

Physiography

Q) Divide Asia into physical divisions & describe their characteristics?

Ans) Introduction → Physiography is the study of different features of earth. Asia, the largest continent in world is a land of contrasts. It is the largest as well as most populated continent of the world with an area of over 18 lakh sq. miles. It occupies 1/3rd land surface of the world. The extreme longitude of Asia vary from 26°E to 170°W & along the 40°N parallel. The continent extends from 25°E to 145°E . The central meridian is 108°E . The line of longitude of 90°E .

In pattern of Asia's land forms is quite complex. Asia is essentially a continent of contrast. It includes the highest spot on the earth surface - the peak of Everest. As well as the lowest in the dead sea rift. It has the lowest recorded temp. on the earth surface outside Antarctica. It has the rainiest known spot in the world as well as the areas claim to be the driest. Its total population is more than half the world's people with places of highest known densities like Japan as well as vast uninhabited deserts like Ladakh & Gobi. Nearly 3/4th of the territory of the mainland in Asia is uplands, plateaus & mts. The remaining territory consists rivers & coastal plains. Looking at its vast East, West, North and South extent the continent is primarily divided into 4 main physical divisions:-

- 1) The northern lowlands
- 2) The Pamir east & Arabian west system of new folded mts.
- 3) The old block plateau of the southern peninsula.
- 4) The great river valleys

1) The northern lowlands → It is situated in the north-western portion of Asia. This great agular plain is drained by the rivers like Ob, Yenisei & the Lena, and is bordered on the north by the Arctic ocean. This vast lowland is build up of a great expanse of almost horizontal rocks strata which has been little disturbed by earth movements.