

INDIA SIZE & LOCATION

Location

India occupies the central peninsula of southern Asia. It consists of the main land and the two group of the Island.

1. Andaman and Nicobar Island in the Bay of Bengal.
2. Lakshadweep in the Arabian sea.

The mainland of India lies at the head of the Indian ocean between 8.4° and 37.6° North latitudes and 68.7° and 97.25° longitude.

India entirely lies to the north of the equator. The tropic of cancer 23.30° N passes nearly midway across India and divides it into two halves.

Standard meridian of India and its value

India lies to the east of the Prime Meridian between $68^{\circ}7'$ to $97^{\circ}25'$ East longitude. To follow one timings, India has accepted to $82^{\circ}30'$ E longitude as the standard meridian of India. The local time at this meridian has been accepted as the Indian Standard Time throughout India.

Implication of the tropic of cancer

1. Tropic of cancer divides the country into almost two equal parts or two separate climatic zones.
2. Southern parts of India lie with in the tropic of and are rationally hotter than northern parts, the latter belongs to the sub-tropical or the warm tropical zone of the northern hemisphere.
3. The areas lying to the north of the Tropic of cancer will never have the mid day sun over head while in Areas to the south of the tropic of cancer the sun will be exactly overhead at least twice in a year.

Size

1. India is a vast country which lies in the south of Asia.
2. It is the 7th largest country of the world after Russia, Canada, U.S.A., China, Brazil and Australia.
3. Its area is about 3.28 million sq. km and it is about 2.42 % of the total area of the world.
4. India has a land boundary about 15200 km and the total length of the coast line of the main land including Andaman & Nicobar and Lakshadweep is 7,516.6 km.
5. India is bounded by young fold mountains in the northwest, north and north east.
6. 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 Bay of Bengal on its east.

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 which connect the countries of Europe in the west and the countries of East Asia provide a strategic central location to India 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 south east and east Asia from the eastern coast. No other country has a long coast line on the Indian ocean as India. It is India's eminent position in the Indian ocean which justifies the naming of an ocean after it.

Merits of Central Location of India

1. Because of its central location, India has the great advantage in establishing trade relation both with West Asia Africa and Europe on the eastern side.
2. India is situated in Asia which is the most populous continent of the world. Not only this it is situated in the middle of this largest continent as such India has vast and open market very near to it on both side.

3. India has sea on her three side so she can have direct trade relations through sea with all the countries of the world.

Trade Relation

1. India's relationships through the land routes are much older than her maritime contacts.
2. The various passes across the mountains in the north have provided passages to the ancient travellers, while the oceans restricted.
3. These routes have contributed in the exchange of ideas and commodities since ancient time.
4. The ideas of the Upanishads and the Ramayan, the stories of Panchtantra, the Indian numerals and the decimal system could reach many part of the world.
5. The spices, muslin and other merchandise were taken from India to different countries.
6. On the other hand, the influence of Greck sculpture, and architectural style of dome and minarets from West Asia can be seen in different parts of our country.

India's Neighbours

India's occupies an important position in south Asia. India has 28 states and 7 union territories. India shares its land boundaries with Pakistan and Afghanistan in the north west, China (Tibet), Nepal and Bhutan in the north and Mayanmar and Bangladesh in the east our southern neighbours across the sea are Srilanka and Mldives. Palak Strait separates India from Srilanka Maldives lie in the south of the Lakshdweep Island in the Indian ocean.

GLOSSARY

1. **Equator** : It is an imaginary line which divides the earth into two equal hemisphere-Northern Hemisphere and Southern Hemisphere.
2. **Prime Meridian** : It is the main meridian which passes through Greenwich, near London. It is meridian from which longitude is measured.
3. **Latitude** : It is the distance of a place from the equator in the northern or the southern direction.
4. **Longitude** : It is the distance of place from the Prime Meridian in the eastern or the western direction.
5. **Sub continent** : A big geographical unit which stands out distinctly from the rest of the continent.
6. **Tropic of cancer** : An imaginary line which runs parallel to the equator in the northern hemisphere of $23\frac{1}{2}$ N Latitude.
7. **Standard Meridian of India** : The meridian of $82^{\circ}30'$ E whose local time serves as the standard time for the whole country.
8. **Local Time** : Time of a place determined by the mid day sun.
9. **Standard Time** : The local time taken as the time for the whole country.
10. **Indian Union** : Federation of India comprised of 28 states and 7 union Territories.
11. **Indian mainland** : The stretch of continuous landmass extending from Jammu and Kashmir to Kanyakumari and from Gujarat to Arunachal Pradesh.

EXERCISE

VERY SHORT ANSWER TYPE QUESTIONS

- Q.1** What do you know about the location of the Indian subcontinent ?
- Q.2** Where do you think the sun's rays would be direct on the Great Nicobar Island or the Jammu & Kashmir state ?
- Q.3** What is the latitudinal extent of India ?
- Q.4** Why the difference between the duration of day and night is hardly felt at Kanyakumari but it is not so in Kashmir ?
- Q.5** List six countries of the world bigger than India.
- Q.6** Which is the standard meridian of Indian ?
- Q.7** What is the importance of standard meridian of India ?
- Q.8** What do you know about tropic of cancer ?
- Q.9** Define the following
(A) Latitude (B) Longitude.
- Q.10** Which island countries are our southern neighbours ?
- Q.11** Latitudinal and longitudinal extent of India is about 30°. Why is North-South extent bigger than east west extent ?
- Q.12** Name the longitude of our standard time meridian. Through which city of Uttar Pradesh does it cross ?
- Q.13** Which two forces are responsible for shaping the present land form features of India.

SHORT ANSWER TYPE QUESTIONS

- Q.1** The tropic of cancer runs almost half way through the country. What does this imply ?
- Q.2** What is the longitudinal extent of our country ? State its significance.
- Q.3** Account for the two hours time difference between the two eastern and western extremities of India.
- Q.4** What are the implications of India's longitudinal extent ?
- Q.5** What is sub continent ? Name the countries which constitute the Indian sub continent ?
- Q.6** Give an account of India's location.
- Q.7** The centre location of India at the head of the Indian ocean is considered of great significance. Why ?
- Q.8** What are the implications of India's latitudinal extent ?
- Q.9** How far is Arunachal Pradesh befitting name for our easternmost state ?
- Q.10** Give an account of India's size ?

LONG ANSWER TYPE QUESTIONS

- Q.1** Why do we need a standard meridian for India ? Explain ?
- Q.2** What do you know about a the situation of India ? How has it helped her in attaining an important

place in the world market.

- Q.3** Give an account of India's contact with the outside world.
- Q.4** What are the implication of tropic of cancer ?
- Q.5** Describe the trade relation of India in ancient time.

MULTIPLE CHOICE QUESTIONS

- Q.1** Which of the following is a smallest state in India ?
(A) Sikkim (B) Tripura
(C) Goa (D) Uttaranchal
- Q.2** The capital of Mizorum is -
(A) Imphal (B) Kohima
(C) Agartala (D) Aizwal
- Q.3** The island groups of India lying in the Arabian sea are -
(A) Lakshadweep (B) Andaman & Nicobar
(C) Both (D) None of these
- Q.4** The state through which the tropic of cancer does not pass -
(A) Tamil Nadu (B) Gujarat
(C) Madhya Pradesh (D) West Bengal
- Q.5** The southernmost tip of the Indian union and the main land -
(A) Indira Point (B) Delhi
(C) Chennai (D) All the above
- Q.6** The southernmost latitude of the Indian mainland in degrees -
(A) 97.25° North (B) 67.5° North
(C) 8.4° North (D) 37.6° North
- Q.7** The northern most latitude in degrees -
(A) 8.4° North (B) 37.25° North
(C) 97.25° North (D) All the above
- Q.8** The strait separating Srilanka from India -
(A) Palk strait (B) Kanyakumari
(C) Both of them (D) None of these
- Q.9** The place situated on three seas -
(A) Delhi (B) Mumbai
(C) Kanyakumari (D) All the above
- Q.10** Prime Meridian of India is longitude.
(A) 82.30' E (B) 72.25' E
(C) 87.3' E (D) None of these

Q.11 North south extent of India is approx -

- (A) 3600 km (B) 3500 km
(C) 3000 km (D) 3200 km

Q.12 East west extent of India is approx -

- (A) 3000 km (B) 3200 km
(C) 3600 km (D) 4000 km