

# **Handout 1**

## **An Introduction of Geography**

### **What is Geography?**

Geo + Graphos

Description of earth

Eratosthenes

## **General Information of India**

### **Geographical Location of India**

#### **Location**

#### **Hemisphere**

#### **Continent**

#### **Indian Subcontinent**

#### **Nomenclature of India**

#### **Formal Names (Article 1)**

#### **Area & Population of India**

17.5% Population

18% Livestock

Latitudinal & Longitudinal extent of India

8 ° 4 'North latitude to 37 ° 6' North latitude

68 ° 7 'East Longitude to 97 ° 25' East Longitude

Horizontal Line: - Latitude

Vertical line: - Longitude

Shape of India is Quadrangular

North Latitude

Mainland

Islands

climate

Indian States & Union Territories

India's borders & Neighboring Countries

Other Facts

Concepts and Analysis refer class note and discussion

## **SYLLABUS**

Indian and World Geography – Physical, Social, Economic Geography of India and the World.

### **Indian Geography**

#### **1- Basics of India**

Location, latitude, longitude, time zone, etc.

Neighbours

Important straits

States and their position

States with international boundaries

#### **2- Physical features**

The Himalayas – geological formation, climate, vegetation, soil, biodiversity, physiographic divisions, major passes, significance

The Great North Indian Plains – geological formation, physiographic divisions, climate, vegetation, soil, biodiversity, significance

Peninsular Plateau – geological formation, Central Highlands, Deccan Plateau, Western Ghats, Eastern Ghats

Indian Desert

Coastal plains and islands

### **3- River systems**

Himalayan rivers

Peninsular rivers

River basins

Regional development and planning

Hydropower projects, major dams

West-flowing and east-flowing rivers

Interlinking of rivers

### **4- Climate**

Monsoons – driving mechanism, El Nino, La Nina

Seasons

Cyclones

### **5- Minerals and industries**

Mineral distribution

Industrial policies

Location

### **6- Agriculture**

Land utilisation

Types of agricultural practices

Green revolution

Soils and crops

Irrigation

Land reforms

Animal husbandry

Government schemes

## **7- Natural vegetation and fauna**

Classification of natural vegetation

Rainfall distribution in India

Biosphere reserves, national parks, etc.

Red-listed species

## **8- Economic infrastructure**

Transportation (highways, inland waterways, etc.)

Power and energy sector

Conventional and non-conventional sources of energy

Energy conservation

## **9- Human Geography**

Demographics

Recent census

## **World Geography**

- 1- Major natural regions
- 2- Regional geography of developed countries
- 3- Regional geography of developing countries
- 4- Regional geography of South Asia

## **Physical Geography**

### **1- Geomorphology**

Origin of the earth

Interior of the earth

Types and characteristics of rocks

Folding and Faulting

Volcanoes, earthquakes

Interior of the earth

Weathering

Landforms formed by fluvial, aeolian and glacial actions

### **2- Climatology**

Atmosphere – structure and composition

Temperature

Pressure belts of the Earth

Wind systems

Clouds and types of rainfall

Cyclones and anti-cyclones

Major climatic types

### **3- Oceanography**

Ocean relief

Temperature, salinity

Ocean deposits

Ocean currents

El Nino and La Nina

Waves and tides

### **4- Biogeography**

Soil – origin and types

Major biomes of the world

Ecosystem, food chain

Environmental degradation and conservation

### **5- Human Geography**

Man & environment; relationship, growth and development of human geography; determinism and possibilism

Population, tribes, migration

Economic activities – agriculture, manufacturing, industries, tertiary activities

Settlements, urbanisation, functional classification of towns, million-cities and megacities

**Location-based questions pertaining to India and the world are also asked in the prelims.**

The UPSC Notification contains the syllabus of the Geography optional along with other subjects.