

## Chapter – 07 Geography

### Our Country-India

- India is a country of vast geographical expanse.
- In the north, it is bound by the lofty Himalayas, the Arabian Sea in the west, the Bay of Bengal in the East and the Indian Ocean in the south.
- India has an area of 3.28 million sq km. The north-south stretch from Kashmir to Kanyakumari is about 3,200 km and the east-west extend from Arunachal Pradesh to Kuchchh is about 2,900 km.
- It is the second most populous country of the world after China.
- **Locational Setting:**
  - (i) India is situated in the northern hemisphere.
  - (ii) The Tropic of Cancer ( $23^{\circ}30' N$ ) passes almost halfway through the country.
  - (iii) From south to north, main land of India extends between  $8^{\circ}4' N$  and  $37^{\circ}6' N$  latitudes.
  - (iv) From west to east, India extends between  $68^{\circ}7' E$  and  $97^{\circ}24' E$  longitudes.
  - (v) The local time changes by four minutes for every one degree of longitudes. The sun rises two hours earlier in the east (Arunachal Pradesh) than in the west (Gujarat).
  - (vi) The local time of longitude of  $82^{\circ}30' E$  has been taken as the Indian Standard time.
- **India's: Neighbours and Administrative Divisions:**
  - (i) India shares its border with seven countries-Pakistan, China, Nepal, Bhutan, Bangladesh, Sri Lanka and Maldives. Sri Lanka is separated from India by the Palk Strait.
  - (ii) India is a vast country. For administrative purpose, the country is divided into 28 states and 7 Union Territories. New Delhi is the capital.
  - (iii) Rajasthan is the largest state and Goa is the smallest and Goa is the smallest state in terms of area.
- **Physical Divisions**
  - (i) India is marked by a diversity of physical features such as mountains, plateaus, plains, coasts and islands.
  - (ii) In the north are the Himalayas meaning the 'abode of snow'.
  - (iii) The Himalayas are divided into three main parallel ranges-Great Himalayas or Himadri, the Middle Himalaya or Himachal and the Shiwalik.
  - (iv) The Northern Indian Plains lie to the south of the Himalayas. They have alluvial deposits made by the Indus, the Ganga, the Brahmaputra and their tributaries.
  - (v) In the western part of India is the Great Indian Desert.
  - (vi) To the South of Northern Plains lies the Peninsular Plateau. It has the Aravalis, the Vindhyas, the Satpuras, the Narmada, the Tapi, the Western Ghats and the Eastern Ghats.
  - (vii) West of Western Ghats and East of Eastern Ghats lie the coastal plains. The eastern coastal plains and the western coastal plains are located here.
  - (viii) The Sunderban delta is formed where the Ganga and Brahmaputra flow into the Bay of Bengal.
  - (ix) Two group of Islands also form part of India. One is the Lakshdweep Island in the Arabian sea and the Andaman and Nicobar Islands in the Bay of Bengal.