

One Liner Shots (Peninsular Plateau Region)



What is the “Peninsular Plateau”?

The Peninsular Plateau is a tableland that is composed of old crystalline, igneous along metamorphic rocks. It is one of the oldest landmasses. It lies to the South of Shiwaliks.

Classification of Plateau Region

The peninsular plateau can be divided into 3 groups based on prominent features. These are as follows:

- The Central Highlands
- The Deccan Plateau
- The Northeastern Plateau.

The Central Highlands

- The **northern segment** of the peninsular plateau is called the Central Highlands.
- It is located north of the Narmada River, bounded to the west by the Aravallis.
- Also, the Satpura ranges (formed by a series of scarp plateaus) lie in the South.
- General Elevation: 700-1,000 m above the mean sea level, and it slopes towards the north and northeastern directions.

→ It is further divided into several uplands, such as,

1. **Marwar Upland**
2. **Madhya Bharat Pathar**
3. **Malwa plateau**

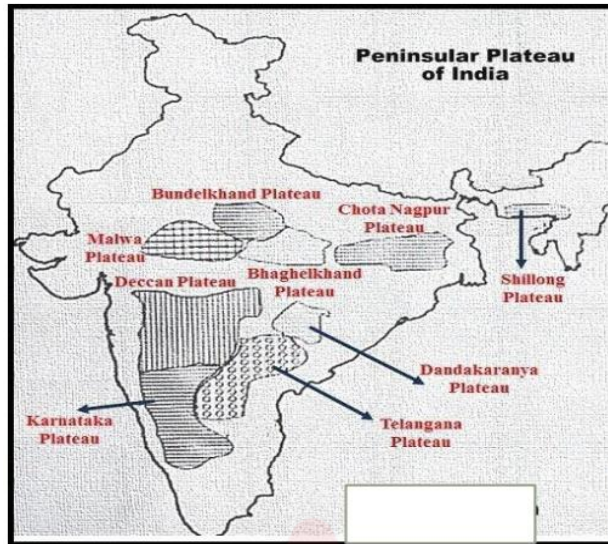
The Deccan Plateau

- The Deccan Plateau lies to the South of the Narmada River and is shaped like an inverted triangle.
- It is bordered by the Western Ghats in the west, the Eastern Ghats in the east, the Satpura, the Maikal range and the Mahadeo hills in the north.
- It is volcanic in origin, made up of horizontal layers of solidified lava, forming a trap structure with a step-like appearance.
- The sedimentary layers are also found in between the layers of solidified lava, making it trapping in structure.
- Most of the rivers flow from west to east.
- The plateau is suitable for the cultivation of cotton, home to rich mineral resources and a source to generate hydroelectric power.
- The Deccan plateau can be subdivided as follows:
- **The Maharashtra Plateau**– It has typical Deccan trap topography underlain by basaltic rock, the regur.
 - **The Karnataka Plateau** (also known as the Mysore Plateau) – It is divided into the western hilly country region of 'Malnad' and plain 'Maidan'
 - **Telangana Plateau**



The Northeastern Plateau

- The Meghalaya (or Shillong) plateau is separated from the peninsular rock base by the Garo-Rajmahal gap.
- Shillong (1,961 m) is the highest point of the plateau.
- The region has the Garo, Khasi, Jaintia, and Mikir (Rengma) hills.
- An extension of the Meghalaya plateau is also seen in the Karbi Anglong hills of Assam.
- The Meghalaya plateau is also rich in mineral resources like coal, iron ore, sillimanite, limestone, and uranium.
- This area receives maximum rainfall from the southwest monsoon. As a result, the Meghalaya plateau has a highly eroded surface.
- Cherrapunji displays a bare rocky surface devoid of any permanent vegetation cover.



HILLS OF THE PENINSULA

Araballi Range	It is one of the oldest fold mountains in the world. Its general elevation is only 400-600 m, with few hills well above 1,000 m. It is known as 'Jarga' near Udaipur and 'Delhi Ridge' near Delhi. Dilwara Jain Temple is situated on Mt. Abu.
Vindhyan Range	They rise as an escarpment running parallel to the Narmada-Son Valley. General elevation: 300 to 650 m. They act as a watershed between the Gangetic and peninsular river system
Satpura Range	Satpura ranges run parallel between Narmada and Tapi, parallel to the Maharashtra-MP border. Dhupgarh (1,350 m) near Pachmarhi on Mahadev Hills is the highest peak of the Satpura Range. Amarkantak (1,127 m) is another important peak. Amarkantak is the highest peak of the Maikal Hills from where two prominent rivers – the Narmada and the Son originate.
Western Ghat	These are a faulted part of the Deccan plateau running parallel from the Tapi Valley to a little north of Kanyakumari (1600km). Their western slope is like an escarpment, while the eastern slope merges gently with the plateau. Their average elevation is about 1,500 m, with the height increasing from north to South. Highest peak: Anai Mudi
Eastern Ghat	The Eastern Ghats are in the form of residual mountains, which are not regular but broken at intervals. The Eastern and the Western Ghats meet each other at the Nilgiri hills. The average elevation is 600 meters from the sea level. Highest peak: Jindhagada