

Revision Notes Class 9

Social Science - Geography

Chapter – 1 India- Size and Location

India is one of the world's oldest civilizations. It has progressed politically, geographically, socially, and economically over the last few decades. India has also played a significant role in shaping world history.

Location of India

- It is a vast country located in the northern hemisphere, with latitudes ranging from 8°4'N to 37°6'N and longitudes ranging from 68°7'E to 97°25'E.
- The Tropic of Cancer, 23° 30'N roughly divides the country into two equal halves.
- The Andaman and Nicobar Islands are in the Bay of Bengal to the south-east of the mainland, and the Lakshadweep Islands are in the Arabian Sea to the southwest.

Size of India

- India's landmass covers 3.28 million sq. km, accounting for approximately 2.4% of the world's total geographical area.
- In terms of landmass, India is regarded as the world's seventh largest country.
- India has a land boundary of approximately 15,200 kilometres, and the total length of the coastline, including the Andaman and Nicobar Islands and Lakshadweep, is 7516.6 kilometres.
- In the northeast, north, and northwest, India is bounded by young fold mountains.
- It begins to taper south of 22° north latitude and reaches into the Indian Ocean, separating it into two seas, the Arabian Sea to the west and the Bay of Bengal to the east.
- The time along India's Standard Meridian, 82°30'E, passing through Mirzapur, Uttar Pradesh, is considered the country's standard time.
- As one proceeds from south to north, the length of the day and night is influenced by the latitudinal extent.

India and Her Relationship with World

- India is situated in the center of the Asian continent, between west and east. It is a southerly extension of the Asian continent. It is distinct from the rest

of Asia and is referred to as a subcontinent.

- The trans-Indian Ocean routes link Western European countries with East Asian countries. No other country in the Indian Ocean has a coastline as long as India's.
- India is the only country to have an ocean after its name.
- India's land routes predate sea routes for a long time. Various passes across mountains in the north provided passages for ancient travelers because the ocean had previously limited such interaction.
- These routes brought the Ramayana and Mahabharata Indian epics, Panchatantra stories, Upanishads, Indian numeral, and the decimal system to the world. Besides, goods such as muslin and spices were exported from the country to other parts of the world.
- The influence of Greek sculpture and architecture can be widely seen in the country.

India and its Neighbors

- The country holds a strategic position in South Asia with 28 states and 8 union territories.
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- India shares its borders with Pakistan and Afghanistan in the northwest, in the north with Nepal, Bhutan, and China (Tibet), and in the east with Myanmar and Bangladesh. Two neighboring island countries are located to the south, Sri Lanka and the Maldives.
- The country is geographically and historically connected to its neighbors.

Some Interesting Facts about India

- Prior to 1947, India had two types of states: provinces and princely states. The provinces were ruled by British officials appointed as viceroys by the British Council. In exchange for loyalty against the British government, the princely states were ruled by local hereditary rulers.
- Indira Point, the Indian Union's southernmost point, was submerged by waters during the 2004 Tsunami.
- India's distance from Europe has decreased by 7000 km since the opening of the Suez Canal in 1896.
- India has the world's second highest population density.
- Kanchenjunga, India's highest mountain peak, is the world's third highest

Important Questions and Answers

1. Why is the central location of India advantageous for the country?

Ans: India has a strategic advantage due to its location in the centre of the Indian Ocean, as the Trans Indian Ocean routes connect her to countries in Europe and Asia. India's strategic location in the ocean allows it to create ties with West Asia, Africa, and Europe. Since ancient times, India's wide coastline and natural harbours have aided in trade and commerce with neighbouring and distant countries. It is extremely beneficial for trade with Africa, Southeast Asia, Australia, and Europe. India benefits from the south-west monsoon seasons because of its marine location.

2. The sun rises two hours earlier in Arunachal Pradesh than in Gujarat. In spite of this fact, all the watches show the same time. Why?

Ans: There is a two-hour time difference between Gujarat and Arunachal Pradesh, although the watches show the same time since the time along the Standard Meridian of India i.e., $82^{\circ} 30' E$ passing through Mirzapur in Uttar Pradesh is used as the country's standard time. Because the same standard time has been established for the entire country, watches in Arunachal Pradesh and Gujarat, as well as the rest of the country, display the same time.

3. Which countries neighbor India?

Ans: India is bounded on the north by China-the country with the largest land area, 96 lakh square kilometers, Nepal, and Bhutan, on the south by Sri Lanka, on the east by Myanmar and Bangladesh, on the west by Pakistan, and on the north-west by Afghanistan. The Maldives, India's smallest neighbor which expands over 298 square kilometres is situated to the south-east of the country. India maintains trade and cultural ties with these neighbors.

4. Write a short note on the silk route.

Ans: The silk route is a centuries-old commercial route that connects Asia to the Mediterranean Sea. It traverses and connects China, India, Greece, Persia, and Italy. Silk traffic was done through this route throughout the ancient period, and therefore the term silk route. Silk was developed in China and exported to other countries. Furthermore, the route aided the commerce of muslin, spices, and other commodities from India.

5. Why are the Himalayas important for India?

Ans: The Himalayas are a significant physical barrier that separates the Indian subcontinent from the rest of the world. They serve as both a military and a climatic barrier. The Himalayas also keep the cold and chilly winds from the north polar regions from influencing the Indian subcontinent's climate as a result there

are no harsh winters. It also prevents moisture-laden winds from the south from blowing into Central Asia, resulting in rainfall across the subcontinent. As the Himalayas are known as the "abode of snow," they are the source of numerous perennial rivers and their tributaries. Throughout the year, these rivers provide water for irrigation and agricultural purposes. They store a massive amount of valuable minerals that are vital to the country. It has diverse biodiversity, with a wide range of fauna and flora.

6. How had the passes through the mountains been useful in the ancient times for India?

Ans:

- India has been linked to the rest of the world via mountain routes in the north, north-east, and north-west.
- Since time immemorial, these routes have been used for transportation. These routes were utilized by ancient travelers to travel to and from India.
- India provided the world with its number and decimal systems. These routes were used to spread the famous epics of Ramayana and Mahabharat, as well as the Upanishads and the Panchatantra.
- These channels have allowed for the movement of commodities and ideas. The Greek architectural style was adopted by India.