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## Chapter 7

### Our Country- India

- ❖ India is the second most populous country of the world and is bounded by Himalayas in the north, Bay of Bengal in the east, Arabian Sea in the west and Indian Ocean in the south.
- ❖ It has an area of about 3.28 million sq. km. The north-south extent from Kashmir to Kanyakumari is 3200 km and east-west extent from Arunachal Pradesh to Kuchchh is about 2900 km.
- ❖ There is great diversity in climate, landforms, vegetation, wildlife, language and culture.
- ❖ The Tropic of Cancer passes almost halfway through India as it is located in the Northern Hemisphere.
- ❖ The longitudinal extent of India is from 8 4' N to 37 6' N while the longitudinal extent is from 68 6' E to 97 25' E.
- ❖ Afghanistan, Pakistan, Bhutan, Myanmar, China, Sri Lanka and Maldives are the seven neighbouring countries of India.
- ❖ **Political and Administrative Divisions**
  - India has 29 states and seven union territories with Delhi as its capital.
  - The states are formed on the basis of languages. Rajasthan is largest and Goa is the smallest state in terms of area.
- ❖ **Physical Divisions**
  - The Himalayan Mountains in the north have three main parallel ranges.
  - Himadri or the Great Himalayas is the northern most range of Himalayan Mountains which has the world's highest peaks.
  - Middle Himalaya or Himachal lies to the south of Himadri which has many popular hill stations.
  - The Shiwalik is the southernmost range of Himalayas.
  - The Northern Indian Plains are situated to the south of the Himalayan ranges.
  - The plains are flat and level and fertile as they are formed by the alluvial deposits brought by River Ganga and Brahmaputra.
  - This area is the most populated part of the country because of land fertility and availability of water.
  - To the south of northern plains is the Peninsular Plateau which is triangular in shape and has uneven relief.
  - The Vindhyas and the Satpura are important ranges of relief while Aravali hills border the plateau on the north-west.

- The rivers Tapti and Narmada flow to the west and drain into the Arabian Sea.
- The Western Ghats or Sahyadris are the mountains to the west of the plateau whereas Eastern Ghats are situated to its east.



- The plateau is rich in coal and iron-ore.
- The narrow western coastal plains lie to the west of the Western Ghats. The eastern coastal plains which are much broader lie to the east of the Eastern Ghats.
- In eastern coastal plains there are many east flowing rivers which drain into the Bay of Bengal forming deltas at their mouth. River Ganga and Brahmaputra form the Sunderban delta. Other rivers are Mahanadi, Godavari, Krishna and Kaveri.
- Lakshadweep islands are situated in the Arabian Sea and are also known as coral islands as they are made up of coral remains of dead polyps.
- Andaman and Nicobar islands are union territories situated in the Bay of Bengal.