

# LESSER HIMALAYA

- In between the Shiwaliks in the south and the Greater Himalayas in the north.
- Runs almost parallel to both the ranges.
- It is also called the **Himachal or Lower Himalaya**.
- **Lower Himalayan** ranges are 60-80 km wide and about 2400 km in length.
- Elevations vary from **3,500 to 4,500 m** above sea level.
- Many peaks are more than 5,050 m above sea level and are snow covered throughout the year.
- **Lower Himalayas** have **steep, bare southern slopes [steep slopes prevents soil formation]** and more gentle, forest covered northern slopes.
- In Uttarakhand, the Middle Himalayas are marked by the **Mussoorie** and the **Nag Tibba** ranges.
- The **Mahabharat Lekh**, in southern Nepal is a continuation of the Mussoorie Range
- East of the Kosi River, the Sapt Kosi, Sikkim, Bhutan, Miri, Abor and Mishmi hills represent the lower Himalayas.
- The Middle Himalayan ranges are more friendly to human contact.

दक्षिण में शिवालिकों और उत्तर में ग्रेटर हिमालय के बीच। दोनों श्रेणियों के समानांतर चलता है। इसे हिमाचल या निचला हिमालय भी कहा जाता है। लोअर हिमालयन रेंज 60-80 किमी चौड़ी और लंबाई लगभग 2400 किमी है। समुद्र तल से ऊंचाई 3,500 से 4,500 मीटर तक होती है। कई शिखर समुद्र तल से 5,050 मीटर से अधिक ऊंचे हैं और पूरे वर्ष बर्फ से ढके रहते हैं। निचली हिमालय में खड़ी, नंगे दक्षिणी ढलान [खड़ी ढलान मिट्टी के निर्माण को रोकती है] और अधिक कोमल, जंगल से ढके उत्तरी ढलान। उत्तराखंड में, मध्य हिमालय मसूरी और नाग टिब्बा पर्वतमाला द्वारा चिह्नित हैं। महाभारत लेह, दक्षिणी नेपाल में मसूरी रेंज की एक निरंतरता है कोसी नदी के पूर्व में, सप्त कोसी, सिक्किम, भूटान, मिरी, अबोर और मिश्मी पहाड़ियाँ निचले हिमालय का प्रतिनिधित्व करती हैं। मध्य हिमालय पर्वतमाला मानव संपर्क के अधिक अनुकूल हैं।

Majority of the Himalayan hill resorts like Shimla, Mussoorie, Ranikhet, Nainital, Almora and Darjeeling, etc. are located here.

The Pir Panjal Range	Jammu and Kashmir (They are to the south of Kashmir Valley)
The Dhaola Dhar Range	Himachal Pradesh
The Mussoorie Range and The Nag Tiba Range	Uttarakhand
Mahabharat Lekh	Nepal

### The Pir Panjal range

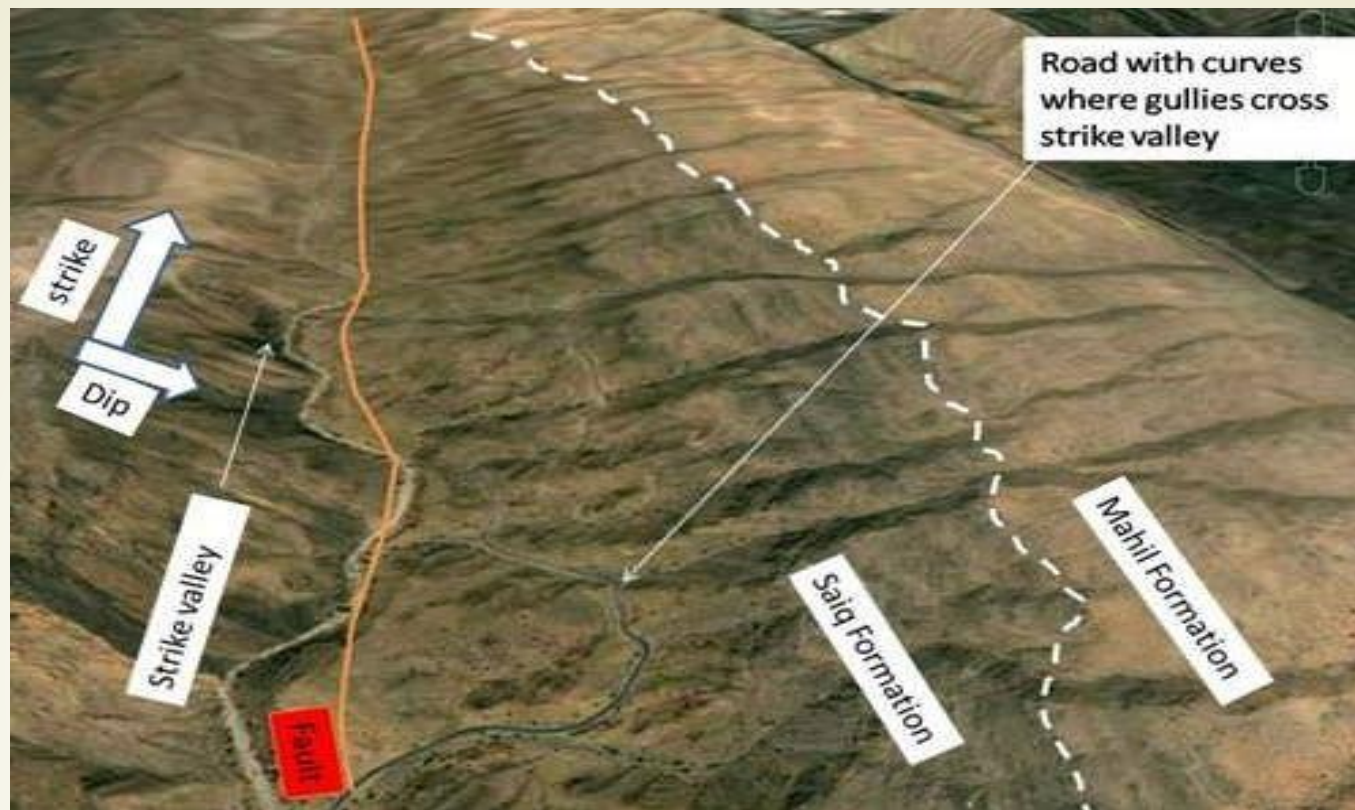
- The **Pir Panjal range** in Kashmir is the longest and the most important range.
- It extends from the **Jhelum river** to the **upper Beas** river for over 300 km.
- It rises to 5,000 metres and contains mostly volcanic rocks.

## Passes in Pir Panjal

- Pir Panjal Pass (3,480 m), the Bidil (4,270 m), Golabghar Pass (3,812 m) and Banihal Pass (2,835 m).
- The **Banihal Pass** is used by the Jammu-Srinagar highway and Jammu-Baramulla railway.
- The **Kishanganga**, the **Jhelum** and the **Chenab** cut through the range.
- Southeast of the Ravi, the Pir Panjal continues as **Dhaola Dhar range**, passing through Dalhousie, Dharmshala, and Shimla.

### **Important Valleys**

- Between the Pir Panjal and the Zaskar Range of the main Himalayas, lies the valley of Kashmir. (average elevation is 1,585 m above mean sea level)
- The synclinal basin of the valley is floored with alluvial, lacustrine [lake deposits], fluvial [river action] and glacial deposits. {Fluvial Landforms, Glacial Landforms}
- Jhelum River meanders through these deposits and cuts a deep gorge in Pir Panjal through which it drains. (Kashmir is like a basin with very few outlets)
- In Himachal Pradesh there is **Kangra Valley**. It is a **strike valley** and extends from the foot of the Dhaola Dhar Range to the south of Beas.
- On the other hand, the **Kulu Valley** in the upper course of the Ravi is **transverse valley**.



## Strike valley vs. Transverse valley

- A valley perpendicular to the slope or parallel to the ridge [also called as longitudinal valley]
- In contrast, transverse streams cut valleys parallel to the slope (along the dip).