

CH-1 INDIA LOCATION

Key Points

- India's territorial limit further extends towards the sea upto 12 nautical miles (about 21.9 km) from the coast.
- Our southern boundary extends upto 6°45' N latitude in the Bay of Bengal.
- 82°30' E has been selected as the 'standard meridian' of India.
- India accounts for 2.4 per cent of the world's land surface area and stands as the seventh largest country in the world.
- The Indian subcontinent includes the countries — Pakistan, Nepal, Bhutan, Bangladesh and India.
- Sri Lanka and Maldives are the two island countries located in the Indian Ocean, which are our neighbours.

What are the implications of longitudinal and latitudinal extent of India?

- The latitudinal and longitudinal extent of India, they are roughly about 30 degrees.
- From the values of latitude, it is understood that the southern part of the country lies within the tropics and the northern part lies in the sub-tropical zone or the warm temperate zone.
- This location is responsible for large variations in land forms, climate, soil types and natural vegetation in the country.
- From the values of longitude, it is quite noticeable that there is a time difference of nearly two hours between the easternmost and the westernmost parts of our country.
- Due to this time difference the concept of Indian Standard Time (IST) came into existence.

Describe the SIZE and Diversity of India.

- The size of India has endowed her with great physical diversity.
- Presence of lofty mountains in the north; large rivers such as Ganga, Brahmaputra, Godavari; green forested hills in northeast and south India; and the vast sandy expanse of Marusthali.
- India is bounded by the Himalayas in the north, Hindukush and Sulaiman ranges in the north-west, Purvachal hills in the north-east and by the Indian ocean in the south, it forms a great geographic entity known as the Indian subcontinent.
- The Himalayas have acted as a formidable physical barrier in the past. Except for a few mountain passes it was difficult to cross it.
- Peninsular part of India extends towards the Indian Ocean. This has provided the country with a coastline of 6,100 km in the mainland.
- Thus India, as a country, is a physically diverse land providing occurrence of varied resources.