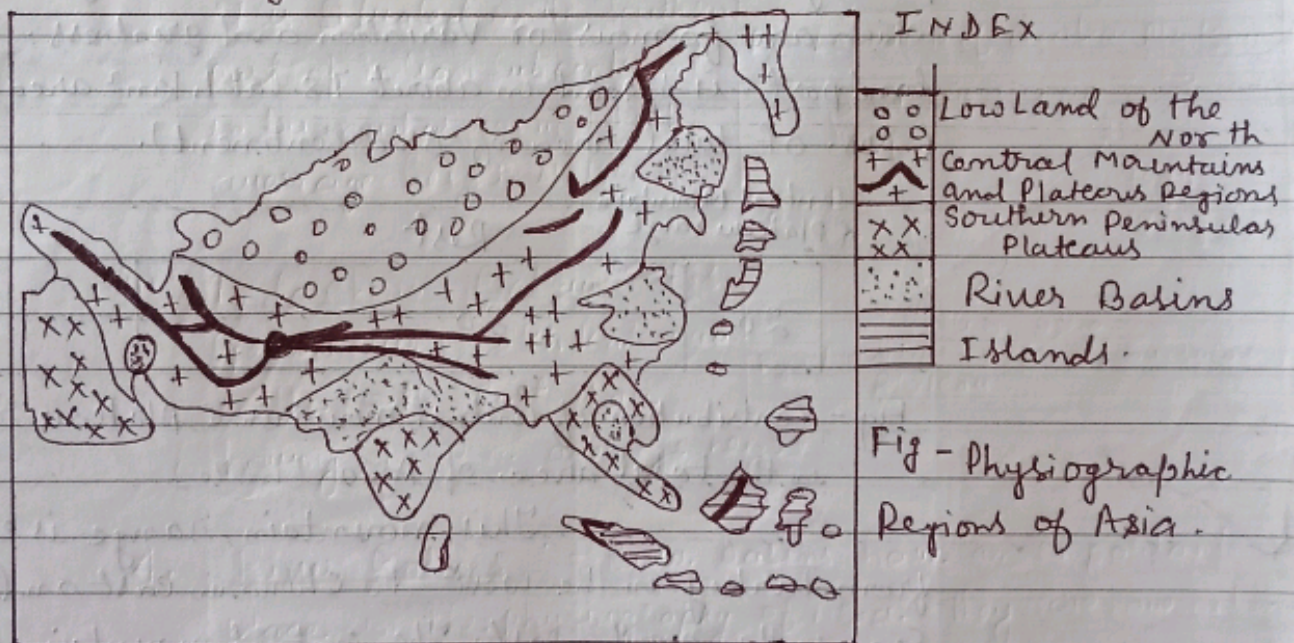


## Physiography of Asia (Relief of Asia)

Introduction :- The geographical structure, development process and long age of the largest continent Asia, make its physiography a vivid one. Asia's physiography represents many famous surface landforms of the world. It contains the widest variations in relief ranging from the highest mountains and the deepest depressions in the world.

Physiographic Regions / Physical units :- On the basis of variations in relief and surface characteristics Asia can be divided into following five major physiographic regions -



- 1 Northern Lowlands :- Famous by the name of Siberian field, this northern lowland is situated in the northern part of Asia from Arctic ocean to Central mountain & Plateau region having width of 3400 km and from Ural mountain in the west to Pacific coast in the east having a length of 7500 kms. There is absence of surface uniformity is found due to presence of small height plateaus and small hills here and there in this lowland having an average height of 200 m above the sea level. The formation of this lowland is the result of not only the erosion and deposition

process by Obi, Yenisi, Lena etc rivers, but also <sup>by glaciation</sup> of major ice-age. On the basis of regional characteristics this lowland can further classified into following four subdivisions-

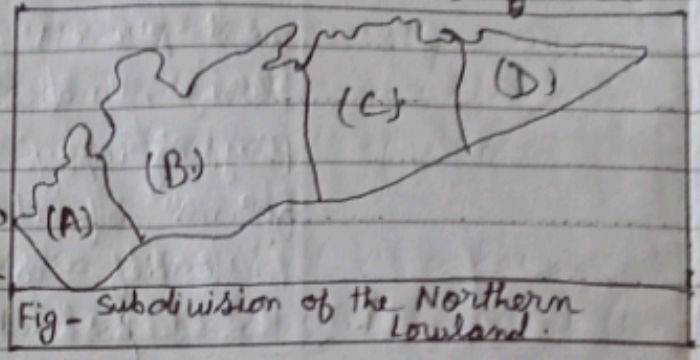


Fig - Subdivision of the Northern Lowland.

- (A). Plain of Turkistan
- (B). Plateau of Central Siberia, (C). Plain of Western Siberia
- (D). Eastern Siberian land.

2. Central Mountains & Plateau Ranges :- In the Central part of Asia mountains and plateaus ranges are found which are famous for variation and greatness. This land part is spread in about 78 lakh km<sup>2</sup> area of Asia (20% of total area of Asia Continent).

| Central Mountain & Plateau range | Rest |
|----------------------------------|------|
| 20                               | 80   |

Fig - Contribution of Central mountain & Plateau ranges in the total area of Asia. (In %)

This mountain range is extend from Turkey in the west to China in east and Bering Sea in the north-east. The central mountain & plateau range includes many highest mountains & Plateaus having height of 1000 m to 8848 m. The Centre of this mountain-plateau range is the Knot of Pamirs which is also known as "Roof of the World".

The mountain ranges of the Himalayas mountain System (Ex - Mt. Everest (8848m), Nanda Devi, Annapurna, Dhaulagiri etc), mountains ranges of Kunlun, Qunling, Karakoram, Nam Shan, Khingan, Hindu Kush, Elburz etc are the important mountains ranges of this region.

3. Southern Peninsular Plateaus :- At the southern end of Asia, there is the presence of plateaus in the form of residual rigid landforms. All these were a part of ancient Gondwanaland. The Southern plateaus of Asia can be divided into three main plateaus which are following -

(i) Arabian Plateau: It is the largest peninsula of the world which is spread over whole of Saudi Arabia. Its average height is 2000 m.

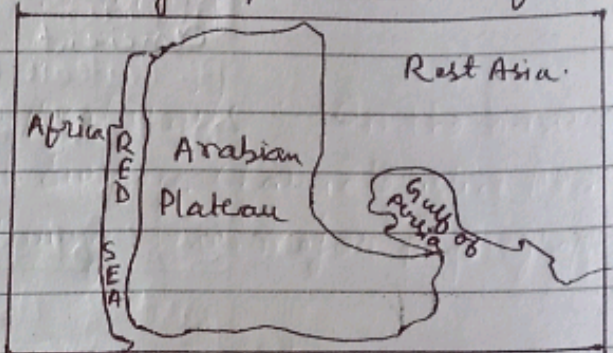


Fig. Location of Arabian Plateau

(ii) Indian Peninsular Plateau :- It is situated in the southern part of Indian Subcontinent in triangular form which average height is 1500 m.

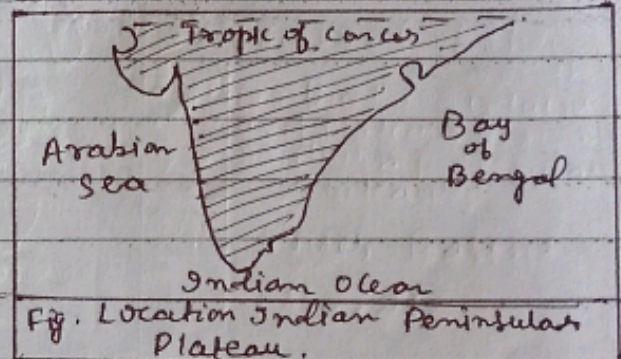


Fig. Location Indian Peninsular Plateau.

(iii) Indo-China Plateau: It is spread over 8 lakh  $\text{km}^2$  area in the South-East Asia having 1200 m average height.

4. River Basins :- River basins have an important place in the physiography of Asia. They ~~are~~ have not been only the cradle of ancient ~~to~~ civilizations but also in present, ~~to~~ three-fourth of ~~the~~ Asia's population live in these plains. The plain of Mesopotamia, Indus-Ganga-Brahmaputra plain, Irrawaddy Basin, Measam Basin (Chao-Phraya basin), Huang Ho Basin etc. are the important basins of Asia.

5. Islands :- In the South and the east part of Asia, there are series of islands ~~are~~ found in arc form. They are situated mostly in the Indian and Pacific Ocean. They are formed by ~~Alpine~~ <sup>Alpine</sup> mountain building movement. That's why New folded rocks are found here.

These islands are in the form of line of weakness where earthquakes and volcanic eruptions generally occurs. Andaman, Japan, Java, Sumatra, Borneo, Phillipines, Taiwan etc are the important islands of Asia.

Thus, we can say that Asia has a diverse natural structure as well as it represent the ancient to the <sup>recent</sup> landforms of the earth surface.

== The End ==

**Dev Prakash**  
**Assistant Professor**  
**Daudnagar College, Daudnagar**