

Location

india lies in the **northern** hemisphere.

main land latitudes and longitudes: **8°4'N and 37°6'N and longitudes 68°7'E and 97°25'E.**

the tropic of cancer(23°30'N) divides the country into 2 equal parts

southeast of the mainland: **andaman and nicobar islands** in the **bay of bengal**

southwest of the mainland: **lakshadweep islands** in the **arabian sea.**

southernmost point of the indian union is the **indira point** which got submerged under the sea water in **2004** during a tsunami.

India's neighbours

india occupies an **important strategic position** in **south asia.**

india has **28 states and 8 union territories**

india shares its boundaries with **Pakistan and Afghanistan in the northwest, china(-tibet), nepal and bhutan in the north. and myanmar and bhutan in the east**

our **southern neighbours** across the sea consist of the two island countries namely **Sri Lanka and Maldives.**

sri lanka is seperated from india by a **narrow channel of sea** formed by the **palk strait** and the **gulf of manner.**

maldives are situated to the **south of the lakshadweep islands**

Size

india has an area of **3.28 million km sq.**

indias total area accounts for about **2.4%** of the total geographical area of the world.

india is the **7th largest** country in the world.

india has a **land boundary** of **15,200km** and the **total length of the coastline** of the mainland, including andaman and nicobar islands and lakshadweep is **7,516.6km**

the **longitude and latitude extent** of the mainland is **30°**. Despite this the east-west extent appears to be smaller than the north-south extent.

From Gujrat to Arunachal Pradesh there is a time lag of 2 hours. hence time along the standard meridian of India(82°30'E) passing through Mirzapur is taken as the standard time for the whole country.

India and the world

The trans indian ocean routes which connect the countries of **europa in the west and the countries of east asia** provide a strategic central location to india.

The Deccan Peninsula protrudes into the indian ocean thus helping india establish close contact with **west asia, africa and europa from the western coast and with southeast and east asia from the eastern coast.**

no other country has a long coastline on the indian ocean as india has and indeed it is **india's eminent position** in the indian ocean which justifies the naming of the indian ocean after it.

since the opening of the **suez canal in 1869**, indias distance from europa **has been reduced by 7000km.****

India and the world (cont)

the land routes are much older than the ocean routes.

the various **passes across the mountains** in the **north** have provided passages to **ancient travellers** while the ocean restricted such interactions for a long time.

these routes have contributed in the **exchange of ideas and commodities** since ancient times.

The ideas of **Upanishads, the ramayana, and stories of panchatantra, indian numerals and the decimal system** could reach other parts of the world.**spices, muslin and other merchandise** were taken from india to other countries.

on the other hand influence of **greek sculpture and architectural styles of dome and minarets** from **west asia** can be seen in india.

