

Location

Latitude and Longitude The mainland extends between latitudes 8°4'N and 37°6'N and longitudes 68°7'E and 97°25'E.

Important Points The Tropic of Cancer [23° 30'N] divides the country into two equal parts. (Approximately)

Overseas Territories To the southwest and southeast of mainland, lie Lakshwadeep islands and the Andaman and Nicobar islands respectively.

It is taken from pg. 1, Contemporary India - 1 (NCERT).

Neighbours

North Pakistan and Afghanistan in the northwest, China (Tibet), Nepal and Bhutan in the north.

East Myanmar and Bangladesh

South Sri Lanka and the Maldives

Some Info 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 Lakshwadeep Islands.

More Information India has 28 states and 8 union territories.

Note how India stands apart from Asia, this country has strong geographical and historical links with its neighbours.

Refer to Figure 3

It is taken from pg. 4 and 5, Contemporary India - 1 (NCERT).

Figure 1

Size

Landmass Area of 3.28 million sq. km. Total area is about 2.4% of the world's land. (India)

Boundary Land boundary of 15,200 km and the total length of the coastline of the mainland + overseas territories is 7,516.6 km.

Boundary+ Young fold mountains (Himalayas) in the northwest, northeast and north. The country begins to taper from the south of 22° north latitude and extends in the the Indian Ocean forming the Arabian Sea and the Bay of Bengal.

Extent The longitudinal and latitudinal extend of the mainland in ~30°, despite this, the north-south extent appears to be longer than the east-west extend.

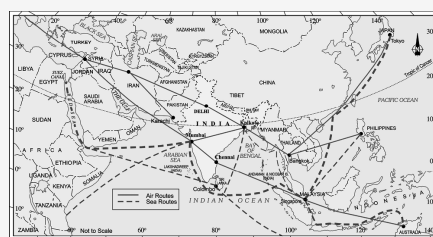
Time From Gujurat to Arunachal Pradesh, there is a time lag of 2 hours, hence time along the Standard Meridian of India [82°30'E] is the standard time. The latitudinal extend influences the duration of day and night as one moves from south to north.

India is the 7th largest country in the world.

Refer to Figure 1

It is taken from pg. 1 and 2, Contemporary India - 1 (NCERT).

Figure 2



India on the International Highway of Trade and Commerce

India and the World.

Advantage of Location (Sea) The trans Indian Ocean routes, which connect the countries of Europe and the countries of East Asia provide a strategic central location to India. The Deccan Peninsula protrudes the Indian Ocean enabling establishing close contact with West Asia, Africa and Europe from the western coast and Southeast and East Asia from the eastern coast.

Advantage of Location (Land) India's land trade and routes existed long before sea routes, passes between mountains in the north provided passages to ancient travelers. These routes enabled exchange of ideas and goods, the ideas of the *Upanishads*, *Ramayana* and the stories of the *Panchtantra* along with the decimal system and the numerical system could reach many parts of the world due to this.

Other Trade Relations The spices, muslin and other merchandise were traded to the outside world. We also got influenced by Greek sculpture, the architectural styles of the dome and minaret can also be seen.

Refer to Figure 2

It is taken from pg. 2 and 4, Contemporary India - 1 (NCERT).



India : Extent and Standard Meridian



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Figure 3



India and Adjacent Countries



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