General Awareness

Geography

India and its Location

Topic	Details	Important Notes for SSC CGL
Location of India	In **Southern Asia**, lies entirely in the **Northern & Eastern Hemisphere**	Positioned in the **south-central part of the Asian continent**
Latitude (North–South extent)	**8°4'N to 37°6'N**	Northernmost: Indira Col (Jammu & Kashmir) Southernmost (mainland): Kanyakumari (Tamil Nadu) Overall southernmost: **Indira Point** (Great Nicobar)
Longitude (East–West extent)	**68°7'E to 97°25'E**	Determines **time zones** and sunrise variation
Length and Breadth	**North to South**: ~3,214 km **East to West**: ~2,933 km	Total area: **3.28 million sq. km** (7th largest country)
Area Rank in the World	**7th largest**	After Russia, Canada, China, USA, Brazil, and Australia
Standard Meridian of India	**82°30'E** longitude	Passes through **Mirzapur (Uttar Pradesh)**; used for **Indian Standard Time (IST)**
IST vs GMT	**+5 hours 30 minutes ahead of GMT**	Uniform time for the entire country
Tropic of Cancer	**23°30'N** latitude	Passes through **8 Indian states**: Gujarat, Rajasthan, MP, Chhattisgarh, Jharkhand, West Bengal, Tripura, Mizoram
Neighboring Countries	**7 total**: Pakistan, Afghanistan, China, Nepal, Bhutan, Bangladesh, Myanmar	India also shares maritime borders with Sri Lanka, Maldives, Indonesia
Land Frontier Length	**15,106 km**	Shared with 7 countries
Coastline Length	**7,516.6 km** (mainland + islands)	**Mainland coast**: 6,100 km
Time Difference (East to West India)	Approx. **2 hours**	Due to longitudinal width of ~29°
Mainland Extremes	North: Indira Col South: Kanyakumari East: Kibithu (Arunachal Pradesh) West: Guhar Moti (Gujarat)	Important for **map-based questions**
Southernmost Point (India)	**Indira Point** (Nicobar Islands)	Submerged during 2004 Tsunami; still officially recognized

The Himalayas

Category	Details	Important Points for SSC
Location	Northern border of India, running in west-east direction from **Indus River (J&K)** to **Brahmaputra River (Arunachal Pradesh)**	Acts as a natural barrier; separates Indian subcontinent from Tibet
Length	Approx. **2,400 km**	From **Jammu & Kashmir** to **Arunachal Pradesh**
Width	200–400 km	Wider in the west, narrower in the east
Formation	Formed by **collision of Indo-Australian and Eurasian plates**	Example of **fold mountains**
Age	Youngest mountain range in the world	Tectonically active and still rising

Three Parallel Ranges of the Himalayas

Range	Other Name	Location	Key Features
Greater Himalayas	**Himadri**	Northernmost	Tallest and most continuous range Contains **Mount Everest (8,848.86 m)** & **Kanchenjunga (India's highest peak - 8,586 m)** Composed mainly of granite Source of major glaciers
Lesser Himalayas	**Himachal**	South of Himadri	Rugged terrain, more weathered Important hill stations: **Shimla, Mussoorie, Nainital** Popular valleys: **Kangra, Kullu**
Shiwalik	**Outer Himalayas**	Southernmost	Youngest and most unstable Formed by unconsolidated sediments Known for **Duns (valleys)** like **Dehradun, Patli Dun**

Regional Divisions of the Himalayas (West to East)

Section	Extent	State(s) Covered	Notes
Punjab Himalayas	Indus to Satluj	J&K, Himachal Pradesh	Also called **Kashmir Himalayas**
Kumaon Himalayas	Satluj to Kali River	Uttarakhand	Includes Nainital, Almora
Nepal Himalayas	Kali to Tista River	Runs through Nepal	Contains major peaks like Everest, Makalu
Sikkim Himalayas	Tista to Brahmaputra	Sikkim, N Bengal	Includes **Kanchenjunga**
Arunachal Himalayas	East of Dihang gorge	Arunachal Pradesh	Highly dissected & covered with dense forests

Important Himalayan Passes

Pass Name	State/Region	Connects	Significance
Zoji La	J&K	Srinagar to Leh	Strategic military route
Shipki La	Himachal Pradesh	India–Tibet	Trade route
Nathu La	Sikkim	India–Tibet	Reopened for trade in 2006
Bomdi La	Arunachal Pradesh	India–Tibet	Near Tawang
Banihal Pass	J&K	Jammu to Srinagar	Road tunnel now built below it

Major Rivers Originating in the Himalayas

River	Source Glacier	Location
Ganga	Gangotri	Uttarakhand
Yamuna	Yamunotri	Uttarakhand
Indus	Sengge Zangbu (Kailash Range)	Tibet
Brahmaputra	Chemayungdung Glacier	Tibet (called Tsangpo)
Satluj	Rakshastal Lake	Tibet

Flora and Fauna Zones by Altitude

Altitude Zone	Vegetation Type	Examples
Up to 1000 m	Tropical forests	Sal, Teak
1000–2000 m	Sub-tropical forests	Pine, Oak
2000–3000 m	Temperate forests	Fir, Spruce
3000–4000 m	Alpine	Juniper, Rhododendron
Above 4000 m	Tundra / Snow line	Mosses, Lichens

Quick Facts for SSC CGL

- **Young fold mountains** formed by **tectonic collision**
- **Kanchenjunga** is India's **highest peak**
- **Shiwaliks** are prone to landslides and erosion
- **Duns** are longitudinal valleys between Lesser and Shiwalik Himalayas
- Himalayas **influence Indian monsoon** and act as **climatic barrier**

Peninsular Plateau of India

General Overview

Location	Lies south of Indo-Gangetic Plains; triangular in shape	Flanked by Western & Eastern Ghats
Formation	Ancient igneous & metamorphic rocks	Part of **Gondwana land** – very old and stable
Elevation	600–900 m above sea level on average	Slopes from west to east
States Covered	MP, Chhattisgarh, Maharashtra, Telangana, Karnataka, Andhra Pradesh, Tamil Nadu, Odisha, Jharkhand, Rajasthan
One of the **largest physiographic divisions** of India |

Major Divisions of the Peninsular Plateau

Division	Sub-Regions	States	Highest Peak
Central Highlands	Malwa Plateau, Bundelkhand, Baghelkhand, Chotanagpur Plateau	MP, Rajasthan, Jharkhand	**Parasnath (1,365 m)** – Jharkhand
Deccan Plateau	Maharashtra Plateau, Karnataka Plateau, Telangana Plateau	Maharashtra, Karnataka, Telangana	**Anaimudi (2,695 m)** – Kerala (highest in Western Ghats & Peninsular India)

Plateau Name	Part of	Location / States	Features	Important Points for SSC

Malwa Plateau	Central Highlands	Madhya Pradesh & parts of Rajasthan	Volcanic origin, rich in black soil; drained by Chambal, Betwa, and Ken rivers	Lies between Aravalli and Vindhya; fertile and agriculturally important
Bundelkhand Plateau	Central Highlands	UP & MP border region	Undulating, rocky terrain; made of granite and sandstone	Poor soil; mostly rain-fed agriculture; drought-prone
Baghelkhand Plateau	Central Highlands	Eastern MP & parts of Chhattisgarh	Rugged terrain with dense forest; sandstone base	Source of Son and Tons rivers; less populated
Chotanagpur Plateau	Central Highlands	Jharkhand, N. Odisha, parts of Chhattisgarh & West Bengal	Rich in coal, iron ore, mica; formed of granite and gneiss	Known as "Ruhr of India" due to rich mineral deposits
Maharashtra Plateau	Deccan Plateau	Maharashtra	Lava-covered (Deccan Trap); mostly black soil; gently sloping	Known for cotton cultivation; major rivers: Godavari, Bhima
Karnataka Plateau	Deccan Plateau	Karnataka	North: dry, red soil; South: undulating, better rainfall	Origin of rivers: Tungabhadra, Kaveri, Sharavati
Telangana Plateau	Deccan Plateau	Telangana & parts of Andhra Pradesh	Deccan lava origin; granite base; red & black soil	Drained by Godavari & Krishna; both agricultural and mineral significance

Western Ghats (Sahyadri Hills)

Aspect	**Details**
Location	Runs parallel to west coast (Gujarat to Kerala)
Nature	Continuous and steep
Average Elevation	900–1,600 m
Importance	Biodiversity hotspot; origin of rivers: Godavari, Krishna, Kaveri, etc.
Divisions	• Northern Ghats (Maharashtra, Goa)
	• Nilgiri Hills (TN, Kerala, Karnataka)
	• Anaimalai Hills (Kerala-TN border)
	• Cardamom Hills (Southern Kerala)
Highest Peak	**Anaimudi (2,695 m)** – Kerala Also highest in entire Peninsular India
Other Important Peaks	• Mahabaleshwar – Maharashtra
	• Kudremukh – Karnataka
	• Doddabetta – Tamil Nadu (2,637 m)
	• Agasthyamalai – Kerala-TN border

Eastern Ghats

Aspect	**Details**
Location	Runs along east coast (Odisha to Tamil Nadu)
Nature	Discontinuous and lower than Western Ghats
Average Elevation	600–900 m
Importance	Broken by rivers like Mahanadi, Godavari, Krishna, Kaveri
Divisions	• Northern Eastern Ghats (Odisha)
	• Central Eastern Ghats (Andhra Pradesh)
	• Southern Eastern Ghats (TN)
Highest Peak	**Arma Konda / Sitamma Konda (1,690 m)** – Andhra Pradesh
Other Peaks	• Mahendragiri (1,501 m) – Odisha
	• Nallamala Hills – AP
	• Shevaroy Hills – TN

Important Rivers of the Plateau

River	**Origin**	**Drainage**	**Key Notes**
Godavari	Nasik (Trimbak Hills)	Bay of Bengal	Longest river in peninsular India
Krishna	Mahabaleshwar	Bay of Bengal	Flows through MH, KA, AP
Kaveri	Talakaveri (Brahmagiri Hills)	Bay of Bengal	Forms second-largest delta
Narmada	Amarkantak Plateau	Arabian Sea	Rift valley river; west-flowing
Tapi	Satpura Hills	Arabian Sea	Also west-flowing
Mahanadi	Chhattisgarh	Bay of Bengal	Forms delta in Odisha

Additional Key Facts

Fact	Details
Oldest part of India	Peninsular Plateau – formed during **Precambrian era**
River Flow	Most rivers flow **eastward** due to plateau slope
Soils Found	Black (regur) soil, red soil, laterite soil
Famous Dams	Nagarjuna Sagar (Krishna), Srisailam (Krishna), Koyna Dam (MH)
Economic Importance	Rich in **minerals** (coal, iron, manganese) especially in Chotanagpur

Northern Plains of India – General Overview (Table Format)

Category	Details	Important SSC Points
Location	Extends from Punjab (west) to Assam (east), between the Himalayas in the north and Peninsular Plateau in the south	Covers states like Punjab, Haryana, UP, Bihar, West Bengal, Assam
Length	Approx. **2,400 km** (West to East)	From **Indus Valley** to **Brahmaputra Valley**
Width	Varies between **150 to 300 km**	Narrow in the east, broader in the west
Area	Approx. **7 lakh sq. km**	One of the **largest alluvial plains** in the world
Formation	Formed by the **deposition of alluvium** by rivers from the Himalayas	Rivers: **Indus, Ganga, Brahmaputra** and their tributaries
Soil Type	**Alluvial Soil** – New (Khadar) & Old (Bhangar)	Very fertile; suitable for **wheat, rice, sugarcane** cultivation
Slope	Slopes **gently from northwest to southeast**	Influences **river flow** and **formation of floodplains**

Longitudinal Divisions of Northern Plains

Division	Location	Features	States Covered
Bhabar	Adjacent to foothills of Himalayas	Narrow belt of coarse sediments; rivers disappear underground	Uttarakhand, parts of Himachal, Nepal border
Terai	South of Bhabar	Marshy and swampy land; rivers re-emerge	Uttar Pradesh, Bihar, North Bengal
Bhangar	Older alluvium, above flood plains	Contains calcareous deposits (kankar); less fertile than Khadar	Found throughout the plain
Khadar	Newer alluvium near riverbeds	Very fertile; renewed annually by floods	Cultivated extensively in Punjab, UP, Bihar

Regional Divisions of Northern Plains (Based on Rivers)

Region	River System	States Covered	Key Features
Punjab Plains	Indus & its tributaries (Jhelum, Chenab, Ravi, Beas, Sutlej)	Punjab, Haryana	Westernmost part; now shared with Pakistan
Ganga Plains	Ganga and its tributaries (Yamuna, Ghaghara, Gandak, Kosi)	Uttar Pradesh, Bihar, West Bengal	Largest part; most densely populated and fertile
Brahmaputra Plains	Brahmaputra River	Assam	Prone to floods; rich alluvium; riverine islands like Majuli

Quick Facts & Key Points for SSC CGL

Topic	Fact
Most Fertile Soil	Khadar – used for intensive farming
Most Flood-Prone Area	Brahmaputra Plains (especially Assam)
Most Populated Region	Ganga Plains
Most Industrialized Part	Punjab & Western UP
Kankar Deposits	Found in Bhangar soil (old alluvium)
Major Crops	Wheat, rice, sugarcane, pulses
Agriculture Type	Mostly **intensive subsistence farming**
River Re-emergence	In **Terai** region after disappearing in Bhabar

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