

Physiographic Regions of North-East India.

Discuss.

Answer: — Physiographically the N-E can be divided into 3 divisions:—

1) Plateau Region:—

Geologically

The hard crystalline mass forming the core of the region is in fact an extension of the Deccan Plateau. It appears in the N-E above the surface as Meghalaya and Karbi Plateau.

The Karbi plateau is known as the outlier of the Meghalaya plateau and structurally the area is a continuation of the Meghalaya plateau.

It is separated by the Malda gap which resulted of river erosion of the Ganga and the Brahmaputra.

The Karbi plateau is mostly separated from the Meghalaya plateau by the topography of the Kopili and its headstreams, and from the Naga hills by the Manasi and its headstreams.

The highest elevation of this plateau is about 1360 meters.

The Meghalaya Plateau is ~~it~~ can be divided into 3 parts: Baro, Ichari and Jaintia hills. Baro hills in the west is a relatively low and more dissected part covering an area of about 7169.9 km². The most important physical features of this part is the Tura range and Simsing valley. The Nokrek peak (1418 m) recorded highest elevation of this part.

To the east of the Baro Hills lie the highest

Khasi Khasi hills, highest part of the Meghalaya plateau with an average elevation 1066 m and covered about 1250 km². The highest point of this part is Shillong peak (1961 m)

The eastern most part of the plateau is the Jaintia Hills, consist of the Jaintia Hills district of Meghalaya and Hamren sub-division of Karbi-Anglong district. and is bound by on the east by the Kapili River flowing to the north and the Luhra river flowing to the south. The average height of this part is 900 m and covering an area of about 3790 km².

(B) The Hills and Mountains: This unit stretches from the Bhutan Himalaya covering the northern part of the region and then turning southward covers its eastern and southern parts.

starting from the Dibang valley and Lohit region of Arunachal Pradesh, the eastern hills covers south eastern Arunachal, Nagaland, North Cachar Hills, a major part of Manipur, Mizoram and eastern part of Tripura. The whole unit may be divided into two sub units — viz

① the northern mountainous parts of the Arunachal Himalayas. This portion is an integral part of the Eastern Himalaya. It stretches from the Bhutan Arunachal border demarcated by the Jin-Dhansiri river and the Askhala Range on the west to the Siang River on the east.

structurally it continues north-eastward to Namcha Barwa Peak (7755m) in Tibet and eastward beyond Siang - Dihang River to Mismi Hills and then takes a southward turn through a syntactic sutureal bend to form the Purvachal ranges.

The Burmachal Himalaya rises steeply from the Brahmaputra plain and its successive ranges attain gradually higher altitude northwards, ultimately culminating in the snow-clad Himalayan range lying along the Indo-China border.

Namcha Barwa, ^(7755 m) is the highest peak of this unit. Other important peaks are Kangto (7590 m), Kula-Kangeri (7544 m), Samolari (7314.2 m).

② The eastern and southern Patkai - Purvachal Hills. - This region includes the Patkai, The Waga, the Barait range, the highland of Manipur, the Mizo hills and Tripura ranges. This hilly tract is the southern extension of the eastern Himalayan region and is characterised by relatively low relief. The general elevation of the range is 915 to 915 meters.

Peaks like Saramati (3827 m) Sarpo Peak (2914 m) in Naga hills, Mee mountain (2158 m) in Mizo hills are notable here.

③ The Plain. - North East India has a few plains. of these are discussed below -

54315 km
4154

① Brahmaputra Plain : Hemmed in between the North-Eastern Frontier Hills, Patkai and the Naga hills and the Karbi-Meghalaya plateau, the Brahmaputra plain/valley occupies a most significant part of the physiography of North East India.

The plain is an alluvial plain formed by the deposition of sediments brought by the river Brahmaputra and its numerous tributaries. It is opened to and joined with the Ganga plain in the west. It is therefore, often referred to as the Easternmost part of the Indus-Ganga-Brahmaputra plain. The plain is very extensive, it is about 800 km long and 200 km in width on the average.

(The northern margin of the Brahmaputra plain/valley merges.) The plain/valley is characterised by abrupt slope and is bordered by in the north along the Himalayan foothill by a narrow belt known as Bhabar which are deposited coarse sands and pebbles brought down from the Himalayan region by the swift flowing mountain streams.

Along the southern border of the Bhabar zone there lies a flat ground, from the east to the west, and is known as Tarai zone. The water that percolates down in the Bhabar zone reappears in this flat zone and hence this zone remains damp and sometimes swampy. To the south of the Tarai belt, there lies a belt of relatively high and compact ground. In this zone human settlements are extremely dense. This zone merges

Towards the south with the Brahmaputra flood plain.

The Brahmaputra is an extensively braided river and has numerous riverine islands locally known as chars and chaporis, (small and large and temporary, semipermanent and permanent). These are now inhabited by the immigrant settlers.

② The Barak plain:

The Barak plain is located in the southern part of Assam enclosed in the north by the North Cachar hills, on the east by the Manipur hills, and on the south by the Mizoram hills.

To the west the plain merges with Sylhet plains of Bangladesh. The plain is horse shoe shaped with 85 km of east-west extension and 70 km north-south extension near Bangladesh border.

The river Barak flows through the middle part of the plain sluggishly in meandering course forming a series of swamps and oxbow lakes.

③ The Manipur plain: It is a heart shaped plain of immense human importance, amidst the extensive hills and ranges of Manipur. The plain is about 70 km long from north to south and its maximum width is about 40 km. The area of the plain is about 1843 km².

The river like Nambul, Thoukal, Iruil, Imphal, etc. that subsequently flowed over the floor started spreading alluvium, giving rise to the present plain.

85 km
East - West
70 km
N-S

① The Tripura plain:— The plain is a piedmont one, lying at the foot of the north-south trending hill ranges extended from Mizoram. It covers an area of about 3500 km².

The Tripura plain covering west and south Tripura districts, slopes down west and southward from Atharimura range at a fairly high gradient providing little scope for food to occur. As any other ^{piedmont} plain, it is the product of both degradational and aggradational activities.

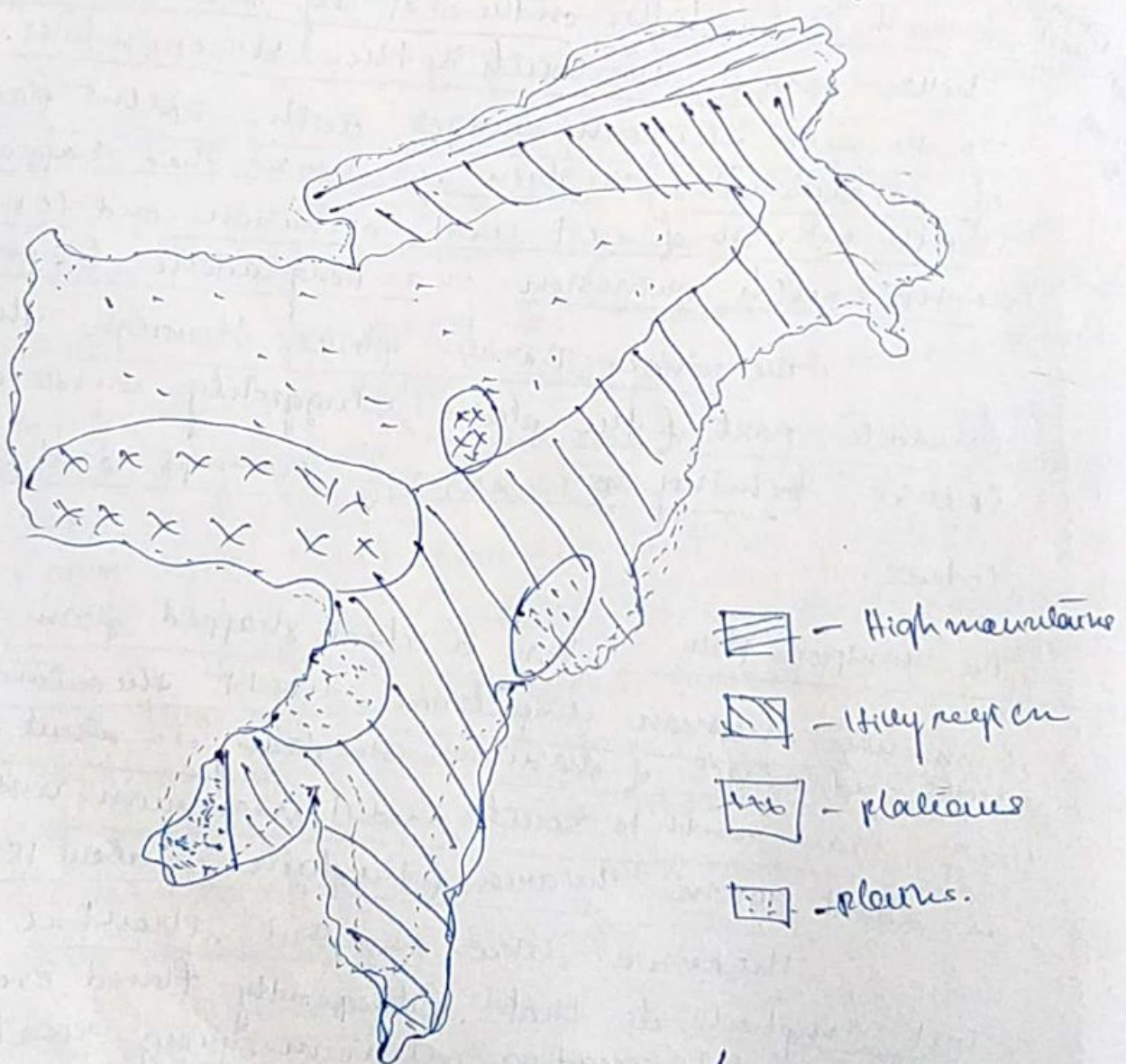


Fig: Physiographic division of N-E.