

1) Latitudes and longitudes

- i) Latitudes and Longitudes are imaginary lines used to determine the location of a place on earth.
- ii) The shape of the earth is 'Geoid'. And the location of a place on the earth can be mentioned in terms of latitudes and longitudes.
- iii) Ex - the location of India - The longitudinal extent of India is $68^{\circ} 7' E$ and $97^{\circ} 25' E$ whereas the latitudinal extent of India is $8^{\circ} 4' N$ and $36^{\circ} 7' N$.

2) Latitude (The parallels of ~~India~~ latitudes refer to the angular distance in degrees, minutes and seconds north or south of the Equator. Lines of latitude are often referred to as parallels.)

A) IMPORTANT PARALLELS OF LATITUDES

- i) Tropic of cancer ($23\frac{1}{2}^{\circ} N$) Northern Hemisphere
- ii) Tropic of capricorn ($23\frac{1}{2}^{\circ} S$) Southern Hemisphere
- iii) Arctic circle ($66\frac{1}{2}^{\circ} N$) of the equator.
- iv) Antarctic Circle ($66\frac{1}{2}^{\circ} S$) of the equator.

B) LATITUDINAL HEAT ZONES OF THE EARTH

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

Temperate Zone

The areas bounded by the Tropic of Cancer and Arctic Circle in the northern hemisphere and Tropic of Capricorn and Antarctic Circle have moderate temperatures.

Frigid Zone

Areas lying between the Arctic Circle in the North pole and Antarctic Circle in the South Pole are very cold. It is because here the sun does not raise much above the horizon.

3) LONGITUDE - Longitude refers to the angular distance in degrees, mins, and seconds of a point east or west of the Prime Meridian (Greenwich). They (Longitudes) are often called as meridians.

A) LONGITUDE AND TIME

- i.) Since the earth makes one complete revolution of 360° in \pm day or 24 hrs, it passes through 15° in \pm hr. or $1^\circ = 4$ mins.
- ii.) The earth rotates from west to east, so every 15° we go eastwards, local time is advanced by \pm hr. Conversely, if we go westwards, local time is retarded by \pm hr.
- iii.) We may thus conclude that places east of Greenwich see the sun earlier and gain time, whereas places west of Greenwich see the 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.) Most countries adopt their standard time ~~is observed~~ from the central meridian of their countries.
- iii.) In larger countries such as Canada, USA, 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 USA have 5 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 5 hrs.
- v.) USSR had 11 time zones before its ~~dis~~ disintegration. Russia now has 9 time zones.

c.) THE INTERNATIONAL DATE LINE

- i.) A traveller going eastwards gains time from Greenwich until he reaches the meridian 180°E , when he will be 12 hrs ahead of G.M.T.
- ii.) Similarly, in going westwards, he loses 12 hrs when he reaches 180°W . There is thus a total difference of 24 hrs or a whole day between the two sides of the 180° Meridian.

d.) 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 would fall under different date zones. Thus to avoid confusion (IDL) is in a zig-zag manner.

4.) INDIAN STANDARD TIME

The Indian Government has accepted the meridian of 82.5°E for the standard time, which is 5 hrs 30 mins, ahead of Greenwich Mean TIME.

5.) Determine the local time of Thimpu (Bhutan) located at 90°E longitude when the time at Greenwich is 12.00 noon.

Difference between Greenwich and Thimpu = 90° of longitudes

Time difference = $90 \times 4 = 360 \text{ mins} / 60 \text{ hrs}$
 = 6 hrs / Local time of Thimpu
 = ~~90~~ is 6 hrs. more than that of Greenwich i.e., 6.00 pm

Ex 2.) Determine the local time of New Orleans (the place, which was worst affected Katrina Hurricane in Oct 2005) located at 90°W longitude, when the time at green is 12.00 noon.

Difference between Greenwich and New Orleans = 90° of longitudes

Total time difference = $90 \times 4 = 360 \text{ mins} / 60 \text{ hrs} = 6 \text{ hrs}$
 Local time of New Orleans is 6 hrs. less than that at Greenwich, i.e., 6:00 a.m.

Why is it 5:30 pm at India and 12:00 noon in London?

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

$$360^\circ = 24 \times 60 \text{ mins}$$

$$1^\circ = 24 \times 60 / 360 = 4 \text{ mins}$$

Indian standard time passes through $82^\circ 30'E$.

$$82^\circ = 82 \times 4 / 60 = 328 / 60 = 5 \text{ hrs and } 28 \text{ min}$$

$$30'E = 1/2^\circ = 2 \text{ min}$$

hence: $82^\circ 30'E = 5 \text{ hrs and } 30 \text{ mins}$.