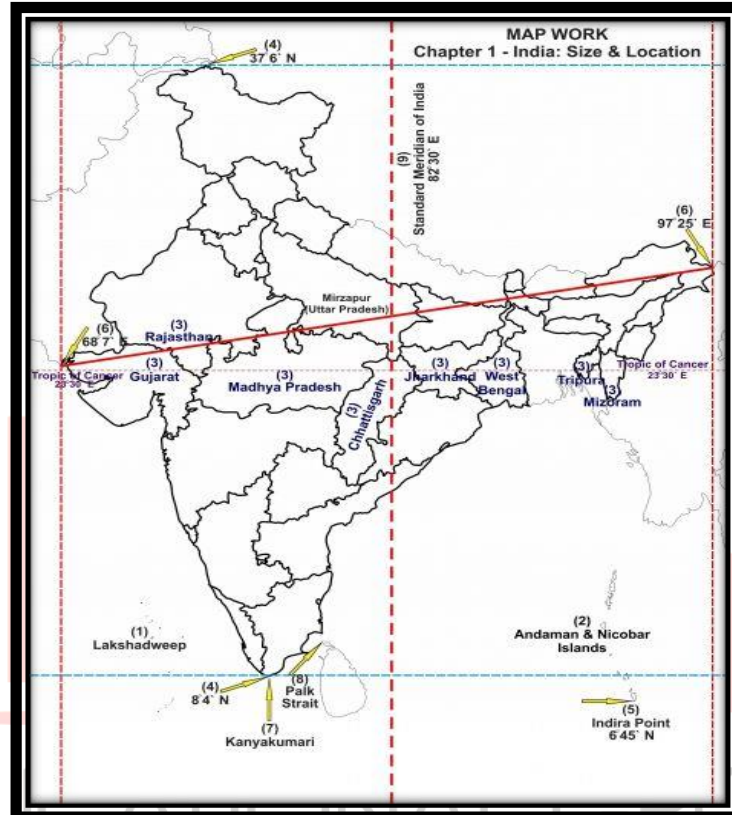


## Chapter- 1

## India- Size and Location

## STUDY NOTES



## Location

- India lies entirely in the Northern Hemisphere.
- India's mainland extends between  $8^{\circ}4' N$  and  $37^{\circ}6' N$  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.
- To the southeast lie the Andaman and Nicobar islands in Bay of Bengal and to the southwest lie the Lakshadweep islands in Arabian sea.

## Size

- Covering an area of 3.28 million square kilometer, 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.
- Longitudinal and Latitudinal extent of the mainland is about 30degree.
- From Gujarat to Arunachal Pradesh there is a time lag of two hours. Time along standard meridian is taken as the standard time of the country.
- Standard Meridian of India is 82degree30'E that passes through Mirzapur (UP)

### 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. Various passes across the mountains in the north have provided passages to the ancient travellers.
- India has the longest coastline on the Indian Ocean, it is India's eminent position in the Indian Ocean and justifies the naming of an Ocean after it.
- India has contributed a lot to the world in forms of ideas, philosophies (Upanishads, Ramayana, Panchtantra) and mathematics (Indian numerals and decimal system).
- The spices, muslin and other merchandise were taken from India to different countries. 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 8 Union Territories.
- India shares its boundaries with Pakistan, Afghanistan in the NW, China, Nepal, Bhutan in the N and Bangladesh and Myanmar in the E.

- The southern neighbours across the sea consist of the two island countries, namely Maldives and Sri Lanka.
- Sri Lanka is separated from India by a narrow channel of sea formed by the Palk Strait and the Gulf of Mannar. Maldives islands are situated to the south of the Lakshadweep islands.
- India stands apart from the rest of Asia.

