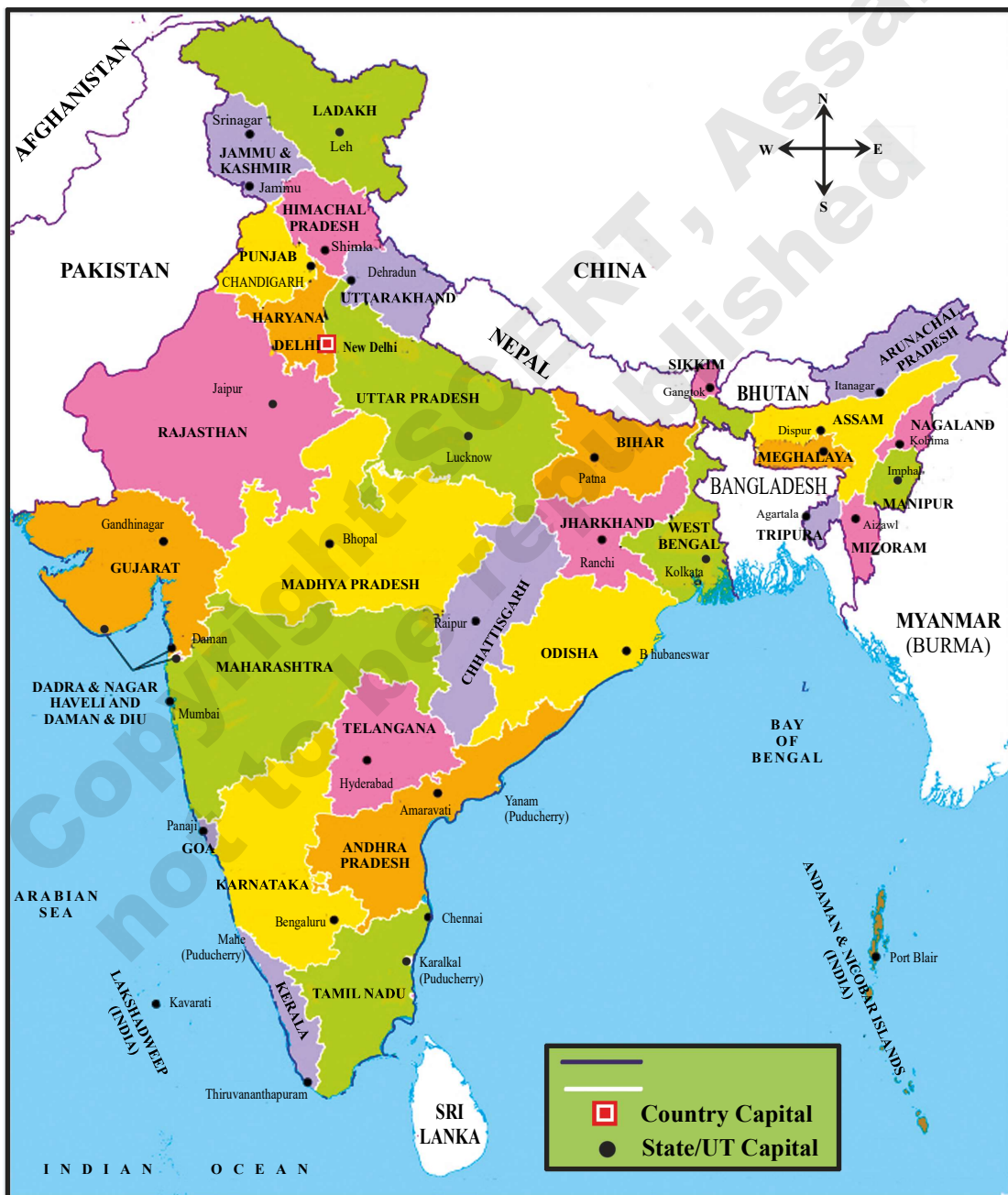


## Lesson—12

# Our Country



The name of our country is India. It is an ancient country. In ancient times, a very powerful king named 'Bharata' ruled here. It is said that, our country was named 'Bharata' after the name of king Bharata. On the other hand, the Sindhu River flowing through the heart of the country is called 'Indus' in the Latin language; it is said that the English name of our country 'India' is derived from the word 'Indus'.



The Himalayan mountains enclose the boundaries of the north and northeastern regions of India. There are several foreign nations at the border of India. The countries on the northern side are—Nepal, Bhutan, and China. On the eastern direction is Myanmar; on the western and northwestern direction lies Pakistan and Afghanistan. At the end of the southern part, there is Sri Lanka. The east, west, and southern part of the Indian peninsula are comprised of seas and oceans. There is the Bay of Bengal on the east, the Arabian Sea on the west, and the Indian Ocean on the south.

**Write down by looking at the map on the previous page—**

- What are the different oceans and seas in the different directions of India?
- What are the states of India that shares boundary with Bangladesh?
- In which direction of India is Myanmar situated?
- What are the names of the countries situated in the northern part of India?

Our India is full of various geographical features, such as—hills and mountains, rivers, forests, plateaus, deserts, coastal areas, etc. The wonderful domain created by these varied features provides a deep impact on the civilization, culture as well as standard of living among the people of India.

**Let us know—**

**India can be divided into four divisions based on geographical features**

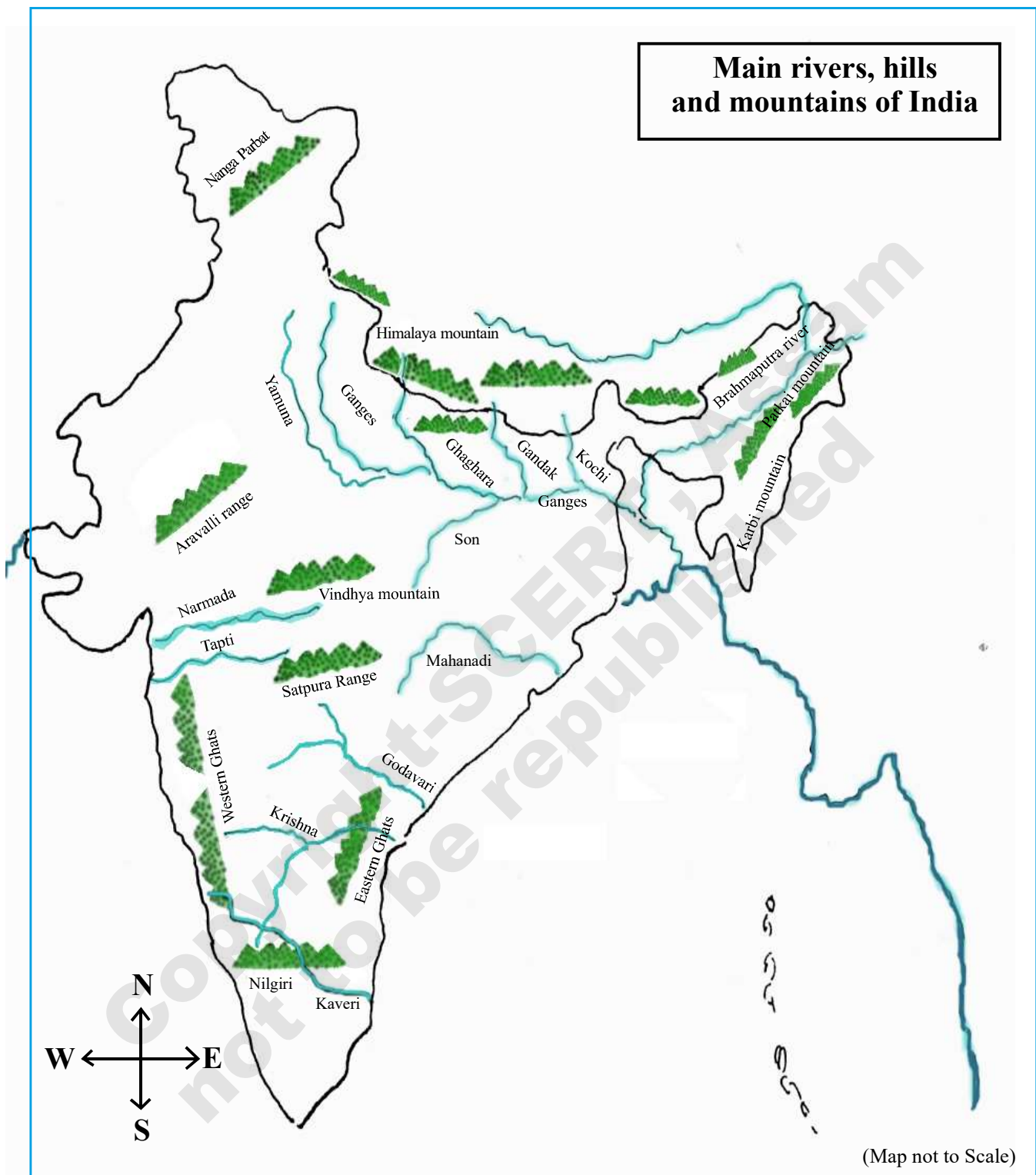
**1. The Eastern Himalayan Mountain Region**—The Himalayan mountain range encloses northern and eastern parts of India. The Himalaya with its ranges constitute the northern hilly region that stretches from Nanga Parbat of Kashmir to the eastern end of Arunachal Pradesh.

**2. The Plain Region of Eastern India**—This region is stretched from the western border of India to Assam on the east. These regions are in mostly plains. The **Plain Region** is composed of the valley region of the Indus River and its tributaries, the valley regions of the Brahmaputra, Ganga, Yamuna rivers, and the desert region of Rajasthan.

**3. The Plateau Region of the South**—The large plateau region on the southern part of the plain region is the **Plateau Region of the South** or the **Southern Plateau Region**.

**4. The Coastal Region**—The plain region on the coastal areas of southern India is the **Coastal Region of India**.

Let us know the names of the main rivers, hills and mountains of India–



Look at the map and write–

- Write the names of two mountains.
- Write the names of two rivers.

India is a large country. Our country is composed of 28 states and 8 union territories. New Delhi is the capital of India.

**Let us know–**

State	Capital	State	Capital
Assam	- Dispur	Tripura	- Agartala
Arunachal Pradesh	- Itanagar	Kerala	- Thiruvananthapuram
Meghalaya	- Shillong	Karnataka	- Bengaluru
Manipur	- Imphal	Goa	- Panaji
Mizoram	- Aizawl	Gujarat	- Gandhinagar
Nagaland	- Kohima	Maharashtra	- Mumbai
Sikkim	- Gangtok	Madhya Pradesh	- Bhopal
West Bengal	- Kolkata	Uttar Pradesh	- Lucknow
Bihar	- Patna	Uttarakhand	- Dehradun
Jharkhand	- Ranchi	Punjab	- Chandigarh
Odisha	- Bhubaneswar	Himachal Pradesh	- Shimla
Chhattisgarh	- Raipur	Haryana	- Chandigarh
Andhra Pradesh	- Amaravati	Telangana	- Hyderabad
Rajasthan	- Jaipur	Tamil Nadu	- Chennai

Union territories	Capital
Andaman and Nicobar Islands	Port Blair
Dadra and Nagar Haveli & Daman and Diu	Daman
Delhi	New Delhi
Jammu and Kashmir	Srinagar (Summer) Jammu (Winter)
Lakshadweep	Kavaratti
Puducherry	Pondicherry
Chandigarh	Chandigarh
Ladakh	Leh



## The transport system of our country—

There are many national highways, railways, roadways, waterways and airways for transportation between different states of India. Transportation between various states and other countries of the world has been made possible with the help of different means through road, air and water. This is the **transport system of our country**.

### Rail transport—

Rail transport is the most significant system of transportation in India. There are two types of railroads in India—**Broad gauge** and **Meter gauge**. In the hilly areas another type of railroads called **Narrow gauge** are also present.

Meghalaya and Sikkim of the northeastern region still do not have a railway system. In Assam, the Dibru-Margherita railway road was constructed between 1882-1884. This was the first railway road in Assam. With the gradual expansion of the railway roads, presently there is railway connectivity through all the districts of Assam from one end to the other. There is also a good railway transport facility to travel from Assam to the other states of India.



It has become easier to carry the goods from one place to another through railways. People have got the opportunity to travel to distant places within a short period and under a low budget. In the beginning, trains used to run on steam engine. At present, as trains run on diesel and electric engines, it can move very fast.



### Road transport—

The road transport system of India includes—national highways, border roads, state and inter-state roads, rural roads, and municipal roads. The road transport system has made communication easier by carrying people, goods and commodities every day.

**The Manali-Leh National Highway of north India is the highest road transport system in the world.**

Till now around 42,641 kilometres of road have been constructed in Assam. Out of these, the principal roads are—National Highways, Public Works Department (PWD) roads, District, and Panchayat roads. The national highways have connected Assam to the other states of the country.

➤ **Write the name of the National Highway passing through or nearby your district.**

**Water transport**—The waterways of India can be divided into two types—Inland and Sea Routes or Coastal routes water transport.

**Three National Waterways of India are**— (1) the Ganges-Bhagirathi-Hooghly river Water Transport System, (2) the Brahmaputra-Sadiya-Dhubri Water Transport System, (3) West Coast Canal Water Transport System. There are 12 major ports in India. Out of them, the four principal ports are—Mumbai, Chennai, Vishakhapatnam, and Kolkata.

At present, the ship harbours on the bank of the Brahmaputra river are—Dibrugarh, Dichangmukh, Nimatighat, Biswanath Chariali, Silghat, Guwahati, Goalpara, and Dhubri.

**Airways transport**—The airway service in India is included in Government and Private sectors. Air India, Indian Airlines, etc. are the airway services included in the government sector. Indigo, Spice jet, etc. are included in the private sector. These airway services established connectivity between different places in the country. Flights between Guwahati and Delhi started in January in the year 1981. Through some airway services, it is possible to travel to foreign countries.



**The first private sector international airport in India is established at Cochin of Kerala.**

**Ropeway-** Apart from the four types of transport systems, there is also the **ropeway transport** system in India. The ropeway transport system is very economical. This transport system helps in carrying minerals like limestone, coal, etc. from the mines to the remote hilly regions. To carry limestones between the Dilai Hills of Karbi Anglong to the cement industry of Bokajan, there is a single ropeway transport system of around 35 kilometers in distance. The ropeway between Guwahati and North Guwahati has become a major tourist attraction.



*Ropeway system*

### **Discuss in groups-**

- What are the different means of transportation in India. What are the benefits we get from them?

Through these transport systems, it has become easy and quick to travel anywhere in the world. Out of all the transport systems, the aeroplane takes the least time to travel from one country to another. This journey is very comfortable but expensive. The common people in India are mostly seen to use the road and railway transport systems for their travel. A developed transport system provides a major contribution to the economic development of a country.

There is diversity in various aspects like religion, culture, attire, etc. in our country. People from different religions such as—Hinduism, Islam, Sikhism, Christianity, Buddhism, Jainism, etc. reside in this country. As the cultivated items vary in different regions, there is diversity in our food habits. For example, a large amount of wheat is cultivated in Punjab, Haryana, Uttar Pradesh, etc. That is why the staple food of the people in that region is *roti*. On the other hand, because of the high production of rice in Odisha, Assam, West Bengal, etc. the staple food for the people in this region is rice. There are people of different languages in our country. There are more than 250 languages and dialects. Out of them, 22 languages have been recognized by the Constitution. Although there is diversity among the people of different languages, religions, social customs and traditions, etc. people reside in harmony and co-operation. Even though there is diversity, we give equal respect and honour to all the languages, cultures, and religions. That is why India is a land of unity for everyone. This unity is the integration of community, language, and culture. Thus, the principal feature of Indian culture is ‘unity in diversity.’



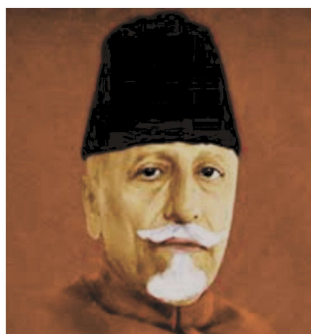
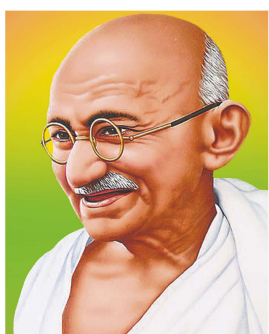
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There is immense importance of national integration in a vast country such as India. The respect and goodwill which is shown to the country and its people in complete solidarity, irrespective of community, colour, language, religion, is the **National Integration**. The development of a country is possible when there is peace, harmony, and unity. This unity, peace, and harmony will be fulfilled only when people of various religions, languages, castes and communities reside in unity, harmony and cooperation.

**Integration is—the key to unity, peace and development of a nation.**

**Let us know in brief about what are the contributions made by the great personalities in the following pictures towards national integration—**



Mahatma Gandhi

Maulana Abul  
Kalam Azad

Sarojini Naidu

Gopinath Bordoloi

- ✦ The Father of the nation, Mahatma Gandhi made the freedom movement successful through the non-violence policy.
  - ✦ The first Education Minister of independent India, Maulana Abul Kalam Azad appealed to everyone to be the same Indian citizen without keeping differences in community and religion.
  - ✦ The first Indian woman, President of the Indian National Congress, Sarojini Naidu inculcated the values of patriotism among the people through her poems.
  - ✦ After the independence of India, Lokapriya Gopinath Bordoloi was the first chief minister of Assam. His great sacrifices towards the integrity and freedom of India are ideal for all of us.
- Apart from the above mentioned personalities, many other leaders have contributions towards national integrity. Learn about them from your teachers and write their names.



**To make the national integration everlasting, we have to take certain measures in our hands. Let us know something about them—**

- ✧ Besides our mother tongue, we should also learn the languages of our neighbouring tribal communities. The more we learn to speak their language, the lesser will be the diversity among us. We can express our thoughts with language.
- ✧ Every Indian should unitedly participate in the celebration of Independence Day, Republic Day, Gandhi Jayanti, etc. ignoring the diversities of regions, religions, language, caste and creed, etc.
- ✧ We can know about the folks and songs, dance forms, games and sports, musical instruments, literature, art and culture of different tribes and communities through cultural exchange. This will bind everyone with the thread of unity and co-operation, removing the differences between us.

**Let us know—**

- The government has recognized 22 languages as the principal languages of the country
- There are people of different religions in India. Among them, Hinduism, Islam, Christianity, Sikhism, Jainism, and Buddhism are the major religions.
- Our India is a secular country.
- The administration of our country runs as per the constitution.
- We have only one national flag and our national anthem is also one.
- The capital of India is New Delhi.
- We live in different parts of the country, speak different languages, and follow different religions. Still, we are the citizens of the same country, i.e. we are all Indians.

**Write down taking help from your teacher and guardian—**

- What is the name of the capital of our country?
- What is the name of the present Prime Minister of our country?
- What are the main languages recognized by the government of our country?
- What are our national festivals?

**Let us sing the national anthem in a group.**

### Exercise

1. Write answers to the following questions—

- (a) Names of the countries that border all four sides of India.
- (b) Names of the transportation systems of India.
- (c) Names of four major rivers of India.
- (d) Names of two mountain ranges of India.
- (e) Names of the Union Territories of India.
- (f) What is the name of the present Prime Minister of India?

2. Match column “A” with “B”

A	B
Sikkim	Ranchi
Tamil Nadu	Mumbai
Haryana	Chennai
Jharkhand	Gangtok
Maharashtra	Chandigarh

3. Fill in the blanks—

- (a) There are \_\_\_\_\_ number of states in India.
- (b) Flights between New Delhi and Guwahati started in the year \_\_\_\_\_.
- (c) There are \_\_\_\_\_ number of major ports in India.
- (d) The capital of India is \_\_\_\_\_.

4. Write about the origin of the name ‘Bharat’.

5. What do you understand by national integration?

6. Draw a picture of our national flag.

