

CH-1 INDIA - SIZE AND LOCATION

INTRODUCTION

India is one of ancient civilization in world and has moved forward displaying remarkable progress in the field of agriculture, industry and technology.

LOCATION

Main land extends between

- latitude 8°4'N and 37°6'N
- longitudes 68°7'E and 97°25'E.
- The tropic of cancer (23° 30'N) divides the country almost into two equal parts.
- The Andaman and Nicobar Islands and the Lakshadweep islands lie in Bay of Bengal and Arabian Sea respectively.

SIZE

- Area - 3.28 million square km (2.4% of the total geographical area of world).
- India is 7th largest country of the world.
- India's land boundary– 15,200km (coast line of mainland including Andaman and Nicobar and Lakshadweep is 7,516.6).
- India contains young fold mountains in northwest, north and northeast.
- From Gujarat to Arunachal Pradesh there is a time lag of two hours.
- Hence, time along the Standard Meridian of India (82°30'E) passing through Mirzapur (in Uttar Pradesh) is taken as the standard time for the whole country.
- The latitudinal extent influences the duration of the day and night, as one moves from south to north.

INDIA AND THE WORLD

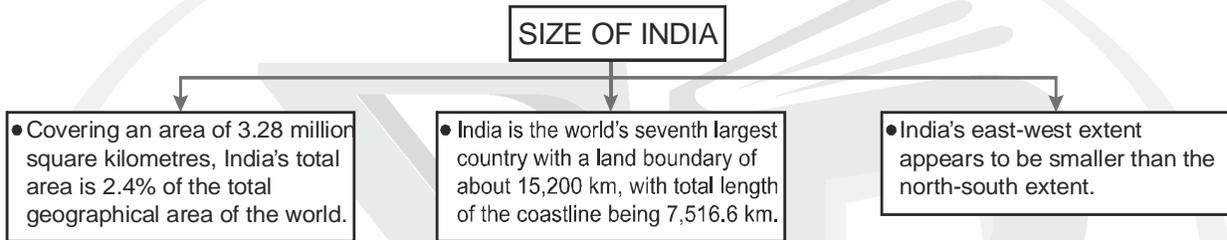
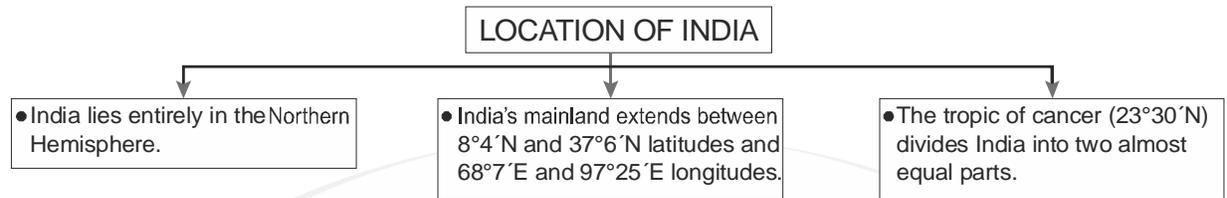
- India is located in the south-central part of the continent of Asia.
- Bordering the Indian ocean and its two arms extending in the form of Bay of Bengal and the Arabian Sea.
- This maritime location of Peninsular India has provided links to its neighboring regions through the sea and air routes.
- The Indian landmass has a central location between the East and the West Asia.
- **India is a southward extension of the Asian Continent.**
- The trans Indian Ocean routes which connect the countries of Europe in the West and the countries of East Asia provide a strategic central location to India.
- The Deccan Peninsula protrudes into the Indian Ocean, thus helping India to establish close contact with West Asia, Africa and Europe from the western coast and with Southeast and East Asia from the eastern coast.
- No other country has a long coastline on the Indian Ocean as India has and indeed, it is India's eminent position in the Indian Ocean which justifies the naming of an Ocean after it.
- India's contacts with the World have continued through the ages but her relationships through the land routes are much older than her maritime contacts.
- The various passes across the mountains in the north have provided passages to the ancient travellers, while the oceans restricted such interaction for a long time.
- These routes have contributed in the exchange of ideas and commodities since ancient times.
- The ideas of the Upanishads and the Ramayana, the stories of Panchtantra, the Indian numerals and the decimal system thus could reach many parts of the world.

- The spices, muslin(kind of cloth) and other merchandise were taken from India to different countries.
- On the other hand, the influence of Greek sculpture, and the architectural styles of dome and minarets from West Asia can be seen in different parts of our country.

INDIA'S NEIGHBORS

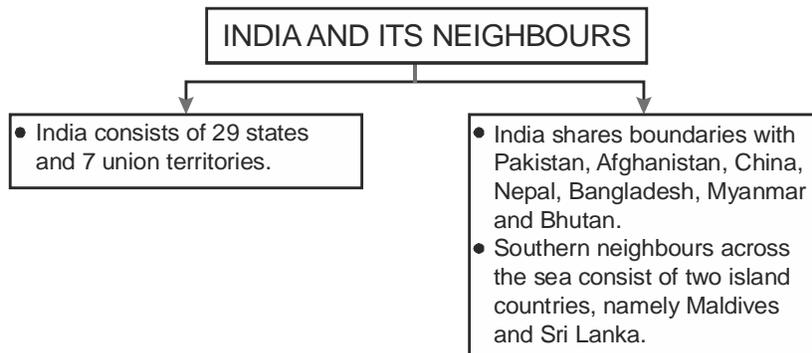
- India has 29 states and 7 union territories.
- Sri Lanka and Maldives are the two island countries located in the Indian Ocean, which are our neighbors.
- Sri Lanka is separated from India by the Gulf of Mannar and Palk Strait.
- Other neighbors are Pakistan, Afghanistan, china, Nepal, Bhutan, Myanmar, Bangladesh.

AT THE TIME OF QUICK REVISION



INDIA AND ITS CONNECTION TO THE WORLD

- The Indian landmass is centrally located between West and East Asia.
- India established its contacts with West Asia, Africa, and Europe, South-east and East Asia due to its Deccan Peninsula.
- The Landmass of India helped her to establish more contacts with the outside world compared to the maritime contacts.
- India contributed to world its items produced here and more than that its ideas, philosophies, (Upanishads, Ramayana, Panchatantra) and mathematics (Indian numerals and decimal system).
- India also gained from this exchange – for example, India's architecture was influenced by Greek sculpture and architectural styles from West Asia.



ASSIGNMENT

SOLVED NCERT QUESTIONS

1. Choose the right answer from the four alternatives given below:

I. The Tropic of Cancer does not pass through:

- a. Rajasthan b. Odisha c. Chhattisgarh d. Tripura

II. The eastern-most longitude of India is:

- a. 97°25'E b. 68°7'E c. 77°6'E d. 82°32'E

III. Uttarakhand, Uttar Pradesh, Bihar, West Bengal and Sikkim have common frontiers with:

- a. China b. Bhutan c. Nepal d. Myanmar

IV. If you intend to visit the island Kavaratti during your summer vacations, which one of the following Union Territory of India you will be going to?

- a. Puducherry b. Lakshadweep
c. Andaman and Nicobar d. Diu and Daman

V. My friend hails from a country which does not share land boundary with India. Identify the country.

- a. Bhutan b. Tajikistan c. Bangladesh d. Nepal

Ans. I. b II. a III. c IV. b V. b

2. Answer the following questions briefly.

- a. Name the group of islands lying in the Arabian Sea.
b. Name the countries which are larger than India.
c. Which island group of India lies to its south-east?
d. Which island countries are our southern neighbours?

Ans. a. Lakshadweep b. Russia, Canada, China, USA, Brazil, and Australia
c. Andaman and Nicobar groups of Island d. Maldives, Sri Lanka.

3. 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?

Ans. There is a longitudinal gap between Arunachal Pradesh and Gujarat which is about 30°. Because of which there is a time lag of about 2 hours between the states. As Arunachal Pradesh is in the East therefore the sun rises early there compared to Gujarat. The Indian Standard Time is taken from the time of Standard Meridian of India and hence, the watches show the same time in both the states.

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

Ans. The central location of India at the head of the Indian Ocean is considered of great significance due to the following reasons:

- a. India has got a strategic advantage due to the Trans Indian Ocean routes which connect the countries of Europe in the West and the countries in the East Asia.
b. It helps India to establish close contacts with Africa, West Asia, and Europe from the Western coast and with the Southeast and East Asia from the Eastern coast.
c. The natural harbours and the vast coastline have benefitted India in the process of trade and commerce with the distant countries as well as its neighbours.
d. It has given India a distinct climate than the rest of the Asian Continent.

OTHER IMPORTANT QUESTIONS

ONE MARK QUESTIONS

1. In which hemisphere India is located?

Ans. India is located in northern hemisphere.

2. **What is the latitudinal extent of India?**

Ans. The main land extends between latitudes $8^{\circ}4'N$ and $37^{\circ}6'N$.

3. **What is the longitudinal extent of India?**

Ans. India lies between the longitudes of $68^{\circ}7'E$ and $97^{\circ}25'E$.

4. **What is total area of Indian landmass?**

Ans. Total landmass of India has an area of 3.28 million square Kms.

5. **Which countries are bigger than India in size?**

Ans. Russia, Canada, USA, China, Brazil and Australia.

6. **Why $82^{\circ}30'E$ has been selected as the Standard Meridian of India?**

Ans. $82^{\circ}30'E$ has been selected as the Standard Meridian of India since it passes almost from the centre of India.

7. **What is the total length and width of India?**

Ans. Total length of India is 3,214 Kms and the width is 2,933 Kms.

8. **Which is the smallest and the largest state of India areawise?**

Ans. The smallest state is Goa and the largest state is Rajasthan.

9. **Which two Island countries are India's neighbours?**

Ans. Sri Lanka and Maldives.

10. **Which water bodies separates Sri Lanka from India?**

Ans. Sri Lanka is separated from India by a narrow channel of sea formed by the Palk Strait and the Gulf of Mannar.

11. **Name the states through which the Tropic of Cancer passes.**

Ans. Gujarat, Madhya Pradesh, Chhattisgarh, Jharkhand, W. Bengal, Tripura and Mizoram.

12. **Name the union territories of India.**

Ans. a. Delhi b. Daman & Diu c. Dadar & Nagar Haveli d. Puducherry (Pondicherry) e. Chandigarh
f. Lakshadweep g. Andaman & Nicobar Islands

THREE MARKS QUESTIONS

1. **Why is the difference between the durations of day and night hardly felt at Kanyakumari but not so in Kashmir?**

Ans. These places do not have the same duration of day and night. The circle of illumination divides the Equator into two equal parts. The days and nights are, therefore, of the same duration at the equator. As Kanyakumari is quite near the equator, the day-night difference is hardly one hour there. But as we move away from the equator towards the poles, the variations in the duration of day and night becomes greater. It is because of the unequal division of the parallels of latitude by the circle of illumination. Kashmir is over 30° away from the equator and so the difference in duration of day and night is over four hours there.

FIVE MARKS QUESTIONS

1. How has India developed relationships with the world through the land route?

Ans. The passes across the mountains in the north have provided passages to the ancient travellers. These routes have contributed in the exchange of ideas and commodities since ancient times. The ideas of Upanishads, Ramayana, the stories of Panchtantra, the Indian numerals and the decimal system could thus, reach many parts of the world. The spices, muslin and other merchandise were taken from India to different countries. On the other hand, influence of Greek sculpture, their architectural styles of domes and minarets can be seen in India.

2. Why 82°30' E has been as the standard meridian of India?

Ans. 82°30'E meridian has been selected as the standard meridian of India for the following reasons:

- This is a general understanding among the countries of the world to select a Standard Meridian in multiples of 7°30' east and west of Prime Meridian. It is equal to half an hour.
- A country's standard time is derived from such a central meridian. The minimum difference of time between two consecutive standard meridians should be half an hour.
- From Gujarat to Arunachal Pradesh, there is a time lag of two hours. Hence, time along the standard meridian of India (82°30'E) passing through Mirzapur (U.P.) is taken as the standard time for the whole country.

3. What is the significance of India's central location?

Ans. a. India is very favourably located in relation to Eurasia, Africa and Australia.

- It occupies central position in the eastern hemisphere.
- India's location has many economic advantages. It helped in establishing economic and cultural contacts with the East and the West in ancient times.
- It is favourably located on the world's highway of trade and commerce, both to the east and the west. There are some prominent air routes and sea routes passing through the Indian subcontinent.

4. "India has a large coastline which is advantageous". Explain.

Ans. a. India has a large coastline on the Indian ocean.

- Its central location and long coastline enable many countries to pass through India's ports during their sea route.
- Major ports on Eastern and Western Coast help in import and export of goods from India, developing its trade.

5. What is meant by Indian standard time? Why do we need a standard meridian in India?

Ans. Indian standard time is the uniform time calculated by the Standard Meridian of India. It is called as IST.

- India is a large country, almost 30 degrees are passing from westernmost state, Gujarat to easternmost state, Arunachal Pradesh.
- Due to that, here is a difference of two zones.
- To avoid confusion or chaos for having different timings in different states, one standard meridian is taken to have a uniform time for the entire country.
- Therefore, at 82°30'E has been taken as standard meridian of India passing through Mirzapur (Uttar Pradesh).