

UPSC 2020

General Studies Mains – I

Geography Notes

Topic – Difference between Western Ghats and Eastern Ghats

The Deccan plateau of India is one of the main landmasses and is studied as India's one of the physiographic divisions. It is bordered by Western Ghats on its west and Eastern Ghats on its east. These Ghats make an important section in Geography syllabus of [IAS Exam](#). While Western Ghats are continuous mountain ranges called Sahyadri; Eastern Ghats are discontinuous mountain ranges.

This article will mention the difference between Western Ghats and Eastern Ghats with key facts about both for UPSC.

Relevant Facts about Western Ghats and Eastern Ghats for UPSC

The important facts about Western Ghats for UPSC are mentioned in the table below:

Western Ghats
1. There are different local names of Western Ghats: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Sahyadri in Maharashtra• Nilgiri hills in Karnataka and Tamil Nadu• Anaimalai hills and Cardamom hills in Kerala
2. Western Ghats are elevated and continuous range of mountains
3. The average elevation of Western Ghats is about 1,500 m
4. Western Ghat is the origin of various Peninsular rivers

Read in detail about [Western Ghats](#) in the linked article.

The important facts about Eastern Ghats for UPSC are given in the table below:

Eastern Ghats
1. Eastern Ghat is discontinuous and low-height mountain ranges
2. Rivers like Krishna, Kaveri, Mahanadi, Godavari erode Eastern Ghats
3. Javadi hills, Palconda range, Nallamala hills, Mahendragiri hills make some of the important mountainous hills of Eastern Ghats

Difference between Western Ghats & Eastern Ghats

Western Ghats

- Western Ghats are also known as *Sahyadri* in certain parts of India.
- They run parallel to the western coast of India.
- Since they are continuous without any major breaks, hence it is very difficult to pass through them. Although this difficulty has been reduced in the present times due to the advanced transport technology, however in the olden days, it was definitely a huge task to pass the ghats and get onto the opposite side.
- However, the Western Ghats do have passes such as the *Bhor ghat*, *Pal ghat*, and *Thal ghat* which makes it possible to travel through the Western Ghats despite the fact that they are continuous.
- Although most of the peninsular rivers drain into the Bay of Bengal, their origin point is the Western Ghats.
- Important rivers such as *Tungabhadra*, *Krishna*, *Godavari* have their origin point in the western ghats.
- It must be noted that the western ghats of India play a very important role in the distribution of the monsoon rainfall on the western border of India.
- It causes the orographic rainfall due to which the windward side of the mountains receives a lot of rainfall; however, the leeward side remains dry.
- The Western Ghats consist of evergreen forests too, however, the main crop grown there is the Coffee.
- Anaimudi is the highest peak of peninsular plateau and is located on Anaimalai hills of the Western Ghats

Eastern Ghats

- The Eastern Ghats run parallel to the eastern coastal plains of India.
- Unlike the Western Ghats, they are discontinuous in nature and is dissected by the rivers that drain into the Bay of Bengal. As discussed above, most of these rivers have their origin in the Western Ghats.
- It must be noted that the Eastern Ghats are lower in elevation than the Western Ghats.
- The highest peak of Eastern Ghats is the Mahendragiri.
- The difference in the elevation levels of the highest peaks in both the ghats can also be compared. Anaimudi which is the highest peak of the Western Ghats has a height of 2695 mts whereas Mahendragiri of Eastern Ghats is of 1501 mts. This gives us a fair idea of the differences in elevation levels of the hills in both the ghats.
- The main crop produced in the Eastern Ghats is the Rice, which is also the staple food of the people living in the region.

Physiographic Divisions of India

India being a rich and diverse country is also diverse in its landforms. India's landmass can be divided into different physiographic divisions such as :

1. The Great Himalayas
2. The Northern Plains
3. The Indian Desert
4. The Peninsular Plateau
5. The Coastal Plains
6. The Island groups

Read about [Physiographic Division of Great Plains of India](#) in the linked article.

Candidates reading about the difference between Western Ghats & Eastern Ghats, are suggested to also read a few other important Geography topics linked in the table below:

Monsoon in India	Structure of Atmosphere	Types of Rainfall	Highest Peaks in States of India
Rainfall Distribution in India	Exogenic Processes	Geomorphic Processes	Himalayan and Peninsular Rivers Comparison

UPSC Preparation Links:

UPSC 2020	UPSC 2020 Calendar
Documents Required for UPSC Exam	Language Papers in UPSC - Tips to Study
UPSC Admit Card 2020	IAS Eligibility Criteria