pattern. Mostly, rivers flowing through rift valleys form such river system. E.g. Narmada.

(D) Radial Pattern :

When streams flow out in all directions from a mountain, this type of river system is formed. e.g. rivers of Saurashtra.



15.4 India : Major rivers and Lakes

(1) Himalayan Rivers :

Sindhu, Ganga and Brahmaputra are major rivers originating in the Himalayas. These rivers are long and many tributaries meet them. When a large river and her many tributaries meet, they form a shape, which is called system.

Sindhu (Indus) River System : River Sindhu emerges from near Mansarovar in Tibet. First it flows to north and then turns westwards. There it enters Ladakh District of Jammu-Kashmir. It has formed many inaccessible gorges. Rivers Zaskar, Nubara, Shyok and Hunza meet her. Satluj, Beas, Ravi and Jhelum are her main tributaries. These five rivers meet river Sindhu near Mithankot in Pakistan. The combined flow of all these rivers ultimately flows southwards and meets the Arabian Sea. These rivers flow at a slower speed in the plain. About one third of its basin falls in the mountainous region of Jammu- Kashmir.