

India- Size and Location

India-The Emerging Nation

India, also known as the land of diversity, is the most ancient civilizations in the world. India is a vast country with ever-increasing socio-economic growth in the last decades. The country with the world's second-largest population has shown promising development in the fields of agriculture, technology, industry, economy, etc. Furthermore, the country has a vast number of resources, which has also been elucidated in the Geography class 10 syllabus. Before we delve deep into India Size and Location, let us first take a look at some of the important points:

- India has 36 states/UT's in total- 28 states and 8 Union Territories.
- Delhi is the capital of the Republic of India and Mumbai is the largest city.
- Rajasthan is the largest state, whereas Goa is the smallest in terms of area.
- Uttar Pradesh is the most populous state in the country and is important to remember in order to understand India Size and Location.
- Furthermore, with no national language, Hindi and English are recognized as official languages along with 447 enlisted indigenous languages.

Understanding India Size and Location

The chapter 'India Size and Location' in the class 9 Geography syllabus provides detailed information about the geography of the country in terms of area and its location on the globe.

Size

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| Total Area (Ranked 7th) | 3,287,263km ² |
| Land boundary | 15,200 km |
| Coastal boundary | 7,516.6 km |

Location

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| Continent | Asia |
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| Region | South Asia Indian subcontinent |
| Position | The northern part of the Indo-Australian plate; the Indian Plate |
| Hemisphere | Northern Hemisphere |
| Coordinates | 21°N 78°E |
| IST | Mirzapur – 82°30' E |

Location of India Explained

India, which is often called Bharat or Hindustan, is one of the most influential countries in the Asian continent. It lies entirely in the northern hemisphere, centrally located amidst eastern and western Asia. India lies on the Indian plate which is a part of the northern Indo Australian plate. As far as 'India Size and Location' is concerned, the country is located to the north of the equator between 8°4' north to 37°6' north latitude and 68°7' east to 97°25' east longitude. One of the three imaginary lines passes through the nation, which is the Tropic of Cancer which divides the country into two halves at coordinates 23°30'N. The Indian peninsula is connected with the entire world through oceanic routes, defining its prominence and relations with other continents.

Quick Fact: *The Tropic of Cancer passes through 8 Indian states namely, Rajasthan, Gujrat, Madhya Pradesh, Tripura, West Bengal, Chhattisgarh, Jharkhand, and Mizoram.* This is important information to remember when it comes to India-Size and Location.

India Size

As far as India Size and Location is concerned, it is the seventh-largest country in the world. Its total geographical area is 3,287,263 square kilometres. It extends over a distance of 3,124 kilometres from north to south [Jammu & Kashmir to Kanyakumari] and 2,993 kilometres from east to west [Arunachal Pradesh to Gujarat]. Water bodies majorly surround the country on three sides with a 7,516.6 kilometres long coastline and 15,200 kilometres land boundary.

Physical Features of India

While understanding India Size and Location is important, having a conceptual clarity of its physical features is essential. The northern frontiers of the country are protected by the high Himalayas, which separates the Indian subcontinent plain from the Tibetan plateau. Indian peninsula on the south is faced by the world's third-largest ocean- the Indian Ocean and partly by the Bay of Bengal in the east and the Arabian Sea in the west. A time lag of two hours can be experienced from Arunachal Pradesh to Gujarat. As a result, the standard meridian 82°30'E, which passes through Mirzapur, Uttar Pradesh is regarded as the standard time and is followed by the entire nation.

India Size and Location Along with Neighbours

India is recognized as the most influential country in South Asia. It shares a spirit of harmony with its neighbouring countries and so, understanding the border divisions along with India Size and Location is equally important.

- India shares the Himalayan range with Nepal, Bhutan, and China in the north.
- With Pakistan in the west, it shares the Arabian Sea, 15% of Thar desert, and a minor part of the Rann of Kutch.
- The Sunderbans delta spanning over the Bay of Bengal and river Hooghly segregates the boundaries between India and Bangladesh in the east.
- Furthermore, in the North East, India shares its land border with Myanmar.
- The southernmost neighbours of the nation are two island countries- the Maldives and Sri Lanka.
- Sri Lanka is separated by the Gulf of Mannar.