

# CLASS 9: GEOGRAPHY: CHAPTER1: 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  $22^{\circ}$  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 a long 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 29 states and seven 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: Political Map

The Political Map of India shows all the States and Union Territories. Presently, India has 29 States and 7 Union Territories.



Locate and label the following items on the given map

1 The state which shares its boundaries with China, Nepal and Bhutan.

2 The state which shares its boundaries with both China and Pakistan.

3 The state having common land and sea boundary with Pakistan.

4 An Indian state that shares its boundary with Bangladesh and Myanmar.

5 Smallest among the States sharing border with Pakistan.

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

(i) The Tropic of Cancer does not pass through

(a) Rajasthan

(b) Orissa

(c) Chhattisgarh

(d) Tripura

**Answer :** (c) Orissa

(ii) The easternmost longitude of India is

(a)  $97^{\circ} 25' E$

(b)  $68^{\circ} 7' E$

(c)  $77^{\circ} 6' E$

(d)  $82^{\circ} 32' E$

**Answer:**(a)  $97^{\circ}25'E$

(iii) Uttarakhand, Uttar Pradesh, Bihar, West Bengal and Sikkim have common frontiers with

(a) China

(b) Bhutan

(c) Nepal

(d) Myanmar

**Answer :** (c) Nepal

(iv) If you intend to visit Kavarati during your summer vacations, which one of the following Union Territories of India you will be going to

(a) Puducherry

(b) Lakshadweep

(c) Andaman and Nicobar

(d) Diu and Daman

**Answer :** (c) Lakshadweep

(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

**Answer:** (b) Tajikistan

*Question 2 Answer the following questions briefly.*

i).Name the group of islands lying in the Arabian sea.

**Answer:** (i) Lakshadweep

ii).Name the countries which are larger than India.

**Answer:** ii) Russia, Canada, China, USA, Brazil and Australia

iii).Which island group of India lies to its south-east?

**Answer:** (iii) Andaman and Nicobar group of islands.

iv).Which island countries are our southern neighbours?

**Answer:** (iv) Maldives, Sri Lanka.

*Question 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?*

**Answer :** The longitudinal gap between Arunachal Pradesh and Gujarat is about  $30^\circ$ . Due to this, there is time lag of about two hours between these states. Since Arunachal Pradesh is in the east hence the sun rises earlier here; compared to in 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

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

**Answer** The central location of India at the head of the Indian Ocean is considered of great significance because –

→ It has given India a strategic advantage due to the Trans Indian ocean routes which connect the countries of Europe in the West and the countries of East Asia.

→ This helps India to establish close contact with West Asia, Africa and Europe from the Western coast and with the Southeast and East Asia from the Eastern coast.

→ The vast coastline and the natural harbours have benefitted India in carrying

out trade and commerce with its neighbouring and distant countries since ancient times.

→ It has given India a distinct climate than the rest of the Asian Continent.

→ No other country has such a long coastline on the Indian Ocean as India. It is India's eminent position in the Indian Ocean which has given the name of an Ocean after it.