

Chaper-1 Geography

India - Size and Location

Location

- India lies entirely in the Northern Hemisphere.
- India's mainland extends between $8^{\circ}4'N$ and $37^{\circ}8'N$ latitudes, and $68^{\circ}7'E$ and $97^{\circ}25'E$ longitudes.
- The Tropic of Cancer ($23^{\circ}30'N$) divides India into two almost equal parts.

Size

- Covering an area of 3.28 million square kilometres, India's total area is 2.4% of the total geographical area of the world.
- India is the world's seventh largest country with a land boundary of about 15,200 km, with total length of the coastline being 7,516.6 km.
- India's east-west extent appears to be smaller than the north-south extent.

India and the World

- The Indian landmass is centrally located between West and East Asia.
- India's protruding Deccan Peninsula helped India to establish close contacts with West Asia, Africa and Europe, South-east and East Asia.
- India's contacts with the world via land routes are much more than her maritime contacts.
- India has contributed a lot to the world in forms of ideas, philosophies (Upanishads, Ramayana, Panchtantra) and mathematics (Indian numerals and decimal system).
- In exchange, India's architecture was influenced by Greek sculpture and architectural styles from West Asia.

India's Neighbours

- India has an important position in South Asia and has 28 States and 7 Union Territories.
- India shares its boundaries with Pakistan, Afghanistan, China, Nepal, Bangladesh, Myanmar and Bhutan.
- The southern neighbours across the sea consist of the two island countries, namely Maldives and Sri Lanka.
- India stands apart from the rest of Asia.