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Perfect Notes

# **HISTORY - CIVICS & GEOGRAPHY**

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Concepts



## **STD. VI**

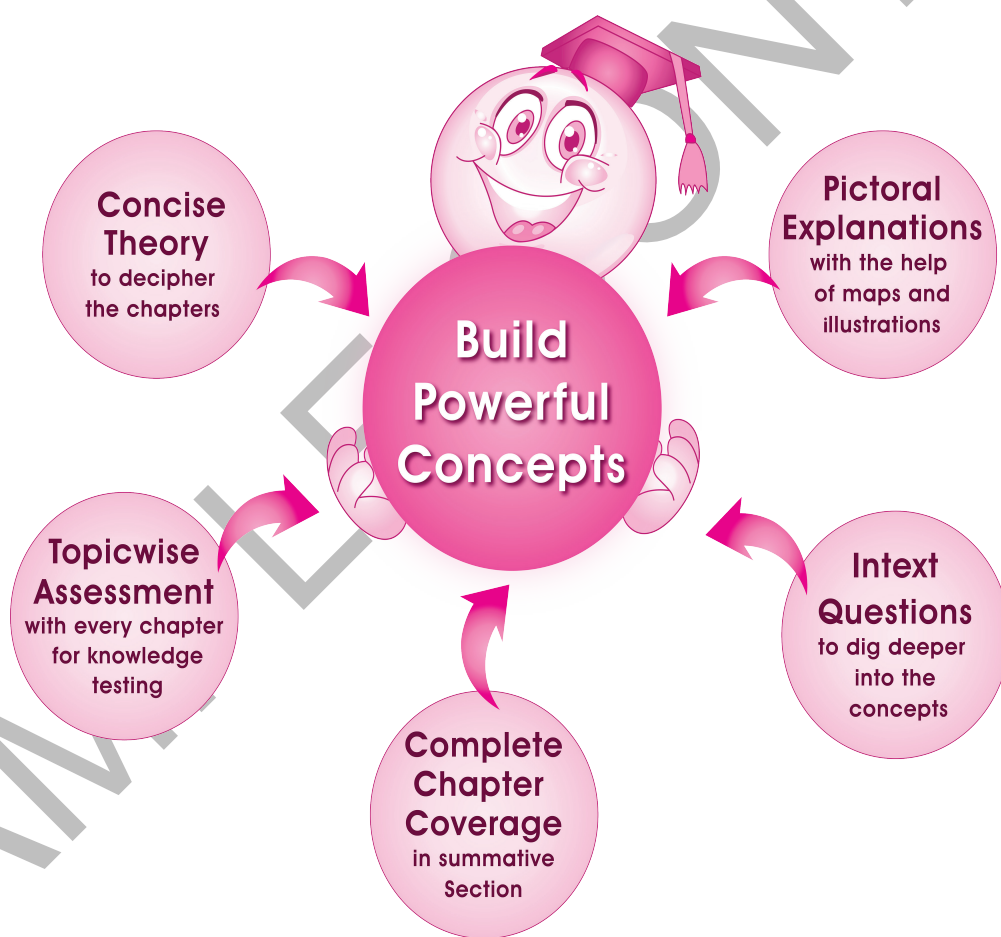
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# STD. VI

# History – Civics & Geography



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## PREFACE

The textbooks for Std. VI History and Civics and Geography has been prepared as per the new 'Continuous Comprehensive Evaluation' (CCE) system which are more child-centric and focuses on active learning and making the process of education more enjoyable and interesting.

Our **Std. VI History, Civics and Geography** book comes equipped with Summaries, Maps and Illustrations, Summative and Formative Questions and Answers and of course Assessment Tests. The goal of this book is to simplify the Text Book and break it into smaller chunks so as to make it easier for the students to comprehend the subject.

We've deliberately clubbed the subjects of History, Civics and Geography in a single book as they all fall under the umbrella of Social Science. However, within the book, these three sections are distinctly marked to avoid any ambiguity.

Every chapter in the book begins with a topic wise concise Summary that gives the readers a snapshot of the chapter. It further covers the **Summative Section** which includes Questions and Answers based upon the chapters and ensures that no point in the chapter is left uncovered.

The section that follows consists of **Formative Assessment**. In this segment, we've answered as many Questions as we could and deemed necessary. To be judicious towards the exercise, we've left a few Questions unanswered and have expected the students to answer them on their own. However, this was done either based on the nature of the questions or to prod the students to dig deeper into the given topics.

At the end of every chapter, we've included an Assessment Test. This test gives students a chance to test their knowledge based on what they've learned so far. To provide general and understandable explanation of the difficult terms, '**Glossary**' is included at the end of the book. **Additional information** is added to trigger the students' thought process.

With an attempt of joining the pieces of Social Science together, we hope this book turns out to be more than a guiding angel for the students of Std. VI. This book would not only help them to prepare for their examination but also equip them to be an informed citizen of this country who knows his country's evolution, its physical structure, its demographics and the civic structure extremely well.

The journey to create a complete book is strewn with triumphs, failures and near misses. If you think we've nearly missed something or want to applaud us for our triumphs, we'd love to hear from you.

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*A book affects eternity; one can never tell where its influence stops.*

***Best of luck to all the aspirants!***

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**Note: Textual Questions are represented by \* mark.**

# 1. The Indian Subcontinent and History



## Let's Study

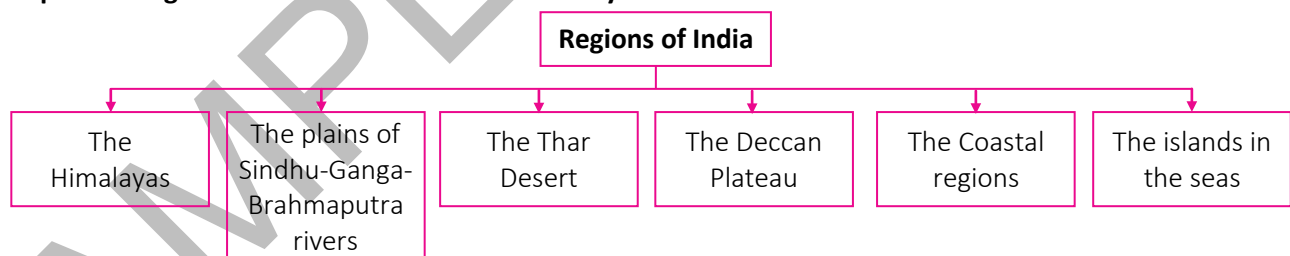
### Geographical Conditions and History

1. History is a coherent account of the significant past events in the progress of human culture.
2. Time, place, society and individuals are the four major pillars of history.
3. Among these, 'place' is related to geography or geographical conditions.
4. History is influenced by geographical conditions in many ways, thus history and geography are inseparable.
5. Our diet, clothing, housing, occupation largely depends upon geographical characteristics of a region in which we live.
6. For example, In hilly regions:
  - i. The life of the people is more strenuous than that of the people on the plains.
  - ii. Grains and vegetables are scarce in these regions, as not much fertile land is available.
  - iii. Thus, people depend more on hunting and gathering for their food.
7. The climate, rainfall, agricultural produce, flora and fauna of the region are the source of one's livelihood. They also influence the lifestyle and culture of a region.
8. Human settlements have developed in places where means of living are plentiful. These settlements further developed into villages and towns.
9. Sometimes due to degradation of the environment, drought, invasions etc., people are forced to leave their settlements. As a result, villages and towns become deserted.

### Geographical features of India

1. Himalayas lie to the north of our country, Bay of Bengal to the east, Arabian Sea to the west and Indian Ocean to the south.
2. Our country is contiguous except for the islands of Andaman-Nicobar and Lakshadweep.
3. Before 1947, Pakistan and Bangladesh were also a part of India.

#### Important regions that relate to the Indian history:



#### 1. Himalayas:

- i. The impenetrable wall created by the Hindukush and Himalaya ranges has separated the Indian Subcontinent from the deserts of Central Asia.
- ii. However, there was a land route through the Khyber and Bolan passes in the Hindukush mountains, which was connected to an ancient trade route.
- iii. The trade route from China, known as 'Silk Route' or 'Silk Road' passed through Central Asia and reached Arabia. Through this route, Silk was exported to western countries.
- iv. Many foreign invaders and travellers used this route to enter ancient India.



Himalaya



**2. The plains of the Sindhu-Ganga-Brahmaputra:**

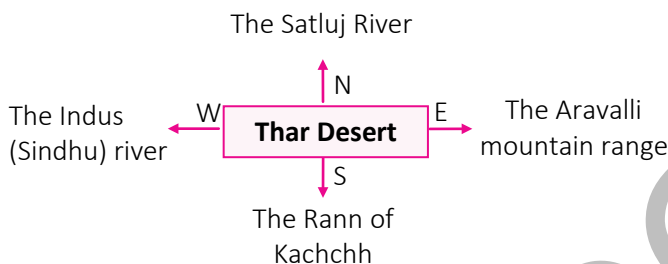
- i. Basins of river Sindhu, Ganga, Brahmaputra and their tributaries form this region.
- ii. This region extends from Sindhu-Punjab in the west to the present day Bangladesh in the east.
- iii. The earliest Indian civilization of Harappa and the later states and empires of ancient India emerged in this region.



**Ganga Ghat**

**3. The Thar Desert:**

- i. It spreads across Rajasthan, Haryana and some parts of Gujarat. A part of the desert lies in today's Pakistan.
- ii. Boundaries of Thar desert:

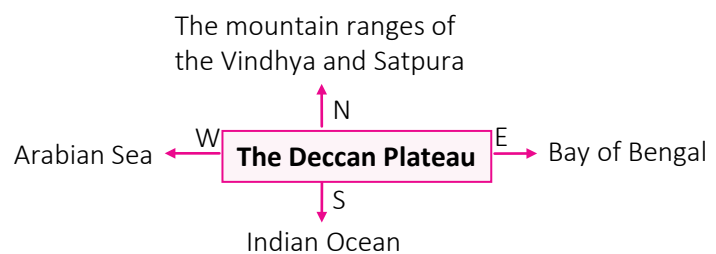


**Thar Desert**

- iii. The Ghaggar river originates in Himachal Pradesh and reaches the Thar desert. In Pakistan, this river is known as 'Hakra'.
- iv. Many sites of the Harappan civilization are found along the dry course of this river in Rajasthan and Pakistan.

**4. The Deccan Plateau:**

- i. It is the region between the east and the west coast of India that gradually narrows down towards the south.
- ii. This region is bounded by the sea on three sides. Thus it is called as a Peninsula. The Deccan Plateau occupies the major part of Indian Peninsula.
- iii. Boundaries of the Deccan Plateau:



- iv. Mountain ranges on Deccan plateau:
  - a. Towards north: Vindhya and Satpura.
  - b. Towards west: The Sahyadri mountain ranges, known as 'Western Ghats'.
  - c. Towards east: The mountains of 'Eastern Ghats'.
- v. To the west of Sahyadris, is the coastal region of Konkan and Malabar.
- vi. Deccan plateau has fertile land due to which many post-Harappan agrarian cultures flourished in this region.
- vii. Many kingdoms and smaller empires flourished in the Deccan Plateau, out of which Maurya empire was the largest.

**5. The Coastal Regions:**

- i. Ancient Indian had trade relations with the western countries, which was carried on by sea routes.
- ii. Thus, India developed contact and interaction with foreign cultures and people at the sea ports.
- iii. Although, land routes were also used later for trade and transport, the importance of sea routes did not diminish.

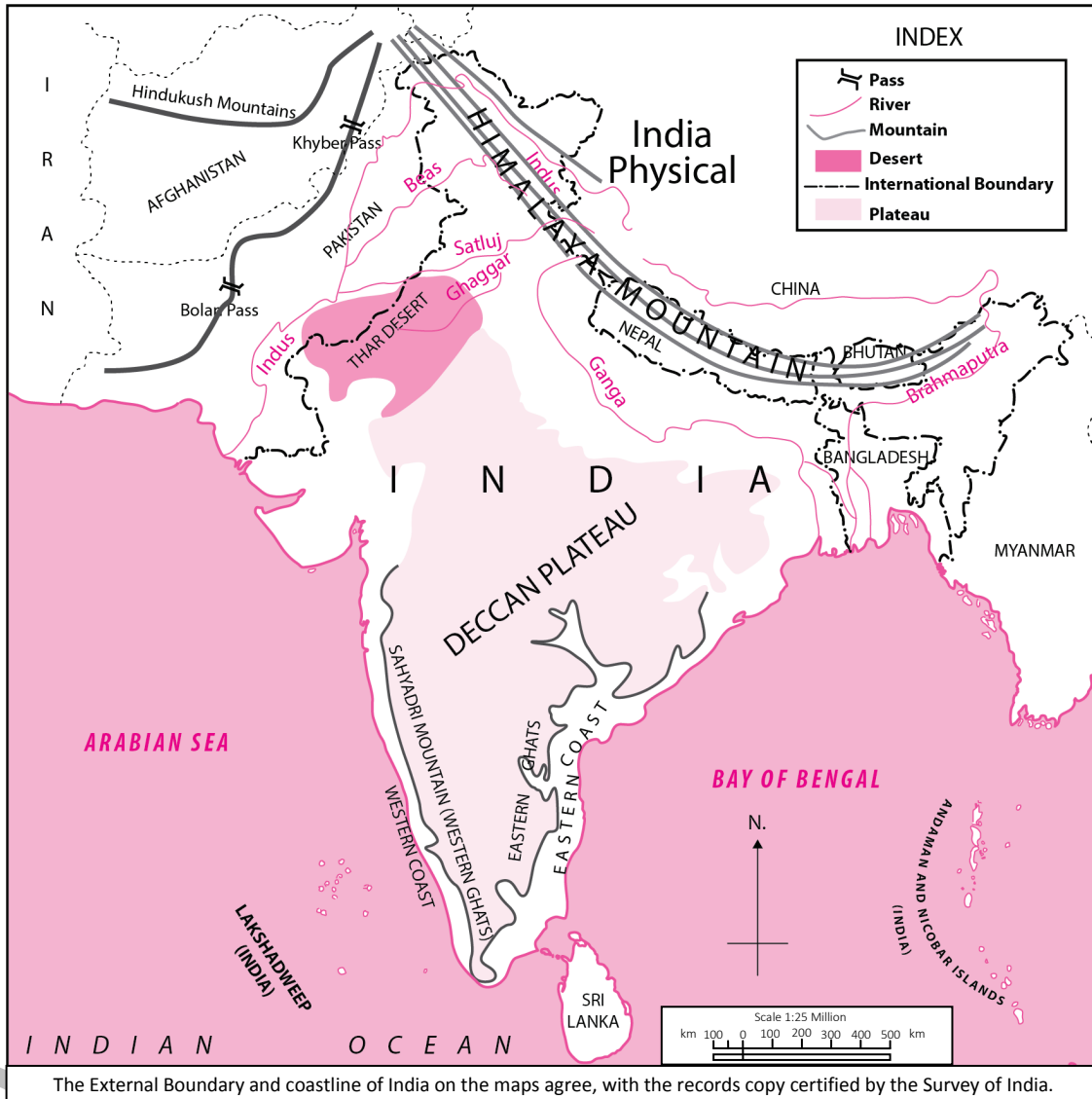


6. The Islands in the Sea:

- i. a. Islands in the Bay of Bengal: Andaman and Nicobar
- b. Islands in the Arabian Sea: Lakshadweep
- ii. These islands were important in ancient sea trade.
- iii. In the manuscript 'Periplus of the Erythrean Sea' or 'Handbook of the Red Sea', the Indian islands have been mentioned by an unknown Greek sailor.



Andaman Islands



Geographical Regions of Ancient India

The Indian Subcontinent

1. Afghanistan, Pakistan, Nepal, Bhutan, Bangladesh, Sri Lanka and India together form the region known as South Asia.
2. By considering the expanse and significance of India, this region is also known as the Indian Subcontinent.
3. The Harappan civilization had spread mainly in the northwestern part of the Indian Subcontinent. The cities of Harappa and Mohen-jo-daro are located in today's Pakistan.
4. China and Myanmar are not a part of South Asia or the Indian Subcontinent. However, they had cultural and trade relations with ancient India.



Summative Evaluation



Choose the Correct Alternative

1. India is contiguous except islands of Andaman-Nicobar and .....  
(A) Sri Lanka (B) Himalaya (C) Lakshadweep
2. .... was the main commodity exported to the western countries using Silk route.  
(A) Spices (B) Silk (C) Cotton
3. The ..... is located to the south of the Thar desert.  
(A) Aravalli mountain range (B) Satluj river  
(C) Rann of Kachchh
4. .... is the region between the east and the west coast of India which tapers off to the south.  
(A) The Deccan plateau (B) Western Ghat (C) Himalaya
5. The mountains on the eastern side of the Deccan plateau are known as .....  
(A) Hakra (B) Eastern Ghats (C) Hindukush

Answers:

1. (C) 2. (B) 3. (C) 4. (A) 5. (B)



Observe and write

\*1. Observe the physical map of India (given on page no. 4 of your textbook) and answer the questions based on it.

i. Which mountain ranges lie in the north of India?

Ans: The Hindukush and Himalaya mountain ranges lie in the north of India.

ii. Which are the routes to India from the northeast?

Ans: 'Silk Route' or 'Silk Road' is the route to India from the northeast.

iii. Where do the Ganga and Brahmaputra meet?

Ans: The Ganga and Brahmaputra meet at Bangladesh.

iv. Name the islands to the east of the Indian peninsula.

Ans: Andaman and Nicobar islands are found to the east of the Indian peninsula in the Bay of Bengal.

v. In which part of India do we see the Thar Desert?

Ans: The Thar Desert is located in the north-west part of India.



Additional Information

Silk Route or Silk Road was included in the World Heritage list by UNESCO in the year of 2014.



Answer in one sentence

\*1. What is history?

Ans: History is a coherent account of the significant past events in the progress of human culture.

\*2. What do the people in the hilly region depend on for their food?

Ans: The people in the hilly region depend on hunting and gathering for their food.

\*3. What features of our surroundings form the means of our livelihood?

Ans: The climate, rainfall, agricultural produce, flora and fauna of the region where we live; form the means of our livelihood.

\*4. Where do human settlements flourish?

Ans: Human settlements flourish wherever the means of living are plentiful.

5. Which mountain ranges have created the wall which has separated the Indian Subcontinent from the desert of Central Asia?

Ans: The Hindukush and Himalaya mountain ranges have created the wall which has separated the Indian Subcontinent from the deserts of Central Asia.



**6. Which are the routes to India through the Hindukush mountains?**

**Ans:** The land route passing through the Khyber pass and Bolan pass are the routes to India through the Hindukush mountains.

**7. Across which states of India is the Thar desert spread?**

**Ans:** The Thar desert is spread across Rajasthan, Haryana and some parts of Gujarat.

**\*8. Which is the earliest civilization in India?**

**Ans:** The earliest civilization in India is the Harappa civilization.

**9. In which manuscript have the Indian islands been mentioned by an unknown Greek sailor?**

**Ans:** In the manuscript 'Periplus of the Erythrean Sea' or 'Handbook of the Red Sea', the Indian islands have been mentioned by an unknown Greek sailor.

**10. Across which part of the Indian Subcontinent had the Harappan civilization mainly spread?**

**Ans:** The Harappan civilization had mainly spread across the north-western part of the Indian subcontinent.

**Answer the following****1. What are the major pillars of history? Which of them is related to geographical conditions?**

**Ans:** i. Time, place, society and individuals are the four major pillars of history.  
ii. Of these four pillars, 'place' is related to geographical conditions.

**\*2. What does human life depend on?**

**Ans:** i. The diet, clothing, housing, occupation of people depends upon the geographical characteristics of the region they live in.  
ii. Thus, the human life depends upon the geographical conditions of a region in which they live.

**\*3. Explain the difference in the human life in the hilly regions and that on the plains.**

**Ans:** Difference in the human life in the hilly regions and that on the plains:

	Human life in the hilly regions	Human life on the plains
i.	The life of the people living in hilly regions is more strenuous than the life of the people on the plains.	The life of the people living on the plains is comparatively less strenuous.
ii.	This region does not have much fertile land. Thus grains and vegetables are scarce in hilly areas.	This region has fertile land. Thus grains and vegetables are available in sufficient quantity.
iii.	People depend more on hunting and gathering for their food.	People depend upon agriculture for their food.

**4. Name the regions which are seen to be important when we look at the course of Indian History.**

**Ans:** Following regions are seen to be important when we look at the course of Indian History:

- |                        |   |
|------------------------|---|
| i. The Himalayas       | ii. The plains of Sindhu-Ganga-Brahmaputra rivers |
| iii. The Thar Desert   | iv. The Deccan Plateau                            |
| v. The Coastal regions | vi. The islands in the seas                       |

**\*5. Which region is known as the Indian subcontinent?**

**Ans:** i. Afghanistan, Pakistan, Nepal, Bhutan, Bangladesh, Sri Lanka and India together form this region.  
ii. Considering the expanse and significance of India in this region it is known as the Indian Subcontinent.

**Give reasons****\*1. There is a close relation between history and geography.**

**Ans:** i. Out of the four pillars of history, place is related to geography or geographical conditions.  
ii. The lifestyle and culture develops with the geographical characteristics of that region.



- iii. The degradation of the environment, drought, invasions, etc. lead to the scarcity of means of living and hence many villages and towns are deserted. We see many such instances in history.
- iv. Thus, history is influenced by geographical conditions in many ways. Hence, there is a close relation between history and geography.

**\*2. People are forced to leave their settlements.**

- Ans:**
- i. Human settlements flourish in the regions where the means of living like climate, rainfall, agricultural produce, flora and fauna are plentiful.
  - ii. However, the reasons like degradation of the environment; drought, invasions, etc. lead to the scarcity of food and other means of living. Thus, people are forced to leave their settlements.

**Formative Evaluation**

**1. Let's Discuss. (Textbook page no. 1)** 

**i. What occupations are seen in your locality?**

**Ans:** Occupations seen in my locality are:  
Teaching, carpentry, engineering, singing, driving, painting, etc.  
[Answer to the above question may differ]

**ii. What crops are grown in your surroundings?**

**Ans:** I live in a city, thus there is not much land available for farming. However, at some places far from our city, rice, radish, spinach crops are grown.  
[Answer to the above question may differ]

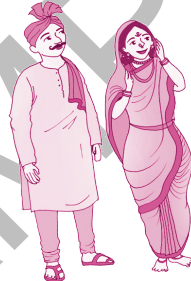
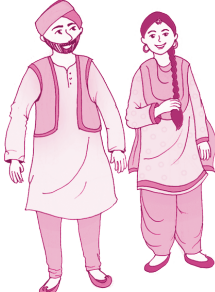
**2. You can Do this. (Textbook page no. 4)** 

**i. Show the following on an outline map of India.**

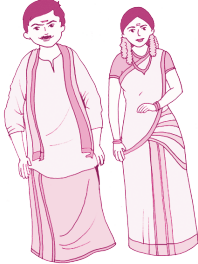
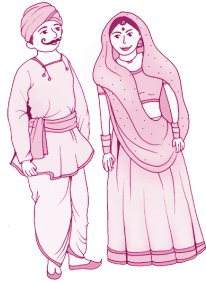
- a. The Himalaya mountain
- b. The Thar Desert
- c. East Coast

**Ans:** Refer the map 'India physical' given on page no. 4 of your textbook.

**3. Look at the pictures of various costumes given in "Column A" and match them with their respective states given in "Column B":**

No.	Column A	Column B
i.		a. Rajasthan
ii.		b. Maharashtra



iii.		c. Punjab
iv.		d. Kerala
		e. Assam

Ans: (i – b); (ii – c); (iii – d); (iv – a)

**\*4 Activity.**



i. **Obtain information about the lakes or reservoirs in your locality.**

*(Students may attempt this activity on their own.)*

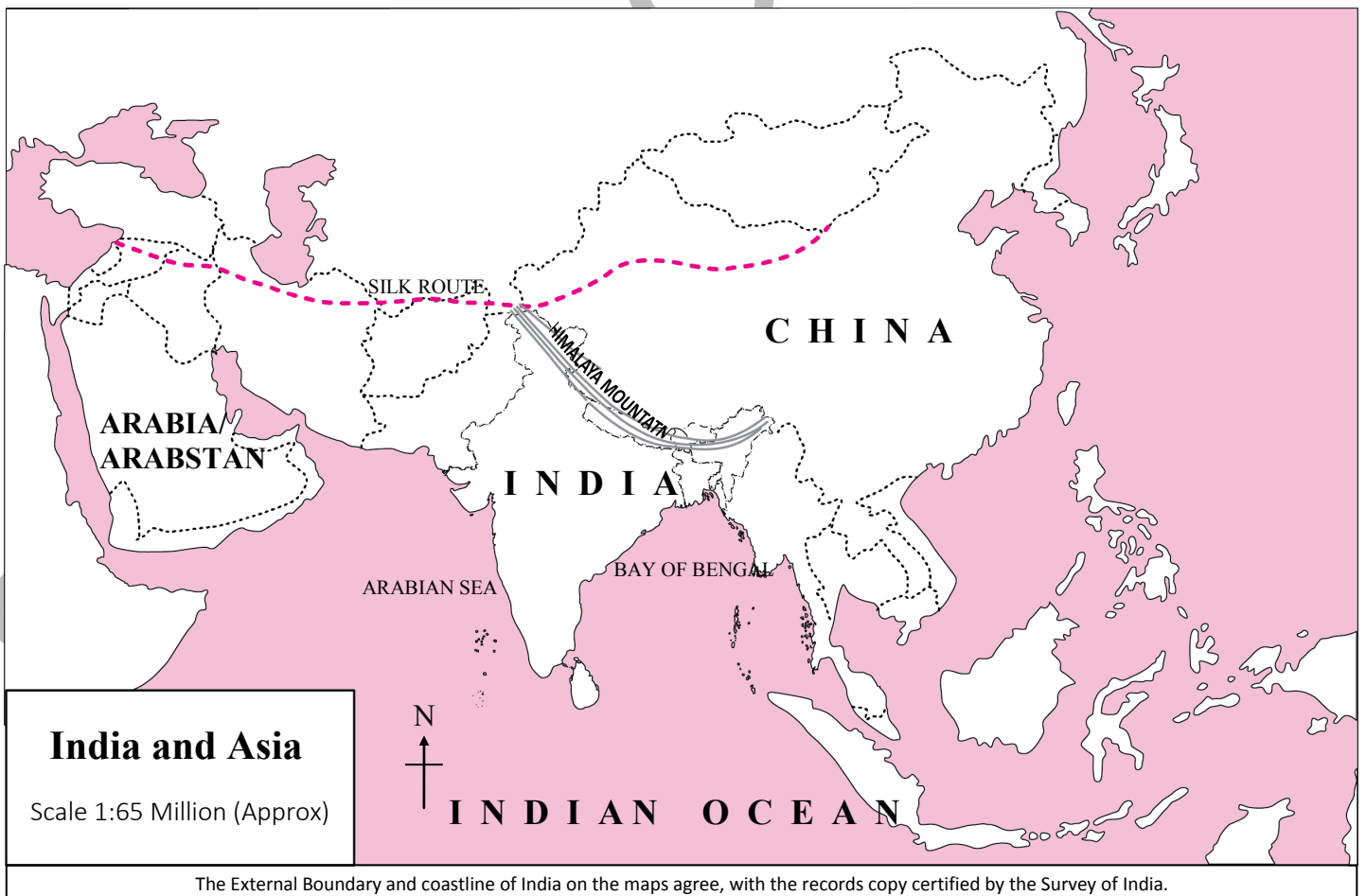
ii. **Show the following on a world map.**

a. The Himalaya mountain

b. The Silk Road

c. Arabia

Ans:





Chapter Assessment

1. Fill in the blanks.

- i. .... mountain range is located to the north of India.
- ii. .... river is known as 'Hakra' in Pakistan.
- iii. A major part of the Indian peninsula is occupied by the .....
- iv. .... is a group of Indian islands in the Arabian Sea.

2. Right or Wrong? If Wrong, write the correct sentence.

- i. Grains and vegetables are available on a large scale in hilly areas.
- ii. Human settlements have flourished wherever the means of living are plentiful.
- iii. 'Handbook of the Red Sea' makes a mention of Indian Islands.
- iv. The cities of Harappa and Mohen-jo-daro are in today's Bangladesh.

3. Answer the following.

- i. What are 'Western Ghats' and 'Eastern Ghats'?
- ii. Explain how land and sea routes developed in India.

Answers:

1. i. Himalaya      ii. Ghaggar      iii. Deccan plateau      iv. Lakshadweep

2. i. Wrong  
Grains and Vegetables are available on a large scale in the plains and are scarce in hilly areas.

ii. Right

iii. Right

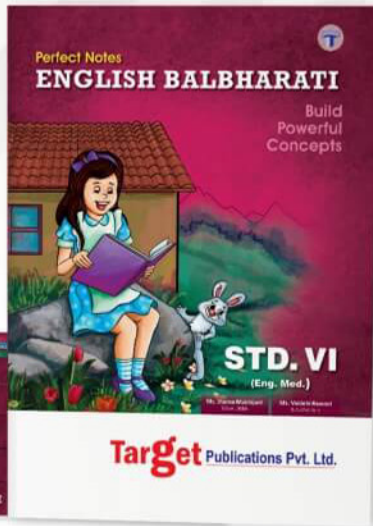
iv. Wrong

The cities of Harappa and Mohen-jo-daro are in today's Pakistan.

3. i. a. The Sahyadri mountain ranges located to the west of Deccan Plateau are known as 'Western Ghats'.
- b. The mountains located on the eastern side of the Deccan plateau are known as the 'Eastern Ghats'.
- ii. a. From the period of Harappan civilization, ancient India has trade relations with the western countries and sea routes were used for trade.
- b. India came to know about the foreign cultures and people at the sea ports.
- c. Thus, later land routes along with sea routes were used for trade and transport.



# Std. VI



## AVAILABLE SUBJECTS:

- English Balbharati
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