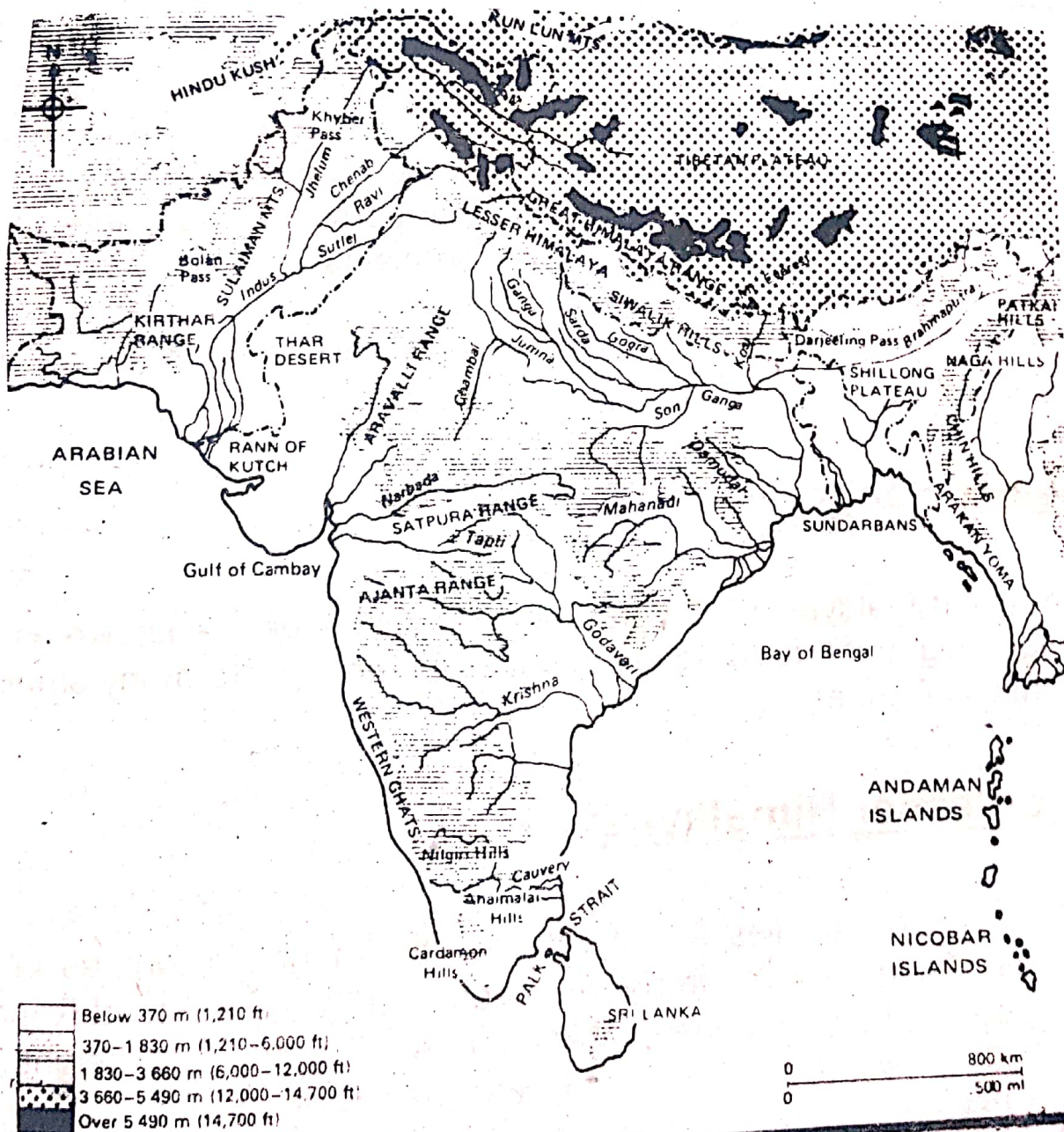


Physical Features of South Asia

Introduction:

The countries of South Asia have similar Physical features. Besides high mountains all these countries have fertile plains of alluvial soil brought by the rivers from mountainous areas. In this region some uneven and rough areas known as plateaus are also found.

Physical Features of South



Although South Asia is a region consisting of seven independent countries. So we discuss physical features of each country separately.

Physical Features of India

These are as Follows:

1. Himalayas (Mountain Range)
2. Central Plains (Ganga plain)
3. Southern Plateaus
4. Eastern & Western Coastal Plain

(1) HIMALAYAS:

In the north of India the highest mountain of the world Himalayas is situated, which runs for about 2500 km. from the eastern extremity of Assam to the western limits of Kashmir with a breadth varying from 300 km. to 350 km. and contains some of the highest peaks of the world. The Himalayas, a series of parallel Ranges intersected by valleys and extensive plateaus rises abruptly from the plains in the east and gradually in the west. The average height of the Himalayas is over 17000 feet and about 10000 peaks are known to exceed 24000 feet. The following are considered the parallel Ranges of the Himalayas.

1. The Siwalik Range:

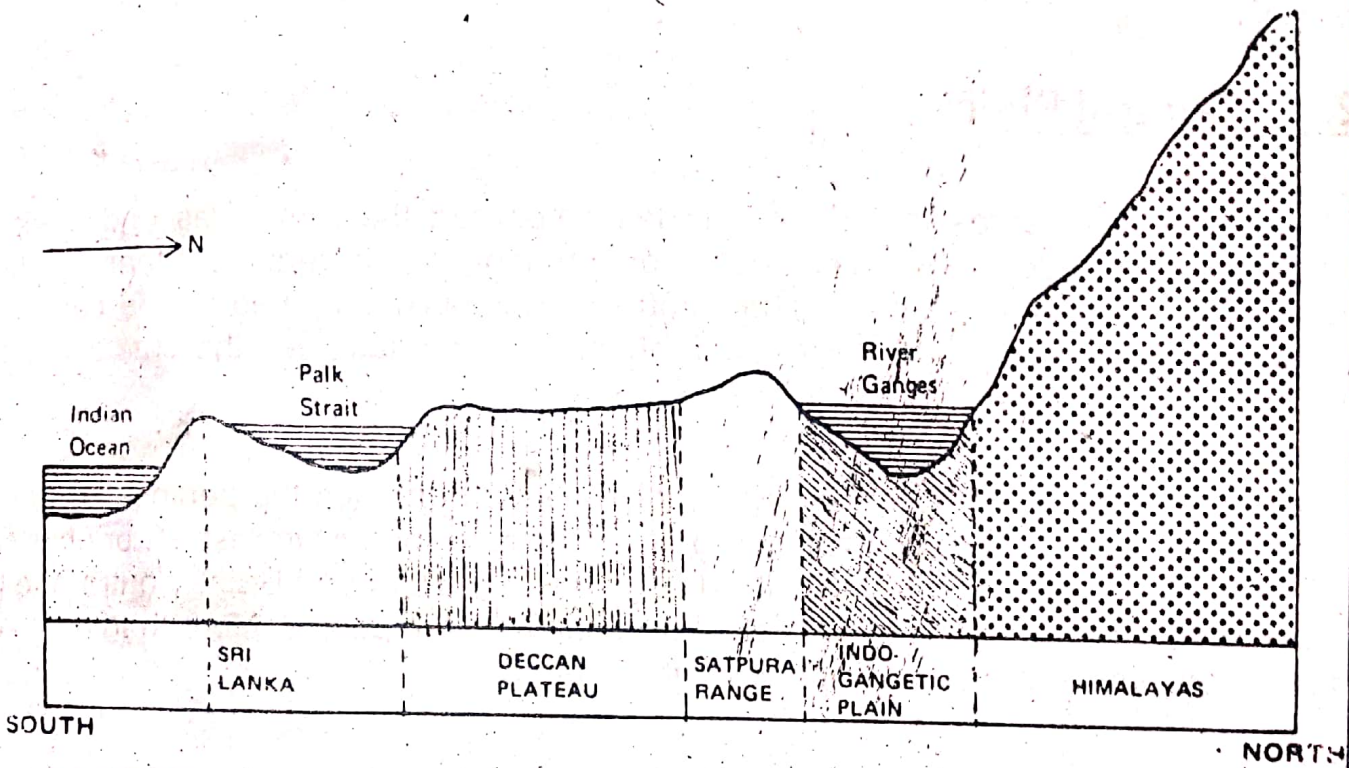
The piedmont areas of Himalayas, which are about 50 km., wide are known as Siwalik Range. The average height of this Range is about 1220 meters, So many small rivers and river come from this Range.

2. Central or lesser Himalayas:

In the north of a Siwalik Range lies a second parallel Range, known as central or lesser Himalayas. This Range has a number of series such as - Pir Panjal Range, Nag Bata Range, and Masuri Range & Range of Mahabharata. The average height of these Ranges is about 3050 meters above sea level, and their width is about 80 km. They mostly run from east to west.

The Great Himalayas:

Similarly in the north of central or lesser Himalayas lie the series of the great Himalayas. The average height of this series is about 6100 meters above sea level. This series is about 25 km. wide and situated about 150 km. from the plain areas of India. The highest peak of the world Mount Everest (8848 meters) near the border of Nepal lies in these Ranges. There are other important peaks such as Kanchenjunga (8586 meters), Makalu (8481 meters), Dhaulagiri (8172 meters) and Nanda Devi (7820 meters), which also lie in this Range.



Diagrammatic cross-section of India from

The high peaks of these mountains remained snow covered through out the year. It is very difficult to cross these mountains especially in winter, due to their height and snowfall. So many glaciers are found on these mountains, which provide water in the summer to the rivers coming from these areas.

There are some important passes in these mountains, which connect India with (China). These are - Berzal pass, Zojila pass (Occupied Kashmir), Baralacha pass, Shapkila pass (Himachal Pradesh), Nathola pass and Geleep La pass (Sikkim). Thagla pass, Nati pass, Lipolakh pass (Uttar Pradesh).

This Range has served as a natural barrier between India and Tibet (China) and protects the Indian plain areas from the cold winds of the north.

1. Eastern Ranges of Himalayas:

These Ranges are situated between the Indian states of Arunachal Pradesh and Myanmar (Burma). The areas of Assam, Nagaland, Mizoram, Tripura, also come under these Ranges. Some times these Ranges are known as Gars, Khasia and Jaintia hills or eastern branches of Himalayas.

These hilly areas are not very high and due to heavy rain, these are mostly covered with thick forests.

2. Central Plain:

The Central plain areas of India are situated between the Himalayas and Deccan Plateau. This includes the greater part of Northern India and covers more than 250 km from east to west with a width of about 350 km. This plain is formed by the basins of Ganga, the tributaries of Indus and the Brahmaputra and has been the cradle of Indian Aryan civilization from the earliest times.

This plain is bounded by the Himalayas region on the north and the peninsular region on the south, it reflects many striking regional contrasts not only in respect of physical environment, but also of economic life. The basins of Ganga and Brahmaputra due to heavy rainfall their agriculture is the chief occupation of the people. More than 40% of the total population of India is inhabited in this region.

The western region bounded by the Ganga is more or less dry and may be considered as a desert region. Scanty rainfall and absence of surface water kept this region for long most scantily populated and agriculturally least developed. With the development of irrigation for which the programs are being implemented the region promises to be a good agricultural area, since the Soil is very fertile.

In the states of Punjab, Haryana and Uttar Pradesh, so many multipurpose projects have been completed on various rivers, which are providing besides electricity water for irrigation to millions of hectares dry lands.

3. Southern Plateaus:

In the South of fertile areas of northern India. There is a collection of Triangular shaped uneven land consisting old mountains and valleys. Many experts have the opinion that these mountains and plateaus of India came into being before the existence of Himalayas. So after many earth movements, these mountainous areas became uneven. In the ancient times many volcanoes used to erupt lava and black soil, which they deposited in these areas, so many areas become the fertile plains of black soil.

The slope of South India lies mostly from west to east because most of the rivers like river Krishna, Cauvery, Mahanadi fall in Bay of Bengal. But some rivers like Narmada River and Tapti River join the Arabian Sea. All these rivers flow only in the rainy season. Thus old mountain Ranges and plateaus of South Asia are follows.

(i) Aravalli Range:

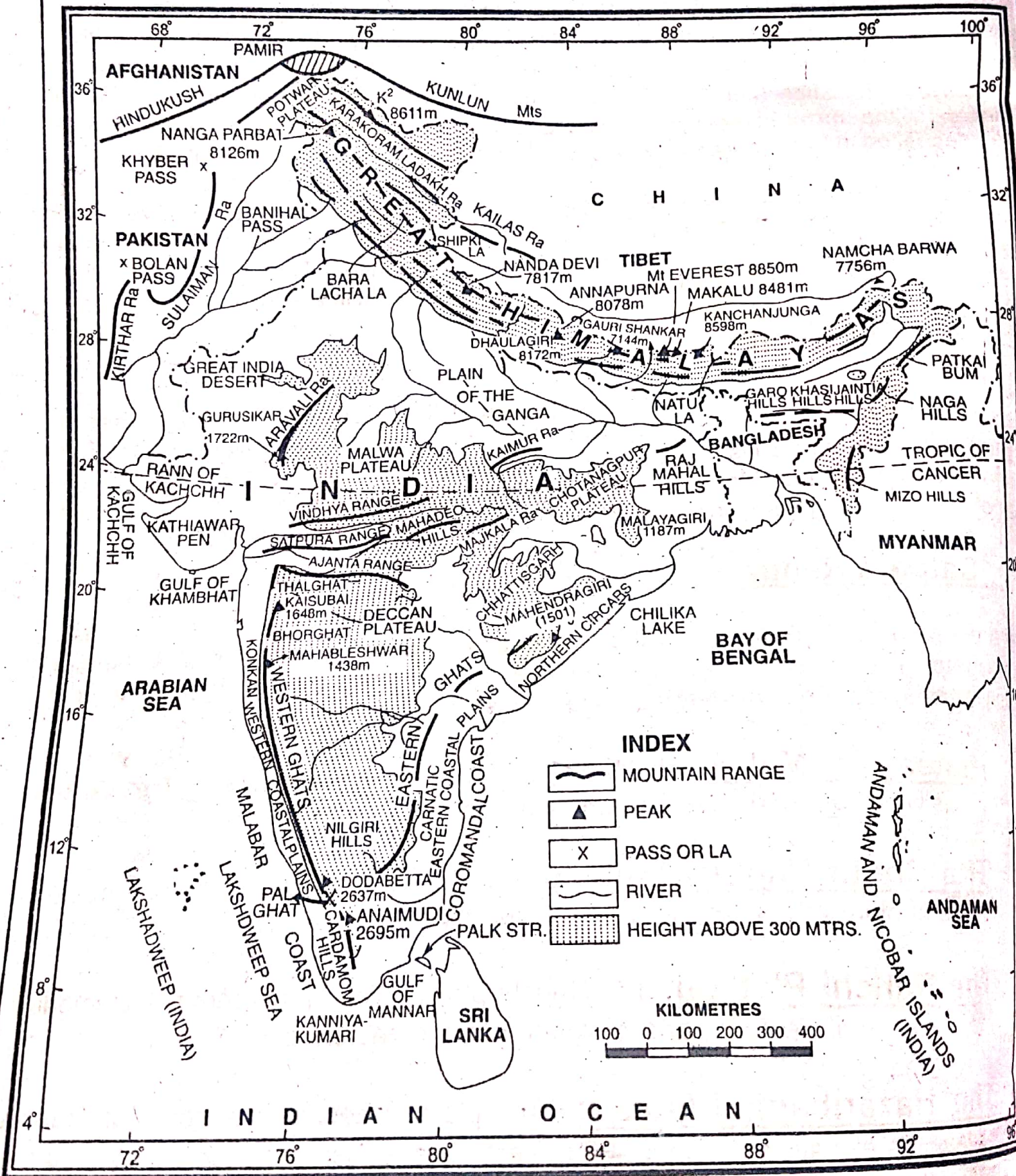
This Range runs over 725 km. about long from Delhi to Gujarat from North-east to South-west. This Mountain Range between Delhi to Ajmer is very uneven & divided in to small parts. Mount Abu is just the part of this Range & the valley of Banas separates it from the main Range. Mount Abu is 1200 meters above the sea level. The highest peak of Aravalli Range is Guru Sikhar, which is 1722 meters above the sea level.

(ii) Satpara Range:

After the Aravalli & Malva Plateau the old mountain Range of Bundhiachal & Satpara are situated. Their height has been reduced by the processes of weathering and erosion. Now these are considered among the nominal mountains.

- (1) Plateau of Malva: The Valley of Narmada River consists of black soil areas which are 610 meters above sea level.
- (2) The Chota Nagpur Plateau: This consists of Bihar plateau, eastern fringe of Madhya Pradesh and Purulia district of West Bengal.
- (3) The Ranchi Plateau: The Ranchi plateau lies in the south of Damodar, the elevation of western parts is higher than the eastern one.
- (4) The Hazaribagh Plateau: This plateau lies in the north of Ranchi plateau. Its elevation is about 600 meters. The eastern parts of the plateau are higher than other parts. Like the place 'Parasnath' in the eastern part is situated at 1,366 meters above sea level.

Physical Features of India



The Rajmahal Hills:

These hills lie in north-eastern edge of the Chota Nagpur Plateau run in the north-south direction there average height about 400 meters above sea level.

The Deccan Plateau:

The area lying between the eastern & Western Ghats is known as "**Deccan Plateau**". The Western Ghats areas are higher and these areas receive more rain due to the summer monsoon.

So many seasonal rivers while flowing the Western Ghat make their way before falling in to the Bay of Bengal. Because most of the surface of these areas lies from west to east. That why these areas; in the western parts of Maharashtra, Andhra Pradesh and Karnataka state and most areas of Deccan Plateau consists of black soil. There are also many areas which have various types of minerals. In the extreme south are the Cardamom hills. And one of the branch of that Range is known as "Animalai Hills".

The highest peak of south India is Anamudi 2695 meters above sea level, lies in this Range.

Coastal Lowlands:

The both of coastal lowlands of India are considered as the West and East coastal plains are as follows.

(a) West Coastal Lowlands :

In the West coastal land of India, there are many fertile plains which came in to being after the sediment and fertile soil brought by the rivers. Many areas are thickly populated due to the fertility of land.

The Plain of Rann Kutch:

According to experts this plain area was once an island. It was a part of the sea, and became high from sea level due to the sediment brought mainly by the Indus River. In many areas due to the sea waves marshy condition are found. Near the coast some island Bela, Khadir, Pancham are also seen.

Kutch lies to the south of the Rann of Cutch; it is a dry area with generally broad sandy terrain along the coast. In many places these rocky ridges having an elevation of about 300 meters.

Kathiawar Area:

Kathiawar is situated to the South of Kutch, it consists of some semi hilly and plain areas, the central part is higher from the other areas. For example in Girnar Hills (near Junagarh) the place of Gorakhnath (1,117 meters) is considered the highest point in Kathiawar.

The Plain of Gujarat:

The River Tapti Narmada, the Mahi and the Sabramati deposit enormous load of sediments in the Gulf of Cambay. As a result a broad fertile alluvial plain has come into existence north of Daman. In the South of Daman the coastal lowland narrows to a width of about 50 km. Between Daman and Goa the coastal plain area is called the Konkan.

Plain of Kerala:

The coastal plain in the vicinity of the Palghat Gap and in the south of Kerala state is relatively broad. In places it broadens to a width of 96 km. Off shore bays have enclosed lagoons which run parallel to the coast in Southern Kerala state. These lagoons, called Kayals, receive water of a large number of rivers before discharging that to the sea.

(b) East Coastal Lowland:

This coastal lowland is broad in Tamil Nadu where its width is 100 to 120 km north of the Godavari Delta, the coastal lowland is narrow, at some places it is less than 32 km in width. Because huge amount of fertile sediments brought by large rivers, Mahanadi, the Godavari, the Krishna and the Cauvery. Thus these rivers built large deltas before falling in to the sea. So these deltas are densely populated due to the fertility.

As the sea is shallow near the emerged lowland coasts, there natural harbors are absent except few.

Physical Features of Pakistan

A study of Physical map of Pakistan shows that Pakistan has a number of peculiar features. This country has green alluvial plains, it has hot deserts, and it has loftily mountains and also has plateaus. Thus Pakistan can be divided into the following physical regions.

The North Eastern Mountains.

The North Western Mountains.

The Indus Plain (upper and lower including delta areas).

The Plateaus (The Salt Range, the Potohar Plateau & the Balochistan plateau).

The North Eastern Mountains:

The highest mountain of the world known as "The Himalayas" comprising of a series of ranges is situated in the north-east of our country. The Himalayas stretches like a range in the north of Indo-Pak Sub-Continent, having a length of about 1500 miles. The part of this mountain which came into our share, consists of Four Parallel Ranges between these Ranges lie some beautiful valleys. The slope of these goes decreasing from the north to south. Thus according to their altitudes, these Ranges can be sub-divided as:

The Siwalik Range: The Range of Siwalik mountains, situated adjacent to plain areas of Himalayas. These hills have a height of between 2000 and 3000 feet above sea level.

The Pir Panjal Range: The outer or lesser Himalayas, these Ranges lie further to the north and Parallel to the Karrakuram Range-is known as the Pir Panjal Range. The average height of this Range is 15000 ft. approximately. There is also snowfall in the winter, and most areas are covered with natural vegetation & forests.

The Central or great Himalayas: These mountains lie in between the Pir Panjal Range & Karrakuram Range. These Ranges have an average height of 20,000 feet. The beautiful valley of Kashmir lies in this Range. The

highest Peak of this Range known as 'Nanga Parbat' lies in Kashmir has a height of about 26,660 feet.

- (d) **The Karrakuram Range:** The famous Karrakuram Range lies to the north of central Himalayas in northern Kashmir and Gilgit Area. This Range has an average height of about 20,000 feet above sea level. **The second highest Peak of the world and highest Peak of Pakistan, Godwin Austin (K-2) having a height of 28,250 feet lies in this Range near Gilgit.**

These north eastern mountains of our country are quite high and it is difficult to cross them easily, but these mountains have a few passes, which are used for communication purposes, and from these pass the transportation take place. Some years ago the great "Silk Route" was built, and it is the true example of our friendship with China. The north eastern mountains of our country have vital importance for us because most of our rivers and rain depends upon these mountains. Most of these mountains having green natural forests and their beautiful valleys are source of attraction for the people of plain areas.

The North Western Mountains:

The north western Ranges of our country are also known as western branches of the Himalayas Mountain. These mountains consist of several Parallel Ranges, and because of this, these are unable to stop the breeze coming from the Arabian Sea. Because the rainfall is very low and they are almost bare of natural vegetation. These mountain Ranges act as a boundary between Afghanistan, Iran and our country. These mountain Ranges lie north to south, having several beautiful valleys and some passes in river beds is the valleys. So the north western mountains can be sub divided into the following divisions :

The Hindu Kush:

For example: The Range between the Indus and Kabul rivers lays the Hindu-Kush.

Koh-Saffed Range:

South of the Kabul river up to Kurram Pass lies the Saffed Koh Range.

Waziristan Hills:

Between the Kurram & the Gomal rivers lies the Waziristan hills area.

The Suleiman Mountain:

In the South of the Gomal river lays the Suleiman Mountain.

The Kirthar Hills:

In the west of lower Indus plain lies a hilly area known as " The Kirthar Hills."

The highest peak of the Koh-Hindu-kush Turichmir, having an altitude of 25230 feet. And the highest peak of Koh-Suleiman is known as Takht-i-Suleiman, whose height is 11,100 feet above sea level.

All these mountains having very little rain, only in winter there is snow fall in higher areas. Between these Ranges, there are some famous passes lies, like **Khyber Pass, Kurram Pass, Gomal Pass, Tochi Pass, Bolan Pass** are important passages for those who came across from the west and in between these the rainy rivers, like River Kabul, Kurram Gomal, Tochi, Bolan, and pass through and fall in to the Indus Rivers.

The Indus Plain:

The plain areas of our country existed through silt & soil brought by the River Indus and its tributaries. River Indus is the largest river of our country. From its western tributaries, river swat, Konar river Panjgora, Kabul, Gomal, Kurram, Tochi, Bolan etc. and from its eastern tributaries are Satluj, Bias, Ravi, Chenab and Jhelum.

The whole of the Indus plain can be Sub-divided in to three parts for detailed study.

1. The upper Indus plain (From Attock to Mithankot).
2. The Lower Indus plain (From Mithan Kot to Thatta).
3. The Deltaic plain (From Thatta to Coastal strip of Arabian Sea).

1. The Upper Indus Plain:

From the point of junction of eastern tributaries of river Indus is known as the upper Indus plain. It includes most of the areas of Punjab Province. The upper Indus plain has a height from 600 feet to 1000 feet above sea level. Although most of the plain areas existed by the alluvial soil brought by the rivers, but near Sargodha, Chiniot and Sangla Hill, some old dry hills appear above the plain. These are known as "Kirana hills".

Although the north eastern parts of the plain areas have large amount of rain but the average rain fall annually is less than 20" inches. Though the soil of these areas is very fertile but without irrigation facilities, cultivation is not possible. So with the help of irrigation cultivation of various crops can be possible in both seasons.

The areas of Dera Ismail Khan and Dera Ghazi Khan are considered the part of this plain. Although the land of these areas is fertile but cultivation is not possible without irrigation.

The plains of Peshawar, Mardan, Bannu, and Kohat are all the parts of this plain, and with the help of irrigation facilities, cultivation of various crops can be made.

2. The Lower Indus Plain:

Mithan Kot is known as junction of Indus River and passage of Indus River, near Thatta and also known as Lower Indus Plain. Although the mostly areas of this plain are fertile, but the scanty of rainfall is filled up with irrigation facilities. But most areas of this plain are facing water logging and salinity problems.

3. The Indus Delta:

The Indus lies near Thatta (Sindh) by distributing itself in to a number of branches joins with the water of Arabian Sea. The tidal deltaic land covers an area between 20 to 25 sq. miles. Some areas are being cultivated through irrigation but on small scale.

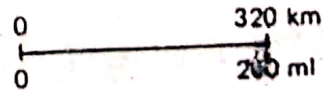
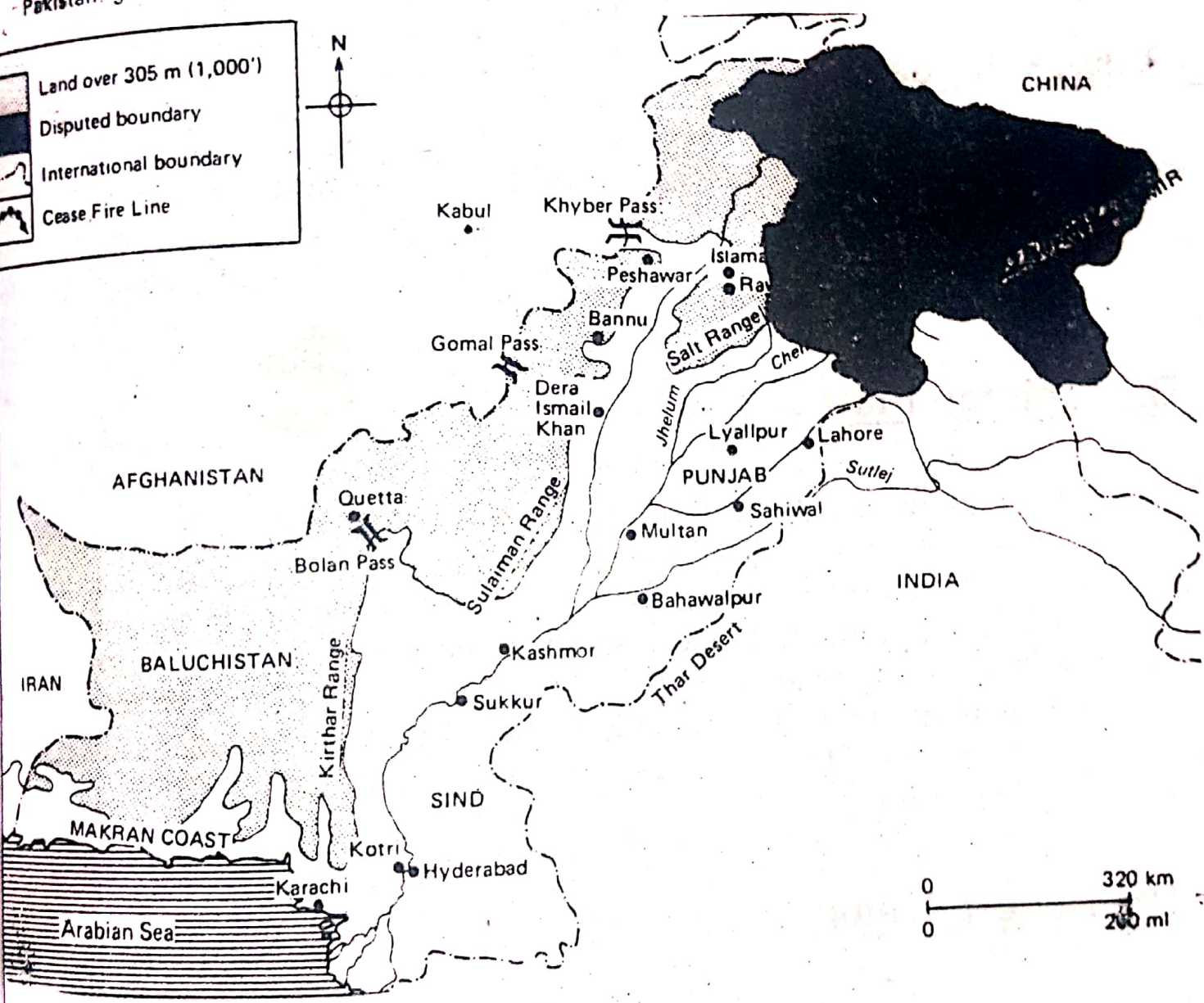
Plateaus:

the Salt Range, Potwar Plateau & Balochistan Plateau:

Physical Features of Pakistan

Pakistan: general

- Land over 305 m (1,000')
- Disputed boundary
- International boundary
- Cease Fire Line



(i) The Salt Range:

The areas of Salt Range lies in the east near the Jhelum in the Jogi Tilla and Bakra ridges & runs south-west, to the north of the river Jhelum for some distance before turning north west to cross the Indus near Kalabagh. West of the Indus the salt Range continues south in to the districts of Bannu and Dera Ismail Khan. Sakesar is the highest place of this Range, rises to about 5000 feet above sea level. Large amount of rock salt & other minerals like Gypsum & Coal are found in this Range.

(ii) Potwar Plateau:

North of salt Range the area of Rawalpindi, Jhelum and Mianwali districts are known as Potwar Plateau. These areas have also an uneven surface. Due to scarcity of water these areas are not suitable for agriculture. Most of our minerals are found here, mineral Oil, Coal, Iron, Lime - stone, etc.

(iii) Balochistan Plateau:

This Plateau lies to the west of the Suleiman and Kirthar mountains. These mountains are about 1000 feet high. The northeast and southwestern areas are dry. The Brahui and Makran Range lie in the center and the coastal Makran Range skirts south of the plateau. Here, there is a large salt lake Hamun-i-Mashkel in to which several small rivers drain. So due to shortage of water and uneven surface only in some areas the cultivation is possible with the help of irrigation. These areas contain valuable deposits of Coal, Iron Chromites and other minerals. The major occupation of the people living in this region is sheep rearing.

(iv) The Desert Areas:

Although some desert areas of our country are parts of plain. But due to some different characteristics, these are known as deserts. The following are the main desert areas found in our Punjab and Sindh provinces.

(a) Thal Deserts:

The area between river Indus and Jhelum is known as Thal and the areas parallel to Bahawalpur Division is known as Cholistan Desert. Here rainfall is very low and large numbers of sand dunes are found. Except the thorny bushes nothing can be seen here.

The Nara & Tharparker Deserts:

The southern border areas of Khairpur Districts in Sindh is known as "Nara Desert" & the border areas of Mirpur Khas and Sanghar districts are called "Tharparker Deserts". These are the driest parts of our country. Here rainfall is lowest; except for the barren land with huge sand dunes and some scattered, stunted, thorny bushes, nothing can be seen. And the major occupation of the people living in this region is sheep & Camel rearing.

Physical Features of Bangladesh

Introduction:

Bangladesh is basically a part of river Plain. Which contain fertile and alluvial soil? It has some mountainous areas on its southeastern part, which are known as Chitta Ganga hills. These fertile areas of Bangladesh came in to being by the sediment of the rivers brought by them. The fertile soils of Bangladesh is being brought by the rivers and their tributaries every years, which include rivers Ganga, Padma, Brahamputra, Magana, etc. The following are the physical features in Bangladesh.

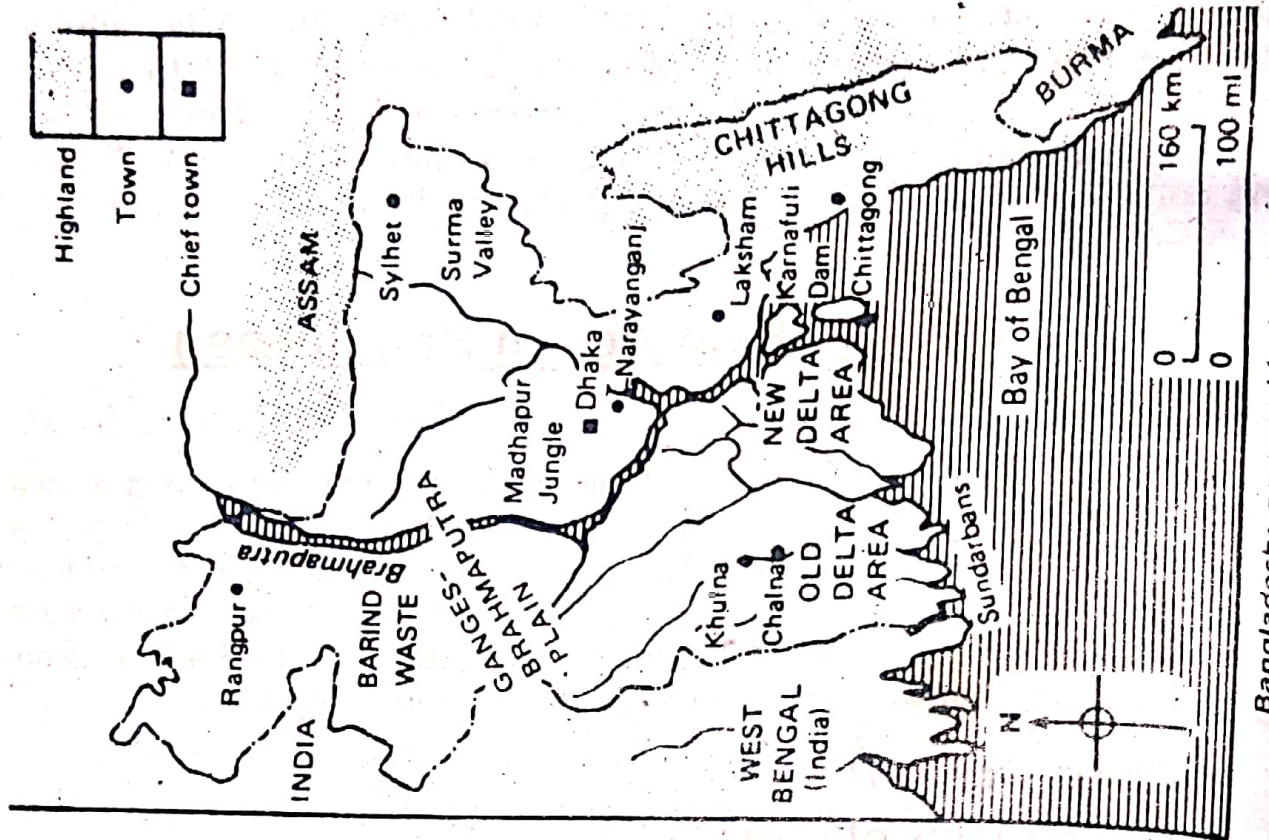
1. Chitta Ganga Hills.
2. Flood Plains of rivers.
3. Deltaic Areas.

Chitta Ganga Hills:

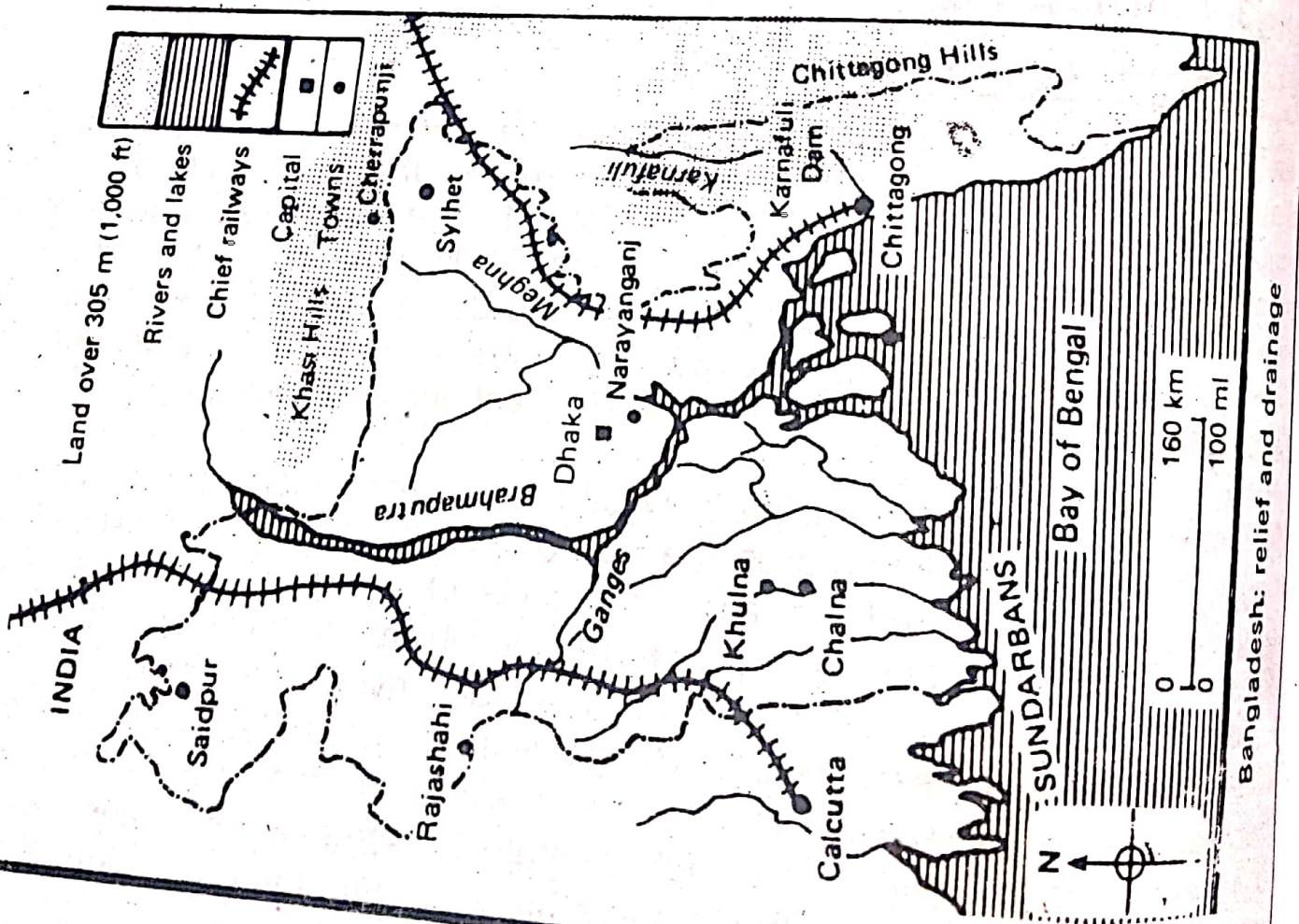
These mountainous areas of Bangladesh are the part of the Ranges lie in Assam (India) and Myanmar (Burma). According to experts, these are parts of the folded mountain of treasury era. These areas consist of District Chitta Ganga areas of Chitta Ganga Division and also hilly contain the other hilly areas near the Chitta Ganga. These folded hill areas are situated from North to South. The average height of these hills is 2000 feet, but their height keep or from West to East. The highest Peak of this area is known as "Rangi Tiyang", which is 3141 feet above sea level.

Some small rivers of these valleys flow parallel to these mountains and than while turning to the east, fall in towards the Bay of Bengal. The hills of Silhet District in Bangladesh are considered are also the parts of Chiang Tripura hills. The most important river of this region is known Kernafuli, which fall in the Bay of Bengal near the port of Chitta Ganga. The other important rivers are river Feeni, Sango, Matamohari. Although these areas of Bangladesh are not suitable for cultivation but in some valleys or small-scale cultivation is possible. These hilly areas are densely covered with forests, due to the high rainfall. In some areas, trees like Sagwan, Mahagini, Deodar, etc. Besides these areas are known for the production of Tea. Tea is the second export cash crop of Bangladesh, which is largely cultivated in areas.

Physical Features of Bangladesh



Bangladesh: geographical regions



Bangladesh: relief and drainage

2. Plains of Bangladesh:

Most areas of Bangladesh existed by the sediment brought by the rivers, Ganga, Brahmaputra, Magna and their tributaries. The most important river of Bangladesh is called Ganga or Padma. Both India and Bangladesh get benefit from river Ganga. The River Ganga after crossing the three states of India Uttar Pradesh, Bihar and West Bengal, near the Rajshahi flows to southeast & making various branches fall in to the Bay of Bengal. On the western side of river Ganga, the two important branches are known as Bhagirathi and Hoogly.

The other important branches are Matha Bhanga, Acha Mai, Bhirab, Khar Kobadak, Chitra, Naba Ganga, Grai Madhomati and Aaryial Khan. The rivers of these areas and their tributaries used to change their routes since ancient times. Areas all these, the river Brahmaputra in quite well known for its floods and also for changing route again & again. The experts have the opinion that the river Brahmaputra, used to flow at the north & eastern side of Madhopur forest. Now at present, it is drought on at the western side of Madhopur forest.

According to the experts the areas of Silhet were the part of this river bank in old times. Due to heavy monsoon winds the areas of Bangladesh and surrounded mountainous areas receive heavy rainfall, the rainfall prolong for many months. Which bring heavy floods and quite often these areas of Bangladesh face lot of crisis. However, there are many advantages of these floods. The flood water of these rivers brings fertile soil and silt which increases the fertility of the soil every year. That is why these plain areas of Bangladesh are considered among the fertile plains of the world. In many low areas near the courses of the rivers, after the rainfall appears some lakes and locally these lakes are called as Bils or Bhils.

Tepra Plain:

These consisting the districts of Tepra, Noakhali, and Silhet. The approximate area of this plain is 2870 sq. miles. These are comparatively high than surrounding areas. The average height of nearer plain area is 14 ft. above sea level, while the average height of this Plain area is 19 ft. above sea level.

Silhet Plain:

These include of District of Silhet and areas of Memo Singh. These areas have the minimum height of 10 ft. from the surrounded areas. These areas also have the affect of floods in rainy season, at the southern side of this plain area some small lakes can be seen such as etc.

Piedmont Plain:

This plain area consisting Denajpur and Rangpur districts, which is drained by the river Testa, Atrai, and other tributaries. These rivers coming from the Himalayas, deposit their fertile sediment in the nearest Piedmont plains. The important river of this plain Testa used to join Ganga River before 1787. The average height of this plain above sea level is about 100 ft. In the rainy season the most parts of this plain are not affected by the rivers.

Flood Plains of river Ganga & Brahmaputra River:

The northern areas of river Ganga are situated near the Madhopur forest are considered these parts of this plain. The surface of this river is becoming higher & higher every year. The areas near the river banks are higher than the areas, which are far away from the rivers. These deep areas remain affected by the water during rainy season. In the districts of Pabna and Rajshahi these deep areas which are below the river surface cover about 100 sq. miles appear like Lake known as Chalan Bhal.

The Coastal Plain of Chittagang:

This coastal plain lies parallel to sea coast of Chittagang district. This plain lies up in the north and south reaches up to Cox's Bazar. The average width of this Plain is 5 to 6 mile and its width near the river Karnafuli is about 16 miles. This plain came in to being by the sediment brought by the rivers, Karnafuli, Sango, Mata Mohari, Bhagli and etc. some marshy areas have appeared near the sea, and some Sea vegetation can be seen in these parts.

Deltaic Plains:

River Ganga and Barhamputara collectively make the deltaic plains, The River Ganga, before falling in to the Bay of Bengal divide itself in to many branches. Except one branch of river Ganga, Madhomati, the other branches of river Ganga, which lie on western side have the problems of scarcity of water except during the rainy season. In the dry season many small branches left the larger branch. The branches of river Ganga in this area flow like Meandering shape and some oxbow type lakes can be seen in this area. In the east of river Garai Madhomati the sediment of river is being gathered very sharply. In this area the branch of river Ganga "Aaryial Khan" is playing very important role. In some deep areas, few small lakes can be seen.

The Southern part of this deltaic plain, consisting the areas of district Khulna and Baqar Ganj. This deltaic part is known as "Sunder Bun" having dense type of forests due to the fertile type. The word Sunder Bun is derived from the tree named as Sunderi, which is found in these forests of Sunder Bun that is why this forest is called Sunder Bun. The

South Asian Geog.
greater part of Sunder Bun forest consisting parts of Khulna district. Although the vast areas of these forests have been destroyed but still these forests cover an area of about 2316 sq. miles. In the coastal areas and near the coasts, various types of animals and birds, like lions, elephants, snakes, crocodile, etc are also seen.

Physical Features of Sri Lanka

The following are the physical features of Sri Lanka.

1. Central mountain.
2. Coastal plains.

Central mountain:

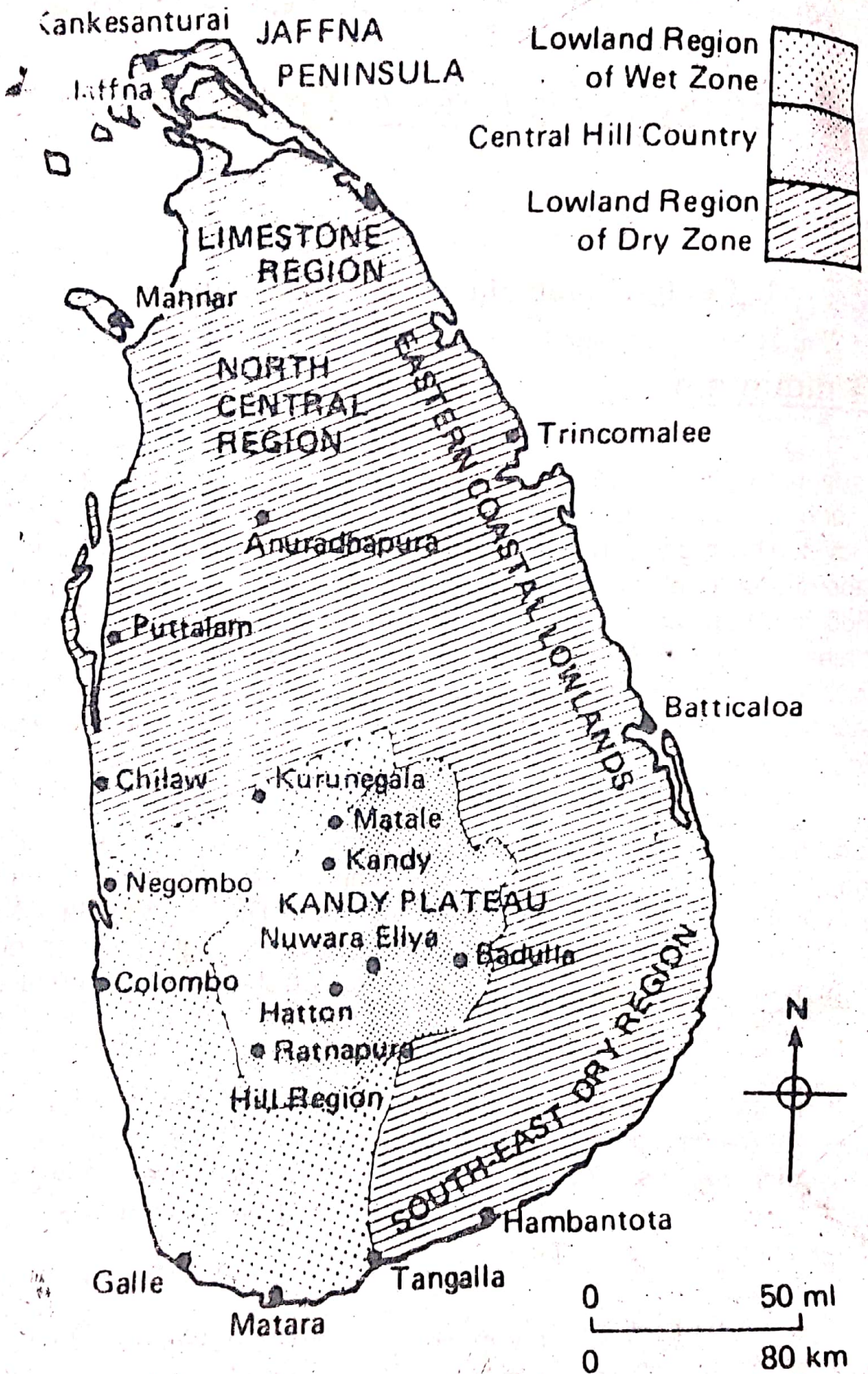
There lies a mountain Range in the center of Sri Lanka. The height of these Ranges rises from north to south. The most parts of these mountains are about 6000 feet above sea level. The highest place of these mountains is Tala Gala, which is about 8290 feet above sea level. The other highest places are, like famous peak of Adam's Peak which is 7360 feet high above from the sea level. There are some fertile and evenly balanced plains all around the mountains and parallel to the coasts. These plains are more wider on the northern sides and these mountain also have many fertile valleys. Due to heavy rainfall, many fast flowing rivers, origin from here, which are more useful for irrigation and other purposes.

Some experts have the opinion that these mountain Ranges of Sri Lanka are the part of those mountains, which are situated in Deccan (India). Experts have the opinion that these mountains existed in the same era, when Deccan Mountain came in to being. So due to erosional work of natural agents, their height goes on decreasing. These mountains mostly consists of same rocks, which found are found in Deccan mountains of India.

The Sri Lanka's mountain Ranges are more higher in the direction of south west and these mountains become the source of moon soon rain falls which comes from Indian Ocean in summer. Because of heavy rains, these mountains are densely covered with forests on the South slopes, and on the other hand because of low rainfall on the northern slopes, few forests can be seen.

In many places like slopes of the mountains, the forests have been cleared and now in those areas, Tea & Coffee are cultivated. Many beautiful and pleasant places have been built on these mountains, e.g. Nuwara Elia & Kairga Lapota at 7857 feet above sea level, are considered very important places.

Physical Features of Sri Lanka



Eastern, Western and Southern Plains:

COASTAL PLAINS : The detail of these plains are as follows.

Northern Coastal Plain:

This coastal Plain situated in north of Sri Lanka is more wide compare to the other plains. The soil of these areas mostly contain, particles of lime stone rocks, when there a rainfall, the lands of these areas absorb the water and the upper layer of the surface become dry. Due to more rains and more water, near the coastal areas, some marshy conditions have appeared. In many areas small lakes have been existed which are known as 'Lagoons'. Because of the dry lands in these areas, and due to the fast erosion and transportation work of wind the sand is shifted from one place to another and so many sand dunes can be seen at many places.

In those places having favorable conditions, there the rain water is stored in big tanks, which is used for irrigation purposes. The northern parts of Sri Lanka are not densely populated, that is why in the north of Sri Lanka no important sea port is available. In the north 'Jaffna' which is an island is considered only an important seaport.

The plain areas of southern Sri Lanka are comparatively small and less wide than the northern coastal plains. Because of more rainfall and fertility the southern plains are very important for agricultural productions. On the other hand, the eastern & western coastal plains are less wide, but due to the fertility and sufficient water, these are suitable for various types' crops. So in many areas sand dunes can be seen along the coastal sides.

Physical Features of Nepal

Physically Nepal is divided in to following regions.

1. Himalayas,
2. Valley of Nepal,
3. Terai Areas,

Himalayas:

In the north of the valley of Nepal adjacent to border province of Tibet (China), the highest Range of the world, (the great Himalayas) is situated. This Range has an average height of 6100 meters above sea level. There are so many valleys and high peaks, which remains snow covered throughout the year.

So many fast flowing small streams and rivers come from this Range. The river Sura Kosi and Irvan are notable one, the valleys of these rivers such as Dimja Valley of Sura Kosi River and Pokhara Valley of Sati Gandik Rivers are considered the fertile valleys of Nepal.

The highest peak of the world Mount Everest (8848 meters) or (29028 ft.) is situated near the course of Irvan River in eastern Nepal. Besides the above, other notable peaks of this Range are 2. Kanchenjunga (8598 meters), 3. Makalu (8481 meters), 4. Dhaulagiri (8172 meters) & etc.

Because this Range is forbidding, and can be crossed only by a few passes, which too are snow-bound during winter months, journey through these passes is hazardous as they are generally higher than 4570 meters above sea level. Pack animals like mules, yaks, and goats are used for carrying goods across these passes.

2. Valley of Nepal:

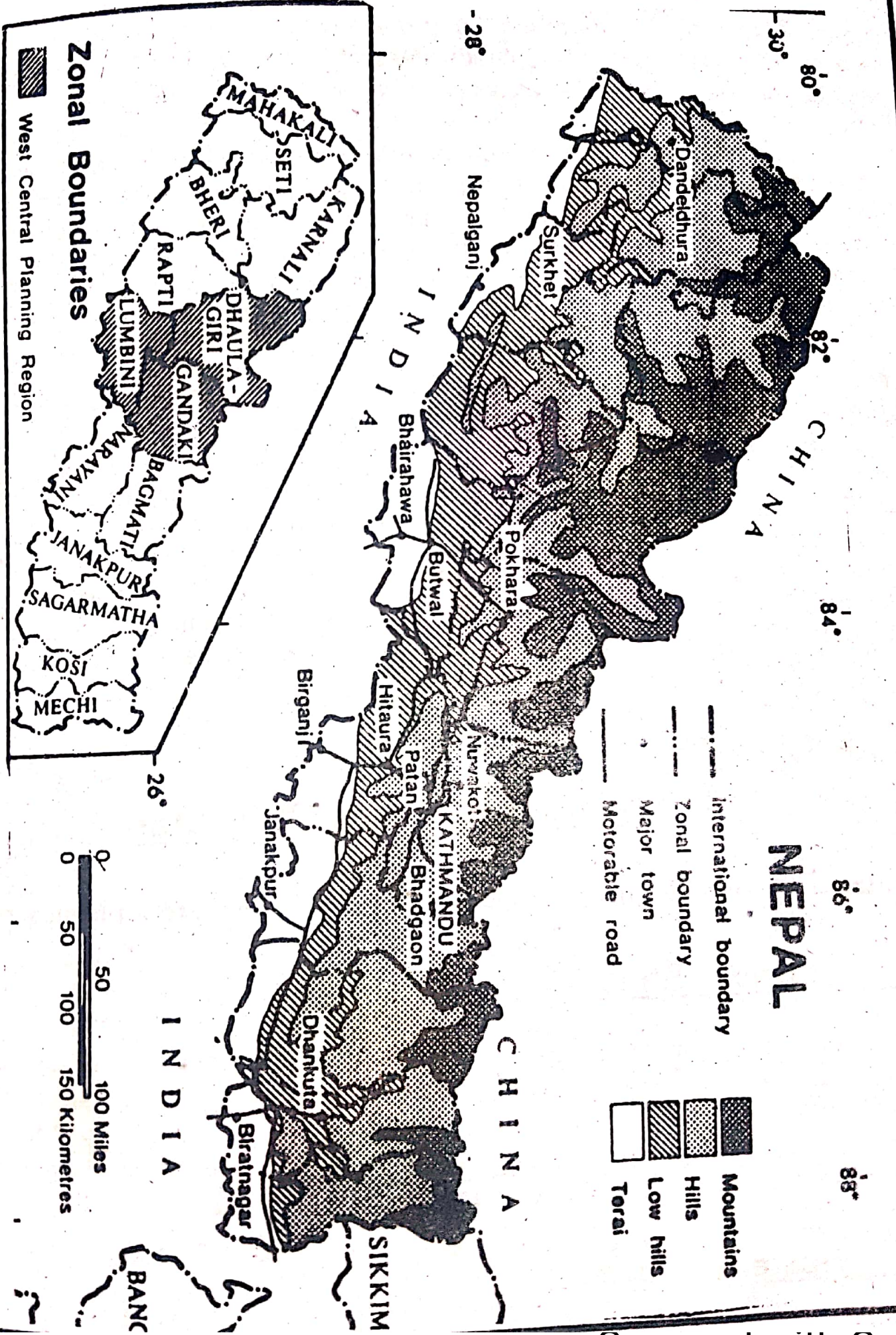
The valley is considered as a center or heart of Nepal. This valley is surrounded by higher mountains. In the north of this valley the great Himalayas and on its southern side lies a branch of Himalayas Range. Mahabharata Laikh, which occupies this valley. There are four important passes to enter the valley. These are Saga Pass on its eastern, South Neigh Pass, Panch Mai Pass on its west and Chatti Pass lies on its north. This valley is about 15 mile long & 7 miles wide. The valley represents the ancient culture of Nepal, besides many old cities, the present capital of Nepal, Katmandu, is also situated in this valley, most of Nepal's Population live in this area.

Before 1956, people used to travel Katmandu with the help of donkeys and ponies to enter the India. At present the border areas of India and Katmandu city has been linked through roads, which remain open throughout the year.

Beside this, the Electric Rope Bridge has been constructed, which can lift and shifted the weight of 508 kg to another side of the mountain, and then it is shifted to Railway place "**Amlikh Ganj**". The other parts of the country have been linked through roads and airways, some of the memories of "**Memoria Art**" can be seen in this valley at Pattan, Katmandu and Bhat Goan. In most parts of the valley near the cities, people mostly adopted the agriculture profession. Mostly people cultivate rice and where the water is available other crops are also cultivated such as sugarcane etc.

With the collaboration of China a road have been built between Lahasa, Tibet (China) and Katmandu. So the trade between and China have very much increased enough. Besides this due to link between various cities through airways, the trade continued through the year.

Physical Features of Nepal

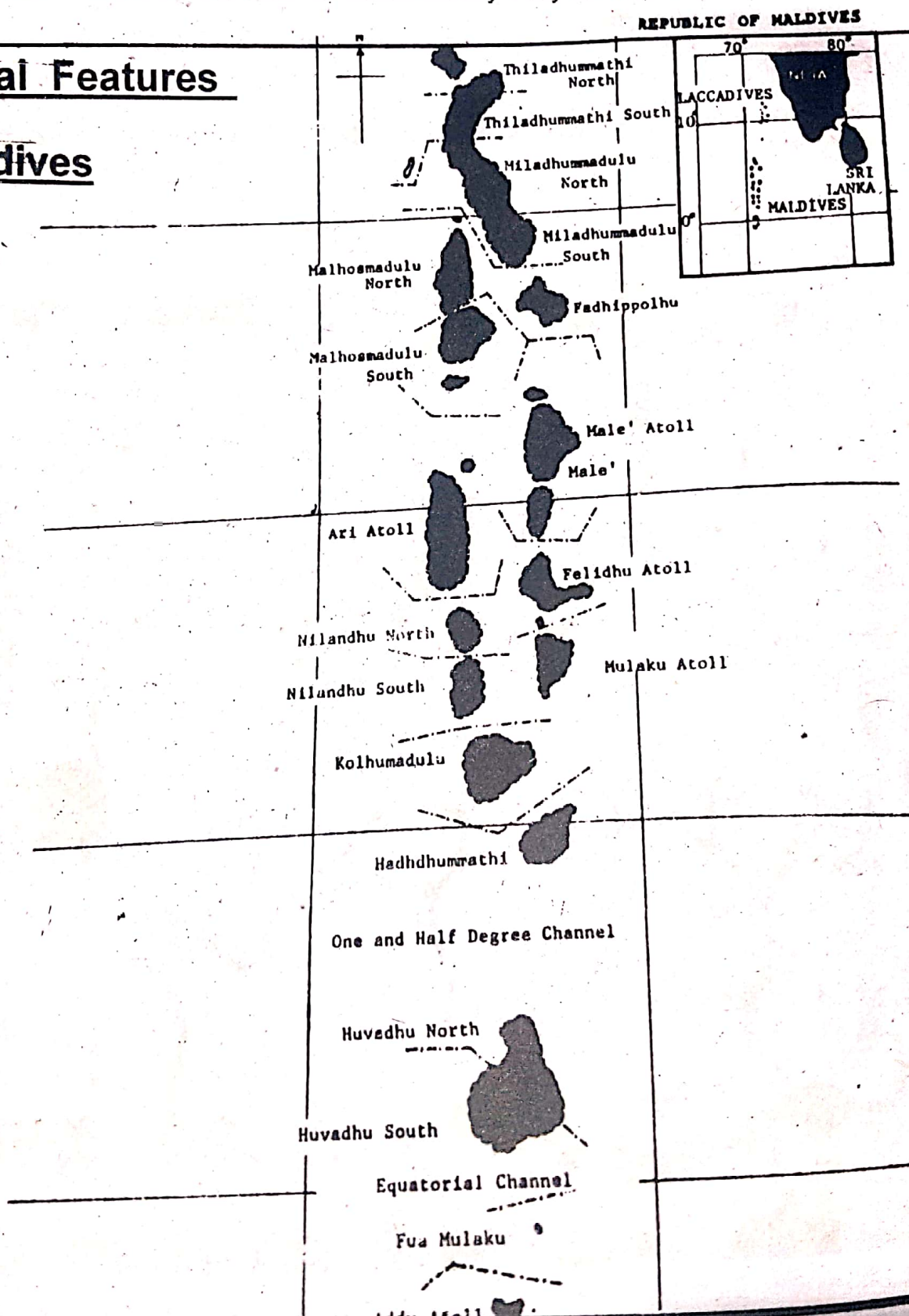


Physical Features of Maldives

These Islands came in to being due to accumulation of Coral remains and sediment brought by the sea waves. The surface of these islands consists of sandy soil which is not suitable for agricultural purposes. So due to low alleviation most of the island suffer from the affects of the sea waves.

The highest alleviation over these islands is 80 ft. (24 meter) above sea level. That is why out of 1200 hundred islands of this country only 202 islands are inhabited.

Physical Features of Maldives



3. Eastern Bhutan:

These areas which are lying adjacent to Indian state of Assam are called as Eastern Bhutan. These have a height between 1000 to 4000 ft. above sea level.

Southern Bhutan:

This is the lowest part of Bhutan and it is situated adjacent to Indian state of West Bengal. Due to moderate climate in summer, most of the crops are cultivated in river valleys.

There is a Range known as Black mountain situated in the center of Bhutan, which divides the country in to two parts.

Physical Features of Bhutan

