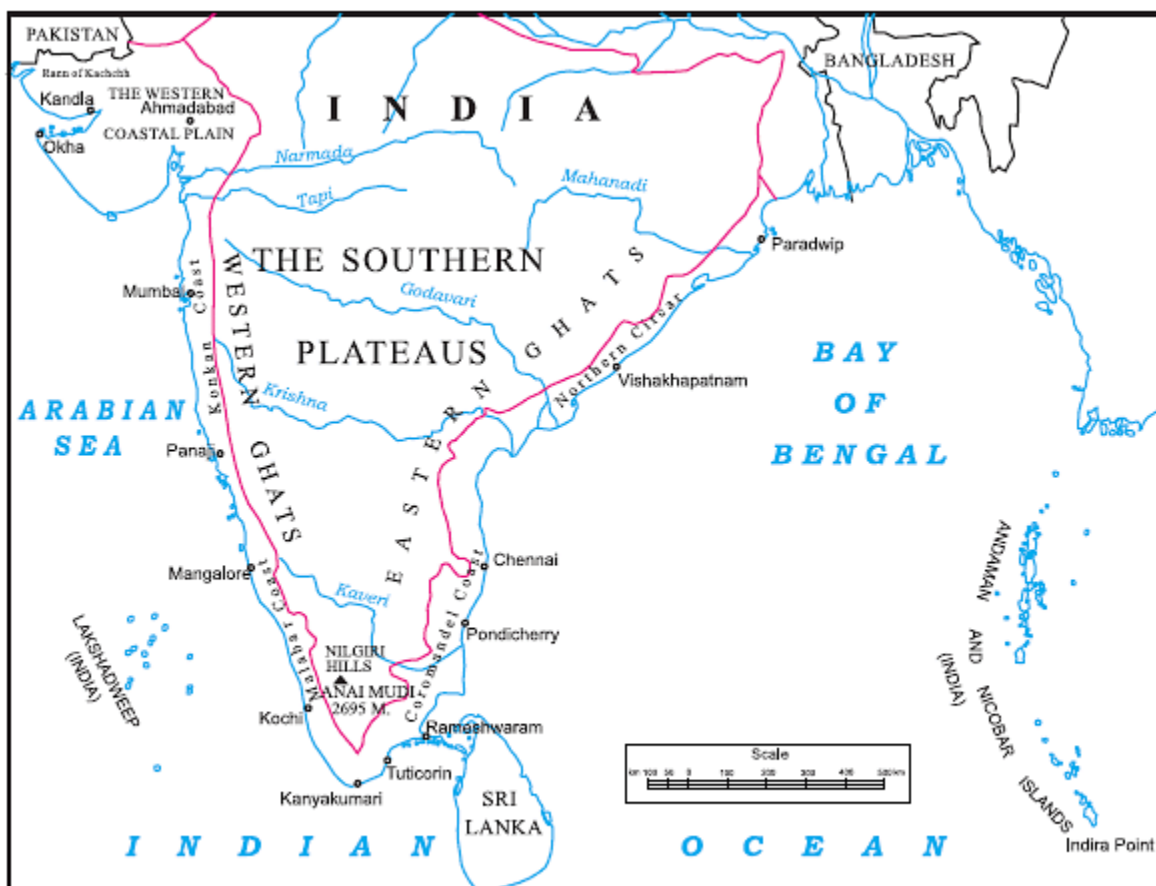


The Coastal Plains and Islands

The Deccan Plateau has two narrow plains on the eastern and the western sides. The eastern coastal plain is bound by the **Bay of Bengal**. Starting from **Kanyakumari**, it extends along the borders of **West Bengal, Odisha, Andhra Pradesh** and **Tamil Nadu**. The mountains of the Eastern Ghats lie on the western side of the coastal plain. The **Western coastal plain** starts from **Kanyakumari** and moves up to the Western borders of **Kerala, Karnataka, Goa, Maharashtra** leading upto the Gulf of **Kachchh** in **Gujarat**.



The Coastal Plains

The Western Ghats lie to the east of this plain. The southern triangle is bounded by **Bay of Bengal** in the east, Arabian Sea in the west and the Indian Ocean in the south. A piece of land surrounded by sea on three sides is known as a **Peninsula**. Our country is also referred to as the **Indian Peninsula**.



Peninsula

The coastal areas are important for us in more than one ways. Important sea ports have developed along the coastal plains. These ports are our window to the world. International trade is carried on through these ports. Light and high value goods are being transported by air. But the bulk of our international trade is still being carried out by sea.

The long sea coast on both sides of the Peninsula is also important for the fishing trade. The sea fish are consumed within the country and also exported to foreign countries.

The sea beaches specially in Goa are favourite with the tourists from all over the world. The tourists are also attracted by special water festivals like the Boat races in Kerala and water sports like **surfing and yachting**.

The Western Coastal Plain has the **Konkan Coast** in the middle and the **Malabar Coast** in the south. The **Gujarat Coast** lies in the northern part.

The **Gulf of Kachchh** and the **Gulf of Khambat** are on the western sides of the Gujarat Coast.



The Gulf of Kachchh

A gulf is a narrow part of the sea entering the mainland. The Konkan Coast line is narrow. The land is rocky. Lighthouses near the Mumbai sea port help ships in avoiding the rocks. Mumbai, the commercial capital of India lies on the Konkan Coast. The Coast is rich in oil deposits under the sea bed. Mineral Oil is extracted from under the sea bed at Bombay High.

Panaji in Goa and Cochin in Kerala are other important sea ports on the Western Coast. Lagoons are a special feature of the Malabar coast. These are salt water lakes getting cut off from the main sea. The lagoons are connected with one another by canals. These waterways are used for transporting goods by boats.

The important sea ports on the Eastern Coast are Chennai, Vishakhapatnam and Kolkata.

The Eastern Coastline is relatively broader.

The coastal Plains in the east are divided into two parts. In the north there are the Northern Circars. Coromandel Coast is the southern part and extends from Kanyakumari to Andhra Pradesh.

The main crops grown in the Eastern Plains are rice, sugarcane, cotton and tobacco. These crops are raised mostly in the deltas of rivers Godavari, Krishna and Kaveri. On the Western coasts, tobacco, groundnut and cotton are grown mainly on lands between the Gulf of Kachchh and the Gulf of Khambat.

The Malabar Coast is known for cultivation of coconut and bananas. Other crops include coffee, pepper, cloves, ginger and cashewnuts. Tea and Rubber plantation are found at the bottom of Nilgiri and Cardamon Hills.

ANDAMAN AND NICOBAR ISLANDS

There is a group of about 300 islands in the Bay of Bengal. These islands are part of India. During British rule, these were known as 'kala pani'. Only some of the islands have human population. The islands are covered with natural forests. The original natives of the islands still live in a very primitive way. Some tribes still do not have contacts with modern world.

There is an active volcano on the Barren Island. Last time this volcano erupted in 1991. Large quantities of hot liquid called 'lava' was thrown out of the opening on the top of the conical hill.

The Islands are becoming an attractive tourist spot.



An Island



An active Volcano

LAKSHADWEEP ISLANDS

These islands are located in the Arabian Sea near the Malabar Coast. Many of these islands have no human habitation. Most of these are ring-shaped coral islands. Coconut trees abound on the Islands. Rats destroy much of the coconut crop.

Things to Remember

THE COASTAL PLAINS

EASTERN PLAINS

Located between Bay of Bengal and Eastern Ghats.

Include Northern Circars and Coromandel Coast

Ports at the coast: Chennai, Vishakhapatnam, Kolkata

States covered: Tamil Nadu, Andhra Pradesh, Odisha, West Bengal.

Main crops: Rice, sugarcane, cotton, pepper, ginger, cashewnuts, tea rubber

Special features:

- Deltas of Godavari, Krishna and Kaveri are the 'rice bowl'
- Rameshwaram is the nearest port to Sri Lanka
- Kanyakumari marks the tip joining the two coastal strips

WESTERN PLAINS

Located between Arabian Sea and Western Ghats.

Include Gujarat Coast, Konkan Coast and Malabar Coast.

Ports at the coast: Cochin, Mangalore, Panaji, Mumbai, Okha.

States covered: Kerala, Karnataka, Goa, Maharashtra.

Main crops: Coconut, bananas, coffee, tobacco and cloves

Special features:

- Oil under the sea-bed at Bombay High.
- Beautiful beaches at Goa.
- Lagoons in Kerala.

Andaman and Nicobar Islands (about 300) in the Bay of Bengal are part of India.

Lakshadweep Islands in the Arabian Sea (about 36) have very few people living on the islands.