

# IMPORTANT NOTE

## Ch-2 Latitude & Longitude

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#### 1) Latitude and Longitude

- i) Latitude and Longitude are imaginary lines used to determine the location of a place on earth.
- ii) The shape of the earth is 'Globe'. And the location of a place on the earth can be mentioned in terms of latitude and longitude.
- iii) Example: The location of India - The longitudinal extent of India is 8 degree 4' N and 36 degrees 7' N.

#### 2) Latitude

(The parallels of latitude refer to the angular distance, in degrees, minutes and seconds of a point north or south of the Equator. Lines of latitude are often referred to as parallels.)

#### A) IMPORTANT PARALLELS OF LATITUDES

- i) Besides the equator ( $0^\circ$ ), the north pole ( $90^\circ\text{N}$ ) and the south pole ( $90^\circ\text{S}$ ), there are four important

parallels of latitudes -

- (ii) Tropic of Cancer ( $23\frac{1}{2}^{\circ}$  N) in the Northern hemisphere.
- (iii) Tropic of Capricorn ( $23\frac{1}{2}^{\circ}$  S) in the Southern hemisphere.
- (iv) Arctic circle at  $66\frac{1}{2}^{\circ}$  north of the equator.
- (v) Antarctic circle at  $66\frac{1}{2}^{\circ}$  south of the equator.

## B) LATITUDINAL HEAT ZONES OF THE EARTH

### TORRID ZONE

The mid-day sun is exactly overhead at least once a year on all latitudes in between the Tropic of Cancer and the Tropic of Capricorn.

### TEMPERATE ZONE

The areas bounded by the Tropic of Cancer and the Arctic circle in the Northern hemisphere and the Tropic of Capricorn and the Antarctic circle in the Southern hemisphere, have moderate temperatures.

### FRIGID ZONES

Areas lying between the Arctic circle and the North pole in the Northern hemisphere and the Antarctic circle and the South pole in the Southern hemisphere are the frigid zones.

→ circle and the south pole in the southern hemisphere, are very cold. It is because the sun does not rise much above the horizon.

### 3) Longitude



(Longitude refers to the angular distance, in degrees, minutes, and seconds, of a point east or west of the Prime (Greenwich) Meridian. Lines of longitude are often referred to as meridians.)

### A) ~~Longitude~~ LONGITUDE AND TIME

- i) Since the earth makes one complete revolution of  $360^\circ$  in one day or 24 hours, it passes through  $15^\circ$  in one hour or  $1^\circ$  in 4 minutes.
- ii) The earth rotates from west to east, so every  $15^\circ$  we go eastwards, local time is advanced by 1 hour. Conversely, if we go westwards, local time is retarded by 1 hour.
- iii) We may thus conclude that places east of Greenwich see the sun earlier and gain time whereas places west of Greenwich see the sun later and lose time.

## B) STANDARD TIME AND TIME ZONES

- i) To avoid all these difficulties, a system of standard time is observed by all countries.
- ii) The most of the countries adopt their standard time for the central meridian of their countries.
- iii) In larger countries such as Canada, U.S.A, China, and U.S.S.R, it would be inconvenient to have single time zones. So these countries have multiple time zones.
- iv) Both Canada and U.S.A. have five time zones - the Atlantic, Eastern, Central, Mountain and Pacific Time Zones. The difference between the local time of the Atlantic and Pacific coasts is nearly five hours.
- v) S.S.R had eleven time zones before its disintegration. Russia now has nine time zones.

## C) THE INTERNATIONAL DATE LINE

- i) A traveller going eastwards gains time from Greenwich until he reaches the meridian  $180^\circ$  E, when he will be 12 hours ahead of G.M.T.

ii) Similarly, in going westwards, he loses 12 hours when he reaches  $180^\circ W$ . There is thus a total difference of 24 hours or a whole day between the two sides of the  $180^\circ$  meridian.

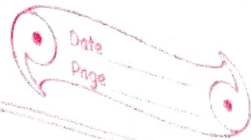
### Q) WHY IS THE INTERNATIONAL DATELINE DRAWN IN A ZIGZAG MANNER?

Some groups of islands (Polynesia, Melanesia, Micronesia) fall on either of the dateline. So if the dateline was straight then two regions of the same island country or island group would fall under different date zones. Thus to avoid any confusion of date, this line is drawn through where the sea lies and not land. Hence, the IDL is drawn in a zig-zag manner.

### 4) Indian Standard Time

The Indian Government has accepted the meridian of  $82.5^\circ$  east for the standard time which is 5 hours 30 mins ahead of Greenwich Mean Time.  
~~Greenwich~~ is 12:00 noon

## QUESTIONS



Example 1: Determine the local time of Thimpu (Bhutan) located at  $90^\circ$  east longitude when the time at Greenwich ( $0^\circ$ ) is 12:00 noon.

Statement: The time increases at a rate of 4 minutes per one degree of longitude, east of the Prime Meridian.

Solution:

Difference between Greenwich and Thimpu =  $90^\circ$  of longitude

Total Time difference =  $90 \times 4 = 360 \text{ min}$   
 $= 360 / 60 \text{ hours}$

$= 6 \text{ hours}$  / Local time of Thimpu is 6 hours more than that at Greenwich, i.e. 6:00 pm.

Example 2: Determine the local time of New Orleans (the place which was worst affected by Katrina Hurricane in October 2005), located at  $90^\circ$  West longitude when the time at Greenwich ( $0^\circ$ ) is 12:00 noon.

Statement: The time decrease, at a rate of

4 minutes per one degree of longitude west of the prime meridian

Solution:

Difference between Greenwich and New Orleans =  $90^\circ$  of longitude

Total Time difference =  $90 \times 4 = 360$  minutes  
=  $360 / 60$  hours.

= 6 hours | Local time of New Orleans is 6 hours less than that at Greenwich  
i.e. 6:00 a.m.

Why is it at 5:30 p.m. in India and 12:00 noon in London?

Prime meridian or  $0^\circ$  degree longitude passes from London. India located east of London at  $82^\circ 30'E$ . Since the earth takes 24 hours to rotate on its own axis or to cross  $360^\circ$  degree longitude.

$360^\circ = 24 \times 60$  minutes

$1^\circ = 24 \times 60 / 360 = 4$  minutes

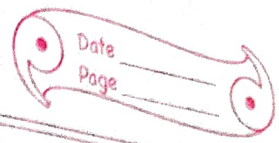
Indian Standard Time passes through  $82^\circ 30'E$ .

$82^\circ 30' = 82 \times 4 / 60 = 328 / 60 = 5$

hours and 28 minute

$30'E = 1/2$  degree = 2 minute

hence : 82 degrees 30' = 5 hours  
and 30 minutes.



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