

Chapter India Size and location

Location

India is lying entirely in the Northern hemisphere, as shown in the figure below.

- The land extends between latitudes $8^{\circ}4'N$ and $37^{\circ}6'N$ and longitudes $68^{\circ}7'E$ and $97^{\circ}25'E$.
- The Tropic of Cancer ($23^{\circ} 30'N$) divides India into almost two equal parts.

Size

India's total area accounts for about 2.4% of the total geographical area of the world. Thus, it is the 7th largest country in the world, by its size.

- India has a land boundary of about 15,200 km.
- The total length of the coastline of the mainland is 7,516.6 km including Andaman and Nicobar and Lakshadweep.
- India is bounded by the mountains in the northwest, north and northeast. South of about 22° north latitude, it begins to taper and extends towards the Indian Ocean, dividing it into two seas, the Arabian Sea on the west and the Bay of Bengal on its east.
- Time along the Standard Meridian of India ($82^{\circ}30'E$) passing through Mirzapur (in Uttar Pradesh) is taken as the standard time for India.

The map below shows the Extent of India and Standard Meridian.

India and the World

The Indian landmass has a central location between the East and West Asia. India is a southward extension of the Asian continent. The trans-Indian Ocean routes connect the countries of Europe in the West and the countries of East Asia. No other country has as long a coastline on the Indian Ocean as India has. India's contacts with the World have continued through the ages. The spices, muslin and other merchandise were taken from India to different countries. On the other hand, the influence of Greek sculpture, and the architectural styles of domes and minarets from West Asia can be seen in different parts of India.

India's Neighbours

India has 28 states and 8 Union Territories. India shares its land boundaries with:

- Pakistan and Afghanistan in the northwest
- China (Tibet), Nepal and Bhutan in the north
- Myanmar and Bangladesh in the east

The southern neighbours across the sea consist of the two island countries, Sri Lanka and Maldives. India has had strong geographical and historical links with her neighbours.

India-Size and Location

1. Why $82^{\circ}30'E$ has been selected as the Standard Meridian of India?
2. Why is the difference between the duration of day and night hardly felt at Kanyakumari but not so in Kashmir?
3. What is the longitude and latitude of India?
4. Name the Indian States that have common frontiers with its neighbouring country Bhutan.
5. Which are the countries constituting the Indian Sub-Continent?
6. Area-wise which is the smallest and which is the largest state of India?
7. Classify the states into four groups each

having common frontiers with

(i) Pakistan

(ii) China

(iii) Myanmar

(iv) Bangladesh

8. Name the group of islands lying in the Arabian Sea.

9. The sun rises two hours earlier in Arunachal Pradesh as compared to Gujarat in the west but the watches show the same time. How does this happen?

10. The central location of India at the head of the Indian Ocean is considered of great significance. Why?

11. Collect information about the 'Silk Route'. Also find out the new developments, which are improving communication routes in the regions of high altitude.
12. Which are the water bodies that separate SriLanka from India?
13. India lies to the north-east hemisphere. How do you justify this statement?
14. How do we calculate the time-difference between Gujarat and Arunachal Pradesh?
15. Give a brief description of the Suez Canal.
16. What are the commodities exported

from India?

17. Write a brief note about India and its neighbours.

18. Give the significance of India's central location.

19. Explain how India's land routes have been important since ancient times.

20. _____ is the longitudinal extent of India.

- (a) $8^{\circ}4'N$ and $37^{\circ}6'N$
- (b) $68^{\circ}7'N$ and $97^{\circ}25'E$
- (c) $68^{\circ}7'E$ and $97^{\circ}25'W$
- (d) $8^{\circ}4'E$ and $37^{\circ}6'E$

21. ____ is the group of islands belonging to the Indian territory, which lies in the Arabian Sea.

- (a) Andaman and Nicobar Islands
- (b) Sri Lanka
- (c) Lakshadweep
- (d) Maldives

22. Tropic of Cancer passes through

- (a) Orissa
- (b) Tripura
- (c) Bihar
- (d) Punjab

23. _____ is the oldest route of contact between India and other countries of the world.

- (a) Ocean routes
- (b) Maritime contact
- (c) Land routes
- (d) Air routes

