

CHAPTER - 1

INDIA - SIZE AND LOCATION

POINTS TO REMEMBER:

- India is located in the **Northern hemisphere**.
- Its latitudinal extent is from $8^{\circ} 4' N$ to $37^{\circ} 6' N$.
- The longitudinal extent of the country is from $68^{\circ} 7' E$ to $97^{\circ} 25' E$.
- The **Tropic of Cancer** ($23^{\circ} 30' N$) divides the country into almost two equal parts.
- India is the **seventh largest** country (in terms of area) in the world.
- The area of India is **3.28** million square km. India's total area accounts for about **2.4** per cent of the total geographical area 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 **7,616.6 km**.
- The Standard Meridian of India ($82^{\circ} 30' E$), which passes through **Mirzapur** (in Uttar Pradesh), is taken as the standard time for the whole country.
- **India's central location: Benefits**
 - (i) The Indian landmass has a central location between the East and the West Asia.
 - (ii) 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. This helps in International trade.
 - (iii) The long coastline is economically beneficial for India.
 - (iv) India is having an eminent position in the Indian Ocean which justifies the naming of the Ocean after it.

- India has 29 states and 7 Union Territories.
- In terms of area, **Rajasthan** is the largest state and **Goa** is the smallest state in India.
- Total distance of the country from North (Kashmir) to South (Kanyakumari) is **3214 km** and from West (Gujarat) to East (Arunachal Pradesh) is **2933 km**.
- The Tropic of Cancer passes through the states of **Gujarat, Rajasthan, Madhya Pradesh, Chhattisgarh, Jharkhand, West Bengal, Tripura and Mizoram**.
- India shares its boundaries with **Pakistan** and **Afghanistan** in the northwest, **China (Tibet), Nepal and Bhutan** in the north and **Myanmar** and **Bangladesh** in the east.
- **Sri Lanka** and **Maldives** are our two island neighbours.
- 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.



QUESTIONS

Very Short Answer Type Questions (1 Mark)

1. Which latitudinal line divides our country into two equal parts?
2. What is the eastern longitudinal line of India?
3. Which narrow channel of sea separates India and Sri Lanka?
4. If you want to go to Kavaratti, which Union Territory will you go to?
5. Mention the latitudinal extent of India?
6. What is the area of total land mass of India?
7. What is the position of India in terms of area in the world?
8. Which longitudinal line is the Standard Meridian of India?
9. What percentage of total geographical area of the world is in India?
10. How long is the land boundary of India?
11. Which Union Territory of India is located in the Arabian Sea?
12. Which Union Territory of India is located in the Bay of Bengal?
13. From which place does the Standard Meridian of India pass?

Short/Long Answer Type Questions (3/5 Marks)

1. Mention the countries that are bigger than India in terms of area.
2. Mention the Indian states through which Tropic of Cancer passes.
3. How long is the coast line of India? What are the two benefits of it?
4. Why is there a difference of two hours in sunrise in Arunachal Pradesh and Gujarat?
5. Why does India need the standard time?
6. Mention the neighbouring countries of India. Also mention their direction of location from India.
7. The central location of India at the head of the Indian Ocean is considered of great significance. Why?

