

- India: Size and Location
- Location and Size
- India and the World; India's Neighbours

India: Size and Location

India is one of the ancient civilisations in the world and has made significant socioeconomic progress in agriculture, industry, technology, and overall economic development.

Location and Size

Location

- India lies in the Northern Hemisphere.
- The mainland extends between latitudes $8^{\circ}4'N$ and $37^{\circ}6'N$ and longitudes $68^{\circ}7'E$ and $97^{\circ}25'E$.
- The Tropic of Cancer ($23^{\circ}30'N$) divides the country into almost two equal halves.
- The Andaman and Nicobar Islands lie to the southeast in the Bay of Bengal, and the Lakshadweep Islands lie to the southwest in the Arabian Sea.
- Indira Point is the southernmost point of the Indian Union, which was submerged in 2004 during the Tsunami.

Size

- The total area of the Indian landmass is 3.28 million square kilometres.
- India accounts for about 2.4 per cent of the total geographical area of the world.
- It is the seventh-largest country in the world.
- India has a land boundary of about 15,200 km and a coastline of 7,516.6 km including the islands.
- The northwest, north, and northeast boundaries are characterised by young fold mountains.
- The latitudinal and longitudinal extent of the mainland is about 30° .
- Indian Standard Time (IST) is based on the Standard Meridian of India ($82^{\circ}30'E$) passing through Mirzapur in Uttar Pradesh.

Key Words

Latitude: Measurement of distance north or south of the Equator, measured in degrees ($^{\circ}$). The Equator is at 0° latitude.

Longitude: Measurement of distance east or west of the Prime Meridian, which is at 0° and passes through Greenwich, England.

Equator: An imaginary line around the middle of the Earth dividing it into Northern and Southern Hemispheres.

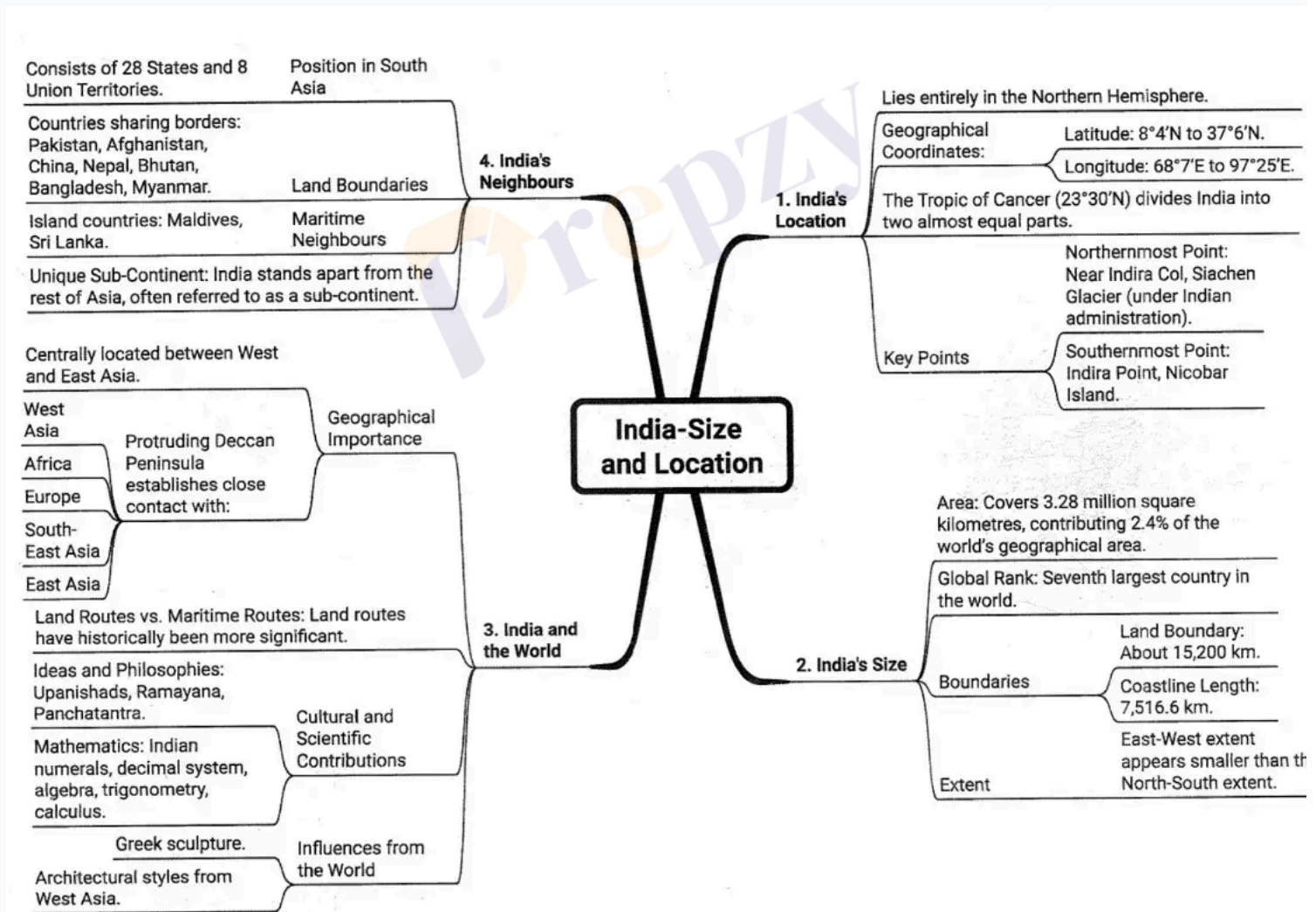
Important Latitudes:

- Equator: 0° latitude
- Tropic of Cancer: 23.5° N latitude
- Tropic of Capricorn: 23.5° S latitude
- Arctic Circle: 66.5° N latitude
- Antarctic Circle: 66.5° S latitude
- North Pole: 90° N latitude
- South Pole: 90° S latitude

Example: India has a long coastline which is advantageous. Explain.

Answer:

1. The total length of the coastline of the mainland, including the Andaman and Nicobar and Lakshadweep Islands, is 7,516.6 km.
2. This long coastline is advantageous because it facilitates trade and cultural exchange.
3. India's central location and extensive coastline have helped it interact with the world.
4. Major ports on the eastern and western coasts support import and export activities, boosting trade.
5. The coastline has contributed to the exchange of ideas and commodities historically.



India and the World; India's Neighbours

India and the World

- India's location is central between East and West Asia.
- It is the southward extension of the Asian continent.

- Trans-Indian Ocean routes connect Europe to East Asia, giving India a strategic central location.
- The Deccan Peninsula extends into the Indian Ocean, facilitating contact with West Asia, Africa, Europe, Southeast Asia, and East Asia.
- India has the longest coastline on the Indian Ocean, which is why the ocean is named after it.
- The opening of the Suez Canal in 1869 reduced the distance between India and Europe by 7,000 km.
- India is connected to Europe, North America, and South America through sea routes via the Suez Canal and the Cape of Good Hope.

India's Neighbours

- India has 28 states and 8 Union Territories.
- It shares land boundaries with Pakistan and Afghanistan in the Northwest; China (Tibet), Nepal, and Bhutan in the North; and Myanmar and Bangladesh in the East.
- Southern neighbours across the sea include Sri Lanka and Maldives.
- Sri Lanka is separated from India by the Palk Strait and the Gulf of Mannar.
- India has strong geographical and historical links with its neighbours.

Exam Questions

Question 1: What is the significance of the Tropic of Cancer for India?

Answer: The Tropic of Cancer (23°30'N) divides India into almost two equal halves, influencing the climate and agricultural patterns of the country.

Question 2: How does India's location benefit its trade and cultural exchange?

Answer: India's central location between East and West Asia and its long coastline facilitate trade and cultural exchange through major ports and sea routes, connecting it with Europe, Africa, and Asia.

Question 3: Name the countries that share land boundaries with India.

Answer: Pakistan, Afghanistan, China (Tibet), Nepal, Bhutan, Myanmar, and Bangladesh share land boundaries with India.

Practice Set

Easy

- Define latitude and longitude.
- What is the total area of India?
- Which ocean is named after India?

Moderate

- Explain the importance of the Standard Meridian of India.
- Describe the location of the Andaman and Nicobar Islands.
- List the southern neighbours of India.

Challenging

- Discuss the strategic importance of India's location in the Indian Ocean.
- Explain how the opening of the Suez Canal affected India's trade.
- Describe the significance of India's long coastline for its economic development.

Answer Key

- **Latitude and Longitude:** Latitude measures distance north or south of the Equator; longitude measures distance east or west of the Prime Meridian.
- **Total area of India:** 3.28 million square kilometres.
- **Ocean named after India:** Indian Ocean.
- **Standard Meridian:** It is 82°30'E passing through Mirzapur, used to calculate Indian Standard Time (IST).
- **Andaman and Nicobar Islands:** Located to the southeast of the Indian mainland in the Bay of Bengal.
- **Southern neighbours:** Sri Lanka and Maldives.
- **Strategic importance:** India's central location connects East and West Asia and facilitates maritime trade routes.
- **Suez Canal impact:** Reduced sea distance between India and Europe by 7,000 km, enhancing trade.
- **Coastline significance:** Supports ports, trade, cultural exchange, and economic development.

Quick Reference

- India lies between 8°4'N and 37°6'N latitude and 68°7'E and 97°25'E longitude.
- Tropic of Cancer divides India into two halves.
- India's area: 3.28 million sq km; seventh largest country.
- Coastline length: 7,516.6 km including islands.
- Standard Meridian: 82°30'E (Indian Standard Time).
- Neighbours: Pakistan, China, Nepal, Bhutan, Bangladesh, Myanmar, Sri Lanka, Maldives.

Glossary

- **Latitude:** Distance north or south of the Equator measured in degrees.
- **Longitude:** Distance east or west of the Prime Meridian measured in degrees.
- **Equator:** Imaginary line dividing Earth into Northern and Southern Hemispheres.
- **Tropic of Cancer:** Latitude 23.5° N, dividing India into two parts.
- **Standard Meridian:** Longitude 82°30'E used to calculate Indian Standard Time.
- **Coastline:** The length of land bordering the sea.
- **Indian Ocean:** Ocean named after India, surrounding its southern coast.

Chronology Table

Time Period / Year	Event / Change	Importance
1869	Opening of the Suez Canal	Reduced sea distance between India and Europe by 7,000 km, boosting trade.
2004	Submergence of Indira Point during Tsunami	Changed the southernmost point of India.