

Lesson - 2

Unity In Diversity In Bharat

Naturally and culturally, Bharat occupies a distinct place in the world. Variety of regional characteristics can be observed even by making short trips in our country. These diversities are reflected in various aspects as physical features, climate, vegetation, soil, agriculture, industry, means of transportation, standard of living of people, dress, language, dialect, songs and music, customs, food habits, social behaviour, religious beliefs, methods of worship etc. Even short visits in our country can clearly exhibit a variety of relief features covering high mountain ranges, plateaus, plains, valleys, desert etc. Even one can observe the changing colours of soil. Variety of vegetation and a large variety of crops can also be easily visible. Local dialects, pronunciations and methods of expression are distinctly different throughout the country. A variety of dresses and food stuffs are attractive aspects of our country. But in spite of these diversities, our journey through out the country never lets us feel that we are in some unknown area. Rather we everywhere realize some sort of uniqueness in our country. It is a distinct characteristic of Bharat. This distinct characteristic relates to our **unity in diversity**.

Diversities

From the above description, it is clear that there are various diversities found in Bharat. These diversities contribute not only a variety of colours to our society but these help in the distinct harmonious unification of our society. In order to develop a better comprehension of the diversities of Bharat,

these can be grouped into three major categories –

- A. Natural Diversities,
- B. Economic Diversities and
- C. Demographic Diversities.

A. Natural Diversities

1. Topographical Diversity - Bharat possesses a variety of topographical features which have their own natural, economic, tourist and philosophical importance. On one side, there are high and snow covered mountain ranges spread on our northern boundary, while on the other side there is a vast stretch of Brahmaputra-Ganga-Sutlej river plains. The deep and narrow gorges of Brahmaputra and Sindh rivers, the residual mountains in the form of Aravallis, hot and dry Thar desert, estuaries of Narmada and Tapti, coastal plains, islands, and groups of islands are just a few examples of the ornamentation of topographical diversities. For ages, peaceful, natural, snowy and solitary high mountainous environment of Himalayas have been favourable for meditation for our saints. This region is also the source of many perennial rivers of our country. These mountains also attract a large number of tourists every year and provide them comfort from the scorching heat of the plains.

2. Structural Diversity - Bharat is one of the few countries in the world having rocks of different ages. On one side, India possesses the oldest formations of Deccan plateau which is one of

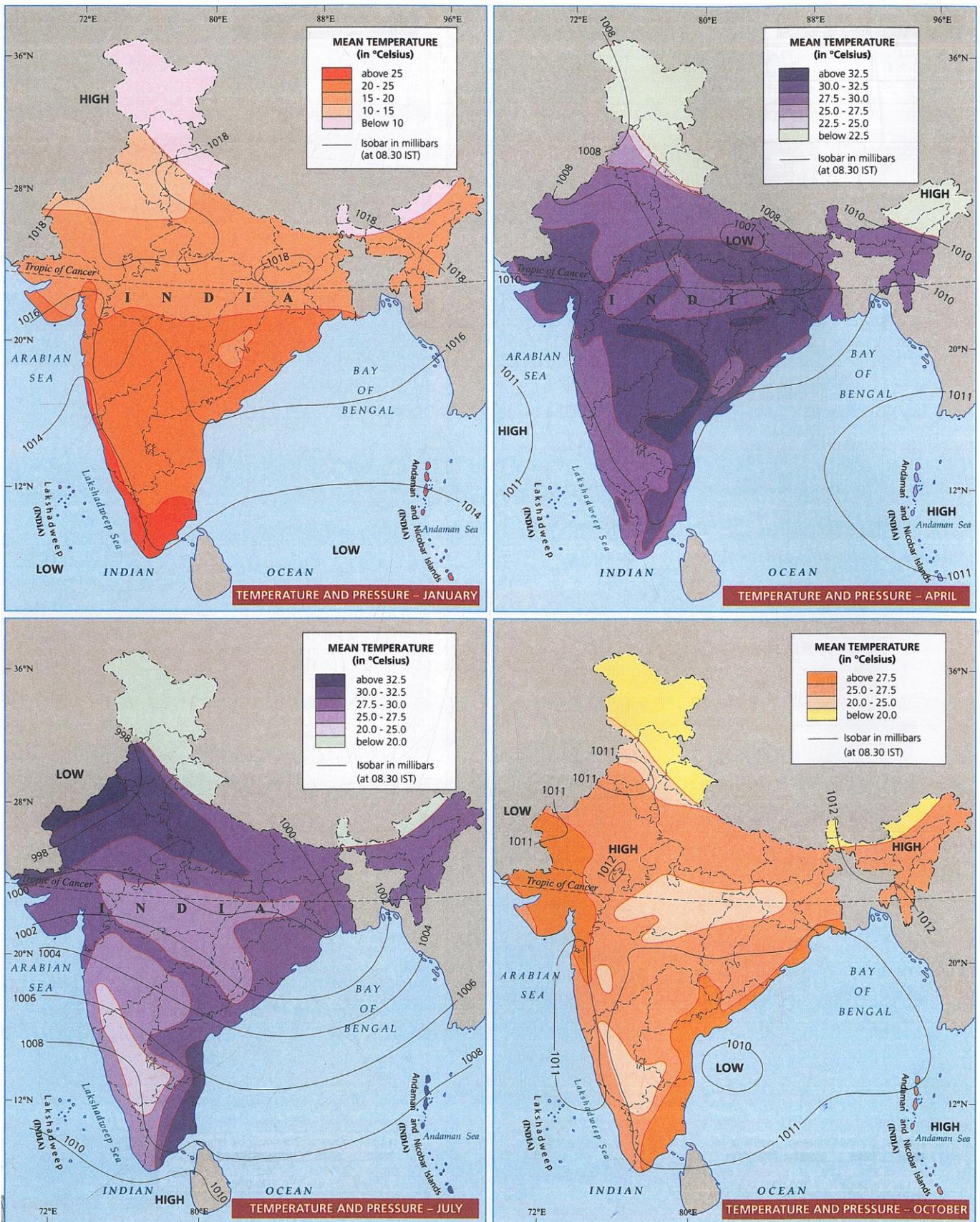


Fig. 2.1 : Climatic Diversity in India

the oldest plateaus (**Old Massifs**) of the world. Similarly, Aravallis, Satpura, Vindhyachal etc. are included among the oldest mountains of the earth. On the other hand, Himalayas on northern borders are part of the newly folded mountain system. The newest deposits of alluvium are found in Ganga-Sutlej plain, Deltas and the flood plains.

3. Diversity of Drainage - There are many diversities related to drainage system in our country. Its main reason is the monsoon climate of our country. The climate is characterised by a long dry period and a very short rainy season. Resultantly, most of the rivers of our country are seasonal and flow only during rainy season. These are called as seasonal rivers. But rivers originating from the Himalayas are perennial rivers because they are fed by snow melted water in dry period. Similarly, diversities are also found in the lakes of our country. On one side, Rajsamand, Jaisamand etc. are sweet water lakes while on the other Sambhar, Deedwana, Lunkaransar, Pachpadra etc. are salt water lakes, providing large quantities of salt.

4. Climatic Diversity - Different parts of our country have different types of climatic conditions. These diversities are also important in terms of seasons. Maximum temperature in summer season is found in Thar desert where it rises to more than 45°C at several places. Summer temperatures usually decline towards south and in the coastal areas. In these areas, summer temperatures usually ranges between 28° to 30°C. Contrarily, winter temperatures fall below freezing point at several places in northern Bharat and these temperatures increase towards the south and coastal regions where the average fluctuates between 25° to 30°C. Thus, there are large seasonal diversities of temperature in our country (Fig. 2.1 & 2.2).

The other important aspects related to temperature are pressure and winds. Pressure and temperatures have **inverse relation** or **negative correlation**. Resultantly, lowest atmospheric pressure prevails over the Thar desert and the

highest pressure prevails over the surrounding oceanic areas in summer season (Fig. 2.4). Contrarily high pressure prevails over northern Bharat and low pressure prevails over the surrounding oceanic areas in winter season (Fig. 2.5). Thus, there is a complete seasonal reversal in the pressure system. Due to the reversal in the pressure system, wind direction also experiences seasonal reversal. In summer season winds blow from oceanic areas to land and in winter season, winds blow from land to oceanic areas.

Great diversities are observed in the seasonal and regional distribution of rainfall in Bharat. About 90% of our rain is received in the summer season, while the winter season is mostly dry, except a few areas. Only 10% of our rain is received in winter season. In terms of regional distribution, Mawsinram has an annual average exceeding 1300 cms., while on the other hand the average is reduced to less than 5 cms. in western Rajasthan.

5. Diversity of Water Requirement - Bharat is an agricultural country. Enough quantity of water is not available for agricultural purposes in most of the areas of our country due to monsoon climate. Resultantly, there are large diversities of water requirements for agricultural purposes in various parts of our country. Water requirements mainly depend upon rainfall variability. The **rainfall variability** is defined as the proportion of fluctuation of rainfall above or below the annual average in a region. Water requirements are higher in the areas where the rainfall variability is higher. It is mainly due to the fact that rainfall variability is higher in the areas having low annual average. If a region has an annual average of 10 cms., and if the actual amount of rainfall occurring in a year is 15 cms., the rainfall variability will be +50 per cent. If an annual average is 100 cms. in a region and the actual amount of rainfall in a year is 5 cms. higher (105 cms.), then the rainfall variability will be only +5 per cent.

Some parts of Bharat frequently experience

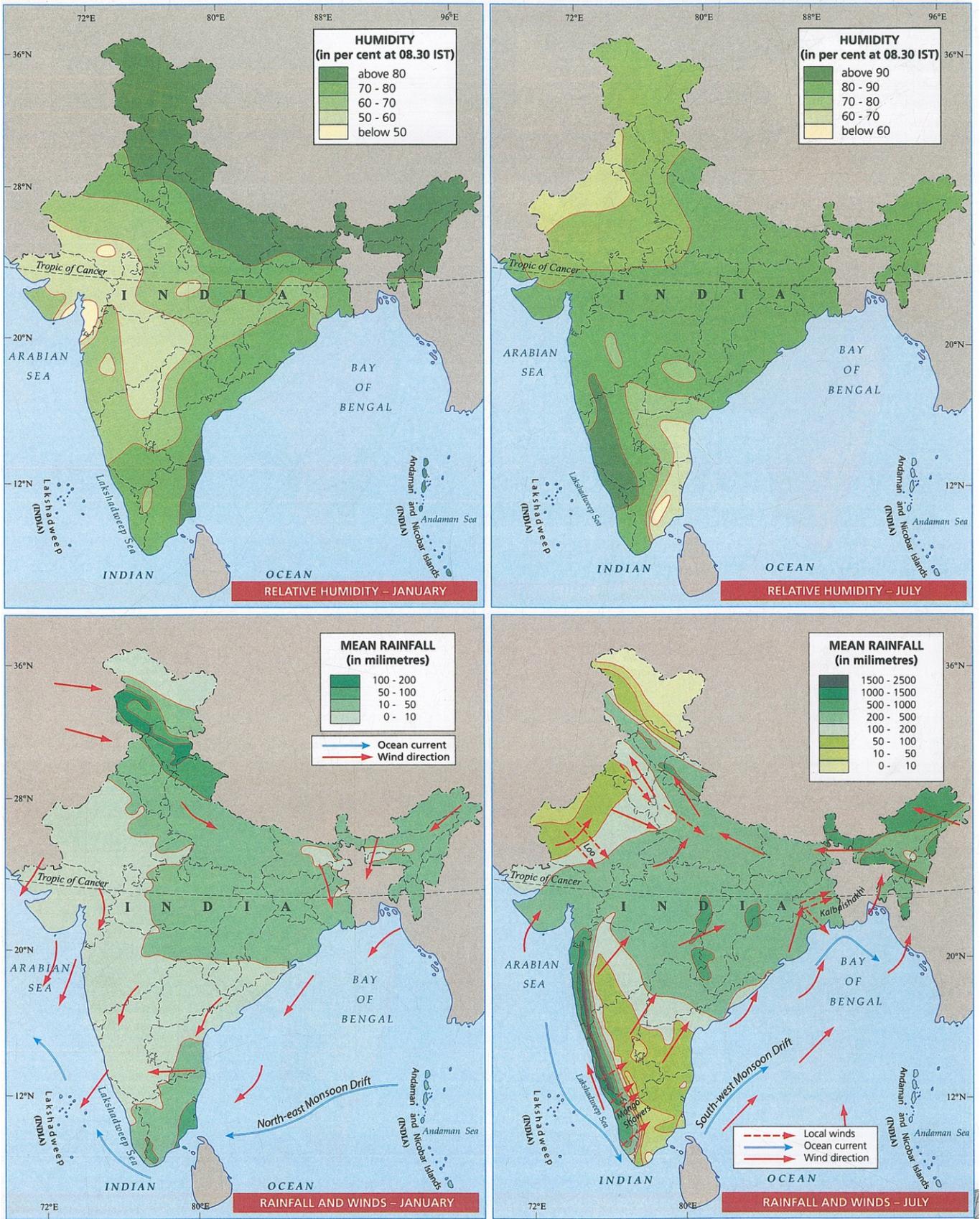


Fig. 2.2 : Climatic Diversity in India

droughts and floods due to these characteristic of rainfall. Such areas are termed as **drought prone** and **flood prone** areas. These also symbolize the diversities of the amount of water availability.

6. Soil Diversity - Variety of soils are found in our country due to topographical, structural and climatic diversities. Major soils of our country are alluvium, black, red, yellow, brown, sand, clay, laterite etc. Diversities of their fertility are also important. Alluvial and black soils of our country are most fertile soils. Laterite soil is relatively less fertile. Sandy soil cannot be used for agricultural purposes due to scarcity of water.

7. Vegetational Diversity - Large variety of vegetation and forests are found in our country due to diverse natural conditions. Higher slopes of the Himalayas are covered with coniferous forests while broad leaved forests cover their lower slopes. Evergreen forests are found on the hot and humid western slopes of Western Ghats. Evergreen forests are also found in north-eastern Bharat. Other parts of our country are mostly covered with deciduous forests. Dry and semi desert areas are covered with desert scrubs, thorny bushes and scattered grasses. **Sam** area near Jaisalmer lacks vegetative cover.

B. Economic Diversities

1. Agricultural Diversity - Various stages of agricultural development can be seen in our country. In remote and densely forested areas, practice of shifting cultivation exists even today. It is considered as the most undeveloped form of agriculture. It is known as **Jhooming** in Assam. On the contrary, mountain slopes in various parts of north-eastern Bharat have the developed form of **plantation agriculture**. It is a well planned and developed form of agriculture mainly involving skilled management. Subsistence mixed agriculture is practiced by small farmers in most parts of our country. These farmers rear animals besides agricultural pursuits. **Commercial agriculture** is practiced on large scale in the prosperous and developed areas of our country.

Variety of crops are grown in different seasons and in different parts of our country due to natural diversities. Our country is unique in this respect, having the prevalence of sub-tropical crops like rice, tea, coffee, jute etc., temperate crops like wheat, cotton, maize, tobacco etc. and crops of dry regions like Jowar, Bajra etc. Thus, a large variety of crops are grown in our country.

Use of variety of agricultural implements and methods of agriculture symbolize the diversities of the stage of development. Most of our small farmers still practice agriculture with the help of indigenous plough, domestic animals and use dung manure. This is usually subsistence agriculture. Contrarily prosperous farmers use sophisticated agricultural machinery to procure large production. This type of agriculture usually yields surplus production which enters into trade.

2. Diversity of Means of Irrigation - The degree of requirements for irrigation vary greatly in different parts of our country. These requirements are mainly caused by seasonality of rain, seasonal flow of most of the rivers etc. The most popular means of irrigation in our country are wells, tanks, tube wells and canals. Tank irrigation is more popular and easier in southern Bharat because of its hard surface. Canal irrigation is more convenient in the plains of northern Bharat. Wells and tube wells are also in large number in the region.

3. Diversity of Power Resources - Wood and kuccha coal were the traditional means of power in Bharat. With the course of development, easy availability of means of transport, discovery of a variety of new sources and higher technology have contributed to the easy availability and increasing use of good quality of coal, hydroelectric power, mineral oil, natural gas, atomic power and solar energy in various parts of our country. The degree of the use of these various sources of power greatly differs in different parts of our country.

4. Diversity of Minerals - Bharat possesses large structural diversities. It endows Bharat with a huge variety and ample availability of minerals,

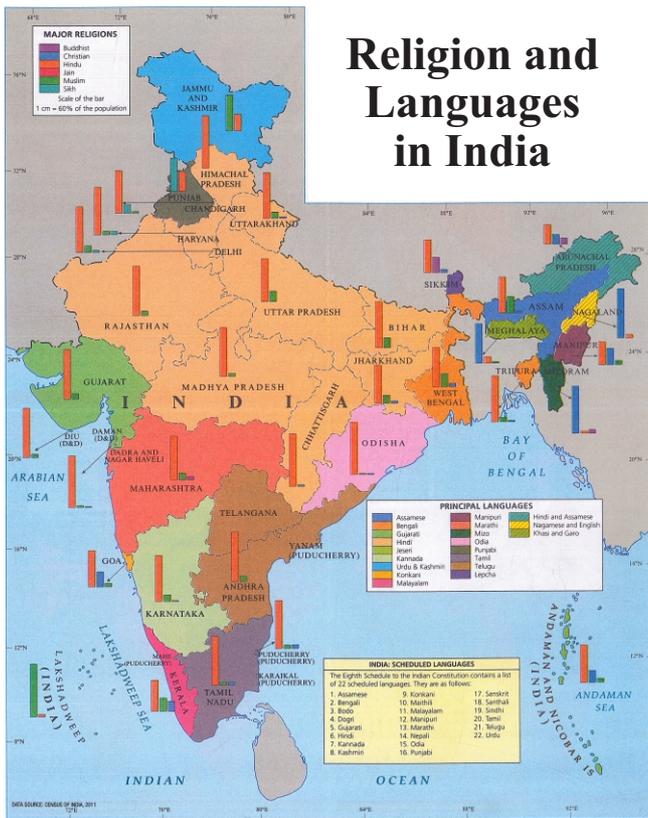


Fig. 2.3 : India : Religion and Languages

comparable with a few such lucky countries in the world. Bharat monopolises in the production of various minerals. Mica is one such example. Bharat possesses a large variety of metallic and non-metallic minerals and fuel minerals. Continuous discoveries have contributed to an increase in the production of mineral oil and natural gas in our country. There are large possibilities of the development of atomic power, solar energy, wind energy etc. in our country with the technological development.

5. Industrial Diversity - Like agriculture, various stages of industrial development can also be seen in our country. Traditionally, Bharat had been known for its cottage industry, though today the cottage industry is in doldrums in our country. Large variety of cottage industries, handicraft industry, handlooms, small scale and large scale industries are found in different parts of our country.

6. Diversity of Means of Transportation -

Big cities of Bharat present very interesting scenario of the admixture of a variety of means of transportation moving together. In the big cities of Bharat, coexistence of cycle rickshaw, tonga, bullock-carts, camel-carts, autorickshaw, taxis, cars, trucks, buses, trains, aeroplanes etc. can be seen even today.

7. Diversity of Means of Communication - Like means of transportation, various stages of means of communications are also found coexisting in Bharat. Many tribes of our country still communicate by drum beat and variety of sounds. On the other hand, Bharat has made great strides in the field of satellite communication. Telephone, mobile phone, telegraph, fax, radio, television, internet etc. have become the popular means of communication in Bharat.

C. Demographic Diversity -

Bharat is a unique country in the world in this respect. There is no other country in the world having such a large demographic diversities as Bharat does. Bharat is inhabited by huge population of various races, castes, sects, religions and cultures bound in a unique aphorism of unity. Therefore, a variety of languages, fairs - festivals, art, dances, music, dresses, customs etc. provide pleasant colour to the Bhartiya society. A major characteristic, which is found only in Bharat, is that people belonging to almost all the major religions of the world live in peace, cooperation and good will. Various fairs, festivals, dances, music etc. symbolize the cultural prosperity of our country. Holi, Diwali, Lohari, Id, Christmas etc. are spectacular events of our society.

The cultural and demographic diversities of our country are so multifarious that it is not possible to include all of them under one heading. These diversities are not only related to the cultural aspects of our country but are also intricately related to social dimensions. Hence, the detailed description of social and cultural diversities have been included in a separate unit.

Unity in Diversity

It is clear from the above description that our

country has been gifted with the multiplicity of diversities related to natural, economic and demographic dimensions. The nature has given yet other matchless gift to our country in the form of **UNITY IN DIVERSITY**, which means that there is inherent unity in a variety of diverse threads. From our daily experiences, this aspect appears so normal that behaviourally these diversities symbolize homogeneity and harmony. This is the reason that we have been always one as **BHARTIYA**. **Our national strength is inherent in our unity**. Our welfare and prosperity lies in this good will and concordance underlying the unity. History bears the testimony to the fact that whenever foreign powers or the selfish elements had been partially successful in disturbing the unity, our country had become weak, and had been subjected to political subjugation and economic exploitation. But whenever any danger had hovered over our country, our countrymen had shown exemplary unity as Bhartiya. Such unfortunate incidences have always encouraged us to remember that despite all diversities, our strength, power, political independence and economic prosperity lies in being one and united. Maintenance of our social and economic safety and national pride is possible only in being united. Therefore, we have to maintain it at all cost.

Some foreign powers and selfish elements project these diversities as the **centrifugal forces**. But we have to be cautious against such malafied intentions and conspiracies because these are simply intended to divide, weaken and economically harm our country. These foreign powers and selfish elements are jealous of our speedy progress and increasing power in the world scene. Hence it is clear that they want to divide and weaken our country and harm our economy. Therefore, we have to maintain this matchless unity in order to enhance prosperity and strength of our country, so that we can live with pleasure and pride.

Important Points

1. Our country is endowed with many diversities.
2. The diversities found in Bharat can be grouped into three major categories - natural, economic and demographic.

3. Natural diversities - topographical, structural, climatic, related to drainage, water requirements, soil and vegetation.
4. Economic diversities - related to agriculture, means of irrigation, power resources, mineral resources, industries, means of transport and communication.
5. Demographic diversities.
6. **Unity in diversity - A unique natural gift to Bharat, symbolic of our national unity and pride.**

Exercise

Multiple Choice Questions

1. The oldest topographical feature of our country is –
(A) Thar Desert (B) Coastal Plain
(C) Deccan Plateau (D) Himalaya.
2. The most primary form of agriculture prevalent in Bharat is –
(A) Shifting (B) Plantation
(C) Commercial (D) Mixed.
3. Winter monsoon blows from –
(A) Land to sea (B) Sea to land
(C) West to east (D) South to north.

Very Short Answer Type

4. Name any residual mountain range of our country.
5. Name the topographical regions of Bharat where newest deposits are found.
6. Which mountain range of our country is related to the newly folded mountain system?

Short Answer Type

7. Why our country experiences seasonal reversal of winds?
8. Why low pressure develops in the Thar Desert in summer season?
9. What diversities are found in Bharat with respect to the means of communication?
10. What is meant by the diversities related to water requirement.

Essay Type

11. Write an essay on the natural diversities of Bharat.
12. Explain the economic diversities of Bharat and discuss their unity.

Skill

13. Represent the diversities related to water requirements in an outline map of Bharat.
14. Represent the areas of shifting cultivation and jowar-bajra cultivation in an outline map of Bharat.

Answer Key

1.(C), 2.(A), 3.(A).