

 *Chronicle* **ias**

CLASS

9TH



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INDIA – SIZE AND LOCATION

India is one of the ancient civilisations in the world. It has achieved multi-faceted socio-economic progress during the last five decades. It has moved forward displaying remarkable progress in the field of agriculture, industry, technology and overall economic development. India has also contributed significantly to the making of world history.

LOCATION

India is a vast country. Lying entirely in the Northern hemisphere (Figure 1.1) the main 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 the country into almost two equal parts. To the southeast and southwest of the mainland, lie the Andaman and Nicobar islands and the Lakshadweep islands in Bay of Bengal and Arabian Sea respectively. Find out the extent of these groups of islands from your atlas.

Do You Know?

- The southernmost point of the Indian Union– 'Indira Point' got submerged under the sea water in 2004 during the Tsunami.

SIZE

The land mass of India has an area of 3.28 million square km. India's total area accounts for about 2.4 per cent of the total geographical



Figure 1.1 : India in the World

area of the world. From Figure 1.2 it is clear that India is the seventh largest country of the world. India has a land boundary of about 15,200 km and the total length of the coastline of the mainland, including Andaman and Nicobar and Lakshadweep, is 7,516.6 km.

India is bounded by the young fold 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.

Look at Figure 1.3 and note that the latitudinal and longitudinal extent of the mainland is about 30°. Despite this fact, the east-west extent appears to be smaller than the north-south extent.

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 day and night, as one moves from south to north.

Find out

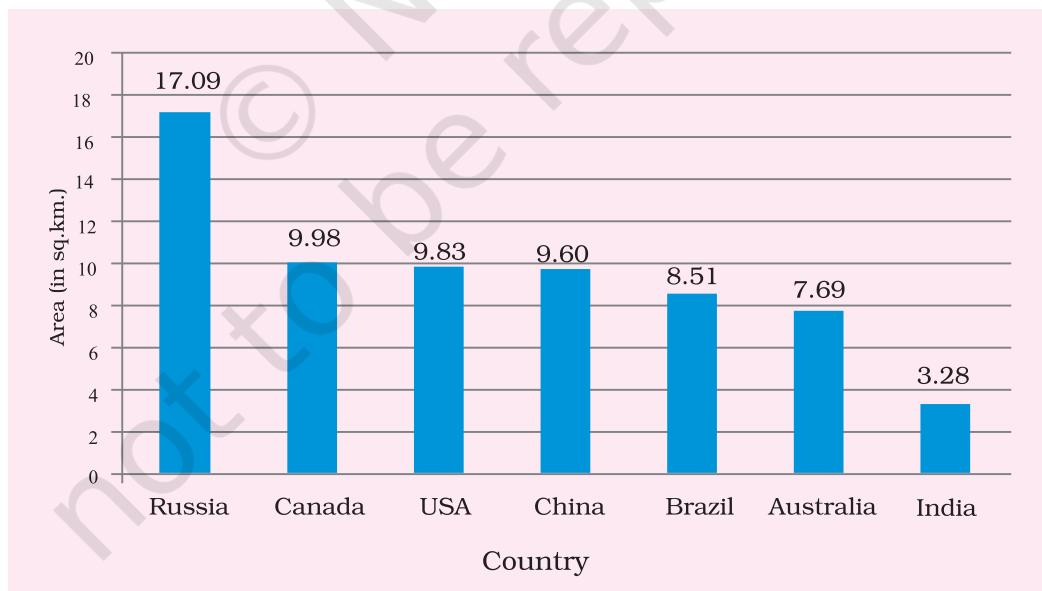
- Why 82°30'E has been selected as the Standard Meridian of India?
- Why is the difference between the durations of day and night hardly felt at Kanniyakumari but not so in Kashmir?

INDIA AND THE WORLD

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. Note that 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.

Do You Know?

Since the opening of the Suez Canal in 1869, India's distance from Europe has been reduced by 7,000 km.



Source : United Nations Demographic Year Book 2015

Figure 1.2 : Seven Largest Countries of the World



Figure 1.3 : India : Extent and Standard Meridian

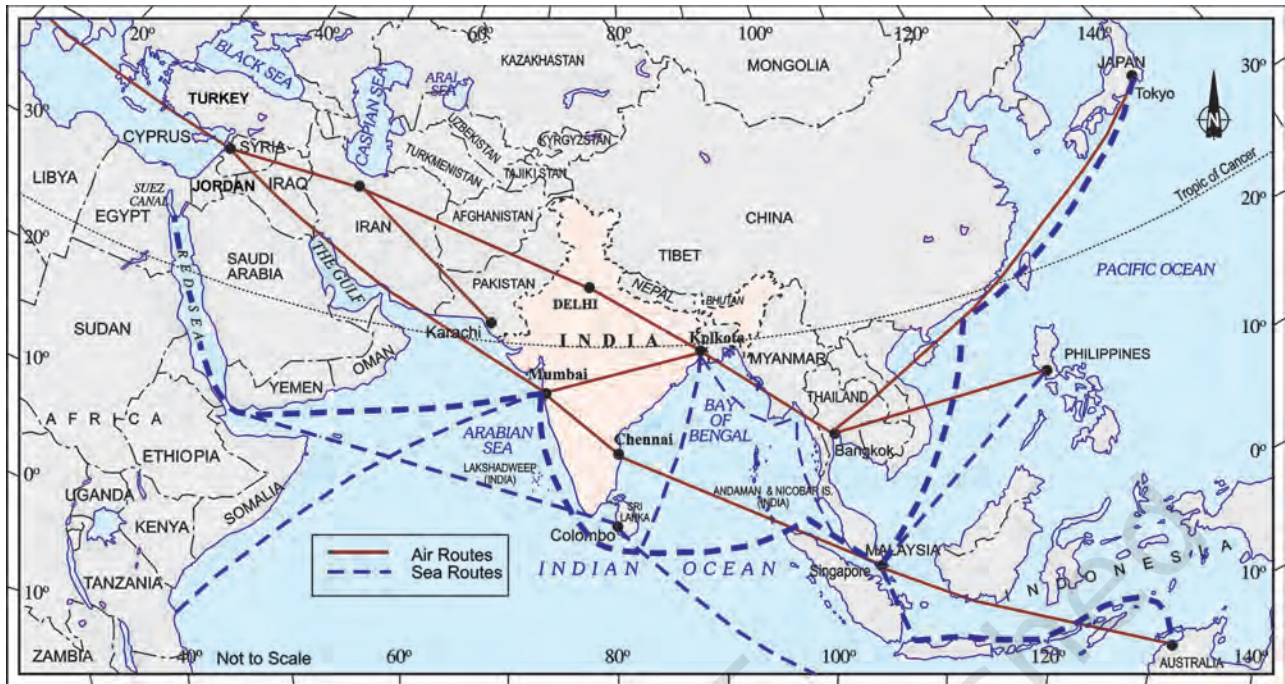


Figure 1.4 : India on International Highway of Trade and Commerce

India's contacts with the World have continued through 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 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 NEIGHBOURS

India occupies an important strategic position in South Asia. India has 28 states and Eight Union Territories (Figure 1.5).

Find out

- The number of Union Territories along the western and eastern coasts.
- Area-wise which is the smallest and which is the largest state?
- The states which do not have an international border or lie on the coast.
- Classify the states into four groups each having common frontiers with (i) Pakistan, (ii) China, (iii) Myanmar, and (iv) Bangladesh.

India shares its land boundaries with Pakistan and Afghanistan in the northwest, China (Tibet), Nepal and Bhutan in the north and Myanmar and Bangladesh in the east. Our southern neighbours across the sea consist of the two island countries, namely

Do You Know?

Before 1947, there were two types of states in India — the provinces and the Princely states. Provinces were ruled directly by British officials, who were appointed by the Viceroy. Princely states were ruled by local, hereditary rulers, who acknowledged sovereignty in return for local autonomy.



Figure 1.5 : India and Adjacent Countries

Sri Lanka and **Maldives**. Sri Lanka is separated from India by a **narrow channel** of sea formed by the **Palk Strait and the Gulf of Mannar**, while **Maldives Islands** are situated to the **south of the Lakshadweep Islands**.

India has had strong geographical and historical links with her neighbours. Look at the physical map of Asia in your atlas, and note how India stands apart from the rest of Asia.

Do You Know?

School Bhuvan, NCERT is a portal providing map-based learning to bring awareness among the students about the country's natural resources, environment and their role in sustainable development. It is an initiative of Bhuvan — NRSC/ISRO based on NCERT syllabus. You can explore various maps of India related to the secondary stage on https://bhuvan-app1.nrsc.gov.in/mhrd_ncert/

EXERCISE

- Choose the right answer from the four alternatives given below.
 - The Tropic of Cancer does not pass through
 - Rajasthan
 - Odisha
 - Chhattisgarh
 - Tripura
 - The easternmost longitude of India is
 - 97° 25' E
 - 68° 7' E
 - 77° 6' E
 - 82° 32' E
 - Uttarakhand, Uttar Pradesh, Bihar, West Bengal and Sikkim have common frontiers with
 - China
 - Bhutan
 - Nepal
 - Myanmar
 - If you intend to visit Kavarati during your summer vacations, which one of the following Union Territories of India you will be going to
 - Puducherry
 - Lakshadweep
 - Andaman and Nicobar
 - Daman and Diu
 - My friend hails from a country which does not share land boundary with India. Identify the country.
 - Bhutan
 - Tajikistan
 - Bangladesh
 - Nepal
- Answer the following questions briefly.
 - Name the group of islands lying in the Arabian Sea.
 - Name the countries which are larger than India.
 - Which island group of India lies to its south-east?
 - Which island countries are our southern neighbours?
- 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?
- The central location of India at the head of the Indian Ocean is considered of great significance. Why?

MAP SKILLS

- Identify the following with the help of map reading.
 - The island groups of India lying in the Arabian Sea and the Bay of Bengal.
 - The countries constituting Indian subcontinent.
 - The States through which the Tropic of Cancer passes.
 - The northernmost latitude in degrees.
 - The southernmost latitude of the Indian mainland in degrees.
 - The eastern and the western-most longitude in degrees.
 - The place situated on the three seas.
 - The strait separating Sri Lanka from India.
 - The Union Territories of India.

PROJECT/ACTIVITY

- Find out the longitudinal and latitudinal extent of your state.
- Collect information about the 'Silk Route'. Also find out the new developments, which are improving communication routes in the regions of high altitude.

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CLASS

11TH

UNIT I

INTRODUCTION

This unit deals with

- *Location — space relations and India's place in the world*



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You have already seen the map of India in the previous classes. Now you closely examine the map of India (Figure 1.1). Mark the southernmost and northernmost latitudes and the easternmost and westernmost longitudes.

The **mainland of India**, extends from **Kashmir** in the **north** to **Kanniyakumari** in the **south** and **Arunachal Pradesh** in the **east** to **Gujarat** in the **west**. India's **territorial limit** further extends towards the sea **upto 12 nautical miles (about 21.9 km)** from the coast. (See the box for conversion).

Statute mile	=	63,360 inches
Nautical mile	=	72,960 inches
1 Statute mile	=	about 1.6 km (1.584 km)
1 Nautical mile	=	about 1.8 km (1.852 km)

Our **southern boundary extends** upto **6°45' N latitude** in the Bay of Bengal. Let us try to analyse the implications of having such a vast longitudinal and latitudinal extent.

If you work out the **latitudinal and longitudinal extent of India**, they are roughly **about 30 degrees**, whereas the actual distance measured from **north to south extremity** is **3,214 km**, and that from **east to west** is only **2,933 km**. What is the reason for this difference? Consult Chapter 3 on the topic Latitude, Longitude and Time in the book

Practical Work in Geography – Part I (NCERT, 2006) to find out.

This difference is based on the fact that the **distance between two longitudes decreases towards the poles** whereas the distance **between two latitudes remains the same everywhere**. Find out the distance between two latitudes?

From the values of latitude, it is understood that the **southern part of the country lies within the tropics** and the **northern part lies in the sub-tropical zone or the warm temperate zone**. This location is **responsible for large variations in land forms, climate, soil types and natural vegetation** in the country.

Now, let us observe the longitudinal extent and its implications on the Indian people. From the values of longitude, it is quite discernible that there is a **variation of nearly 30 degrees**, which **causes a time difference of nearly two hours** between the **easternmost** and the **westernmost parts** of our country. You are familiar with the concept of Indian Standard Time (IST). What is the use of the standard meridian? While the **sun rises in the northeastern states about two hours earlier** as compared to **Jaisalmer**, the watches in Dibrugarh, Imphal in the east and Jaisalmer, Bhopal or Chennai in the other parts of India show the same time. Why does this happen?

There is a general understanding among the countries of the world to select the standard meridian in multiples of 7°30' of longitude. That is why 82°30' E has been selected as the 'standard meridian' of India. **Indian Standard Time is ahead of Greenwich Mean Time by 5 hours and 30 minutes.**

There are some countries where there are more than one standard meridian due to their vast east-to-west extent. For example, the USA has seven time zones.



Figure 1.1 : India : Administrative Divisions

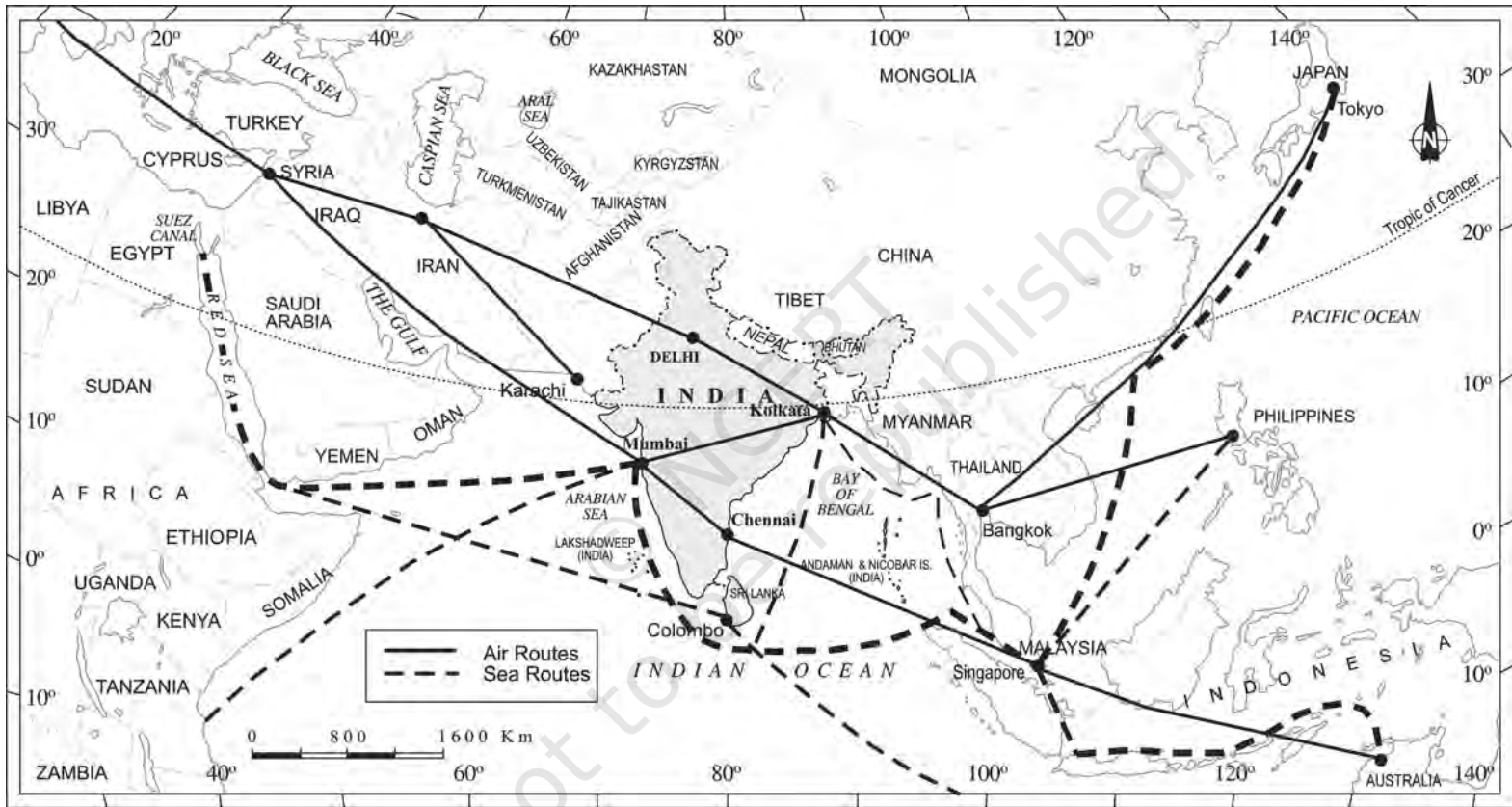


Figure 1.2 : Location of India in the Eastern World

Name a few places in India through which the standard meridian passes?

India with its **area of 3.28 million sq. km** accounts for **2.4 per cent of the world's land surface area** and stands as the **seventh largest country in the world**. Find out the names of the countries which are larger than India.

SIZE

The size of India has endowed her with great physical diversity. Thus, you may appreciate the presence of **lofty mountains in the north; large rivers** such as Ganga, Brahmaputra, Mahanadi, Krishna, Godavari and Kaveri; **green forested hills** in northeast and south India; and the **vast sandy expanse of Marusthali**. You may further appreciate that **bounded by the Himalayas in the north, Hindukush and Sulaiman ranges in the north-west, Purvachal hills in the north-east and by the large expanse of the Indian ocean in the south, it forms a great geographic entity** known as the **Indian subcontinent**. It **includes** the countries — **Pakistan, Nepal, Bhutan, Bangladesh and India**. The **Himalayas**, together with other ranges, have acted as a formidable **physical barrier in the past**. Except for a few mountain passes such as the **Khyber, the Bolan, the Shipkila, the Nathula, the Bomdila, etc.** it was difficult to cross it. It has contributed towards the evolving of a unique regional identity of the Indian subcontinent.

By referring to the physical map of India you can now describe the **physical variations** which you would come across while **travelling** from **Kashmir to Kanniyakumari** and from **Jaisalmer in Rajasthan to Imphal in Manipur**.

Peninsular part of India extends towards the Indian Ocean. This has provided the **country with a coastline of 6,100 km in the mainland and 7,517 km in the entire**

geographical coast of the mainland **plus** the **island groups** Andaman and Nicobar located in the Bay of Bengal and the Lakshadweep in the Arabian Sea. Thus India, as a country, is a physically diverse land providing occurrence of varied resources.

Do you Remember?

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INDIA AND ITS NEIGHBOURS

Examine the location map of India (Figure 1.2). You will notice that **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 neighbouring regions through the sea and air routes.

Prepare a list of India's neighbouring countries by consulting the map.

Sri Lanka and Maldives are the two **island** countries located in the Indian Ocean, which are our neighbours. **Sri Lanka is separated** from India by the **Gulf of Mannar** and **Palk Strait**.

Differentiate between a Gulf and a Strait.

Do you think that physical barrier is a hindrance in interaction with our neighbouring countries in modern times? Give some examples how we have overcome these difficulties in the present day.

Activity: Observe the map of India on an atlas/School Bhuvan NCERT portal and collect information about states/districts/villages located near the international border of India.

EXERCISES

1. Choose the right answer from the four alternatives given below.
 - (i) Which one of the following latitudinal extent is relevant for the extent of India's area?

(a) 8°41'N - 35°7'N	(c) 8°4'N - 35°6'N
(b) 8°4'N - 37°6'N	(d) 6°45'N - 37°6'N
 - (ii) Which one of the following countries shares the longest land frontier with India?

(a) Bangladesh	(c) Pakistan
(b) China	(d) Myanmar
 - (iii) Which one of the following countries is larger in area than India?

(a) China	(c) France
(b) Egypt	(d) Iran
 - (iv) Which one of the following longitudes is the standard meridian for India?

(a) 69°30'E	(c) 75°30'E
(b) 82°30'E	(d) 90°30'E
2. Answer the following questions in about 30 words.
 - (i) Does India need to have more than one standard time? If yes, why do you think so?
 - (ii) What are the implications of India having a long coastline?
 - (iii) How is the latitudinal spread of India advantageous to her?
 - (iv) While the sun rises earlier in the east, say Nagaland and also sets earlier, how do the watches at Kohima and New Delhi show the same time?

Project/Activity

Activity based on Appendix I (Teachers may help in the exercises by explaining and getting it done by the students).

- (i) On a graph paper, plot the number of districts in Madhya Pradesh, Karnataka, Meghalaya, Goa, Kerala, Haryana. Do the number of districts have some relationship with the area of the state?
- (ii) Which state amongst Uttar Pradesh, West Bengal, Gujarat, Arunachal Pradesh, Tamil Nadu, Tripura and Rajasthan is the most thickly populated and which one is the least densely populated?
- (iii) Find out the relationship between the area of the state and the number of districts.
- (iv) Identify the states with coastal boundaries.
- (v) Arrange the states from west to east which have only land boundary.

Activity based on Appendix II

- (i) List the Union Territories which have coastal location.
- (ii) How do you explain the variation in the area and population of NCT Delhi and the Andaman and Nicobar Islands?
- (iii) On a graph paper, draw a bar diagram to show the area and population of all the Union Territories.