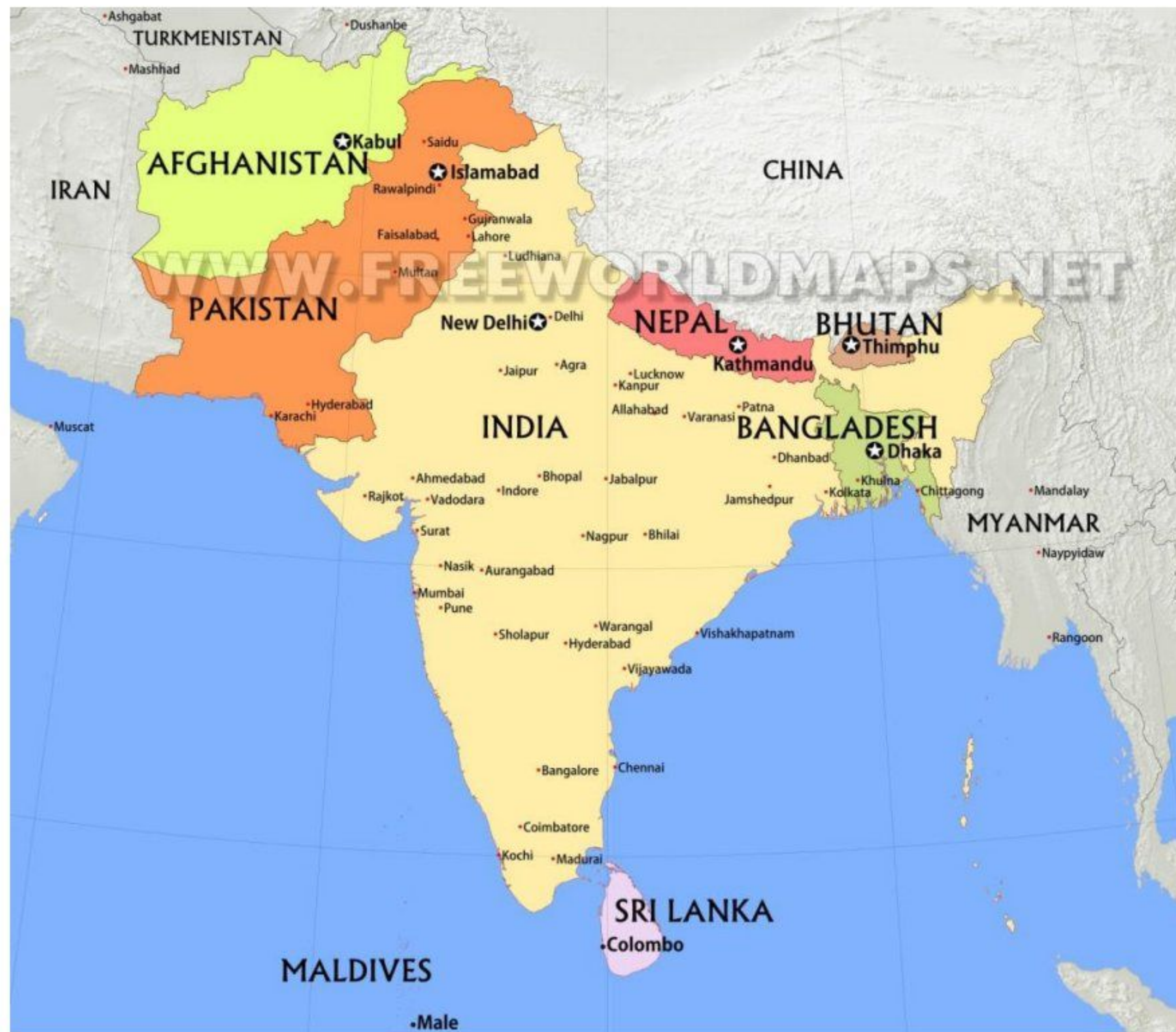


# Introduction to south asia



## Physical features and maps

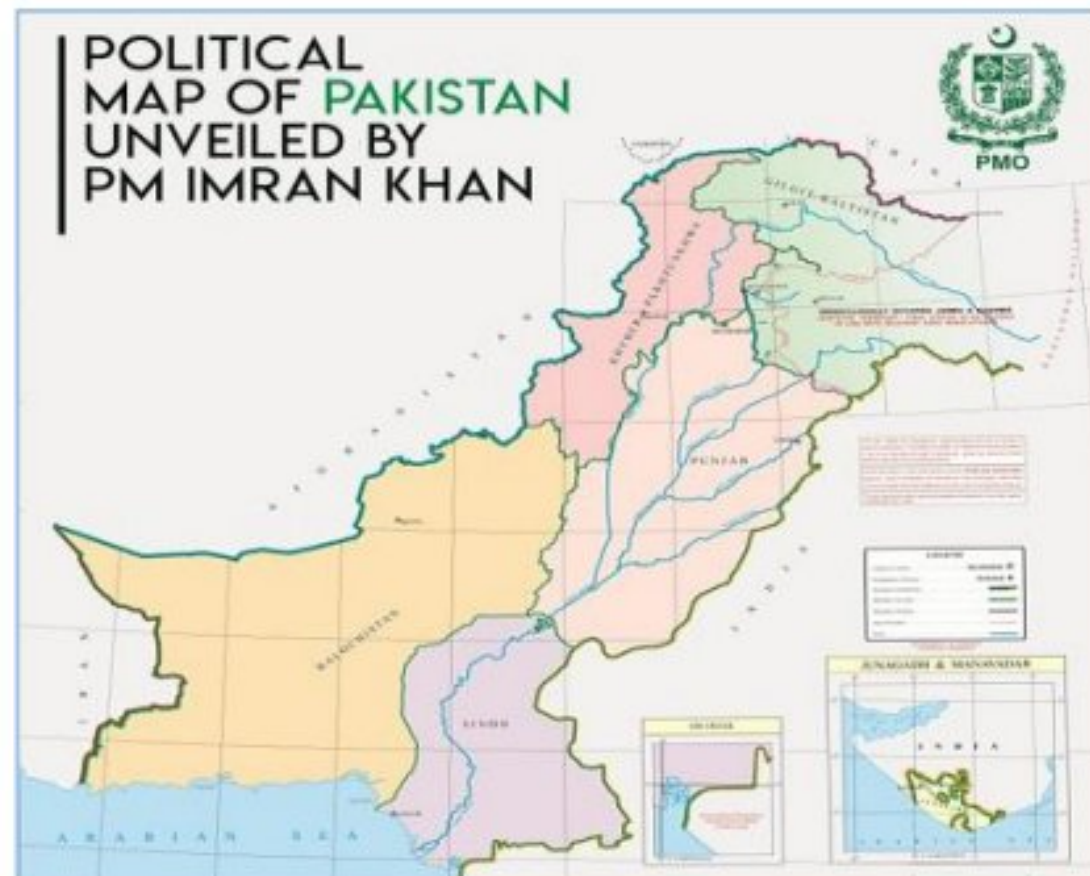
## Geography of South Asia



<b>Area</b>	5,134,641 km <sup>2</sup>
<b>Population</b>	1,947,628,100 (2020)
<b>GDP (PPP)</b>	\$12.753 trillion (2018)
<b>GDP nominal</b>	\$3.26 trillion (2018)
<b>GDP per capita</b>	\$1,707 (nominal)
<b>Ethnic groups</b>	Indo-Aryan, Iranian, Dravidian, Sino-Tibetan, Austroasiatic. Etc.
<b>Religion</b>	Hinduism, Islam, Christianity, Buddhism, Sikhism, Jainism, Zoroastrianism
<b>Countries</b>	Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Maldives, Nepal, Pakistan, Sri-Lanka
<b>Dependencies</b>	British Indian Ocean Territory
<b>Languages</b>	Bengali, Dari, Dzongkha, English, Hindi, Dhivehi, Nepali, Pashto, Sinhala, Tamil, Urdu.

Country	Area	EEZ	Shelf	EEZ+TIA
Afghanistan	652,864	0	0	652,864
Bangladesh	147,570	86,392	66,438	230,390
Bhutan	38,394	0	0	38,394
India	3,287,263	2,305,143	402,996	5,592,406
Nepal	147,181	0	0	147,181
Maldives	298	923,322	34,538	923,622
Pakistan	881,913	290,000	51,383	1,117,911
Sri Lanka	65,610	532,619	32,453	598,229
<b>Total</b>	<b>5,221,093</b>	<b>4,137,476</b>	<b>587,808</b>	<b>9,300,997</b>

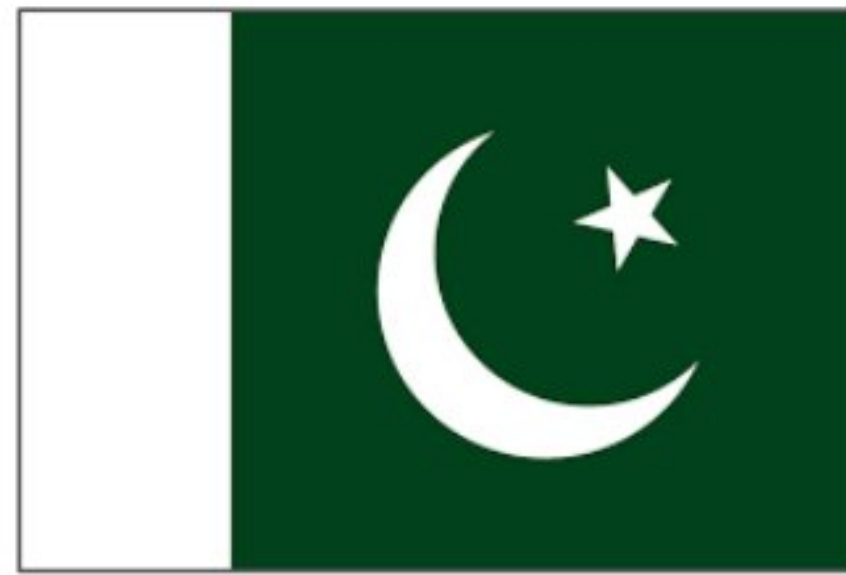
# Geography of Pakistan



## Introduction:

- 🚩 **Continent:** Asia
- 🚩 **Region:** South Asia, Sub-continent
- 🚩 **Complete Name:** Islamic Republic Of Pakistan
- 🚩 **Independence:** 14 August 1947
- 🚩 **Area:** Ranked 36<sup>th</sup>
- 🚩 **Total:** 796,095 Km<sup>2</sup>
- 🚩 **Land:** 97.13%
- 🚩 **Water:** 2.87%
- 🚩 **Coastline:** 1046 Km
- 🚩 **Total Population:** 212.2 Million (2018)
- 🚩 **Highest Point:** K2
- 🚩 **Lowest point:** Arabian Sea
- 🚩 **Muslim:** 98%
- 🚩 **Non-Muslim:** 2%
- 🚩 **Capital:** Islamabad
- 🚩 **Official languages:** Urdu & English
- 🚩 **Currency:** Pakistani rupee(PKR)
- 🚩 **Climate:** Mostly hot, dry desert, temperate in northwest
- 🚩 **Latitude & longitude:** 23.5°N - 37°N, 61°E – 77°E

➤ **Flag:**



The green represents the Muslim majority in Pakistan and the white stripe represents religious minorities. The crescent represents progress and the five-pointed star represents light and knowledge. The flag symbolizes Pakistan's commitment to Islam and the rights of religious minorities

➤ **Boarders and neighboring countries:**

Countries	Direction
China	North
India	East
Arabian Sea	South
Iran	South West
Afghanistan	West

**Pakistan & Afghanistan boarder: 2430 Km**

Pakistan-Afghanistan having 2640 km boundary.



**Pakistan & China boarder:**

Pakistan and china having 592 kilometers boundary. The 8<sup>th</sup> wonder of the world Karakoram highway has been constructed at a height of 15.397ft between china and Pakistan.



### Pakistan & India Boarder:

**Line of control:** 740 Km

Pakistan-India boundary continues southward for 1280 kilometers. It is one of the few places on earth where an international boundary can be seen at night as it is lit by security lights.

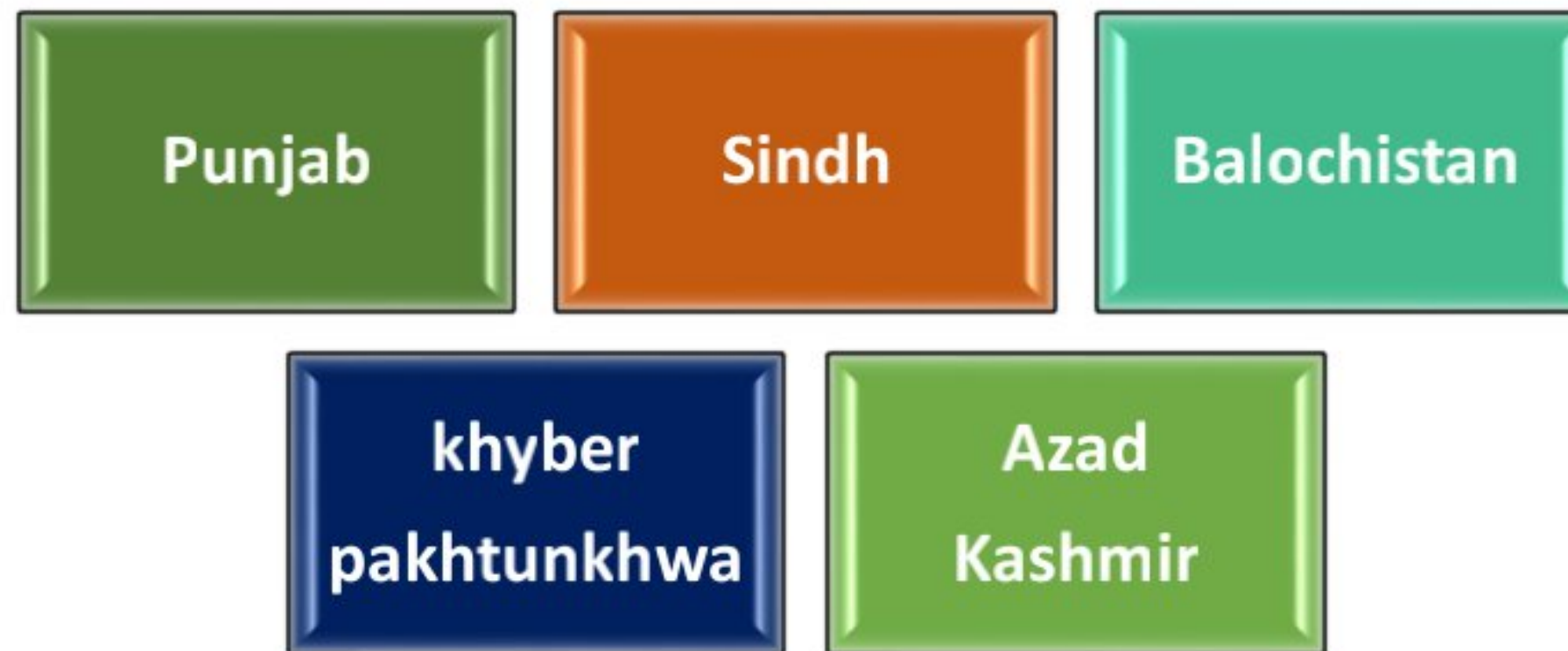


### Pakistan & Iran Boarder:

Iran 959 kilometers in length.



➤ **Provinces:**



- ❖ Sindh and Punjab province lie on the north-western corner of Indian plate.
- ❖ Baluchistan and most of the Khyber-pakhtunkhwa lie within the Asian plate which mainly comprises the Iranian plateau some parts of the Middle East and central Asia.
- ❖ Northern areas and Azad Kashmir lie mainly in central Asia along the edge of the Indian plate.

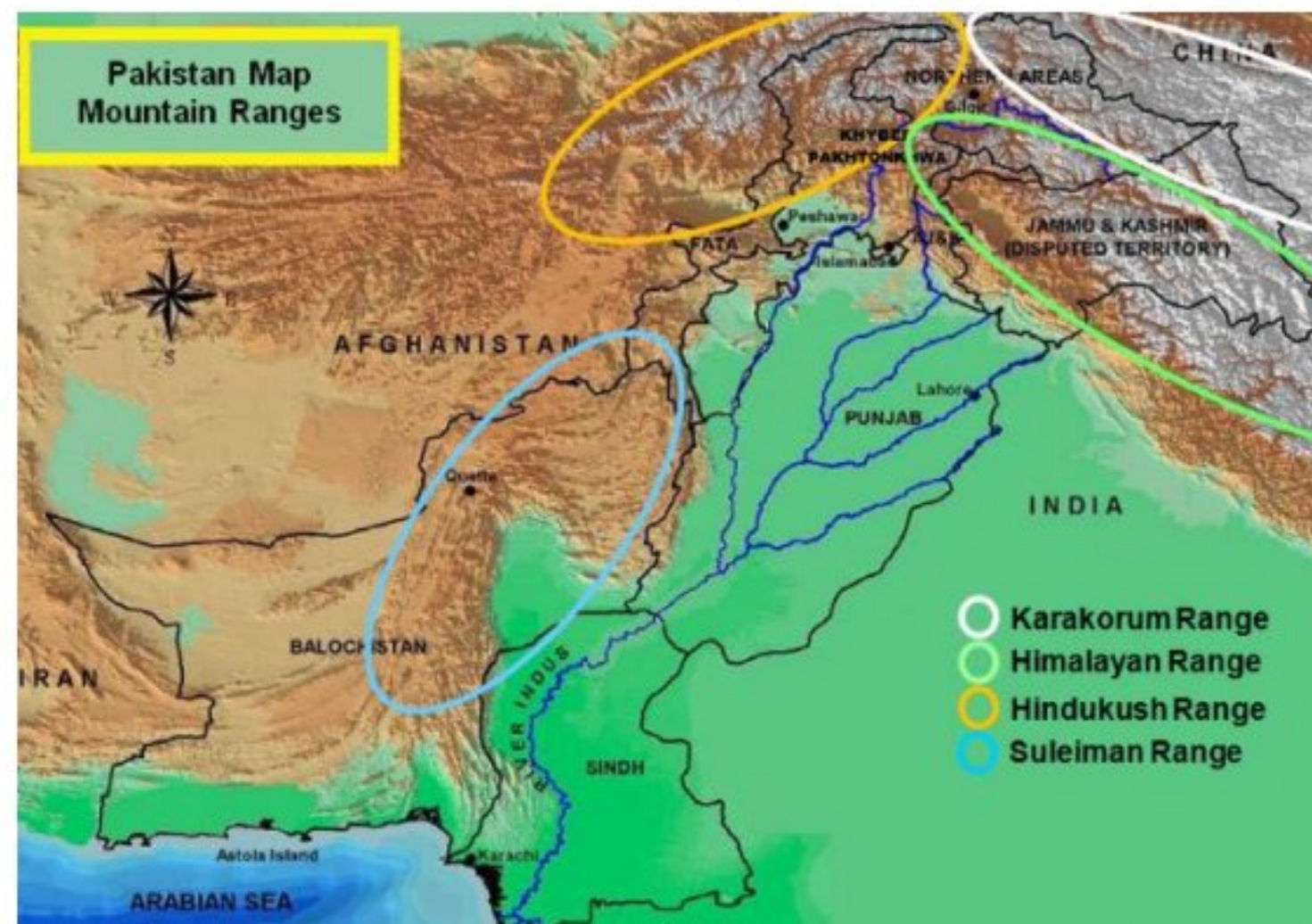
➤ **Physical division of Pakistan:**



❖ **Mountains:**

There are three distinct mountain ranges:

1. Northern Mountains
2. North-Western mountains
3. Western Mountains



1. Northern Mountains
  - 1) Karakoram Ranges
  - 2) Himalaya ranges
    - i. Greater Himalaya
    - ii. Lesser Himalaya
    - iii. Shiwaliks

### Karakoram:

The Karakoram is a mountain range spanning the borders of China, India, and Pakistan, with the northwest extremity of the range extending to Afghanistan and Tajikistan, its highest 15 mountains are all based in Pakistan. It begins in the Wakhan Corridor in the west and encompasses the majority of Gilgit-Baltistan and extends into Ladakh and the disputed Aksai Chin region controlled by China. It is the second highest mountain range in the world. The Karakoram has eighteen summits over 7,500 M height, with four of them exceeding 8,000 M K2, the second highest peak in the world at 8,611 M.

### Himalaya:

The Himalayas stretch across the northeastern portion of India. They cover approximately 1,500 meters and pass through the nations of India, Pakistan, Afghanistan, China, Bhutan and Nepal. The Himalayan range is made up of three parallel ranges often referred to as the Greater Himalayas, the Lesser Himalayas, and the Shiwaliks. While intimidating mountains like Everest and K2 tend to dominate our perceptions of the region, the Himalayas are rich in biodiversity. Climates range from tropical at the base of the mountains to perennial snow and ice at the highest elevations.



### North-Western mountains:

In the north-west there is a mountain range called Hindu Kush. Most parts of the high Hindu Kush range (Eastern Hindu Kush range), are located in northern Pakistan and Afghanistan. This range is also present in Ghizar, Yasin Valley, and Ishkoman in Pakistans Northern Areas. Tirich Mir, located in Chitral, 25,289 feet is the highest point in the Hindu Kush range.





## **Western Mountains:**

### **Safed Koh:**

The Safed Koh or White Mountain range lies at the Pakistan-Afghanistan border.

It ranges up to 4,761 metres above sea-level.

### **Kirthar:**

Kirthar Mountains are located in Sindh and Baluchistan. The range extends southward for nearly 300km from the Mula River to Cape Muari (west of Karachi) on the Arabian Sea. The maximum altitude of the Kirthar range that is present in Sindh is almost 7,056 feet above sea-level, which makes it Sindh's highest peak. This range is present a few miles north-west of the Gorakh Hill Station.

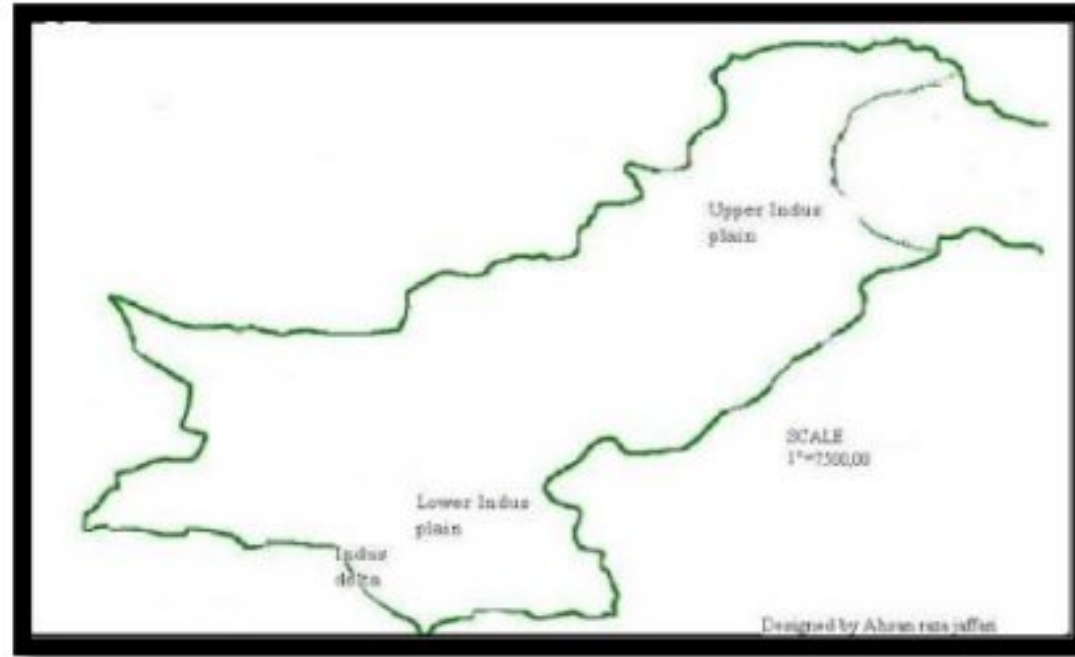
### **Sulaiman:**

The Sulaiman Mountains are located in northern Baluchistan and Kabul province of Afghanistan. It is present at the border of the Indian Subcontinent and the Iranian Plateau and west of the Indus River. Takht-e-Sulaiman, meaning Solomon's Throne with a height of 3,487 meters in Baluchistan is the highest peak of Sulaiman Mountains.

### **Waziristan Hills:**

Waziristan hills is a mountainous region covering the former FATA agencies of North Waziristan and South Waziristan which are now districts of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa province of Pakistan. Waziristan covers some 11,585 square kilometers. Famous Khyber Pass lies in this range.

### **The Indus plain:**



The whole Indus plain comprises the 20% of Pakistan. We can divide it into three parts:

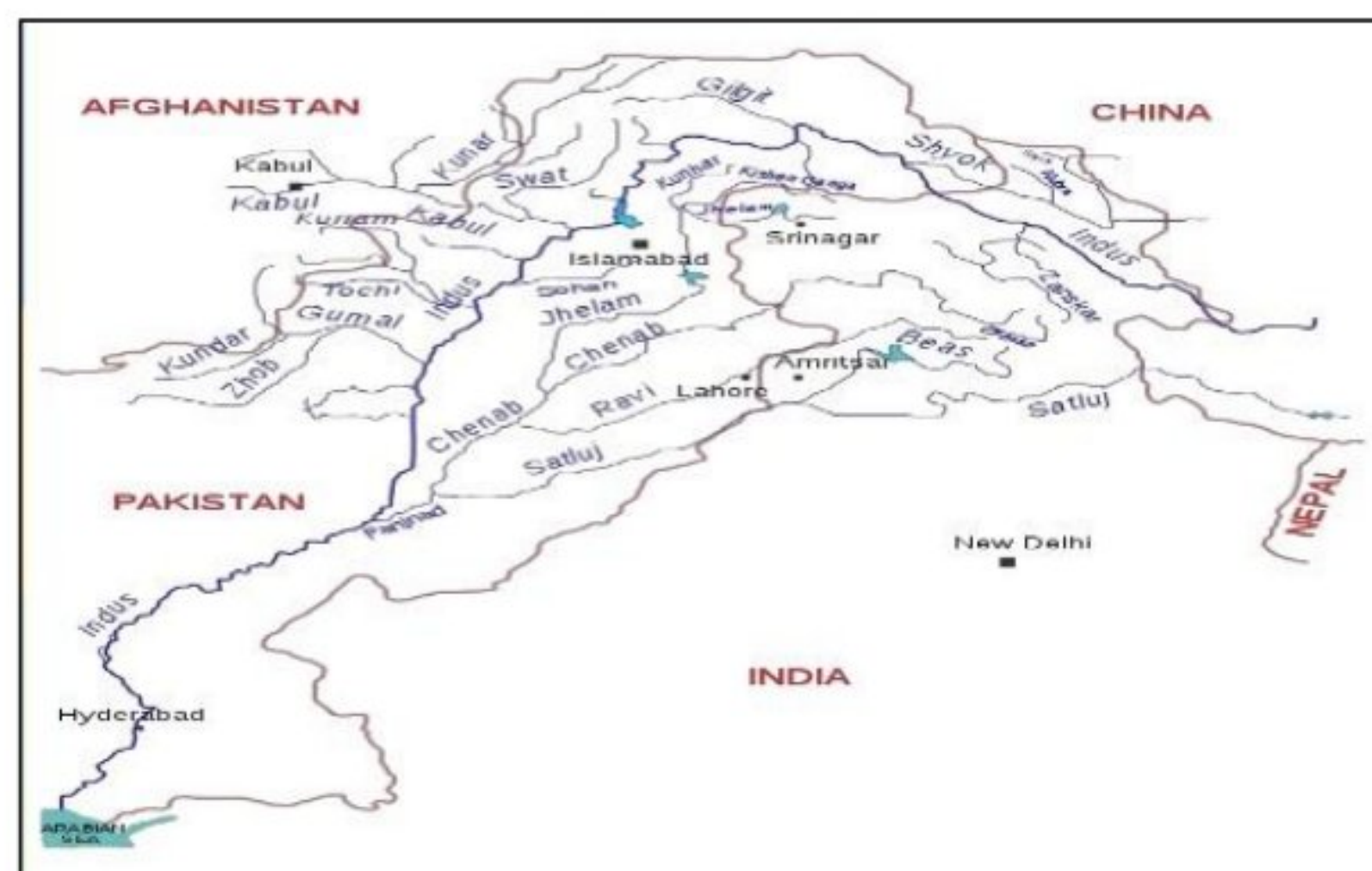
- 1) Upper Indus plain
- 2) Lower Indus plain
- 3) Deltaic plain

#### Upper Indus plain:

The upper Indus plain extends from Attock to Mithan Kot. Jhelum, Chenab, Ravi, Sutlej are the Eastern tributaries of river Indus. The area between two tributaries is called Doab. All the tributaries meet at the point called Panjand.

#### The lower Indus Plain:

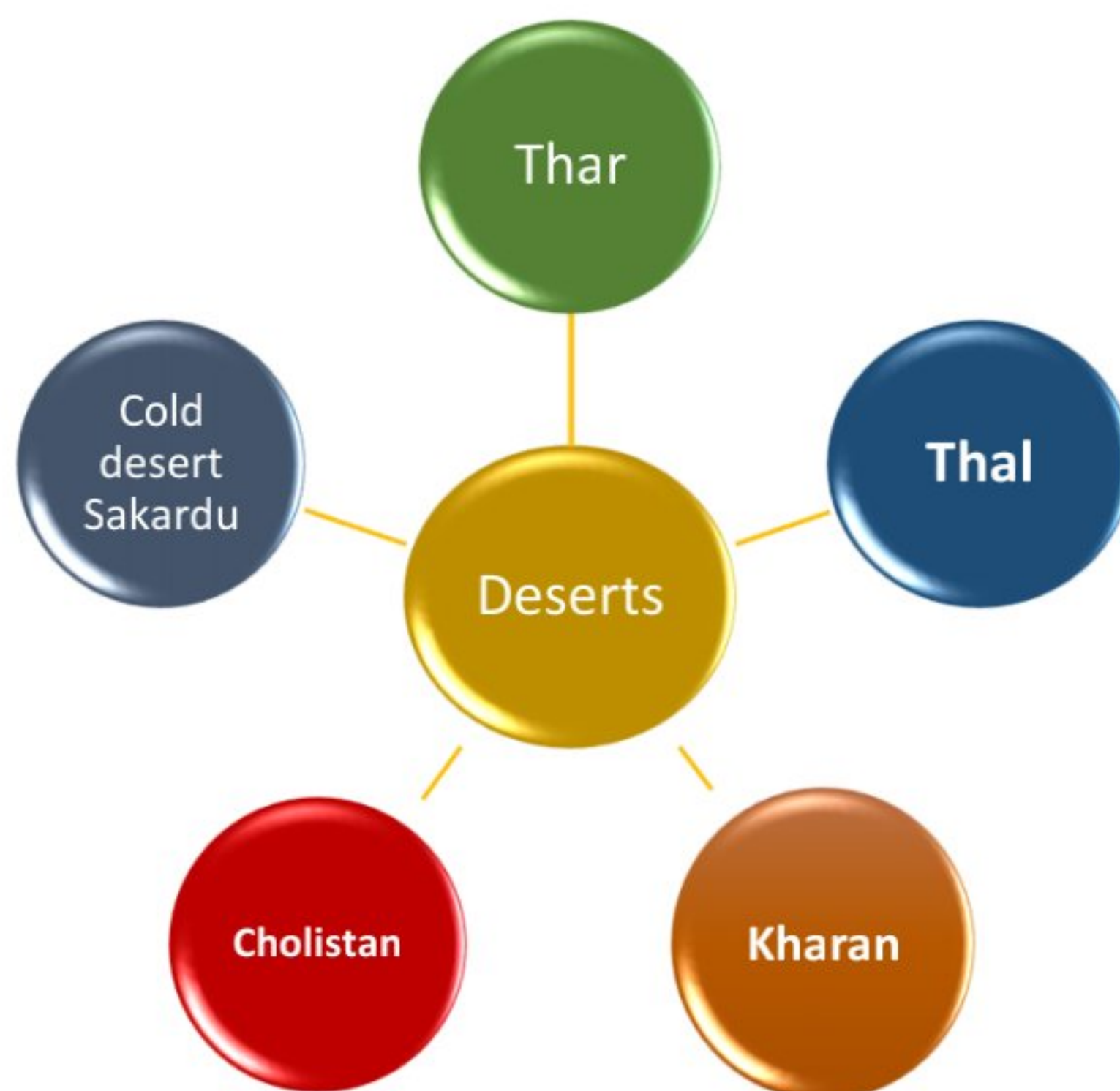
It extends from Mithan Kot to Thatta. This is the old stage of river Indus. Due to the very less gradient speed of Indus is very slow.



#### The Deltaic Plain:

The total length of deltaic plain is 1000 Km while 700 Km lies in in Baluchistan and 300 Km lies in Sindh. Mangrove forest are the significant features of the Sindh deltaic plain. The coastal area lies in Baluchistan is called makran coastal plain.

❖ **Deserts of Pakistan:**



**Kharan Desert:**

The Kharan Desert is located in Northwest Balochistan. It makes a nature boundary between Pakistan, Iran and Afghanistan. It is located in Kharan District. The Kharan Desert is a sandiest desert in Pakistan. It is distinct from the rest of the province's landscape due to its sandy nature and more even ter. The desert was used for nuclear testing by the Pakistan military, making it the most famous of the five deserts.



**Thal Desert:**

The Thal Desert is located in Bhakkar District of Pakistan between the Indus and Jhelum rivers. A large canal-building project is currently underway to irrigate the land. Irrigation will make most of the desert suitable for farming. In the north of the Thal Desert there are salt ranges, in the east the Jhelum and Chenab Rivers and to the west the Indus River.

**Thar Desert:**

The Thar Desert spans an area of 175,000 square kilometers and covers large areas of Pakistan and India. It is the largest desert of Pakistan and the only subtropical desert of Asia. It is the seventh largest desert on the planet and the third largest in Asia. It has also spread into India. The Thar Desert, also known as the Great Indian Desert, is a large, arid region in the northwestern part of the Indian subcontinent that forms a natural boundary between India and Pakistan. It is the world's 17th largest desert, and the world's 9th largest subtropical desert. 85% of the Thar Desert is in India, and the remaining 15% is in Pakistan. In India, it covers 320,000 km<sup>2</sup>, of which 90% is in Rajasthan and extends into Gujarat, Punjab, and Haryana. In Pakistan, it spreads over Punjab and Sindh starting from the Tharparkar District in the east. This desert consists of a very dry part, the Marusthali region, in the west, and a semi-desert region in the east with fewer sand dunes and slightly more precipitation.

**Cholistan Desert:**

Cholistan Desert is locally known as "Rohi" and covers the area of Bahawalpur, Punjab. It adjoins the Thar Desert, extending over to Sindh and into India. Cholistan desert hosts an annual Jeep rally, known as Cholistan Desert Jeep Rally which is the biggest motor sports event in Pakistan.

**Cold Desert Skardu:**

The Cold Desert is a high-altitude desert located near Skardu, in Pakistan's northern Gilgit-Baltistan region. The desert contains expanses of large sand dunes that are sometimes covered in snow during winter. Situated at an elevation of 2,226 metres above sea level, the Katpana Desert is one of the highest deserts in the world.

## ❖ The plateaus of Pakistan:

### **Baluchistan plateaus:**

The Balochistan plateau is located in the south-west of Pakistan with altitudes mainly ranging from 600–3010 metres. This is an extensive area of 347,190 km<sup>2</sup> with a number of distinct natural topographical and drainage features that can be identified as follows:

- Basins of Northern Balochistan
- Basins of Western Balochistan
- Mountain ranges
- Coastal areas

### **Potwar plateau and Salt range:**

Tilla Jogian, 2nd highest peak in Potwar The Potwar Plateau (also Potwar or Potohar) is a plateau in the province of Punjab, Pakistan and the western parts of Pakistan administered Kashmir. The area was the home of the [Soanian | Soanian Culture], which is evidenced by the discovery of fossils, tools, coins, and remains of ancient archaeological sites. The local people speak the Potwari language. Pothohar Plateau is bounded on the east by the Jhelum River, on the west by the Indus River, on the north by the Kala Chitta Range and the Margalla Hills, and on the south by the Salt Range

### **Salt Range:**

The Salt Range is a hill system in the Punjab province of Pakistan, deriving its name from its extensive deposits of rock salt. The range extends from the Jhelum River to the Indus, across the northern portion of the Punjab province. The Salt Range contains the great mines of Mayo, Khewra Salt Mine, Warcha and Kalabagh, which yield vast supplies of salt. Coal of a medium quality is also found. It is believed that the Salt Range was founded by the horses of Alexander the Great's army.

### **Rivers & sea:**

#### **The Indus Rivers:**

Indus river is one of the longest rivers in Asia. It flows through China (western Tibet), India (Ladakh) and Pakistan.[3] Originating in the Tibetan Plateau in the vicinity of Lake Manasarovar, the river runs a course through the Ladakh region of India,[a] towards Gilgit-Baltistan and then flows in a southerly direction along the entire length of Pakistan to merge into the Arabian Sea near the port city of Karachi in Sindh.[4] It is the longest river of Pakistan.



#### **Sutlej River:**

Sutlej River is the longest of the five rivers that flow through the historic crossroads region of Punjab in northern India and Pakistan. The Sutlej River is also known as Satadree. It is the easternmost tributary of the Indus River. The bharka dam is built around the river Sutlej to provide irrigation and other facilities to the nearby areas.

#### **Ravi River:**

The Ravi River is a transboundary river crossing northwestern India and eastern Pakistan. It is one of six rivers of the Indus System in Punjab region (Punjab means "Five Rivers"). Under the Indus Waters Treaty of 1960, the waters of the Ravi and two other rivers were allocated to India.

#### **Jhelum River:**

Jhelum River is a river in northern India and eastern Pakistan. It is the westernmost of the five rivers of the Punjab region, and passes through the Kashmir Valley.

It is a tributary of the Chenab River and has a total length of about 725 kilometers.

#### **Chenab River:**

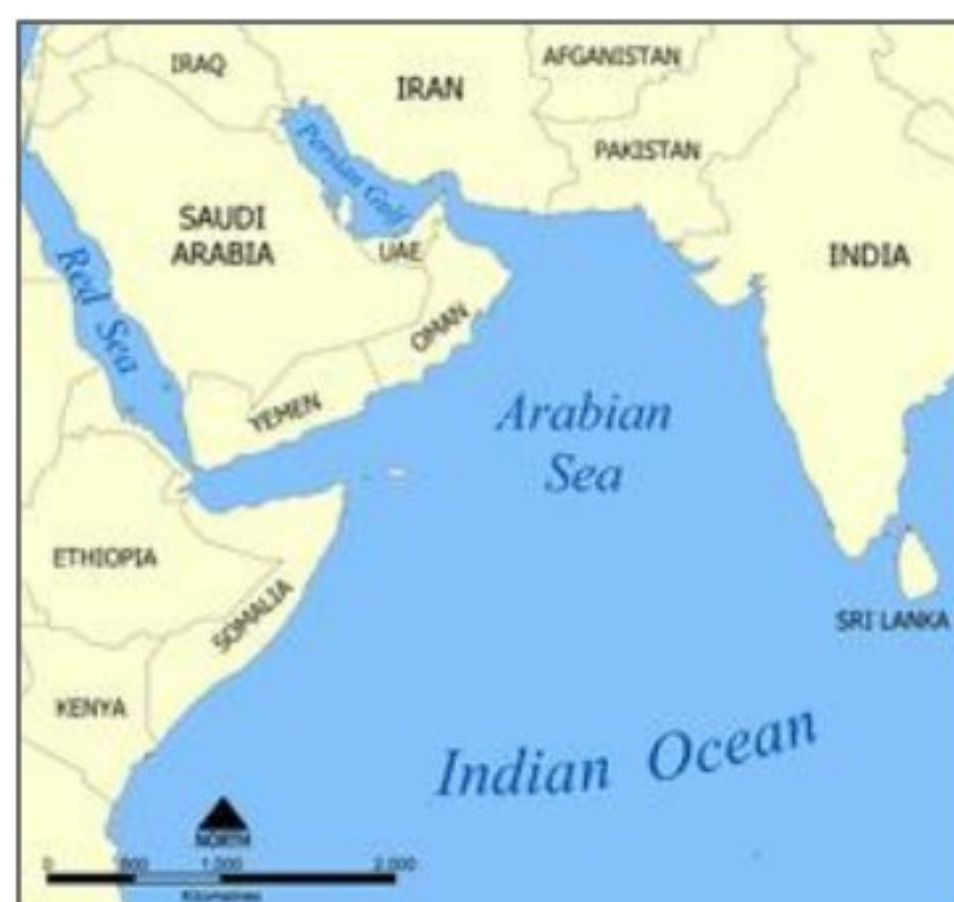
Chenab River is a major river that flows in India and Pakistan, and is one of the 5 major rivers of the Punjab region. It rises in the upper Himalayas in the Lahaul and Spiti district of Himachal Pradesh state, India, and flows through the Jammu region of Jammu and Kashmir into the plains of Punjab, Pakistan, before flowing into the Indus River near the city of Uch Sharif. The waters of the Chenab were allocated to Pakistan under the terms of the Indus Waters Treaty. The river is formed by the confluence of two rivers, Chandra and Bhaga, at Tandi, 8 km southwest of Keylong, in the Lahaul and Spiti district in the Indian state of Himachal Pradesh.

### **Kabul River:**

Kabul river is a 700-kilometre-long river that emerges in Maidan Wardak Province in the Sanglakh Range of the Hindu Kush mountains in Afghanistan, and is separated from the watershed of the Helmand River by the Unai Pass. The Kabul River empties into the Indus River near Attock, Pakistan. It is the main river in eastern Afghanistan and the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa province of Pakistan.

### **Arabian Sea:**

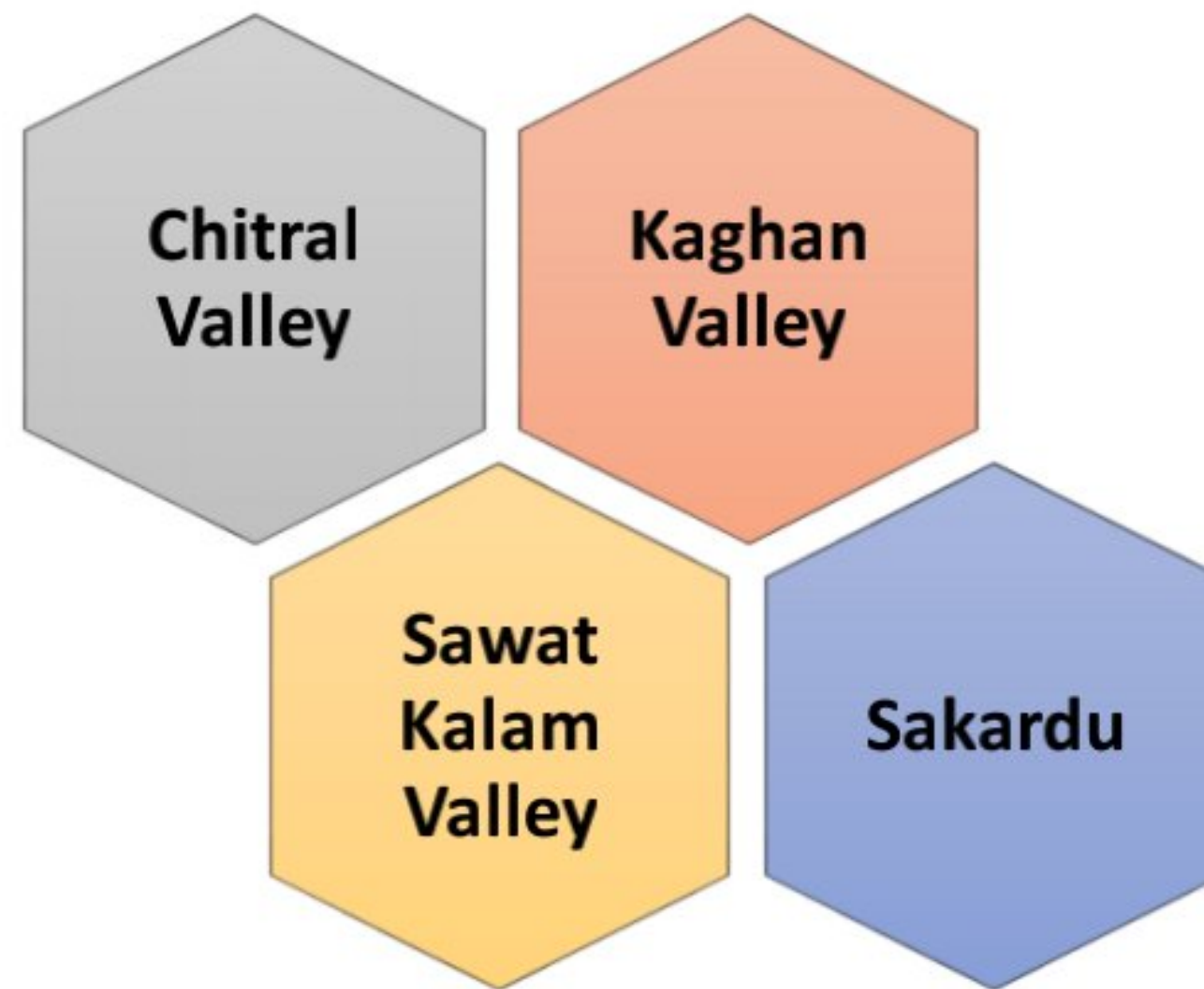
The Arabian Sea is a region of the northern Indian Ocean bounded on the north by Pakistan, Iran, and the Gulf of Oman, on the west by the Gulf of Aden, Guardafui Channel and the Arabian Peninsula, on the southeast by the Laccadive Sea, on the southwest by the Somali Sea, and on the east by India. Its total area is 3,862,000 km<sup>2</sup> and its maximum depth is 4,652 meters.



### **Natural diversity:**



### Valleys:



#### **Chitral valley:**

Chitral is the capital of the Chitral District, is the capital of the Chitral District, situated on the Chitral River in northern Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Pakistan.

#### **Kaghan Valley:**

Kaghan Valley is an alpine valley in Mansehra District of the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Province of Pakistan. The valley extends 155 kilometres across northern Pakistan, rising from an elevation of 2,134 feet to its highest point, the Babusar Pass, at 13,690 feet.

#### **Swat Kalam Valley:**

Kalam is a valley located at distance of 99 kilometers from Mingora in the northern upper reaches of Swat valley along the bank of Swat River in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa province of Pakistan. Kalam is surrounded by lush green hills, thick forests and bestowed with mesmerizing lakes, meadows and waterfalls which are worth seen features of the landscape. It is the birthplace of Swat river which forms with confluence of two major tributaries of Gabral river and Ushu river.

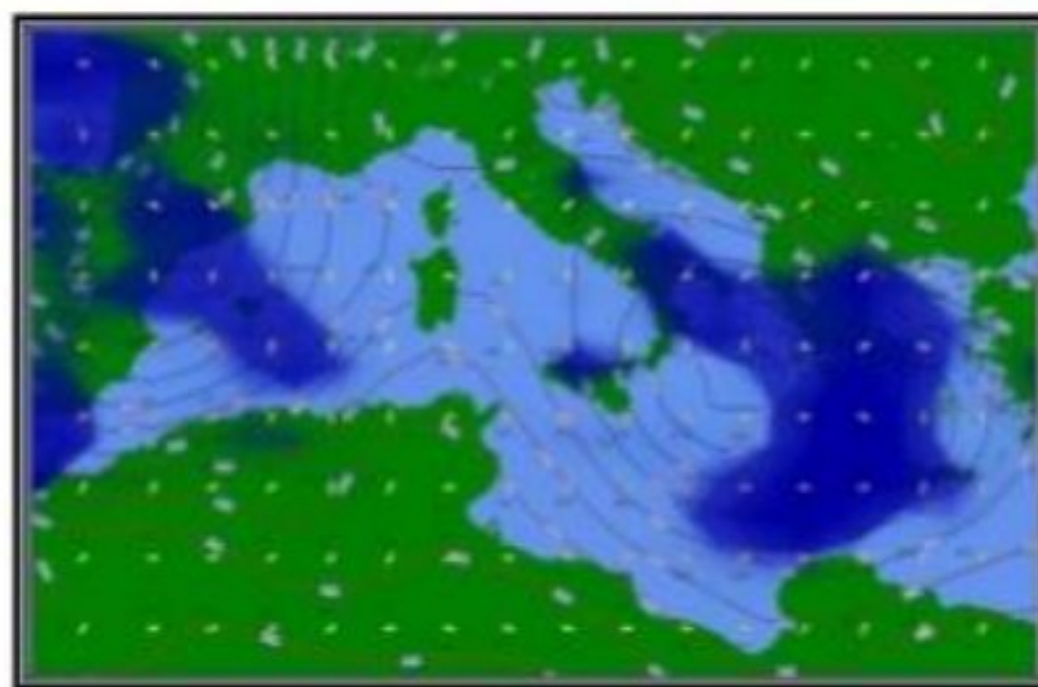


### **Skardu valley:**

The Skardu Valley is located in Gilgit-Baltistan, Pakistan. The valley is about 10 km wide and 40 km long. It is at the confluence of the Shigar River and Indus River. It surrounded by the large Karakoram Range. With the nearby lakes and mountains, it is an important tourist location in Pakistan.

### **Climatic condition:**

As Pakistan is located on a great landmass north of the tropic of cancer, it has a continental type of climate characterized by extreme variation of temperature, both seasonally and daily. Very high altitudes modify the climate in the cold, snow covered northern mountains. Whereas most region have very hot days in summer and very cold in winters. Pakistan lies in monsoon region and frequently rainfalls and storm occurs during the season causing large scale destruction every year.



### **Agriculture:**

Pakistan's principal natural resources are arable land and water. The most agriculture province is Punjab where wheat and cotton are the most grown. Some people also have mango.

Pakistan's exports reserves consist largely of agricultural products.

Two main seasons in Pakistan

1. Rabi Season
2. Kharif Season

Kharif Crops	Rabi Crops
<p>In Pakistan the kharif season starts on April 16 and lasts until October 15</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Rice</li> <li>• Millet</li> <li>• Jawar</li> <li>• Maize</li> <li>• Mung bean</li> <li>• Sugarcane</li> <li>• Peancut</li> </ul>	<p>The rabi crops are grown between the months between Novembers to april.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Wheat</li> <li>• Gram</li> <li>• Pea</li> <li>• Mustard</li> <li>• Linseed</li> <li>• barely</li> </ul>

### Natural Resources:

Pakistan is rich in natural resources.

#### Coal:

Huge reserves of coal are found in Sindh & Baluchistan.



#### Natural Gas:

There is a large numbers of gas field in Baluchistan esp. in SUI Baluchistan.

#### Salt Mines:

Khewra is the largest mine in the world. Other two salt mines are Warcha & Kalabah.











## Gold & Precious Metals:



Gold deposits are found in Riko dik Baluchistan. Furthermore, copper, manganese & iron is found there.



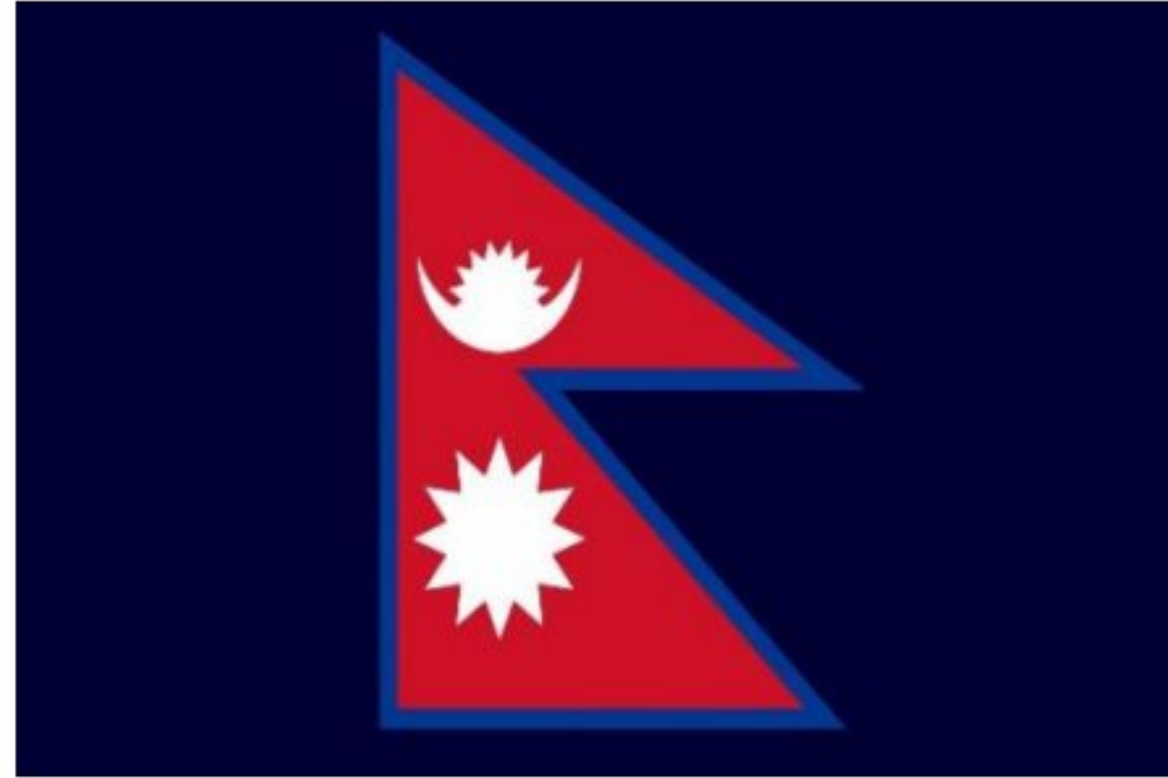
## Geography of Nepal



 <b>Continent:</b>	Asia
 <b>Region:</b>	Southern Asia
 <b>Coordinates:</b>	28°00'N 84°00'E
 <b>Area:</b>	Ranked 93rd <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <b>Total:</b> 147,181 km<sup>2</sup></li><li>• <b>Land:</b> 92.94%</li><li>• <b>Water:</b> 7.06%</li></ul>
 <b>Coastline:</b>	0 km (0 mi)
 <b>Borders:</b>	Total land borders, 2,926 km
 <b>China (PRC):</b>	1,236 km (768 mi)
 <b>India:</b>	1,690 km (1,050 mi)
 <b>Highest point:</b>	Mount Everest 8,848 meters
 <b>Lowest point:</b>	Mukhiyapatti Musharniya 59 meters

-  **Longest river:** Karnali
-  **Largest lake:** Rara Lake

**Flag:**



The flag is a simplified combination of two single pennons known as a double-pennon. Its crimson red is the symbol of bravery and it also represents the color of the rhododendron, Nepal's national flower, while the blue border is the color of peace.

Nepal is divided into three main regions:

- 1. Mountainous Region**
- 2. Hilly region**
- 3. Plain region**

**Mountainous region:**

Nepal contains part of the Himalayas, the highest mountain range in the world. Eight of the fourteen eight-thousands are located in the country, either in whole or shared across a border with China or India. Nepal has the highest mountain in the world, Mount Everest as well as 1.310 peaks over 6.000 m height.



Great Himalayas, also called Higher Himalayas or Great Himalaya Range, highest and northernmost section of the Himalayan mountain ranges. It extends southeastward across northern Pakistan, northern India, and Nepal before trending eastward across Sikkim state (India) and Bhutan and finally turning northeastward across northern Arunachal Pradesh state.

### **Hilly Region:**

The Hill Region (called Pahar in Nepali) is mostly between 1,000 and 4,000 meters in altitude. It includes the Kathmandu Valley, the country's most fertile and urbanized area. Two major ranges of hills, commonly known as the Mahabharat Lekh and Siwalik Range, occupy the region. In addition, there are several intermontane valleys. Despite its geographical isolation and limited economic potential, the region always has been the political and cultural center of Nepal, with decision-making power centralized in Kathmandu, the nation's capital. Because of immigration from Tibet and India, the hill ranges historically have been the most heavily populated area. Despite heavy out-migration, the Hill Region comprised the largest share of the total population in 1991.



### **Plain region:**

The Terai or Tarai is a lowland region in northern India and southern Nepal that lies south of the outer foot hills of the Himalayas, the Sivalik Hills, and north of the Indo-Gangetic Plain. This lowland belt is characterised by tall grasslands, scrub savannah, sal forests and clay rich swamps. In northern India, the Terai spreads from the Yamuna River eastward across Haryana, Uttarakhand, Uttar Pradesh, Bihar and West Bengal. The Terai is part of the Terai-Duar savanna and grasslands ecoregion. The corresponding lowland region in West Bengal, Bangladesh, Bhutan and Assam in the Brahmaputra River basin is called 'Dooars'. [1] In Nepal, the Terai stretches over

33,998.8 km<sup>2</sup>, about 23.1% of Nepal's land area, and lies at an altitude of between 67 and 300 meters.



### River:

Nepal is among the richest in terms of water resource availability and it is one of the most important natural resource of the country. Water resources are abundant throughout the country in the form of snow covers, rivers, springs, lakes, and groundwater. The total renewable water resource of the country is estimated to be 237 km<sup>3</sup>/year (225 km<sup>3</sup>/year for surface sources and 12 km<sup>3</sup>/year for groundwater sources) and per capita water availability for 2001 was 9600 m<sup>3</sup>/capita/year.

Nepal can be divided into three major river systems from east to west: the Kosi River, the Narayani River (India's Gandak River), and the Karnali River. All ultimately become major tributaries of the Ganges River in northern India. After plunging through deep gorges, these rivers deposit their heavy sediments and debris on the plains, thereby nurturing them and renewing their alluvial soil fertility. Once they reach the Tarai Region, they often overflow their banks onto wide floodplains during the summer monsoon season, periodically shifting their courses. Besides providing fertile alluvial soil, the backbone of the agrarian economy, these rivers present great possibilities for hydroelectric and irrigation development.



## Religion in Nepal:

<u>Nepal Religiosity</u>	<u>Religion Percent</u>
▪ Hinduism	80.6%
▪ Buddhism	10.7%
▪ Islam	4.2%
▪ Mundhum	3.6%
▪ Christianity	0.5%
▪ Other	0.4%

## Geography of India



- 🚩 **Official name** The Republic of India
- 🚩 **Independency** 15 August 1947
- 🚩 **Coordinates** 20°00'N 77°00' E
- 🚩 **Area** Ranked 7<sup>th</sup> 3,287,590 km<sup>2</sup>
  - 90.44% **land**
  - 9.56% **water**
- 🚩 **Coastline** 7,516 km (4,670.23 miles)
- 🚩 **Borders** Total land borders: 14,103 km
  - **Bangladesh** 4,053 km

- **Bhutan** 605 km
- **Myanmar** 1,463 km
- **China (PRC)** 3,380 km
- **Nepal** 1,690 km
- **Pakistan** 2,912 km

🚩 <b>Highest point</b>	Kanchenjunga 8,598 m
🚩 <b>Lowest point</b>	Kuttanad -2.2 m
🚩 <b>Longest river</b>	Ganges- Brahmaputra
🚩 <b>Largest lake</b>	Chilka Lake
🚩 <b>Capital</b>	New Delhi
🚩 <b>Currency</b>	Indian Rupee
➤ <b>Flag:</b>	

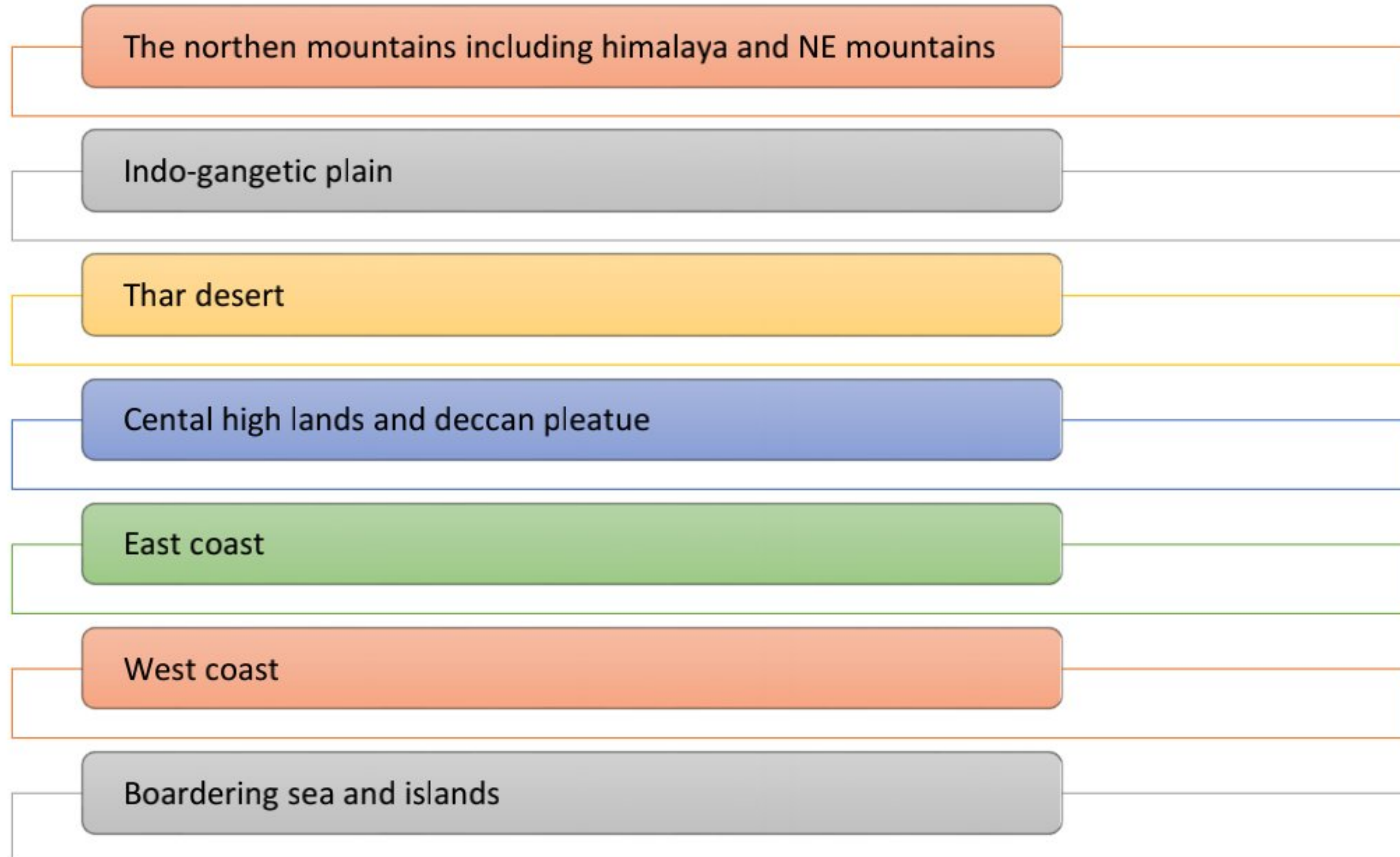


In the national flag of India the top band is of Saffron colour indicating the strength and courage of the country. The white middle band indicates peace and truth with Dharma Chakra. The last band is green in colour shows the fertility, growth and auspiciousness of the land.

➤ **Geographical Regions:**



India is divided into seven geographical regions



### ➤ **Mountains:**

A great arc of mountains composed of the Himalaya, Hindu Kush, and Patkai ranges, define the Indian subcontinent. These mountains were formed by the ongoing tectonic collision of the Indian Plate with the Eurasian Plate which started some 50 million years ago. India has seven major mountain ranges having peaks of over 1,000 m. The Himalayas are the only mountain ranges to have snow-capped peaks. These ranges are:

1. *Aravalli*
2. *Eastern Ghats*
3. *Himalayas*
4. *Patkai*
5. *Vindhyas*
6. *Sahyadri or Western Ghats*
7. *Satpuras*
8. *Karakoram*

The Himalaya mountain range is the world's highest mountain range. The Himalayas extend from the state of Jammu and Kashmir in the west to the state of Arunachal Pradesh in the east. Kangchenjunga, which lies in Sikkim, is the highest point in the country's territory. The **Shiwalik**, or lower Himalaya, consists of smaller hills towards the Indian side. The mountains on India's eastern border with Myanmar are called as the **Patkai** or the **Purvanchal**. They were created by the same tectonic processes.

The **Vindhya** range runs across most of central India covering a distance of 1,050 km.

The **Satpura** Range is a range of hills in central India. It begins in eastern Gujarat near the Arabian Sea coast then runs east through Maharashtra, Madhya Pradesh and ends in the state of Chhattisgarh.

The **Aravalli** Range is the oldest mountain range in India, running from northeast to southwest across Rajasthan in western India, extending approximately 500 km.

The **Western Ghats or Sahyadri mountains** run along the western edge of India's Deccan Plateau, and separate the Deccan plateau from a narrow coastal plain along the Arabian Sea. The range starts south of the Tapti River near the border of Gujarat and Maharashtra, and runs approximately 1,600 km.

The **Eastern Ghats** are a discontinuous range of mountains, which have been eroded and cut through by the four major rivers of southern India. These mountain ranges extend from West Bengal in the north, through Orissa and Andhra Pradesh to Tamil Nadu in the south.

### ➤ **Indo-Gangetic Plains:**

The **Indo-Gangetic plains** are large floodplains of the Indus and the Ganga - Brahmaputra river systems. They run parallel to the Himalaya mountains from Jammu and Kashmir in the west to Assam in the east, draining the states of Punjab, Haryana, eastern Rajasthan, Uttar Pradesh, Bihar, Jharkhand and West Bengal. The plains encompass an area of 700,000 km<sup>2</sup>.

The Indo-Gangetic belt is the world's most extensive expanse of uninterrupted alluvium formed by the deposition of silt by the numerous rivers. The plains are flat and mostly treeless.



### ➤ **Thar Desert:**

The Thar Desert also known as the **Great Indian Desert** is a hot desert that forms a significant portion of western India. Spread over four states in India Punjab, Haryana, Rajasthan, and Gujarat it covers an area of 208,110 km<sup>2</sup> (80,350 mile<sup>2</sup>). The desert continues into Pakistan as the Cholistan Desert. Most of the Thar Desert is situated in Rajasthan, covering 61% of its geographic area.



### ➤ **Plateaus:**

The Central Highlands are composed of three main plateaus:



1. The Malwa Plateau in the west the Deccan Plateau in the south, covering most of the Indian peninsula and the Chota Nagpur Plateau in Jharkhand towards the east.

2. The Deccan plateau is a large triangular plateau bounded by the Vindhyas to the north and flanked by the Eastern and Western Ghats. The Deccan covers a total area of 1.9 million km<sup>2</sup>. It is mostly flat with elevations ranging from 300 to 600 m.
3. The Chota Nagpur Plateau is a plateau in eastern India, which covers much of Jharkhand state as well as adjacent parts of Orissa, Bihar, and Chhattisgarh. The total area of Chota Nagpur Plateau is approximately 65,000 km<sup>2</sup>.

➤ **East Coast:**

The Eastern Coastal Plain is a wide stretch of land lying between the Eastern Ghats and the Bay of Bengal. It stretches from Tamil Nadu in the south to West Bengal in the north. The region receives both the Northeast and Southwest monsoon rains.

➤ **West Coast:**

The Western Coastal Plain is a narrow strip of land sandwiched between the Western Ghats and the Arabian Sea. The strip begins in Gujarat in the north and extends across the states of Maharashtra, Goa, Karnataka and Kerala. The plains are narrow, and range from 50 to 100 km in width.

➤ **Islands:**

India has two major offshore island possessions:

**1) Lakshadweep islands**

The Lakshadweep islands lie 200 to 300 km off the coast of Kerala in the Arabian Sea. It consists of twelve coral atolls, three coral reefs, and five banks. Ten of these islands are inhabited.

**2) Andaman and Nicobar Islands**

The Andaman and Nicobar island chain lies in the Bay of Bengal near the Myanmar coast. It is located 950 km from Kolkata and 193 km from Cape Negrais in Myanmar. The territory consists of two island groups, the Andaman Islands and the Nicobar Islands. The Andaman islands consist of 204 islands having a total length of 352 km. The Nicobar Islands, which lie south of the Andamans, consists of twenty-two islands with a total area of 1,841 km<sup>2</sup>.



### ➤ Rivers:

All major rivers of India originate from one of the three main watersheds. They are:

- i. The Himalaya and the Karakoram ranges
- ii. Vindhya and Satpura range in central India
- iii. Sahyadri or Western Ghats in western India

The **Himalayan river** networks are snow-fed and have a continuous flow throughout the year.

The other two networks are dependent on the monsoons and shrink into rivulets during the dry season. Twelve of India's rivers are classified as major, with the total catchment area exceeding 2,528,000 km<sup>2</sup>. The **Ganga-Brahmaputra-Meghana** system has the largest catchment area of 1,100,000 km<sup>2</sup>. The river Ganga originates at the Gangotri Glacier in Uttaranchal.

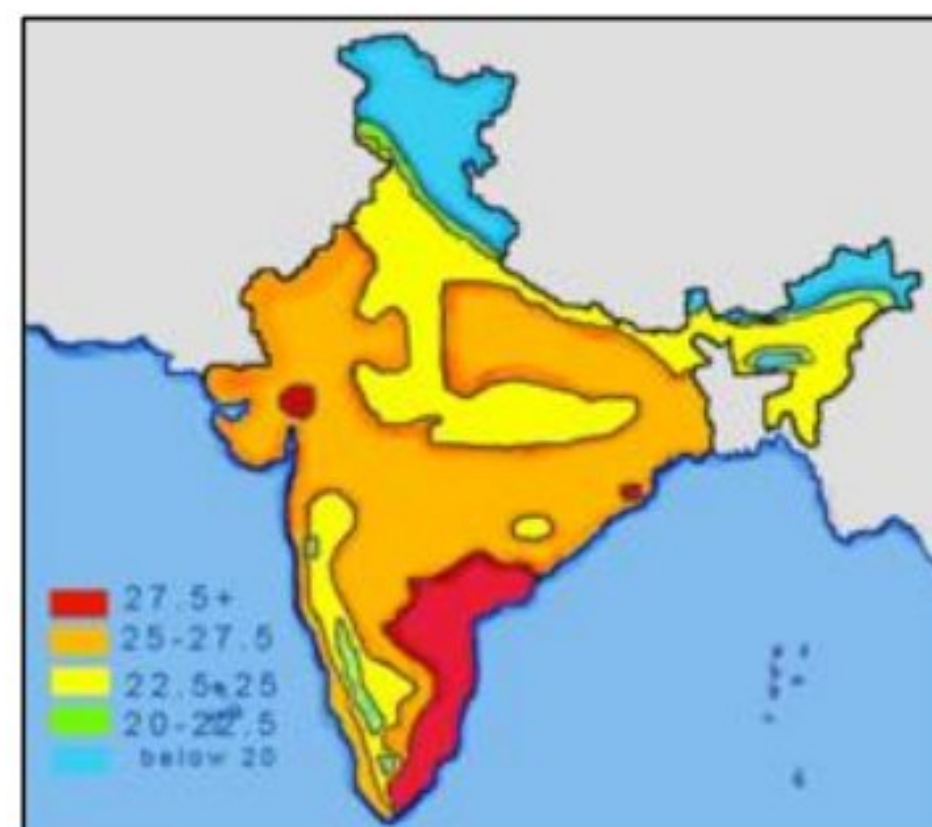
It flows in a south easterly direction, draining into Bangladesh. The **Yamuna and Gomti** rivers also arise in the Western Himalayas and join the Ganga river in the plains. The Brahmaputra, another tributary of the Ganga originates in Tibet and enters India in the far eastern state of Arunachal Pradesh. It then proceeds westwards, unifying with the Ganga in Bangladesh.

The Chambal another tributary of the Ganga originates from the Vindhya-Satpura watershed. The river flows eastward. Westward flowing rivers from this watershed are the **Narmada** also called **Nerbudda** and **Tapti** also spelled Tapi Rivers which drain into the Arabian Sea in Gujarat. The river network that flows from east to west constitutes 10% of the total outflow.

The Western Ghats are the source of all **Deccan rivers**. Major rivers in the Deccan include the Mahanadi River through the Mahanadi River Delta, Godavari River, Krishna River, and Kaveri Rivers all draining into the Bay of Bengal.

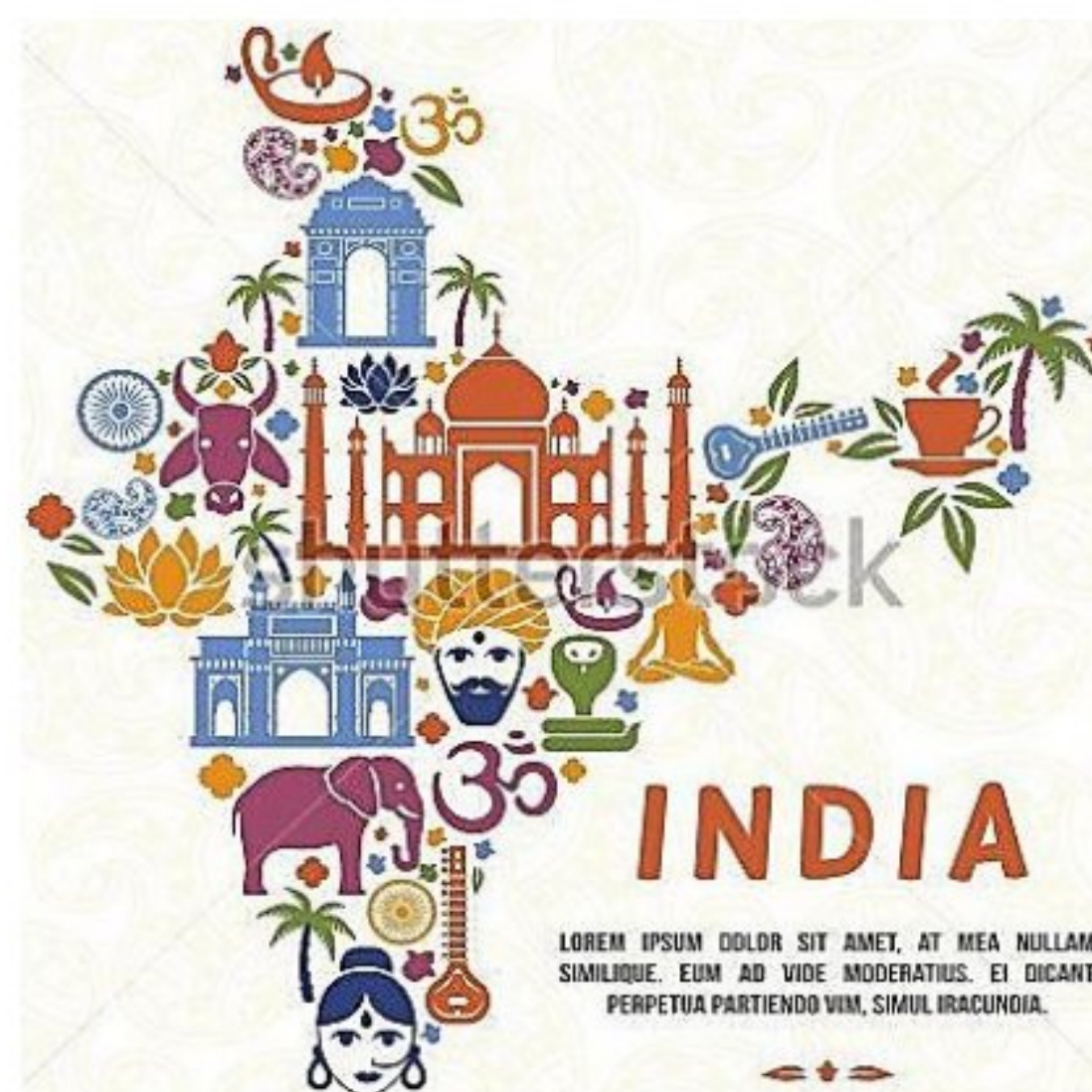
➤ **Climate:**

It is difficult to generalise India's climate. Meteorologists divide the year into four main seasons for most of the country: monsoon, summer, winter and withdrawal of the monsoons. Parts of India that lie in the Himalayan region see five seasons: spring, summer, monsoons, autumn and winter. Sustained snowfalls occur only in the elevated sections.



➤ **Culture:**

Over the centuries there has been a significant fusion of cultures between Buddhists, Hindus, Muslims, Jains, Sikhs and various tribal populations in India. India is the birthplace of Hinduism, Buddhism, Jainism, Sikhism, and other religions. They are collectively known as Indian religions.



## Geography of Afghanistan:



Afghanistan is completely landlocked the nearest coast lies along the Arabian Sea about 300 miles to the south and because of both its isolation and its volatile political history it remains one of the most poorly surveyed areas of the world. It is bounded to the east and south by Pakistan (including those areas of Kashmir administered by Pakistan but claimed by India), to the west by Iran, and to the north by the Central Asian states of Turkmenistan, Uzbekistan, and Tajikistan. It also has a short border with Xinjiang, China, at the end of the long, narrow Vākhān (Wakhan Corridor) in the extreme northeast. Its overall area is roughly twice that of Norway.

🚩 <b>Coordinates</b>	33°00'N 65°00'E
🚩 <b>Official name</b>	Islamic Republic of Afghanistan
🚩 <b>Independency</b>	19 August 1919
🚩 <b>Highest point</b>	Nowshak, 7,486 m
🚩 <b>Lowest point</b>	Amu Darya near Khamyab District, 258 m
🚩 <b>Capital</b>	Kabul
🚩 <b>Area</b>	Ranked 41 <sup>st</sup> 647,500 km <sup>2</sup> , 0 km <sup>2</sup> (landlocked)
🚩 <b>Coastline</b>	0
🚩 <b>Official language</b>	Dari, Pashto
🚩 <b>Official Religion</b>	Islam
🚩 <b>Population</b>	33,110,000
🚩 <b>Population rank</b>	42
🚩 <b>Money</b>	Afghnai

- ✚ **Longest river** Helmand River
- ✚ **Largest lake** Kajaki Dam, Dahla Dam, Naghlu Dam, Band-e Amir, Qargha
- ✚ **Climate** Arid to semiarid; cold winters and hot summers
- ✚ **Borders** Afghanistan has 5529 km of borders.
  - Pakistan: 2,430 km, known as the Durand Line. This is in the south and southeast of Afghanistan.
  - Iran, to the west of Afghanistan. The border is 936 km long
  - Tajikistan has a border of 1,206 km with Afghanistan to the north
  - Turkmenistan has a border of 744 km
  - Uzbekistan has a border of 137 km
  - Afghanistan also has a disputed border with China. It is 76 km in length and is in the far northeast of the country. This is disputed by Pakistan and Tajikistan which both claim the area.

➤ **Flag:**



The national flag of Afghanistan features three vertical tricolor bands. The colors used are black, red, and green. The black symbolizes the dark, troubled past of the nation. The green represents both Islam and prosperity, while the red represents the blood shed by those who fought for the country's independence.

➤ **Mountain System:**

The **Hindu Kush** mountain range reaches a height of 7,492 m at Noshaq, Afghanistan's highest peak. Of the ranges extending southwestward from the Hindu Kush the Foladi peak (Shah



Foladi) of the **Baba mountain range** (Koh-i-Baba) reaches the greatest height 5,142 m. The **Safed Koh** range which includes the Tora Bora area, dominates the border area southeast of Kabul.

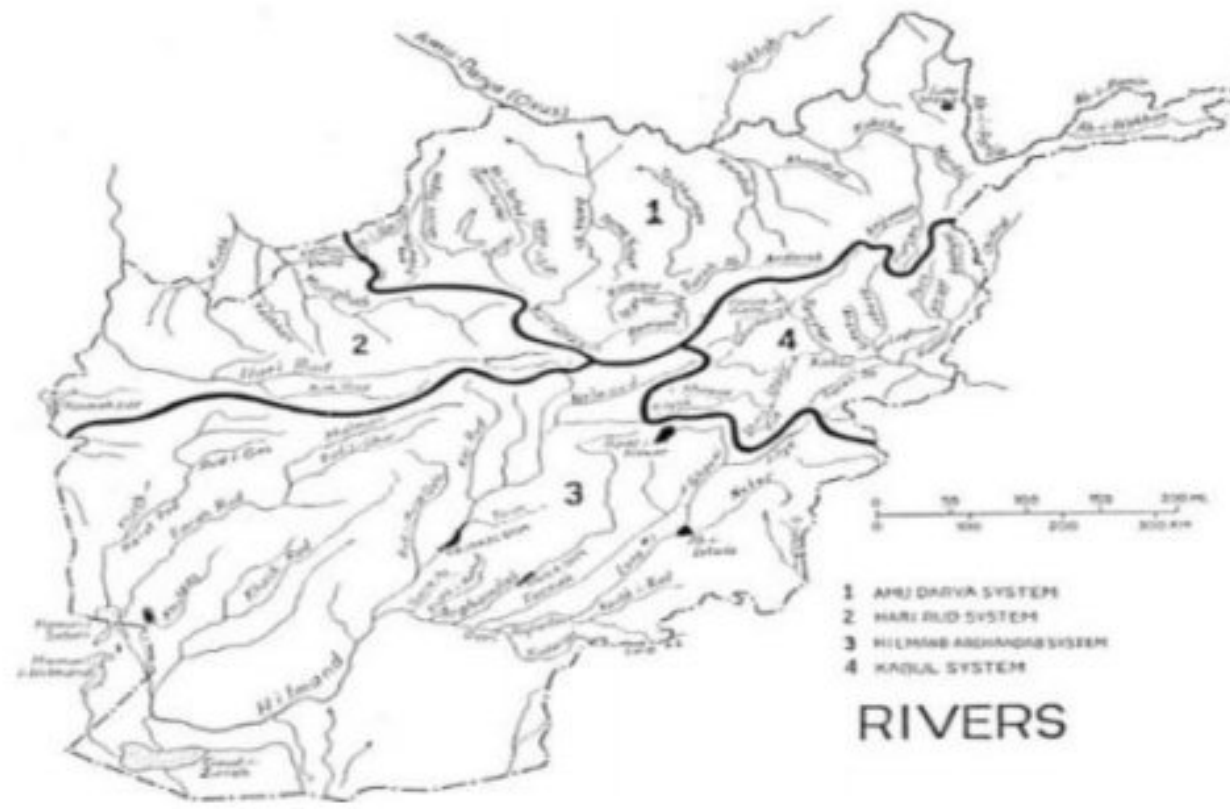


Important passes include the **Unai Pass** across the Safed Koh, the **Kushan and Salang Passes** through the Hindu Kush, and the **Khyber Pass** that connects Afghanistan with Pakistan. The summit of the Khyber Pass at 1,070 m at Landi Kotal, Pakistan is 5 km east of the border town of Torkham. Other key passages through the mountainous Pakistan border include two from Paktika Province into Pakistan's Waziristan region, one at Angoor Ada, and one further south at the Gumal River crossing, plus the Charkai River passage south of Khost, Afghanistan, at Pakistan's Ghulam Khan village into North Waziristan.

### ➤ Rivers:

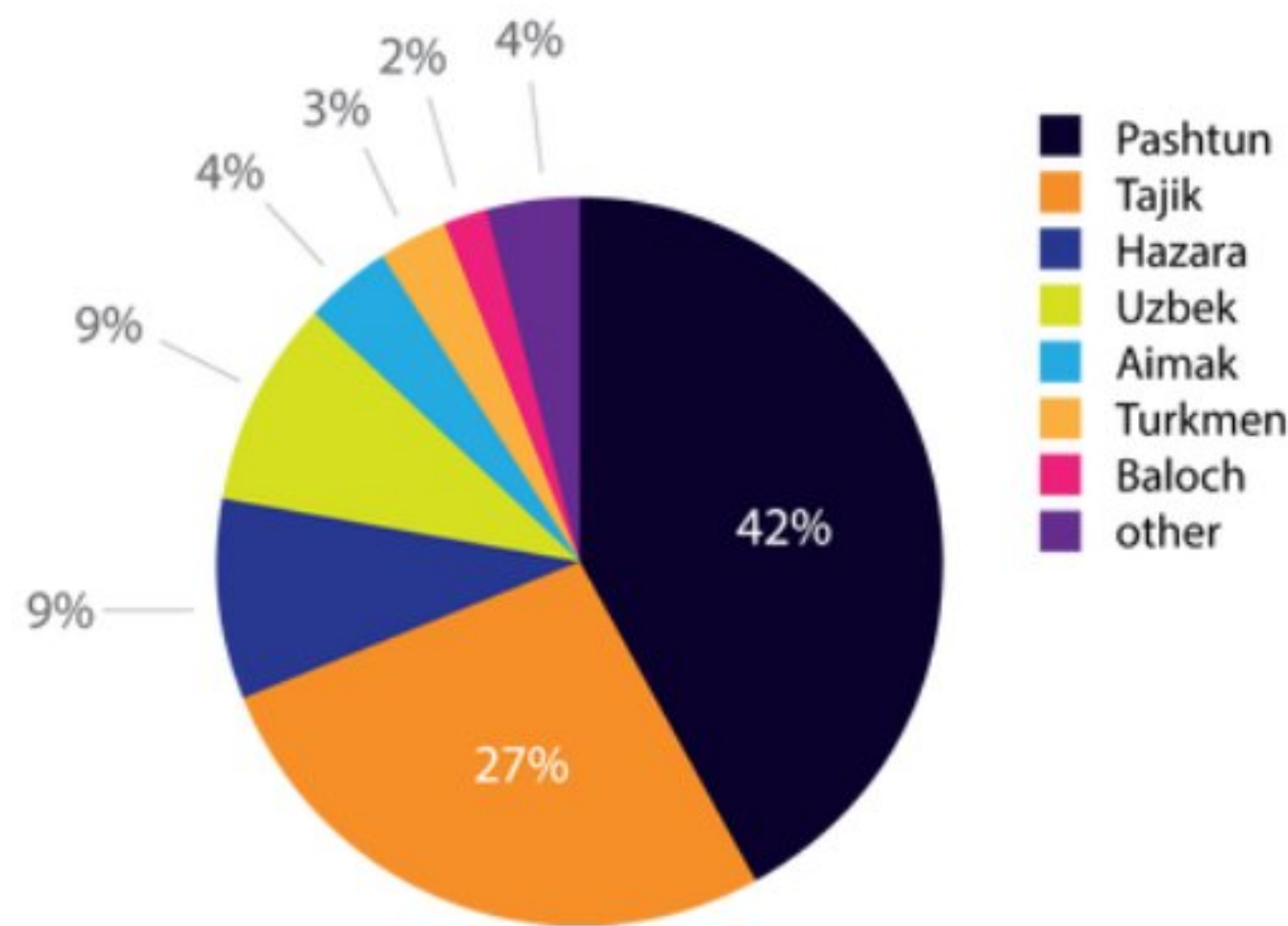
In fact, more than 80% of Afghanistan's water resources originate in the Hindu Kush Mountains. The snow accumulates in the winter, and melts in the spring. This, along with the melting of the glaciers in the summer feed important rivers.

The four major river systems are the **Amu Darya**, the **Oxus** of antiquity, **the Hilmand**, **the Harirud** and **the Kabul**. Only the Kabul River, joining the Indus system in Pakistan, leads to the sea.



➤ **Ethnic groups:**

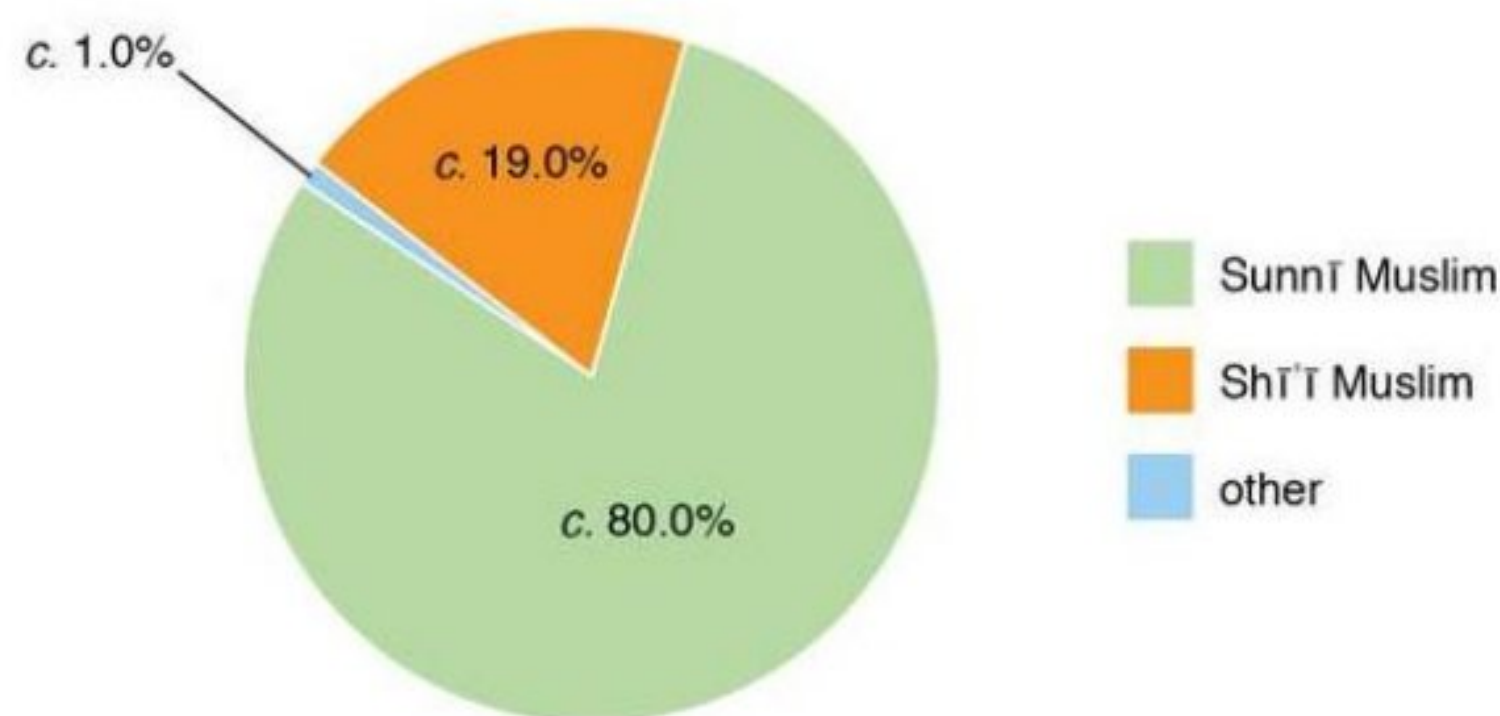
Percentage Breakdown of Ethnic Groups in **Afghanistan**



➤ **Religion:**

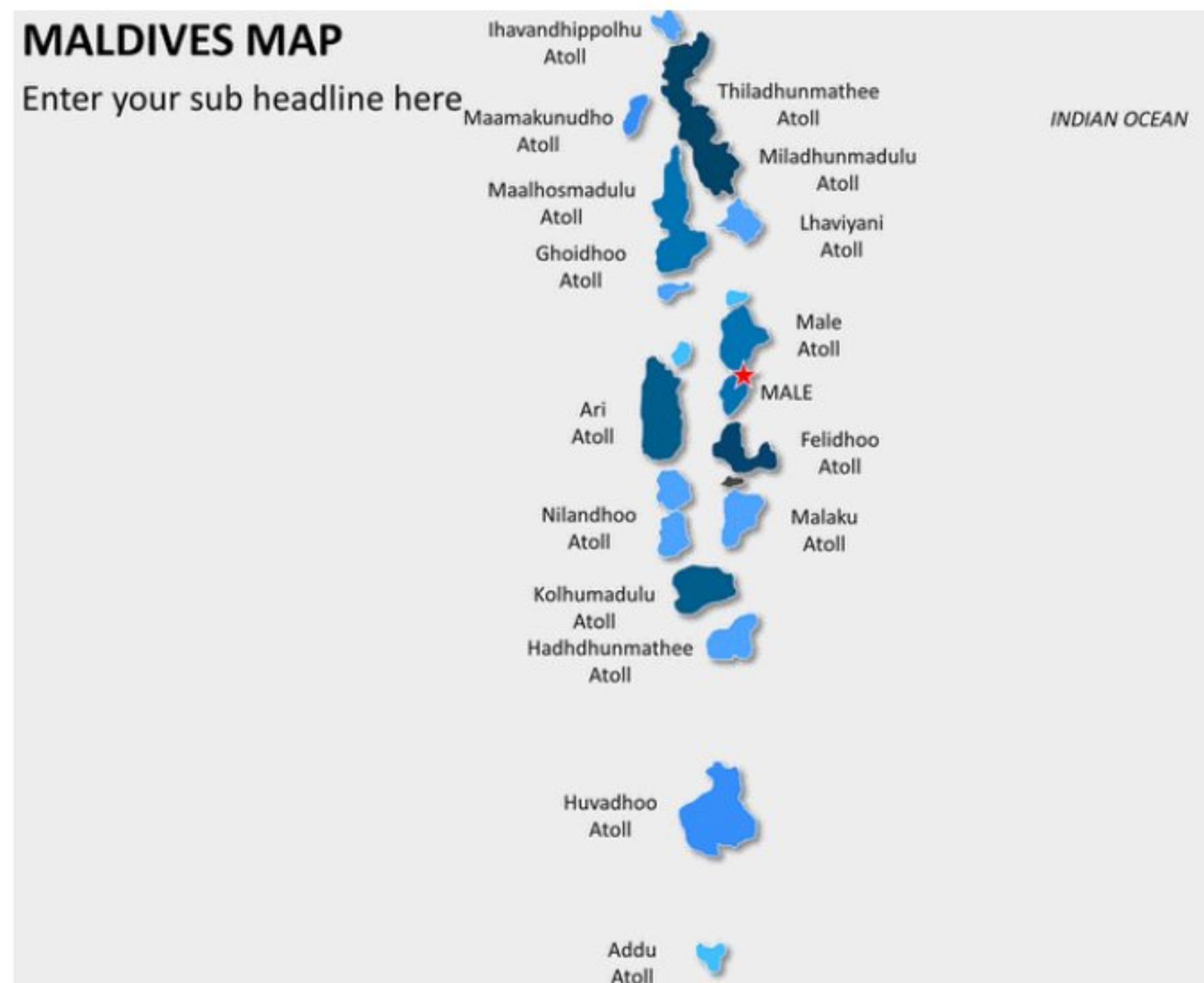
Virtually all the people of Afghanistan are Muslims of whom some fourth-fifths are Sunnis of the Ḥanafī branch. The others, particularly the Ḥazāra and Kizilbash, follow either Twelver or Ismā'īlī Shi'i Islam.

Religious affiliation (2009)



## Geography of Maldives:

The islands extend more than 510 miles from north to south and 80 miles from east to west. The northernmost atoll is about 370 miles south-southwest of the Indian mainland, and the central area, including the capital island of Male is about 400 miles southwest of Sri Lanka.



<b>Area:</b>	Ranked 186 <sup>th</sup>
<b>Official name</b>	Maldives Island and Republic of Maldives
<b>Lowest point:</b>	Pacific Ocean; 0 m
<b>Highest point:</b>	unnamed location on Vilingili Island in the Addu Atoll 2.4 metres
<b>Region:</b>	Indian Ocean
<b>Exclusive economic zone</b>	923,322 km <sup>2</sup>
<b>Coastline:</b>	1,129 km
<b>Climate:</b>	tropical; hot, humid; dry, northeast monsoon (November to March) rainy, southwest monsoon (June to August)

<b>Capital</b>	MALE
<b>Languages Spoken</b>	Maldivian Dhivehi (dialect of Sinhala, script derived from Arabic), English spoken by most government officials
<b>Independence:</b>	26 July 1965 (from UK)
<b>National Holiday:</b>	Independence Day, 26 July (1965)
<b>Nationality</b>	Maldivian(s)
<b>Religions</b>	Sunni Muslim

➤ **Flag:**



The red rectangle represents the boldness of the nation's heroes, and their willingness to sacrifice their every drop of blood in defense of their country. The green rectangle in the center symbolizes peace and prosperity. The white crescent moon symbolizes the Islamic faith of the state and authorities.

➤ **Land & Temperature**

The Maldivian Islands are a series of coral atolls built up from the crowns of a submerged ancient volcanic mountain range. All the islands are low-lying, none rising to more than 6 feet above sea level. Barrier reefs protect the islands from the destructive effects of monsoons. The rainy

season, from May to August, is brought by the southwest monsoon; from December to March the northeast monsoon brings dry and mild winds. The average annual temperature varies from 24 to 30 °C. Rainfall averages about 84 inches per year. The atolls have sandy beaches, lagoons, and a luxuriant growth of coconut palms, together with breadfruit trees and tropical bushes.



#### ➤ Resources and land uses:

**Natural resources:** fish

**Land use:** arable land 10%, permanent crops: 10%, other 80% (2011)

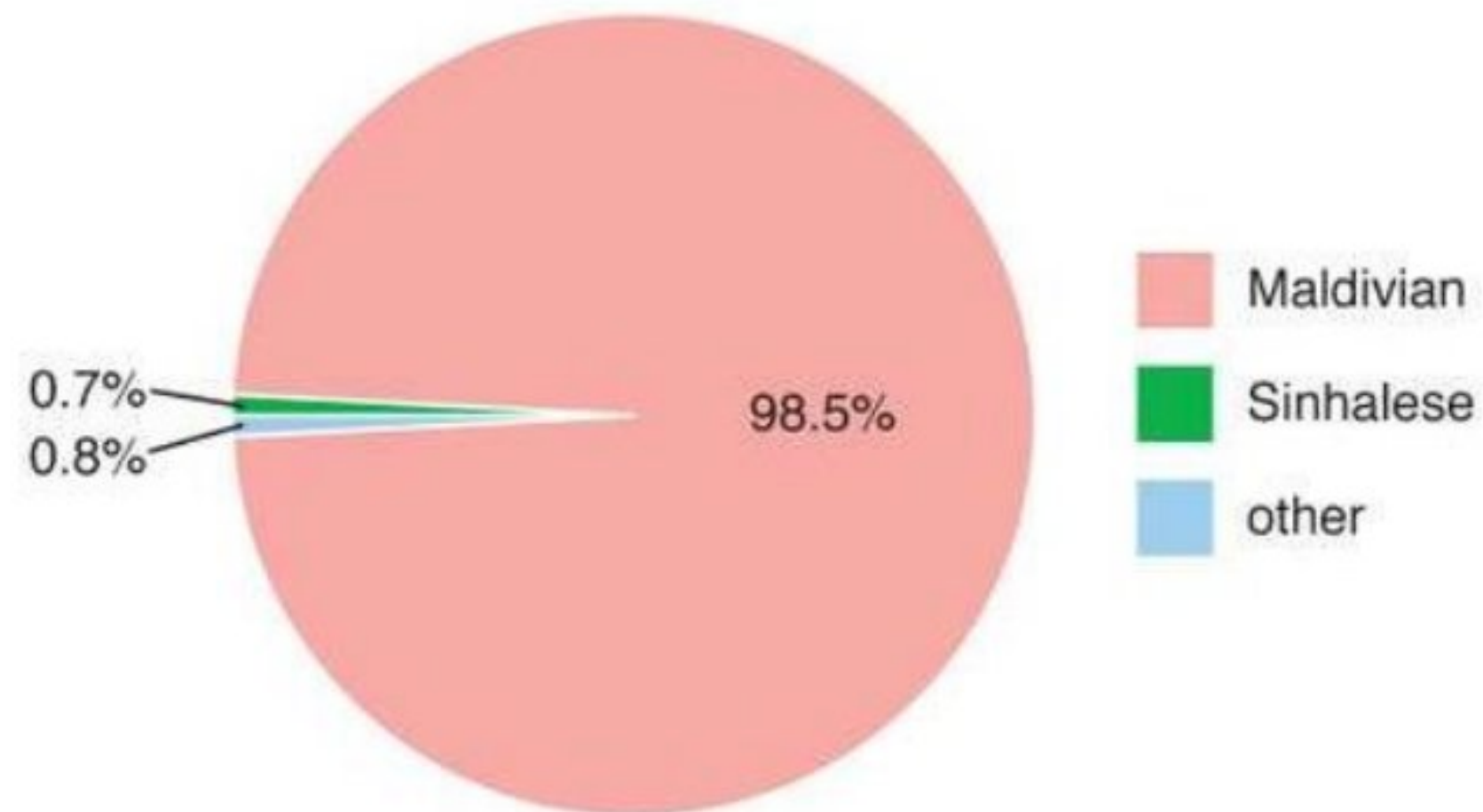
**Irrigated land:** 0 km<sup>2</sup>

**Total renewable water resources:** 0.03 km<sup>3</sup> (2011)

#### ➤ People

The population of Maldives belongs almost entirely to the Maldivian ethnic group, which is the result of various peoples settling in the islands successively through the country's history. The first settlers, it is generally believed, were **Tamil** and **Sinhalese** peoples from southern India and Sri Lanka. **Traders** from Arab countries, **Malaya, Madagascar, Indonesia, and China** visited the islands through the centuries. The official language is an Indo-European language called Dhivehi or Maldivian Arabic, Hindi, and English are also spoken. Islam is the state religion.










### Ethnic composition (2000)\*



### Geography of Bhutan:



- 🚩 **Continent:** Asia
- 🚩 **Sub-region:** South Asia
- 🚩 **Official name** Kingdom of Bhutan
- 🚩 **Total population** 771,608
- 🚩 **Capital** Thimphu
- 🚩 **Geographic coordinates:** 27°30'N 90°30'E
- 🚩 **Area:** Ranked 137th
- 🚩 **Total:** 38,394 km<sup>2</sup>
- 🚩 **Water:** 0 km<sup>2</sup> (landlocked)

 <b>Coastline:</b>	0 km
 <b>Land boundaries:</b>	1,136 km (706 mi)
 <b>Countries bordered:</b>	
 China	477 km
 India	659 km
 <b>Highest point:</b>	Gangkhar Puensum, 7,570 m
 <b>Lowest point:</b>	Drangme Chhu, 97 m
 <b>Longest river:</b>	Largest inland body of water
 <b>Land Use</b>	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Arable land: 2.62%</li> <li>• Permanent crops: 0.34%</li> <li>• Other: 97.27%</li> <li>• Irrigated Land: 319.1 km<sup>2</sup> (2010)</li> </ul>

➤ **Climate:**

Varies; tropical in southern plains; cool winters and hot summers in central valleys; severe winters and cool summers in Himalayas

➤ **Natural resources:**

Timber, hydropower, gypsum, calcium carbonate

➤ **Natural hazards:**

Violent storms from the Himalayas are the source of the country's name, which translates as Land of the Thunder Dragon; frequent landslides during the rainy season

Environmental issues soil erosion; limited access to potable water

➤ **Flag:**



Divided diagonally from the lower hoist-side corner to the upper fly-side corner; the upper triangle is yellow and the lower triangle is orange, with a white dragon holding four jewels in its claws centered along the dividing line and facing away from the hoist.

➤ **Location:**

Bhutan, situated between India and China, is a potential Sino-Indian battleground; India currently has more political influence in the nation. Bhutan controls several strategic mountain passes through the Himalayas, allowing travel between Tibet and Assam. These passes are also the only way into the kingdom, and, coupled with its centuries-old policies of isolationism, it has been called the "Mountain Fortress of the Gods."

➤ **Glaciers:**

Glaciers in northern Bhutan, which covered about 10 percent of the total surface area in the 1980s, are an important renewable source of water for Bhutan's rivers. Fed by fresh snow each winter and slow melting in the summer, the glaciers bring millions of litres of fresh water to Bhutan and downriver areas each year. Glacial melt adds to monsoon-swollen rivers, however, also contributes to flooding. Where glacial movement temporarily blocks riverflows, downstream areas may be threatened by glacial lake outburst floods.





## ➤ Rivers:

Bhutan has four major river systems: the Drangme Chhu; the Puna Tsang Chhu, also called the Sankosh; the Wang Chhu; and the Amo Chhu. Each flows swiftly out of the Himalayas, southerly through the Doars to join the Brahmaputra River in India, and thence through Bangladesh where the Brahmaputra (or Jamuna in Bangladesh) joins the mighty Ganges (or Padma in Bangladesh) to flow into the Bay of Bengal. The largest river system, the Drangme Chhu, flows southwesterly from India's state of Arunachal Pradesh and has three major branches: the Drangme Chhu, Mangde Chhu, and Bumthang Chhu.

These branches form the Drangme Chhu basin, which spreads over most of eastern Bhutan and drains the Tongsa and Bumthang valleys. In the Duars, where eight tributaries join it, the Drangme Chhu is called the Manas Chhu. The 320-kilometer-long Puna Tsang Chhu rises in northwestern Bhutan as the Mo Chhu and Pho Chhu, which are fed by the snows from the Great Himalayan Range.



## ➤ Valleys:

Bhutan's valleys are carved into the Himalaya by its rivers, fed by glacial melt and monsoon rains. Much of the Bhutanese population is concentrated in valleys and lowlands, separated by rugged southward spurs of the Inner Himalaya.

Despite modernization and development of transport in Bhutan, including a national highway system, travel from one valley to the next remains difficult.

Western valleys are bound to the east by the Black Mountains in central Bhutan, which form a watershed between two major river systems, the Mo Chhu and the Drangme Chhu. Central valleys are separated from the east by the Donga Range. The more isolated mountain valleys protect several tiny, distinct cultural and linguistic groups.



### ➤ Religion:

Bhutanese society is centered around the practice of Buddhism which is the main religion. Religious beliefs are evidenced in all aspects of life. Prayer flags flutter on hillsides, offering up prayers to benefit all nearby sentient beings. Houses each fly a small white flag on the roof indicating the owner has made his offering payments to appease the local god. Each valley or district is dominated by a huge dzong, or high-walled fortress which serves the religious and administrative center of the district.

Approximately **23%** of the population *is Hindu*. There is a *small Muslim* population in Bhutan covering **0.2%** of the whole country's population. Overall **75%** of the population is *Buddhist* and **0.4% other** religions.



# Geography of Bangladesh

Bangladesh, country of South Asia, located in the delta of the Padma (Ganges) and Jamuna (Brahmaputra) rivers in the northeastern part of the Indian subcontinent.



🚩 <b>Official name:</b>	The People's Republic of Bangladesh
🚩 <b>Capital:</b>	Dhaka
🚩 <b>Independence:</b>	26 March 1971
🚩 <b>Official language:</b>	Bengali (Bangla)
🚩 <b>Official religion:</b>	Islam
🚩 <b>Monetary unit:</b>	Bangladesh taka (Tk)
🚩 <b>Population:</b>	166,585,000
🚩 <b>Population Rank:</b>	8
🚩 <b>Population projection:</b>	183,691,000
🚩 <b>Total area (SQ KM):</b>	147,570 <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• land: 130,170 km<sup>2</sup></li><li>• water: 18,290 km<sup>2</sup></li></ul>
🚩 <b>Coordinates:</b>	23.6850° N, 90.3563° E
🚩 <b>Capital:</b>	Dhaka
🚩 <b>Highest point:</b>	Keokradong 986 meters
🚩 <b>Lowest point:</b>	Indian Ocean 0 m

🚩 **Land boundaries:** Total 4,413 km, border countries:

- Myanmar 271 km
- India 4,142 km

🚩 **Coastline:** 580 km

➤ **Flag:**



The disc represents the sun rising over Bengal, and also the blood of those who died for the independence of Bangladesh. The green field stands for the lushness of the land of Bangladesh and the eternal youth of Bangladeshis.

➤ **Mountains:**

Bangladesh is a low-lying country. The only exceptions are the Chittagong Hills in the south-east, the Low Hills of Sylhet in the northeast and highlands in the north and northwest. Kala pahar 1,098 feet is the highest point of greater Sylhet and also the northern part of Bangladesh. The Chittagong Hills, which constitute the only significant hill system in the country, rise steeply to narrow ridge lines, with altitudes from 600 to 1,000 m above sea level. At 1,063 metres altitude, the highest elevation in Bangladesh is Saka Haphong at Mowdok range, in the southeastern part of the hills. Highly elevated peaks of this area can also be called mountains as hills above 2,000 feet with a distinct peak are referred as mountains. Seventy-five such mountains have been identified and mapped in the Hill Tracts.

➤ **Rivers:**

Most of Bangladesh is located within the floodplains of three great rivers: the Ganges, Brahmaputra and Meghna (GBM), and their tributaries, such as the Teesta, Dharla, Dudhkumar, Surma and Kushiara. The three major river systems drain into the Bay of Bengal through Bangladesh:

1. The **Brahmaputra river** enters Bangladesh from the north and flows south for 270 km to join the Ganges river at Aricha, about 70 km west of Dhaka in central Bangladesh.
2. The **Ganges river** flows east-southeast for 212 km from the Indian border to its confluence with the Brahmaputra, then as the Padma river for about a further 100 km to its confluence with the Meghna river at Chandpur.
3. The **Meghna river** flows southwest, draining eastern Bangladesh and the hills of Assam, Tripura and Meghalay of India to join the Padma river at Chandpur. The Meghna then flows south for 160 km and discharges into the Bay of Bengal.

The combined discharge of the three main rivers is among the highest in the world. There are 230 rivers criss-crossing the country, most of which are either tributaries or distributaries to the GBM river systems.

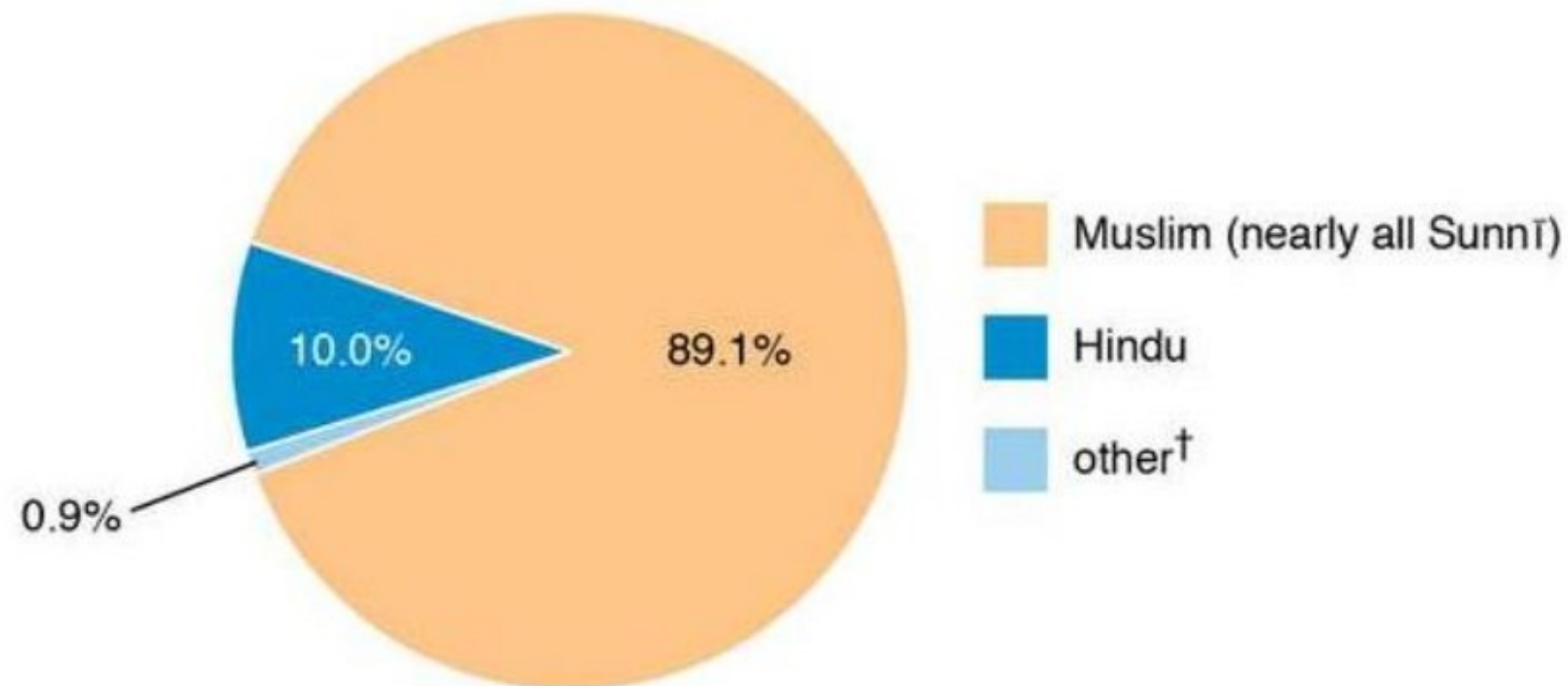


### ➤ **Ethnic people:**

The vast majority of the population is ethnically Bengali, an Indo-Aryan ethnic group that is a mosaic of peoples who have crossed through the region. About 98% of people in Bangladesh identify with this ethnicity, making them a strong cultural and political majority.

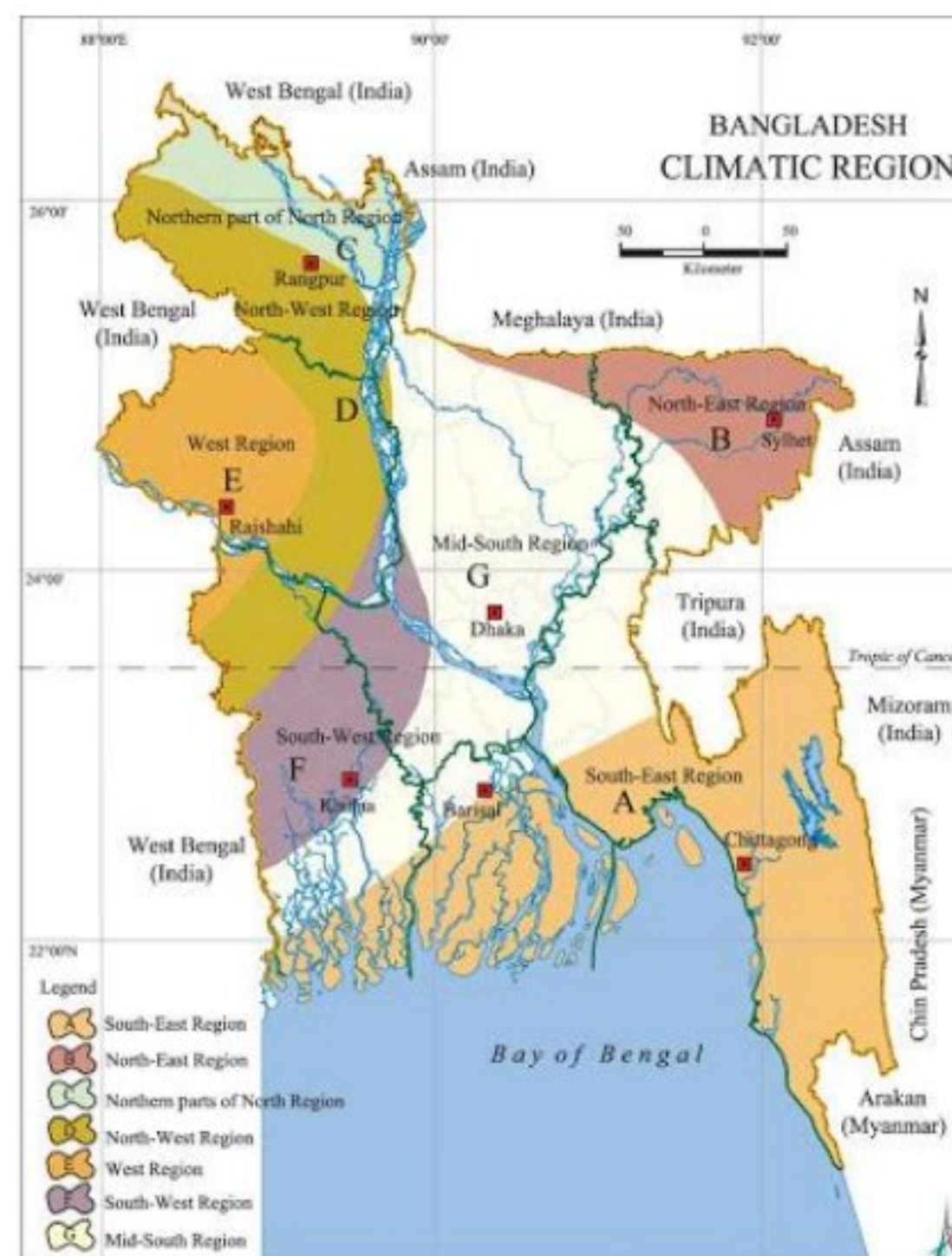
## ➤ Religion:

Most of the people of Bangladesh follow the religion of Islam.



## ➤ Climate:

Bangladesh has a subtropical monsoon climate characterized by wide seasonal variations in rainfall, high temperatures and humidity. There are three distinct seasons in Bangladesh: a hot, humid summer from March to June; a cool, rainy monsoon season from June to October; and a cool, dry winter from October to March.

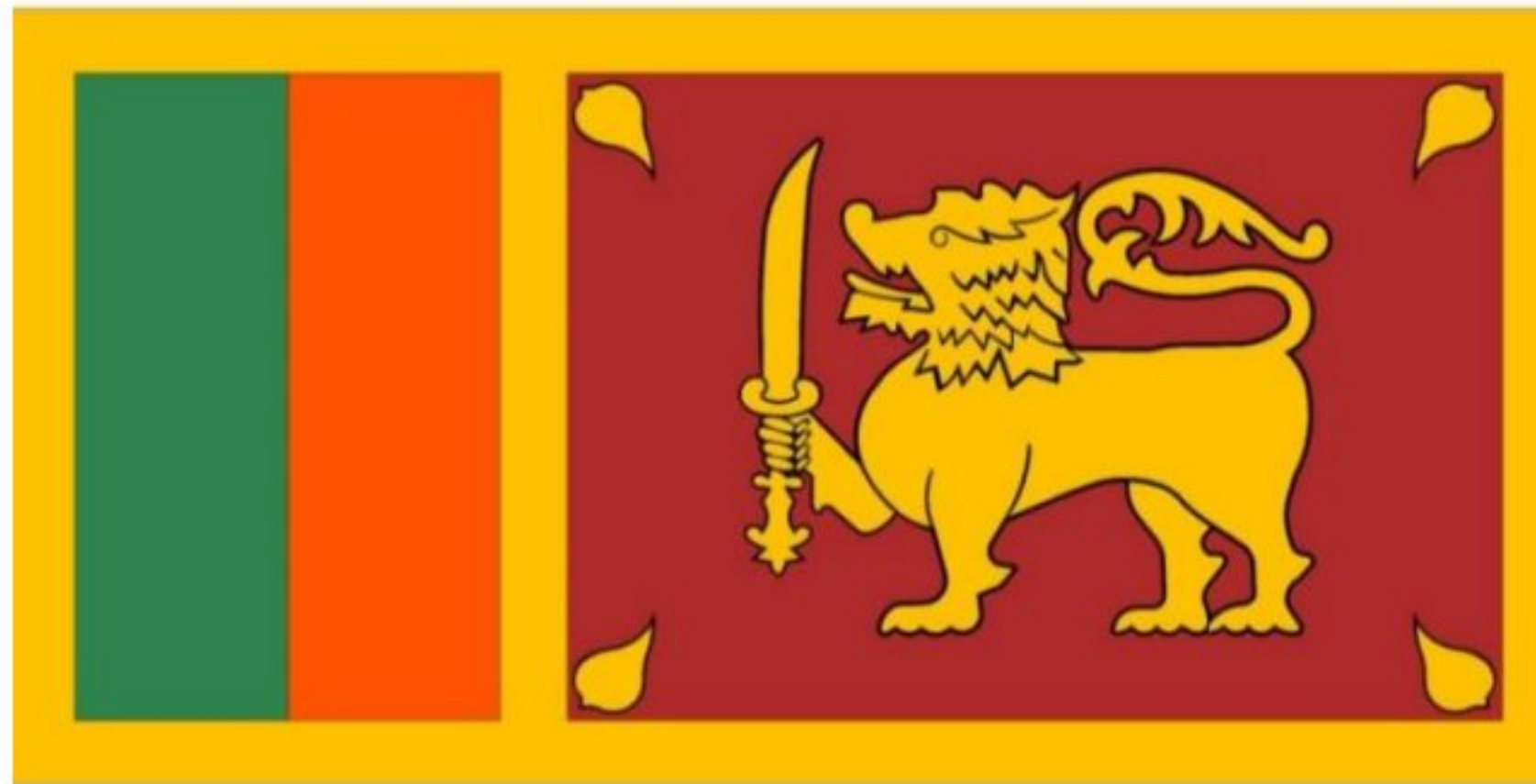


## Geography of Sri-lanka:



🚩 Official name	Sri-Lanka
🚩 Capital	Colombo
🚩 Indecence	4 february 1948
🚩 Location	Indian Ocean
🚩 Coordinates	7°N 81°E
🚩 Area	65,612 km <sup>2</sup> (25,333 sq mi)
🚩 Coastline	1,340 km (833 mi)
🚩 Highest elevation	2,524.13 m (8281.27 ft)
🚩 Highest point	Pidurutalagala
🚩 Population	21.67 million (2018)
🚩 Official language	Sinhala, Tamil
🚩 Currency	Sri Lankan rupee

➤ **Flag:**



A red field with the flag of Sri Lanka in the canton. ... The stripes represent the two main minorities: the orange representing the Sri Lankan Tamils and the green representing Sri Lankan Muslims. The Asiatic lion in Sri Lanka's flag is derived from the banner of the last King of Sri Lanka. In our current flag it represents the fact that the major ethnicity in Sri Lanka is Sinhalese.

➤ **Relief:**

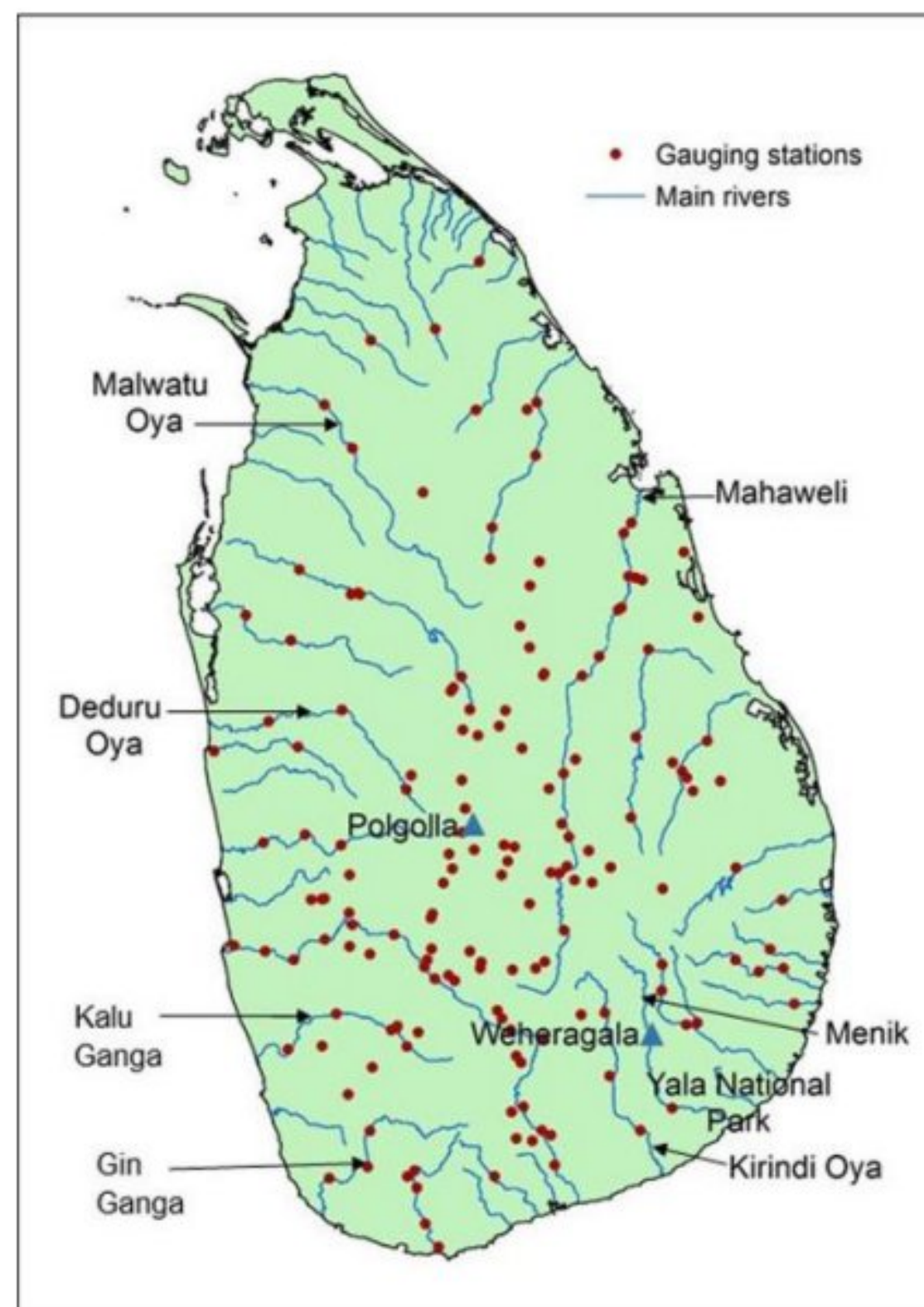
A roughly triangular mountainous area known as the Central Highlands occupies the south-central region of Sri Lanka and is the heart of the country. This highland mass is surrounded by a diverse plain, the general elevation of which ranges from sea level to about 1,000 feet. This plain accounts for about five-sixths of the country's total area. The Central Highlands have a highly dissected terrain consisting of a unique arrangement of plateaus, ridges, escarpments, intermontane basins, and valleys. Sri Lanka's highest mountains Pidurutalagala at 8,281 feet, Kirigalpotta at 7,858 feet, and Adam's Peak at 7,559 feet are found in this area. The highlands, except on their western and southwestern flanks, are sharply defined by a series of escarpments, the most spectacular being the so-called World's End, a near-vertical precipice of about 4,000 feet.

➤ **Rivers:**

There are 103 rivers in the country starting by the central highlands and ending by the Indian Ocean. Some of the major rivers are:



- Mahaweli River
- Malvathu River
- Kala Oya
- Kelani River
- Yan Oya
- Deduru Oya
- Walawe River
- Maduru Oya
- Maha Oya
- Kalu Ganga
- Kirindi Oya
- Kumbukkan Oya
- Menik Ganga
- Gin Ganga
- Mi Oya
- Gal Oya



➤ **Climate:**

Sri Lanka's climate is tropical and consists of distinct wet and dry seasons. Generally speaking, the coastal areas of Sri Lanka enjoy temperatures averaging 28°C while the upland areas are cooler and more temperate, with a yearly average around 16-20°C.

➤ **Culture:**

The culture of Sri Lanka mixes modern elements with traditional aspects and is known for its regional diversity. Sri Lankan culture has long been influenced by the heritage of Theravada Buddhism passed on from India, and the religion's legacy is particularly strong in Sri Lanka's southern and central regions.



➤ **Language & Religion:**

Among the principal ethnic groups, language and religion determine identity. While the mother tongue of the Sinhalese is Sinhala an Indo-Aryan language the Tamils speak the Dravidian language of Tamil. Again, while more than 90 percent of the Sinhalese are Buddhists, both Sri Lankan and Indian Tamils are overwhelmingly Hindu. The Muslims adherents of Islam usually speak Tamil. Christianity draws its followers from among the Sinhalese, Tamil, and Burgher communities.

### Religious affiliation (2012)

