



Sample Book
Class 9 Geography
Chapter 1 India: Size and Location

Important Terms

Longitude: It refers to the imaginary lines that bisect the globe through the North and South Poles the ones that run vertically, as opposed to the lines of latitude that run horizontally, parallel to the equator.

Latitude: The angular distance east or west on the earth's surface, measured by the angle contained between the meridian of a particular place and some prime meridian, as that of Greenwich, England, and usually expressed in degrees.

Equator: The imaginary great circle around the earth's surface equidistant from the poles and perpendicular to the earth's axis of rotation. It divides the earth into the Northern Hemisphere and the Southern Hemisphere.

Mainland: A large continuous extent of land that includes the greater part of a country or territory, as opposed to offshore islands and detached territories.

Coastline: The land along a coast. A line that forms the boundary between the land and the ocean, or a lake.

Pass: A gap or break in high, rugged terrain such as a mountain ridge.

Merchandise: Goods to be bought and sold.

Short Question Answer:-

Question 1. In which hemisphere does India lie?

Answer: India lies in the Northern hemisphere.

Question 2. Name the parallel of latitude which divides India roughly into two equal halves.

Answer: The parallel of latitude which roughly divide India into two equal halves is the Tropic of Cancer (23° 30' N).

Question 3. Name the two seas located around India.

Answer: The two seas located around India are the Arabian Sea in the west and the Bay of Bengal in the east.

Question 4. What is the southernmost point of the Union of India?

Answer: Southernmost point of the Union of India is Indira Point.

Question 5. In which year did 'Indira Point' submerge under water due to tsunami? [CBSE 2014]

Answer: In 2004 'Indira Point' got submerged under the sea water.

Question 6. What is the total area of the Indian landmass? [CBSE 2014]

Answer: The landmass of India has an area of 3.28 million square km. It is 2.4% of the total area of the world.

Question 7. What is the size of India among the countries of the world?

Answer: India is the seventh largest country in the world.

Question 8. What is the time lag between Gujarat and Arunachal Pradesh?

Answer: The time lag between Gujarat and Arunachal Pradesh is 2 hours.

Question Answer in brief:-

Question 1. How does India occupy an important strategic position in South Asia ?

Answer: India occupies an important strategic position in South Asia in the following ways :

- (a) The Indian landmass has a central location between the East and the West Asia.
- (b) The trans Indian Ocean routes, which connect the countries of Europe in the West and the countries of East Asia, provide a strategic central location to India.
- (c) The Deccan Peninsula protrudes into the Indian Ocean has helped India to establish close contact with West Asia, Africa and Europe from the western coast and with Southeast and East Asia from the eastern coast.

Question 2. Which ocean is named after India ? Give two reasons as to why it was named after India.

Answer: The Indian Ocean is named after India. India is the only country which has the credit of an ocean named after it. The Arabian Sea and the Bay of Bengal, extensions of the Indian Ocean, lie to the west and east of Indian Peninsula, and the Indian Ocean lies to its south. No other country has a long coastline on the Indian Ocean as India. The central location of India at the head of the Indian Ocean has provided India a strategic location of great significance along

the trans Indian Ocean routes. It is India's eminent position in the Indian Ocean which justifies the naming of the ocean after India.

Question 3. How have been mountain passes been helpful in India since historic times? Explain.

Answer: India is bounded by the young fold mountains in the northwest, north and northeast. The various passes across the mountains in the north have provided passages to the ancient travelers. The spices, muslin and other merchandise were taken from India to different countries through these passes. Mountain passes have contributed in the exchange of ideas and commodities since historic times.

Question 4.

The sunrises two hours earlier in Arunachal Pradesh as compared to Gujarat in the west but the watches show the same time. How does this happen?

Answer: The latitudinal and longitudinal extent of the mainland is about 30° . Despite this fact, the east-west extent appears to be smaller than the north-south extent. From Gujarat to Arunachal Pradesh there is a time lag of two hours. Hence, time along the Standard Meridian of India ($82^\circ 30' E$) passing through Mirzapur (in Uttar Pradesh) is taken as the standard time for the whole country. The latitudinal extent influences the duration of the day and night, as one moves from south to north.

Question 5. The central location of India at the head of the Indian Ocean is considered of great significance. Why?

Answer: The location of India at the head of the Indian Ocean has helped India in establishing close contacts with West Asia, Africa, and Europe from the western coast and eastern Asia from the eastern coast

Question 6. What is latitude? What is the latitudinal extent of India?

Answer: The position of a place, measured in degrees north or south of the Equator. It is mostly calculated because of angular distance of a place north-south of the equator, The main land of India extends between latitudes $8^\circ 4' N$ and $37^\circ 6' N$. The latitudinal extension shows that India is located in the Northern Hemisphere.

Question 7. Why is India called a subcontinent?

Answer: India is called a subcontinent because :

- It is a big landmass. This stands out as a distinct geographical unit from the rest of the continent.
- It is separated by natural features like mountains and rivers.
- India is also separated from rest of the continent by the mighty Himalayas.

Question 8. Why do the days and nights are almost of equal duration at Kanniyakumari?

Answer: Kanniyakumari in Tamil Nadu is located at the southernmost tip of India's main land. The latitude $8^\circ 4' N$ passes close to it. The place is thus near the equator and lies close to the Equatorial region. As the sun shines directly over the Equator throughout the year, the

durations of day and night are almost equal here. Hence, in Kanniyakumari, the difference in the duration of day and night is very little.

Long Question Answer

Question 1. How has the long coastline been beneficial to India?

Answer: The Arabian Sea and the Bay of Bengal, extensions of the Indian Ocean, lie to the west and east of Indian Peninsula, and the Indian Ocean lies to its south. The total length of the coastline of the main land of India including Andaman and Nicobar and Lakshadweep is 7516.6 km. The long coastline of India has helped in maritime trade since ages. The central location of India at the head of the Indian Ocean has provided it a strategic location along the trans-Indian Ocean routes. India can establish close contact with West Asia, Africa and Europe from western coast and with Southeast and East Asia from the eastern coast. The long coastline has also played a major role in influencing the climate of India. It provides opportunities for fishing and extraction of petroleum. It serves as a natural boundary protecting India.

Question 2. What was the contribution of land routes to India in ancient times? Explain.

Answer: The contribution of land routes to India in ancient times are given below :

- (a) The large land boundaries of India have helped to develop links with her neighbouring countries.
- (b) It contributed in the exchange of ideas and commodities since ancient times.
- (c) The ideas of the Upanishads, the Ramayana, the Geeta, etc. have become known to the world.
- (d) The Indian numerals as well as the decimal system long back crossed the border. The Arabs took these ideas to the West.
- (e) The spices, muslin and other merchandise were taken away from India to different countries through these land routes.
- (f) On the other hand, the influence of Greek sculpture, and the architectural styles of dome and minarets from West Asia can be seen in different parts of our country. (Any five points)

Question 3.

Write a note on the location and size of India.

Answer:

Location: India is a vast country. Lying entirely in the Northern hemisphere, the main land extends between latitudes $8^{\circ}4'N$ and $37^{\circ}6'N$ and longitudes $68^{\circ}7'E$ and $97^{\circ}25'E$. The Tropic of Cancer ($23^{\circ}30'N$) divides the country into almost two equal parts. To the southeast of India's main land lie the Andaman and Nicobar islands in the Bay of Bengal and to the southwest lie the Lakshadweep islands in the Arabian Sea.

Size: The land mass of India has an area of 3.28 million square km. India's total area accounts for about 2.4 per cent of the total geographical area of the world.

India is the seventh largest country of the world. India has a land boundary of about 15,200 km and the total length of the coastline of the mainland, including Andaman and Nicobar and

Lakshadweep, is 7,516.6 km. It has an east-west extent of 2,933 km from Arunachal Pradesh to Kachchh in Gujarat and a north-south extent of 3,214 km from Kashmir to Kanniyakumari.

Question 4. India's strategic location on the head of the Indian Ocean has helped her in establishing land and maritime contacts with the outside world in the ancient and medieval times. Explain.

Answer: India's contacts with the world, in fact, have continued through the ages. In fact, the exchange of ideas and commodities dates back to the ancient times.

This fact is supported by the following facts:

1. The ideas of Upanishads and the Ramayana as well as the stories of the Panchatantra have reached many parts of the world.
2. The Indian numerals and the decimal system could reach many parts of the world from India because of this contact.
3. The spices, muslin and other merchandise were taken from India to different countries since the ancient time.
4. India was also influenced by the other countries and cultures. For example, the influence of Greek sculpture, and the architectural styles of dome and minarets from West Asia can be seen in different parts of our country.
5. The traders from India established links with Egypt, Sudan, Somalia, Kenya and Tanzania.
6. Several Indian merchants were even able to establish new kingdoms far away from their country.

Question 5. What is the longitudinal extent of our country? State its significance.

Or

What do you mean by the longitudinal extent of India? Point out the implications of the longitudinal extent of India.

Answer: Longitudinal extent of our country shows the geographical conditions of our country. Our country India lies Between $68^{\circ} 7' E$ to $97^{\circ} 25' E$ longitudinal extent, Hence its longitudinal extent is about 30° . The longitudinal extent of India is quite vast.

Its east-west extent is quite wider which is very much significant The importance and implications of the Longitudinal extent of India can be pointed out in the following manner:

1. Because of the vast east-west extent of India it is quite doted to East Asian Countries on the eastern side and to the West Asian countries like Afghanistan, Iran, Iraq, and Arabian countries on the Western side. This situation presides a vast seep for trade and commerce. It also helps India in having close relations between East Asian Countries and the West Asian Countries.
2. Because of the vast east-west longitudinal extent India is quite near to Japan, Australia and other East African countries, as well as to many of the European countries. America lies equidistant to India whether from the eastern or western side.