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LESSON
PART 1





In this lesson, we shall learn about :

- ◆ The Eastern Coastal Plain
- ◆ The Western Coastal Plain
- ◆ Islands
 - ◆ Their location
 - ◆ Their climate
 - ◆ Their food crops
 - ◆ Their occupations

New Words

coastline, island, delta, light-house, lagoons, sandbars, coral, polyps

The southern part of our country is triangular in shape and covers a large part of our country. It is surrounded by water on three sides: in the east by the Bay of Bengal, in the west by the Arabian Sea and in the south by the Indian Ocean. Such a piece of land surrounded by water on three sides is called a Peninsula. Therefore, South India is a peninsula.

Look at the map, India has a very long coastline, measuring about 6,000 km. India's coastline starts from the state of Gujarat in the west and moves towards south along the western borders of Maharashtra, Goa, Karnataka, Kerala and reaches Kanyakumari. Then, it takes a turn and moves along the eastern border of Tamil Nadu, Andhra Pradesh, Odisha and West Bengal. There are many important sea ports along this coastline. Kandla, Mumbai, Marmagoa, New Mangalore, Kochi, Tuticorin, Chennai, Visakhapatnam, Paradeep and Kolkata are major sea ports of our country for inland and foreign trade.



Some Facts :

The zone of land that borders the sea is called the coast.



On the inner side of the coastline, there are narrow plains. These plains are known as the coastal plains. The Southern Plateau divides these coastal plains into two parts :

1. The Eastern Coastal Plain
2. The Western Coastal Plain

The two plains meet at Cape Comorin (Kanyakumari) in the south.

The Eastern Coastal Plain: The area that lies between the Eastern Ghats and the Bay of Bengal form the Eastern Coastal Plain. It stretches from the Delta of the Ganga in the north to Kanyakumari in the south. It is wider and more fertile than the Western Coastal Plain. It is about 150 km.



It is divided into two parts : The Northern circar coast and the Coromandal Coast.

(i) The Northern Circar coast : The northern part of the Eastern Coastal Plain is called the Northern Circars. The area on the north of the Krishna river is called the Northern Circars. The Mahanadi, the Godavari and the Krishna make large deltas in this plain. These rivers make the region very fertile. That is why it is called the Rice Bowl of India. The region covers the area to the states of Odisha and Andhra Pradesh. The coast along Odisha State is called the Utkal coast, which is also a part of Northern Circars. Visakhapatnam and Paradeep are the main ports of the Northern Circars. There is a big ship-building yard, an oil refinery and a steel plant in Visakhapatnam. Kakinada, Machilipatnam and Gopalpur are smaller ports of this region.



Northern Circars



Coromandal Coast

(ii) The Coromandal Coast : The coastal plain between Kanyakumari and Machilipatnam is called the Coromandal Coast. It lies to the south of the Krishna river. Chennai is the major port of this coastal line. It is the third largest port and fourth city of India. The Kaveri is the most important river of this region. The area receives maximum rainfall in winters, specially from October to December.

The most important feature of the Eastern Plain is that the alluvial soil here is very fertile. A number of food crops and cash crops are grown here. The rivers form big deltas at their mouths. These deltas are good for growing rice and sugarcane. Rice, sugarcane, fish, rubber and coconut are the major products of this region. Fishing is the main occupation here.

Some Facts :

The cities Cuddalore and Tuticorin are famous for pearl fishing.

The Western Coastal Plain : The Western Coastal Plain lies between the Arabian sea and the Western Ghats. It starts in Gujarat and ends at the southernmost tip of India. It stretches from the Gulf of Kuchchh in the north to Kanyakumari in the south. It extends over the states of Gujarat, Maharashtra, Goa, Karnataka and Kerala. The Western Coastal Plain is further divided into three parts :

Some Facts :

A large number of lions are found in Gir forests.

(i) The Gujarat Coast : The coast along the state of Gujarat is called the Gujarat Coast. Its northern part is broader than the southern part. In Gujarat Coast, the land is flat. The famous Gulf of Kachchh and Gulf of Khambat are located here. The region also has the famous Gir forests. The important rivers of this region are Narmada, Tapti and Sabarmati.



(ii) The Konkan Coast : The Konkan Coast lies between the Gulf of Khambat and Goa. There the land is uneven and full of rocks. There are many bays along this coast that are used as harbours. There are towers along the coast. They are called light-houses. They warn the ships of hidden rocks in the sea. Mumbai is the biggest harbour of this coast. The region is rich in oil deposits. Many of them are located near the Mumbai Coast. These oil fields are together known as Mumbai High.



Think and Discuss

What are the light-houses ? What is their main function ?

(iii) The Malabar Coast : The southern part of the western coast is known as the Malabar Coast. It extends from Goa to Kanyakumari. It is wider than the Konkan Coast. The region gets heavy rainfall. So, it is full of greenery. The main crops are rice, tobacco, coffee, coconut, banana and groundnuts. They are grown in plenty on this coast. Kerala is known as the 'Land of Coconuts'. Kochi is the most important sea port of this coast.

The Malabar Coast is famous for its lagoons. Lagoon is an area of shallow water separated from the sea by sandbars. These lagoons are also called backwaters of the sea. They are joined with each other by canals. Kerala is famous for lagoons.



Malabar Coast



A Backwater in Kerala

Some Facts :

Kochi is so beautiful that it is often called 'the Queen of the Arabian sea'.

The Islands : An island is a piece of land surrounded by water on all sides. Along these two coastal plains, there are a number of small islands far in the seas. The two major groups of Islands in India are Andaman and Nicobar Islands and Lakshadweep Islands.

Andaman and Nicobar Islands: It is a group of more than 350 small and big islands in the Bay of Bengal. They are spread over an area of 8,000 kilometres. These islands form a Union Territory. Among these islands, only 24 are inhabited. These islands are covered with thick forests. The northern group of islands is called Andaman and the southern group is called the Nicobar. Most of them are inhabited by tribals. Port Blair is their capital. The land is hilly and uneven yet it is good for cultivation.

The climate is moist and warm. It receives rain almost round the year. The evenings are pleasant here. The major crops are rubber, tobacco, coffee and coconut. The important industries are making of matches and lumbering. The southernmost tip of these islands is known as the Indira Point. These islands have lush green thick forests. Rice and coconut are grown here in plenty. The climate here is very pleasant throughout the year.



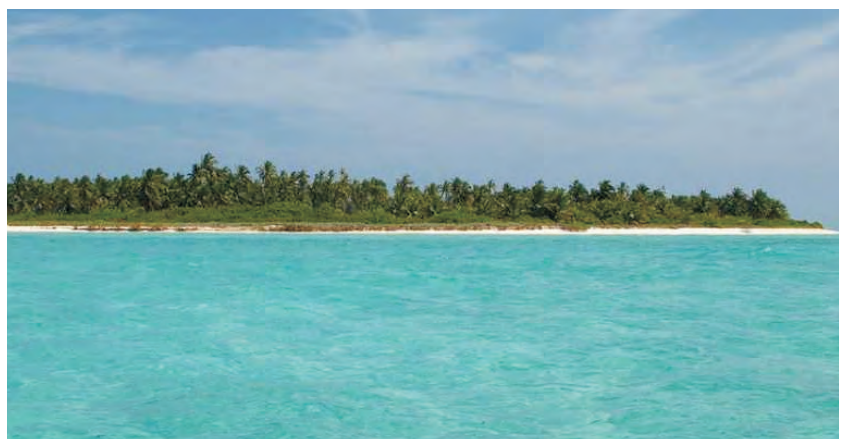
Cellular Jail

Some Facts :

Long before, Andaman and Nicobar islands were known as Kala Pani. The British kept many freedom fighters here in prison. The notorious Cellular Jail is still preserved as a monument. It has 698 cells.

Lakshadweep Islands : These are the group of 36 small islands in the Arabian Sea. The land here is flat and sandy. They are hardly 4 to 5 metres above the sea level. They have been formed from coral deposits. There is no hill or river here. Kavaratti is their capital. The main crop is coconut. Jack fruit, banana and lemon are also grown here. Only ten islands here are inhabited.

Most of the population is Muslims. They speak Malayalam. The climate here is very pleasant like that of the Andaman and Nicobar. There are many lagoons in the islands. Farming and fishing are the main occupations of the people here. The cities of these islands are linked with other cities of India by air or sea routes.



Lakshadweep Islands

Some Facts :

Lakshadweep islands are formed from coral reef. Coral is made by tiny sea-creatures called polyps. When polyps die, their skeletons turn into large masses of white limestone. That is why, the colour of the land of the Lakshadweep islands is white.

THINGS TO REMEMBER

1. The southern part of our country is triangular and surrounded by water on three sides. Such type of land is called a Peninsula.
2. The coastline of our country is about 6,000 kilometres long.
3. The Southern Plateau divides the coastal plains into two parts :
(a) The Eastern Coastal Plain (b) The Western Coastal Plain
4. The Eastern Coastal Plain lies between the Bay of Bengal and the Eastern Ghats.
5. The Western Coastal Plain lies between the Arabian Sea and the Western Ghats.
6. The Western Coastal Plain is divided into three parts :
(a) the Gujarat Coast (b) the Konkan Coast (c) the Malabar Coast
7. The Malabar Coast is famous for its backwaters or lagoons.
8. A piece of land surrounded by water on all sides is called an Island.
9. Our country has two groups of islands :
(a) the Andaman and Nicobar Islands (b) the Lakshadweep Islands.
10. These are the groups of many small and big islands.



EXERCISE

A. Fill in the blanks :

1. The coastline of our country is about _____ km. long.
2. The _____ coastal plain is wider.
3. _____ is the capital of the Lakshadweep Islands.
4. The Malabar Coast is bigger than the _____ coast.
5. Coastline has a _____ weather all the year.

B. Write 'T' for True and 'F' for False :

1. The lagoons of the Malabar Coast are very famous. ()
2. The Konkan Coast stretches from the Bay of Bengal to Goa. ()
3. The Coastal Plain between Kanyakumari and Chennai is called the Northern Circars. ()
4. The Coromandal Coast receives minimum rain during the winter. ()
5. The Lakshadweep Islands are in the Arabian Sea. ()
6. The land in the Lakshadweep Islands is hilly. ()

C. Name the following :

1. A piece of land surrounded by water on three sides _____
2. The area known as 'The Rice Bowl of India' _____
3. The area that receives maximum rainfall in winters _____
4. The cities famous for pearl fishing _____
5. Earlier, these islands were famous as Kala Pani _____
6. The state known as 'the Land of Coconuts' _____
7. The city famous as 'the Queen of the Arabian Sea' _____

D. Answer the following questions :

1. Which two gulfs are located in Gujarat ?
2. Where are the Eastern and Western Coastal Plains ?
3. What is a lagoon ?
4. What is an island ?
5. Which crops are grown in the Western Coastal Plain ?

Project / Activity

E. Make a list of the freedom fighters who were jailed in the Cellular Jail in Andaman called Kala Pani .

F. On the outline map of India, locate the following :

1. Mumbai
2. Gulf of Kuchchh
3. Kanyakumari
4. Andaman and Nicobar Islands
5. Lakshadweep Islands



G. HOTS

1. How does water flow in the backwaters of Kerala ? Why did it get its name ?