GEOGRAPHY OF INDIA

Topography

India has an area of 3.29 Mio. km² and is the 7th biggest country in the world. Sharing borders with India are Bangladesh, Bhutan, Myanmar, China, Nepal and Pakistan. Life forms from unicellular to multicellular and microscopic to gigantic sizes by the forests, deserts, mountains, other land, air and water provide shelter, food, medicines, fodder, fuel, clothing for our daily needs and raw material for industry.

India’s major rivers are the Indus, Ganges and Brahmaputra. They flow through the Himalayan ranges and finally into the Arabian Sea. The Ganges, with its 2720 km course, the Ganges comes together with the Brahmaputra into the Bay of Bengal. The Brahmaputra comes from the Tibetan Tsangpo, one of the most important flows of East India. The Himalayan river networks are snow-fed and have a continuous flow throughout the year. Other rivers are dependent on the monsoons and shrink into rivulets during the dry season. In India, permanent natural freshwater lakes are located mainly in the Himalayan belt and are mostly tectonic or glacial in origin.

Kolkata, the capital of the state of West Bengal and one of the nation’s largest cities. It lies on the east bank of the Hooghly River, one of the western branches of the Ganges. The climate is hot and humid. Annual temperatures average about 28º C. Annual rainfall is about 168 cm. The Topography of India is about 5 meter over sea. Up to the Hooghly River temperatures average about 26º C. Kolkata, is the capital of the state of West Bengal and one of the nation’s largest cities. It lies on the east bank of the Hooghly River, one of the western branches of the Ganges. The climate is hot and humid. Annual temperatures average about 28º C. Annual rainfall is about 168 cm. The Topography of India is about 5 meter over sea. Up to the Hooghly River temperatures average about 26º C. The Hooghly River is about 14 meter high. To the Bay of Bengal it sinks to 5m above sea level. Districwise the highest number of fauna is present in Kolkata (4256). The fauna and flora of West Bengal possess the combined characteristics of the Himalayan and sub Himalayan Gangetic plain.

The botanical garden in Kolkata has about 1,500 species, 2500 varieties including 750 trees and shrubs. Also the biggest tree “Banyan” of the world is there with 1400 amost.
1. Annual Rainfall, Flooding Zone

India stands under the influence of tropical climate. The Himalayas act as a barrier to the frigid wind from Central Asia and protects India from cold weather influence from the north. In January and February it is very hot and dry. The thermometer can get to 35ºC. Sandstorm in dry days with precipitation are rare. The heavy monsoon rains are responsible for the extremely biodiverse tropical wet forests of these regions.

2. Monsoon

The English word “monsoon” came from Portuguese “monção”, ultimately from Arabic “mawṣūn” (season). The big seasonal winds blowing from the Indian Ocean and Arabian Sea in the southwest, bringing heavy rainfall to the region (because of the condensation of water vapor in the rising air). In the southwest the summer monsoon begins in June and ends in September. It is tropical, warm and humid. In this time, 80-90% of the Indian areas have their annual rainfall. In most areas of India it is for 8-9 months dry. The beginning of the monsoon can be earlier or later. But for the farmers it depends very much, because the right timing and how much it rains is important for a good crop.

3. Temperature

India stands under the influence of the tropical climate. The Himalayas act as a barrier to the frigid wind from Central Asia and protects India from cold weather influence from the north. In January and February it is cool and dry. The day temperature are around 20-25°C. But in the night it can get to 10°C (in northwest and north India). In April, May and September monsoon begins. The dry period in October and November are comfortable. From December till February/March the winter monsoon starts with a northeast wind.

4. Wind

India has a strong and often violent winds that change direction with the season. The strongest monsoon winds occur in India. Monsoon - One Strong Global Wind -blows from cold to warm regions because cold air takes up more space than warm air. This weather phenomenon is created in winter when a high pressure area forms far to the north, over Siberia. Monsoons blow from the land toward the sea in winter, and from the sea toward land in the summer. Monsoon wind plays a predominant role in the daily life of the people of South Asia. The use of monsoon wind in the Indian Ocean was a boon to the sailing ships to reach overseas countries.

5. Vegetation

India, the land of physical, cultural, social and linguistic diversity has an enormous biological diversity which includes about 40,000 species of flora and 93,000 species of fauna. The tropical forest cover of India is about 6,4 as km which represents about 15.27% of India’s total geographic area. They are cultivating Rice, Wheat, Sorghum, Millet, Jute, Tea, Cotton, Coconut an much more. It depends of the area and climatic zone how different the nature is: tropical zone, desert, rocky areas. The fast multiplying populations have led to the depletion of natural resources and large-scale deforestation. More than half of the forest has been lost. Clearing of forests in the tropics, conversion of grassland, forest land to croplands for feeding population, constructions of highways or urban centres, have reduced habitat of plants and animals.

6. Soil

The geological history of India started with the geological evolution of rest of the Earth i.e. 4.57 billion years ago. India has a diverse geology. Different regions in India contain rocks of all types belonging to different geologic periods. Some of the rocks are badly deformed and transmitted while others are recently deposited strata that are yet to undergo denudation. It is believed that the Decan Trap was formed as result of huge and violent volcanic activity associated with the continental drift in this part of the Earth during the Mesozoic era time of tectonic, climate and evolutionary activity era. This is why the rocks found in this region are generally igneous type.