

The Himalayan Mountains

Chapter 7: Physical Features of India · Topic 1

Key Concept

The Himalayas were formed when the Indian tectonic plate collided with the Eurasian plate, pushing up the land to form the world's highest mountain range.

The Himalayas are divided into three parallel ranges - the Greater Himalayas (highest, with peaks like Everest), the Lesser Himalayas, and the Shivalik Hills (the outermost, lowest range).

The Himalayas act as a climatic barrier, blocking cold winds from Central Asia and forcing monsoon winds to release rainfall, significantly influencing India's climate.

These mountains are also the source of major rivers like the Ganga, Yamuna, and Brahmaputra, providing water essential for agriculture and daily life for millions of people.

Quick Revision Notes

- The Himalayas formed from the collision of Indian and Eurasian plates.
- The Himalayas are the world's highest mountain range.
- The three ranges are Greater, Lesser Himalayas and Shivalik Hills.
- The Greater Himalayas include peaks like Everest.
- The Himalayas block cold Central Asian winds.
- They also force monsoon winds to release rainfall.
- Major rivers like the Ganga originate in the Himalayas.
- These rivers support agriculture and daily life for millions.

Practice Questions

- 1 Locate the three Himalayan ranges on a map.
- 2 Research how the Himalayas were formed.
- 3 Discuss why the Himalayas are important for India's climate.
- 4 Name a river that originates in the Himalayas.
- 5 Research Mount Everest and its location.
- 6 Explain why the Himalayas are called a climatic barrier.