

Welcome students under the initiative of Directorate of higher education, government of Goa title digital integrated system for holistic teaching and virtual orientation for developing e-content in the subject of history.

The course title is Indian culture and Heritage Module 2 Influence of geography on Indian culture.

The outline of the course goes around like you'll get to know various names of India. Geographical features of India. Influence of geography on Indian culture.

At the end of the course, the outcome will be that students will know various names of India. Students will learn various geographical features of India. Students will understand how these features influenced Indian history. Students will try to relate to present day situation.

Introduction: Geography and Chronology are the sun and the moon, the right eye and the left eye of history.

The evolution of Indian history and culture cannot be properly understood without a proper appreciation of the geographical factors involved in their development.

Geographical features of India: Let us first look at the name of the land. Ancient Indians, ancient Indians called themselves as Bharat Varsha. So the first time Barrett would be definitely regarded as the term for India. The ancient Indians also named the country with the name of the River Sindhu. Persians called India as Hindu. Greeks called India's Indus and foreigners called India as India.

India is a subcontinent and not a country. Indian subcontinent is large in area without Europe and Russia that is 4,202,500 square kilometers. Says M. R. Wadhvani.

Divided into 5 states, that is the countries India, Pakistan, Bangladesh, Nepal and Bhutan. India has the area of 3,287,263 square kilometers with 28 states and eight Union Territories.

Let us come to see the physical features of India. There are four physical features of India. First, the Great Himalayan, and sub Himalayan regions, second the Great Northern Plains of Hindustan known as the Indo-Gangetic plains, the plateau of south central India and the Deccan and the 4th one, the coastal region.

Let us see the first physical feature of India, the Great Himalayas and the Himalayan subregions. To the North the Himalayan range is the lengthiest and the loftiest. Kashmir plateau in the North is considered as a paradise on Earth. To the East is Nepal with its capital Kathmandu. The eastern hilly region. Plateau of Shillong in Assam all three makes the sub Himalayan region. The mountain passes like the Bolan, the Khyber, the Kurram, the Tochi and the Gomal.

The second feature, the Great Northern Plains of Hindustan, also called as Indo-Gangetic Plains, stretches from Arabian Sea to the Bay of Bengal about

2000 miles long, and 150 to 200 miles broad, formed by the values of three great rivers, the Indus, the Ganges and the Brahmaputra. The Tibetan plateau Indus River runs West and Northwest about 800 miles between Karakoram Range and the Himalayas. The Jhelum, the Chenab, the Ravi, the Beas and the Sutlej River, passes through Hills, reach the Plains and finally join to form Panchnad.

The Ganges or the Ganga, it originates from the Himalayas and touches Harwar. First runs from northwest to southeast and then due East and eventually into southern direction. Its most significant tributary is Jamuna, also called as Yamuna.

The Brahmaputra it originates from the mighty base of Kailash Mountain, 500 miles wide and 50 miles long. The Ganges- Brahmaputra Duab form the greatest Delta of Bengal.

The third feature, the plateau of the South Central and the Deccan. The Central Indian plateau which slopes gradually from the Highlands of gangetic Plains in the South. And ends in the East in the Chota Nagpur region, Gondwana, Baghelkhand, Bundelkhand and Malwa. The Deccan Plateau is considered to be geologically oldest part of India. It is surrounded by the sea on the three sides. The Bay of Bengal on the southeast, the Arabian Sea on the Southwest and the Indian Ocean on the South.

The 4th feature is that of the coastal region on the West is the Gulf of Cambay. Northern part is known as Konkan. Southern part is the Malabar coast. To the East is the Coromandel Coast Southern Extremity We find the Cape of Comorin. The island of Sri Lanka which lies to the southeast of Cape Comorin, which is divided from main land of India by shallow seas but joined by Adam's Bridge. It is shaped like a mango. Its history is closely related to India.

Climate and rainfall. Variety of seasons from extremely hot to bitterly cold India, sees the rainy seasons during rainy seasons. Sky is full with black clouds give nourishment to the soil and delights the heart of millions of cultivators. Blazing Sun and hot wings of a summer day makes one to stay with in doors, but night circular. Winter comes with the cooling, bracing winds an enchanting nights.

Products: forest in the Himalayas and the Deccan give valuable timber for building. Plains produce wheat, rice, millets, pulses, fruits, and other articles of food besides tea, coffee and tobacco. Gold, copper, tin, zinc, manganese, iron, coal and other minerals are found in the old rocks of Deccan. The rocks of salt and of Vindhya supply jewels, pearls, diamonds and various other precious stones. Plenty of building stones like granite, sandstone and marble are also available.

Now let us see what the influence of geography is seem to be on the Indian culture. The very first influence is seen in the form of fundamental, cultural unity, the Himalayas, the River system, the roads, the northern Road Uttar Patha, the southern Road, which is called Dakshinapatha and the central Road.

Growth of the indigenous culture bounded by the high ranges of mountains on the North, Northwest and northeast, and vast ocean of the Seas South, Southwest, and the southeast.

Three different political and partly cultural units which divided India into the northern India, the Deccan Plateau and the Southern Peninsula Plains.

Development of cultures on northern Plains where we find the rich and fertile soil led to establishment of big empires and great political, social, religious and philosophical ideas. It also became the land of learning

Coming up of cities, big cities like Taxila, Sialkot, Banaras, Prayag, Agra, Delhi, Lahore, Kanauj and Allahabad came into being because of the rivers of this region.

Indian defence weak due to the Thar desert because it separates the region into two different and distinct geographical units.

Security from foreign invasions because the snow clad Himalayas stand like a gigantic wall. The sea on the other three sides.

Political disunity for the whole country. Geographical divisions on account of mountains, rivers and deserts, and forests.

Wide scope for conquest and military glory. The seclusion of India from the rest of the world provided wide scope for political ambition and martial enterprise.

Life of ease and pleasure in India. People have the easygoing life, rich and fertile soil offered Agriculture as the main occupation. Trade and maritime activity with foreign countries. India has extensive coastal line which fostered trade and maritime activity.

Forest, deserts and mountain valleys as repository of primitive Indian culture, which gave shelter to the Bhils, the Gonds, the Santhals, etc.

Conclusion: The Wild and Sublime beauty of nature in India gave a philosophic and poetic turn to Indian mind. Remarkable progress was made in religion, philosophy, art and literature. India has been profoundly affected by its geographical features, its history, culture, and civilization bear the imprint of its geography.

Here are some references.

Thank you.