

Chapter-1

LOCATION & EXTENT

Our country India is one of the oldest cultures in the world. India's rich natural variation has embellished it with various cultural diversities. Ancient Indus Valley civilization flourished only here. *Vaishali* in Bihar is the world's first republic. Therefore, India has significant contributions in the development of world history. India is the only country in the world, on the name of which an ocean is named as 'Indian Ocean'. This reflects the important position of India in South Asia. In the past few decades, India has made remarkable progress in social and economic sector. But, growing population is creating hindrance in the holistic development of India.

LOCATION

India is a vast country. Mainland of India is located between $8^{\circ}4'$ North and $37^{\circ}6'$ North latitudes and $68^{\circ}7'$ East and $97^{\circ}25'$ East longitudes. If we include the Indian island groups then India expands up to $6^{\circ}45'$ north latitude. Indira Point is the southernmost point of India which is located in Andaman and Nicobar Island. $23^{\circ}30'$ north latitude (Tropic of Cancer) passes through the middle of India and divides it into two parts. India's position, the latitudinal and longitudinal extent, boundary line, etc. is evident in Figure 1.1.

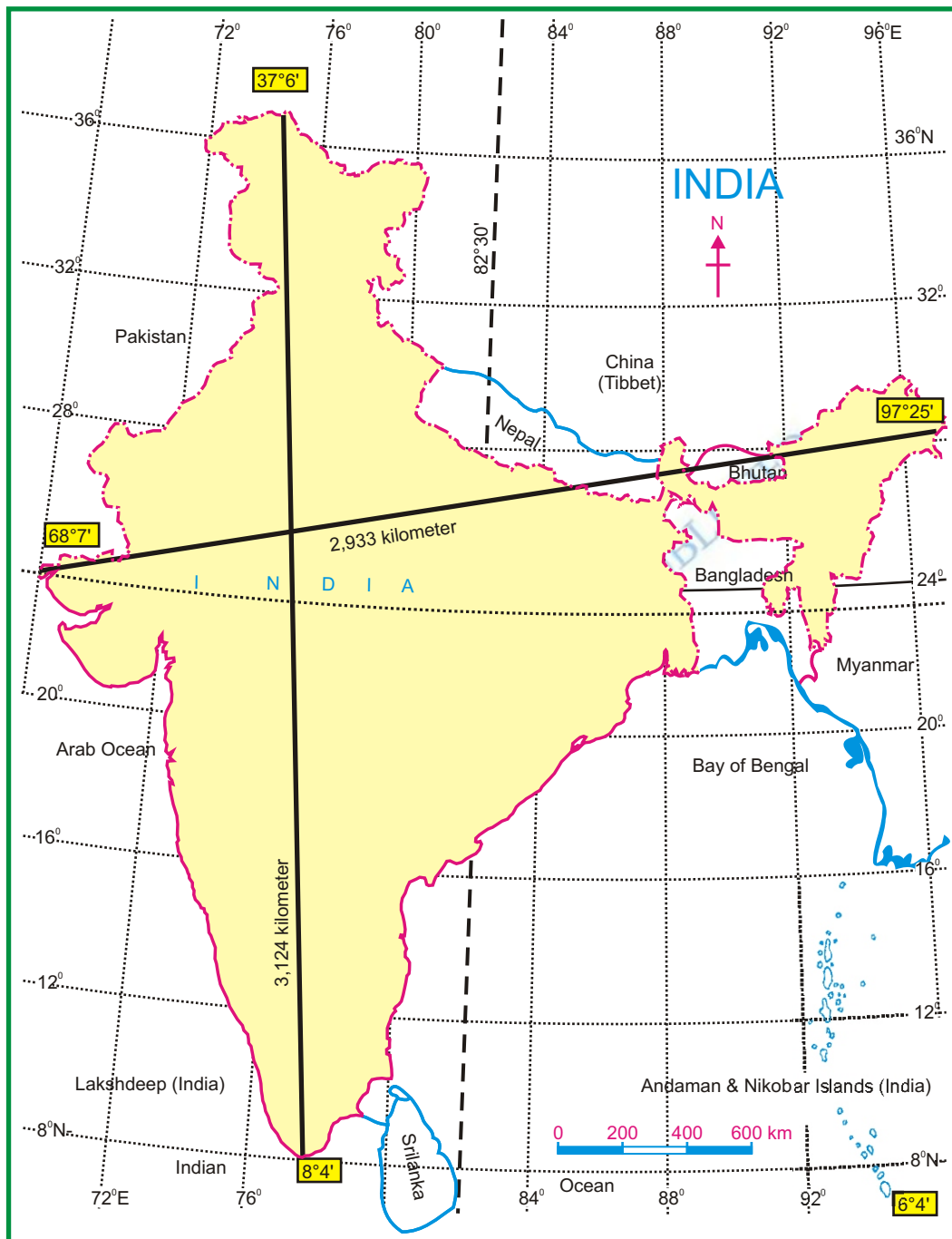


Figure 1.1 India- Expansion and Standard lines

SHAPE

The area of India is 32.8 lac square km which constitutes 2.4% of the world's geographic area. Figure 1.2 shows the relative position of India with other countries of the world.

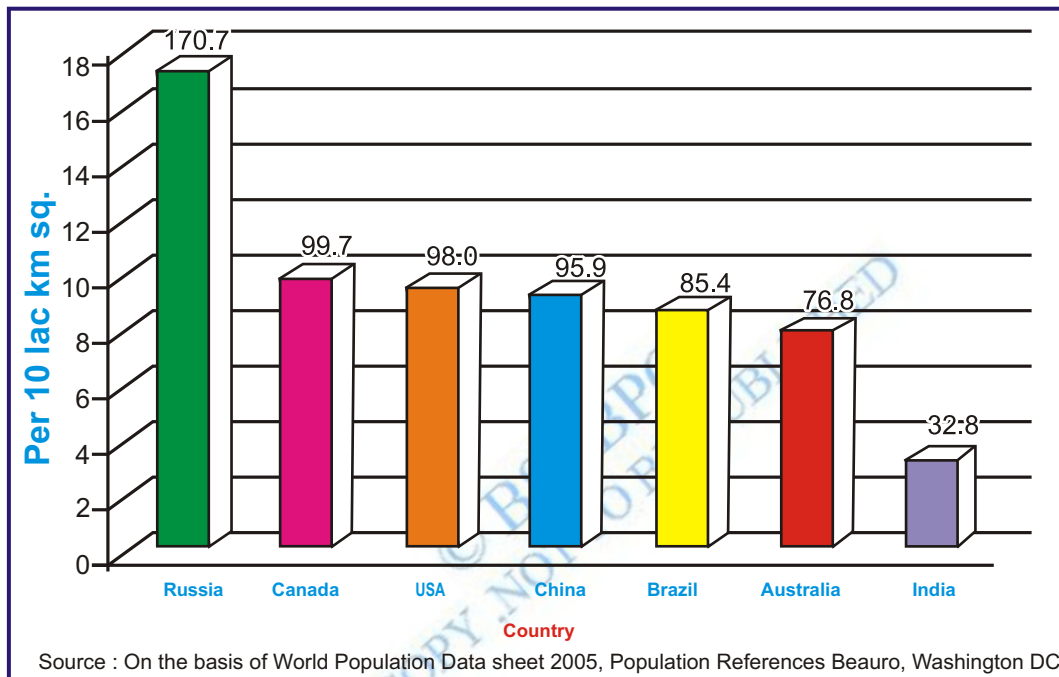


Figure 1.2: Seven largest countries in the world in terms of expansion

The Territorial boundary of India - India's territorial boundary is very lengthy. Its territorial boundary line is almost double of its coastal boundary line. The total length of territorial boundary line is 15,200 km. Coastal boundary line of mainland is 6100 km long. After adding the coastal boundary line of Indian Islands, the total length of boundary line becomes 7,516.6 km.

Seven largest countries in the world

- | | | |
|---------------|------------|-----------|
| (1) Russia | (2) Canada | (3) China |
| (4) U.S.A. | (5) Brazil | |
| (6) Australia | (7) India | |

The shape of India can be roughly seen as triangular. Its northern part is wider whereas its southern

part gradually becomes thinner from 22° north latitude. The Southern end of mainland has taken a shape of cape which is called '*Kumari Antarip*' or '*Kanyakumari*'.

Do you know?

The narrow portion of mainland, surrounded by sea from three sides is called cape.

Because of its peninsular shape, India is surrounded by ocean from three sides. These are (1) Bay of Bengal in the east, (2) In west the Arabian Sea and (3) the Indian Ocean to the south. The peninsular India which is centrally located in Indian Ocean also has very long coastlines. Young fold mountains are located in the north-west, north and north-east region of India.

Impact of latitudinal and longitudinal expansion

India's longitudinal and latitudinal expansion is almost same that is (30°), however the actual terrestrial distance is not quite similar. This happens

In 24 hours, Earth covers 360° longitudinal distance through one complete revolution on its axis. Hence, Earth takes 4 minute to cover 1° longitude. The difference between Saurashtra and Arunachal Pradesh is 30° longitudinally apart. Therefore, $30^{\circ} \times 4 \text{ minute} = 120 \text{ minute}$ it means 2 hours. In India, the difference of local time between Arunachal Pradesh and Kutch is 2 hours.

because the distance between two latitudes are always equal while the distance between two longitudes gradually decreases when we go towards poles.

When the sun rises in Arunachal Pradesh, there is still dark in Kutch region where sunrise happens after 2 hours. It is due to 30° longitudinal expansion between these two regions.

The $82^{\circ}30'$ East longitude passes through Allahabad (*Naini*) in Uttar Pradesh. This is the Standard Meridian of the country.

While choosing Standard Meridian, this is taken into consideration that it passes almost through the middle of the country and should be a multiple of $7^{\circ}30'$. The longitudinal difference of $7^{\circ}30'$ is convenient since it is equal to 30 minutes time difference.

Tropic of cancer (23.5° north latitude) passes from the middle of the country and divides it into two equal parts. This tropic of cancer passes from our neighbouring states Jharkhand's capital Ranchi and our neighbouring country Bangladesh.

Now we will understand how latitudinal expansion or distance affects Indian lifestyle?

Northern most end of India lies in the state of Jammu and Kashmir and latitudinal line passes through $37^{\circ}6'$ North. Therefore, it is very far from the equator and the region receives slant sun's rays. Consequently, it receives lesser solar heat and winters are very cold here.

On the other side, in the southern part of India, such as Kerala and Tamil Nadu is very close to the equator. Therefore, sun rays fall comparatively straight on these regions and they receive comparatively more solar heat. In this way the people of Jammu and Kashmir wear warm clothes in the winter season while farmers in Kerala wear light clothes. More latitudinal expansion also affects the duration of day and night. In Kerala, the difference between the longest and the smallest day is of 45 minutes, whereas in Leh which is the capital of Ladakh, this difference is of five hours.

Indian standard time is 5.30 hours ahead of Greenwich time. Because of having Indian standard time, all places in India follow the same time. However, there is difference in the time of sunrise between different places. For example, in the eastern States, sun rises 2 hours earlier as compare to Kachchh in Gujarat.

Locate the name and position of various passes on map.

INDIA AND THE WORLD

The peninsular India lies in the Indian Ocean. It is convenient for India to develop relations with European countries, south-west Asian

region and Africa through its western coast and with Australia and Asian countries through its eastern coast. India has a unique and important position in Indian Ocean in comparison to other countries. Therefore, the ocean is named after it. (Figure no. 1.3)

Find out : What is the international importance of Bodh Gaya? In which state is it situated?

India had connectivity with other countries of the world not only through sea- routes but also through the various passes of Himalayan ranges. India always had amazing relations with western, central-east and south-east Asian countries. Because of these relations, many Asian and *Panchtantra's* stories, thoughts of *Upanishadas*, Buddhism, Indian number and decimal systems have reached different parts of the world. Spices, *malmal* clothes and many other goods used to be exported from India to different countries. On the other side, India used to receive various things from other countries. You may find the influence of Greek and west-Asian architecture on the domes and minarets in different parts of our country.

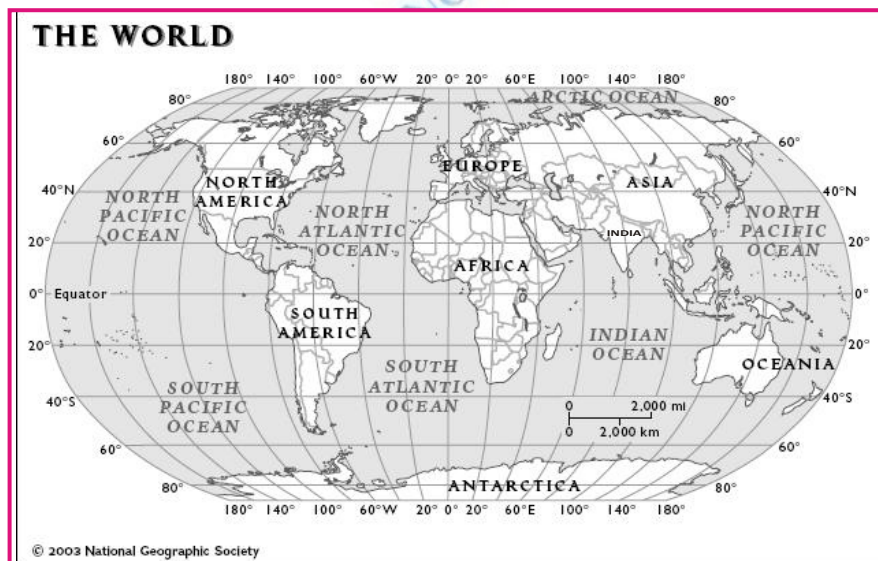


Figure 1.3: India and the World

INDIA'S NEIGHBOURING COUNTRIES

India holds a very important place in south Asia and it is also a member of SAARC which means 'South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation'.

India's territorial boundary touches seven countries. These countries are Pakistan, Afghanistan, China, Nepal, Bhutan, Bangladesh and Myanmar. Sri Lanka and Maldives are island countries

Member countries of SAARC are:

India, Pakistan, Bangladesh, Sri Lanka, Nepal, Bhutan, Maldives, Afghanistan.

situated in Indian Ocean. Palk Straight and Gulf of Mannar separate Sri Lanka from India. Dhanushkoti situated on the main land of India is only at a distance of 24 kilometers from the coast of Sri Lanka. This linear chain of Islands is called Adam's bridge. The territorial boundaries in north and north-east are determined by mountain ranges. There is a region in Jammu and Kashmir where the borders of India, Afghanistan and china meet each other. At some distance from this region, there are the borders of Pakistan and Tajikistan. Therefore, this region is very sensitive from the strategic point of view due to its closeness with the borders of five countries. Tibetan plateau is situated in the north-east of Jammu and Kashmir, which is under china now. Kailash mountains and Mansarovar lake is situated here. Hereafter, when we move towards north-east, we find one more neighbouring country of India in the lap of Himalayas i.e. Nepal. Culturally, Nepal is quite similar to India. From ancient, times India is having very strong relations with Nepal. Himalayan rivers originated from Nepal meet Ganges after passing through the plains of Bihar. The river of Kosi which is also known as 'Sorrow of Bihar' originates from Nepal. Both nations have developed a combined project on Kosi river, which also strengthens mutual cooperation and friendly relation between these two countries. The breakdown of Kosi river embankments on 18th August 2008, led to heavy flood in Bihar. Therefore, Nepal is more important to India from the political, economic and cultural point of view.

Bhutan is situated on the east of Nepal, which also has special ties with India.



Figure 1.4: India and the Neighbouring Countries

Actually, the responsibility of security and development of Bhutan is highly depended on India. In the east of Bhutan, the border line between India and china passes through Himalayan ranges. The name of this border line is **McMahan line**. In the north-east of Arunachal Pradesh the boundary of India, china and Myanmar meet at a point.

Afterwards, there are Purvanchal hills. They separate India from Myanmar. Moving towards south, these hills get merged with Aarakan mountain range of Myanmar. Then, they get submerged in the Bay of Bengal and remerge in the form of Andaman and Nicobar islands. These mountain ranges situated in north and east region are very complex and rugged. As a result, transposition and communication in these regions have not developed much. Therefore, It is difficult for India to connect with its neighbouring countries via these areas. However, the modern technologies have brought changes in these regions. It has been possible to develop Indo-Tibetan Highway due to modern means of transportation. This highway passes through *Shipki la* pass. Another mountain way is Kashmir-Leh highway, which passes through very high mountain ranges. Third prominent highway passes through a pass in Sikkim. Due to the development of Airways, these high mountains are not unreachable now.

Find out : Boundaries of how many states of India, touches Pakistan and Bangladesh?

In the east of West Bengal, there is another neighbouring country Bangladesh. Similarly, Pakistan is situated in the west of India. The line which separates India and Pakistan is known as **Redcliff line**.

EXERCISE QUESTIONS

OBJECTIVE QUESTIONS:

- (1) Does which place in the world India have on the basis of area?
(a) 7th (b) 9th (c) 5th (d) 8th

- (2) What is the difference in degree between the latitudinal and longitudinal expansion of India?
(a) 45° (b) 40° (c) 30° (d) 35°
- (3) What is the value of Standard meridian line of India?
(a) $83^{\circ}30'$ (b) $81^{\circ}35'$ (c) $82^{\circ}30'$ (d) $80^{\circ}30'$
- (4) How long of coastal border line is India's territorial boarder line?
(a) Half (b) double (c) thrice (d) four times
- (5) What is the name of the border line between India and China?
(a) Redcliff line (b) McMahan line (c) Greenwich line (d) None of these

FILL IN THE BLANKS:

- (1) Total area of India issquare km. which is% of the world's total geographical area.
- (2) The mainland of India is expanded fromnorth tonorth latitude and fromeast toeast longitude.
- (3) There are total States and Union territories in India.
- (4) Sri Lanka gets separated from India through and.....
- (5) Kosi river is called as of Bihar which originates from mountain of Himalaya.

GIVE REASON:

1. The latitudinal and longitudinal expansion of India is almost equal but their actual terrestrial distances are different. Why?
2. The residents of Arunachal Pradesh wake up 2 hours earlier as compared to the residents of Saurashtra in India? Why?
3. In India, the residents of Jammu and Kashmir wear woolen clothes in winters whereas at the same time the resident of the Kerala wear light clothes. Why?
4. The coastal border line of India is too long. Why?

SHORT ANSWER TYPE QUESTIONS:

1. Write the names of the countries in sequence, which have more geographical area than India?

2. Write the names of Island of India situated in the Bay of Bengal and the Arab Sea?
3. Write the names of all neighbouring countries, which touch the territorial boundary line of India?
4. Which states of India do not touch the international border line and sea coast?
5. What is known as Strait?

LONG ANSWER TYPE QUESTIONS:

1. What is the impact of longitudinal and latitudinal expansion of India on its time? Explain?

Map work

1. Identify the following with the help of map:
2. Capitals of all states of India
3. Capital of Union Territories of India
4. State having longest coastline
5. Southernmost point of India
6. Southernmost point of the main land of India
7. Strait which separates India and Sri Lanka
8. How many countries together form Indian sub-continent?
9. Identify the members of SAARC

PROJECT WORK

1. Find out the latitudinal and longitudinal expansion of your State. Find out names and positional directions of your neighbouring States.
2. Collect information related to the *Setu-Samudram* project. Collect information about Silk route. Also explore about different organizations which are involve in making roads on high altitudes and mountain regions.

