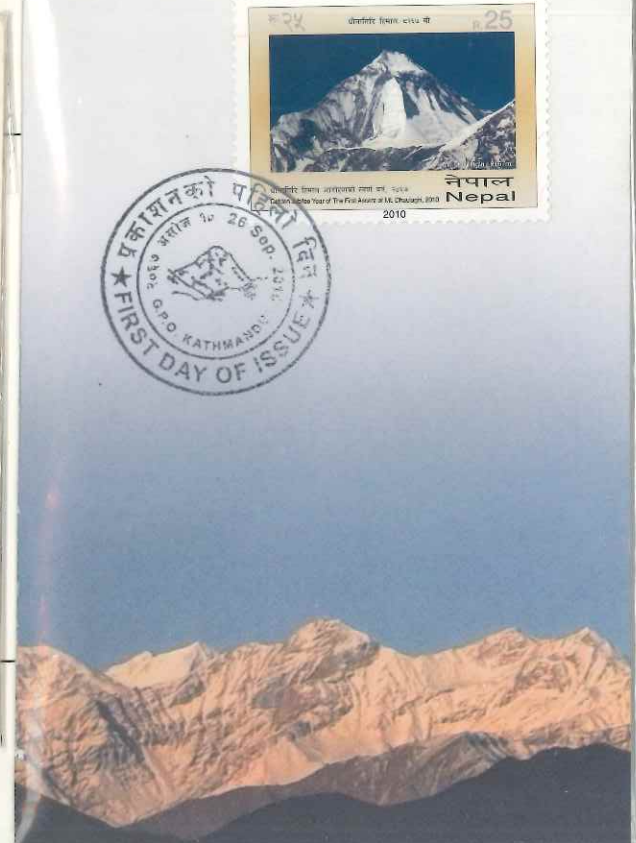


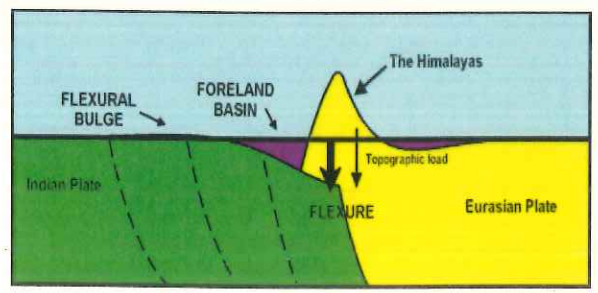
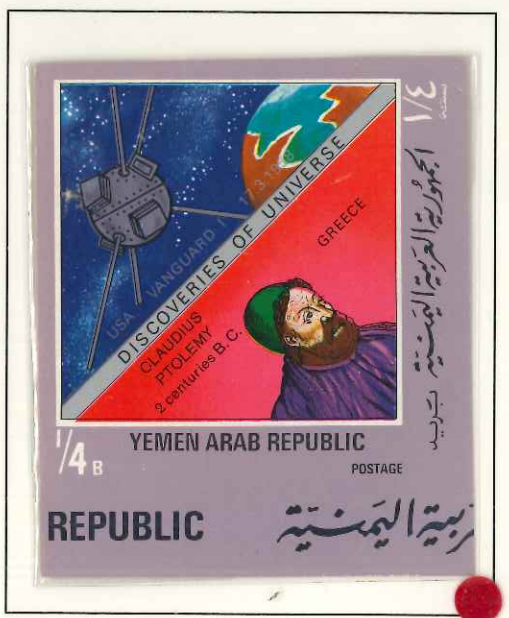
4. GANGES JOURNEY

How Ganges has originated?

Continental drift was a theory that explained how continents shift position on Earth's surface. Set forth in 1912 by Alfred Wegener, a geophysicist and meteorologist, continental drift also explained why look-alike animal and plant fossils, and similar rock formations, are found on different continents. The Indo-Gangetic basin is an active foreland basin having east west elongated shape. The basin formed in response to the uplift of Himalaya after the collision of India and China plates. The foreland basin much like the Himalayan mountain range, span approximately 2,000 kilometers (1,200 mi) west to east across India, Nepal, Bhutan and Bangladesh. The present day foreland basin is now widely known as the Indo-Gangetic plain which is mostly "U" and wedge shaped, and sits mostly on the Indian Craton.



Ptolemy: "India within the river Ganges is bounded on the west by the Paropanisadai and Arakhosia and Gedrosia along their eastern sides already indicated; on the north by Mount Imaos along the Sogdiaioi and the Sakai lying above it; on the east by the river Ganges ; and on the south and again on the west by a portion of the Indian Ocean."



After a 2-year study period in northwest India, **Hsüan Tsang** (Xuanzang) sailed down the Ganges to visit the holy land of Buddhism. Xuanzang travelled up the river to Shrughna, also mentioned in the works of Udyotakara, before crossing eastward to Matipura, where he arrived in 635, having crossed the river Ganges. In Brahmanpura, near the source of River Ganges, Xuanzang came to know about a country called Suvanagotra, which bordered Tibet and Khotan.